

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

Minutes of the Team Captain's meeting on Thursday, 1st September 2005

The Chairman, John Hugall, opened the meeting, welcoming those attending. The turn-out was extremely disappointing with only 30% of the clubs represented on the night and only 10% offering an apology. It will be the club's responsibility to ensure that, in particularly ALL their club captains, as well as their players, are made aware of the issues and items raised in these minutes. By not being present at the meeting, cannot later be held as an excuse for NOT knowing about the issues and items raised.

1. Team Captain's Responsibilities / Player Behaviour

The Chairman expressed the expectations of the NWCSL over team captain's responsibilities. The NWCSL Disputes Committee has still been meeting up to 6 times per season to deal with some cases which could possibly have been resolved on the night by the two team captains. It was stressed that the both the team captain and team players should attempt to sort out any issues as they arise and before they get out of hand. If a team captain sees that a potential confrontational issue is beginning to start, then he should tackle his player at the first opportunity (i.e. interval at the end of a game), if he's the one that's mainly responsible or approach the opponent team captain, if it's the opponent who is mainly responsible. If the opponent is the opposing team captain, then he'll have to make a decision on whether to speak to him at the first opportunity or report any incident that then occurs to the Disputes Committee.

The marker has a role to play in all this by correctly applying the disciplinary rule whenever necessary, which may mean that clubs should be requesting Marker/Referee courses for the players who are not fully aware of all the rules of squash. County tutor details are available in the NWCSL Handbook. Any marker, who correctly applies the rules, will always get the full backing of the Disputes/NWCSL Committees.

It is important that if a complaint is to be made to the Disputes Committee that an accurate record of the incident is made, in particular by the marker, and by any potential witnesses to the incident.

If a game or match is awarded for any reason by the marker, then it MUST be reported to either John Hugall, as Chairman of the NWCSL Disputes Committee or to the General Secretary. For your information, under England Squash rules, the awarding of a game results in an automatic 1 week suspension from all competitive matches and the awarding of a match results in an automatic 4 week suspension for the offending player.

The Disputes Committee would still handle the more serious incidents or any that the team captains found that they were unable to deal with at the time.

Other responsibilities include:

Ensuring all team members are registered on the web site and that a new player is registered, by whatever means, within 7 days of playing.

Scorecards are correctly filled in, with all required details, including start time. Team captains should present their scorecard to each other with all 5 player names entered, in order, before the start of the match.

Posting the scorecard to the appropriate Divisional Rep., unless the scorecard is returned to the club for posting. In this case, the Club Rep., will be responsible for ensuring that scorecards are posted to the Divisional Reps every week or in accordance with the agreements made with the individual Divisional Reps.

2. Up date on Rule Changes

The only rule change at the 2005 AGM was rule 7.3ii), which only affects 1st Division teams. Players who live within 15 of their club and outside the boundaries of the three counties may qualify as a “Home” player, if they’ve played for their club for a minimum period of 5 years. Details of the actual wording will be in the handbook and are currently available on the web site under ‘League Information’.

The secretary reminded clubs of the changes to rules 4.1, 7.1, 7.2 & 7.6, which took place at the 2004 AGM. In particular, rule 7.1 with regards to the Player Registration period for new unregistered players, rule 7.2 - players who had played for 1st teams (as a reserve) on a Tuesday night, would NOT be eligible to play again for a lower club team on a Thursday night in the same week and rule 7.6 - the change to 31st December for players eligibility to play during the second half of the season. If a player had NOT played during the first half of the season, then permission would be required before the player could play during the second half of the season. The GS informed the meeting of the guidelines normally used in granting permission. Where players have been unable to play before 31st December, permission will normally be granted to players who played for the same club the previous season, if they’ve been unavailable due to injury, business or personal reasons, providing they can play 4 matches before the final 4 matches of the season (rule 7.7). A club’s lowest team can include a player who has NOT played previously, providing a club’s order of merit is maintained (rule 4.1), except for the last 4 matches, but it is still best to get permission. New players coming into the NWCSL area during the season may also be granted permission.

The meeting were also reminded of the other existing rules which both clubs and their team captains should be aware of.

Rule 4.1 – a club’s higher team CANNOT concede a match, if it’s lower team fulfils a fixture on the same night. Players MUST move up, so that the club’s order of merit for available players is maintained on the night.

Rule 5 – PERMISSION must be obtained from either their Divisional Rep and/or the General Secretary BEFORE a match can be postponed / cancelled. If permission is NOT sought, then both teams are likely to receive no points for the match, irrespective of who requested the postponement.

