



Minutes of NWCSL Team Captains' Meeting held on Tuesday 5th September 2017 at The Village Hotel Bury BL97BQ

Introductory Note

These minutes are a summary of the meeting; they may not necessarily contain all the issues raised during the meeting by those present.

Present Committee: Josh Taylor (Chairman), Geoff Walton (General Secretary & Acting Match Secretary), Henry Stone (Treasurer), Nick Murrills (Hon. Legal Advisor), Joss Garvey (Referees), John Hugall (President), Dave Goulden.

Clubs: Out of a total of 96 clubs registered for the 2017/18 season, representatives from 93 clubs were present. The three remaining clubs were unable to attend due transport issues therefore penalty for nonattendance was not applied.

1 Chairman's Opening

The Chairman opened the meeting at approx. 7:00pm. He thanked all teams for attending. He introduced the new members to the Committee. Thanked Steve Eccles, Bernie Gill and Dave Goulden for their commitment and dedication to the NWCSL.

The Chairmen explained the committee was working closely with a web developer to update the NWCSL Webb Site. We are also looking at our grant schemes and how we can support our clubs. He then wished everyone a successful season.

2 EGM.

Nick Murrills took the floor and explained on the 16th August the General Secretary gave notice for an EGM to vote on an amendment to Junior Rule 2.6. In bold is the amendment

Any team playing a player who at the date of the match in question is (i) under 19 and (ii) registered with the League as under 19 will be awarded one extra point per league match for each such player. Junior Bonus Points will not be awarded for **Division 1, Division 2 and** in Play-off matches.

The amendment was carried with only one of the 94 clubs present against. The came into effect for the 2017/2018 season.

3 England Squash Affiliation

The Chairman stated that all clubs must be affiliated to England Squash to take part in the NWCSL and read out rule 3.7 Each Club must pay affiliation fees due to England Squash by the due date. If a Club's affiliation fees are overdue at the start of a season or become overdue at any time during a season, the Committee shall have the power to deduct 5 points per team per match from the start of that season or the date on which those fees become overdue until in either case they are paid. In addition, if a Club's affiliation fees are overdue at the start of a season, that club may not be allowed to take part in the League. The General Secretary told the meeting he was actively trying to get an up to date list of paid up members and would communicate that back to the clubs.

3 Team Captain's Responsibilities/Player Behaviour

The General Secretary stated that the Constitution and Rules were set out in full in the Handbook and on the web site, and that all clubs would be expected to be aware of the Constitution and Rules. It would also be the clubs responsibility to ensure that all their Team Captains were fully aware of the issues raised at this meeting.

The following were some of the specific issues to be borne in mind for the coming season:

a) Conflicts - Team Captains should attempt to diffuse potential conflicts before they become a problem. Clubs were also reminded that if the problem player is the Team Captain, then the Disciplinary Committee are likely to treat that individual more harshly.

b) Players' behaviour/language – It is for the Team Captain to ensure that the behaviour of players in public places is appropriate and controlled.



All Clubs know who their problem players are and should take steps to ensure that problems do NOT occur. Clubs also have a responsibility to ensure that their problem players are dealt with appropriately if problems do occur, as well as any penalties imposed by the Disciplinary Committee.

c) Respect for Officials - Players have a duty to respect Markers/Referees/League Officials, who would get the full support of the Disputes/NWCSL Committees. The League provides referees for matches in Division 1 but can also provide referees for matches in other divisions where there might be a special reason to; but note that there is a cost attached.

d) Code of Conduct – a copy of the players’ code of conduct is on the England Squash web site. Clubs should make sure that all their players are both aware and should read it.
(See item 9 later)

e) Player registrations – Clubs must ensure, whenever possible, that all team players are registered before they play and, if for any reason that is not possible, they are registered within 7 days afterwards. Do not duplicate names, if players need to be transferred from another club, contact either the Match Secretary or General Secretary.

f) Scorecards should be fully and correctly filled in (including the game scores), both on the website and on the hard posted copies – please enter website results carefully and check before saving. Results should be posted on the web site promptly and fully. Incomplete scorecards may result in fines being imposed. If results are not posted by the following Wednesday, they could be nullified.

g) Scorecards still need to be retained, if they are not posted (or scanned and emailed) to the Divisional Representative. The scorecards may