Rule 7.7 – Players MUST have played in at least 4 matches for a team (or lower team) to qualify to play in the last 4 matches of the season and the play-offs.

Rule 8 – Scorecards MUST be sent to the Divisional Rep every week within the 6 day period, irrespective of whether your club is entering results directly on to the web site. It is up to Club to make arrangements directly with their Divisional Reps, if they want to send their scorecards to him on a less frequent basis. The final decision on the frequency lies completely and solely with the Divisional Rep.

Rule 9 – Start Times. Although there are still a lot of moans about late starts, it is extremely rare that the Disputes Committee get an official complaint. This will continue to be the case unless people do make a complaint. We all know why clubs/teams do NOT like to complain, but with clubs/teams, who

Although the NWCSL Committee does NOT want to suspend any club who's not paid, they may be penalised 5 points per team during the period that their affiliation fees remain unpaid.

The President reminded clubs to the change to the Constitution at the AGM in May were clubs/ teams may be penalised 5 points per match (/week) until the fees where paid.

The England Squash membership contact is Lewis Baker and his contact details can be found in the NWCSL Handbook and on the web site.

Previously, on paying your affiliation fees, club were issued with a registration pack including a notice board sticker that the club had affiliated for the season. The General Secretary would enquire of England Squash, whether this was going to be re-introduced.

4. Player Registrations / Web site / Inputting results

As per rule 7.1, all new players have to be registered on the web site within 7 days of playing, but preferably before they do actually play.

This process is now so simple that there should be no excuse for not registering new players.

It's one of the team captain's responsibilities to ensure that ALL his/her team members are registered.

If any team captain has a problem registering a new player, then it can be done via a telephone call or email to the General Secretary.

Clubs should ensure that ALL NEW PLAYERS are registered before the start of the season.

Existing players DO NOT NEED TO BE REGISTERED AGAIN.

If you have any players TRANSFERRING from other clubs, then inform the General Secretary of the players name, new and previous club and ID number, so that the player can be transferred and retain all their previous results on the system.

If there are any past players who need removing from your clubs list of players, please let the General Secretary have their names and ID numbers, plus whether they're no longer playing in the NWCSL or, if known, their new club, if they've moved.

Web site changes – it had been originally proposed that a scorecard result would NOT be able to be submitted on a web site without all 10 player names. Following discussion at the meeting, it has been decided NOT to implement this proposal, since it penalised the teams who have both registered their players and diligently inputted results weekly on the web site.

Hopefully, there will NOT be many unregistered players. It is proposed that the system will be monitored. If any of the people who inputs' their team results come across an unregistered player, then they should send an email to the General Secretary, including the player's name and the team they played for.

If a player's name is still unregistered after the 7 day period stated in rule 7.1, then rule 4.3 will be imposed, once the General Secretary is made aware of the situation.

Inputting results – the target should be to have all results inputted on the web site by Saturday evening following the Thursday night matches. Clubs can have more than one player entering their clubs results and it is recommended that each team has at least one player/person with access to input results. If any club team does NOT have some one to input their results, then they should POST the scorecard to the Divisional Rep. immediately after the match.

5. Requirements for First Division teams

The Divisional Representative for Division 1, John Cunningham briefly told the meeting what he required from the first division team's representatives this season.

Teams should try to get their results entered on the web site themselves before 5.00pm on the Wednesday, following the previous nights match.

All first division players must be registered on the web site and a player registration form should be sent to him before they play. The form is available on the web site in both a PDF and on-line version.

If the first division team representative is different to the Club representative, then the appropriate form should be completed and returned to him.

He also needed either a fax or email of the Tuesday nights result by 5.00pm Wednesday, the following day, to ensure that the relevant press releases could be prepared.

6. NWCSL 50th Anniversary

The Chairman informed the meeting of some of the plans for celebrating the NWCSL's 50th Anniversary. In Particular, the 50th Anniversary Dinner to be held at one of the Lancashire Cricket Club's banqueting suites on Friday, 24th March 2006. Tickets, priced £25 per person, are available from the Chairman. Details can be found on the web site and in the Handbook. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

There will be some player awards presented at either the Dinner or 2006 AGM. It is likely that there will be one award per division, making a total of 5 awards, although full details still need to be sorted out, including methodology. Whatever the method used, the more games played during the season will play a large part in the calculation.

7. Handbook

The handbook was almost ready for printing. It is hoped that they'll be ready for the start of the season or very soon after. Distribution of the handbooks will probably be by post, but other methods may be considered to keep costs down.

8. Any Other Business

With there being no further business, the Chairman wished all the clubs an enjoyable season and closed the meeting at approx. 9.25pm.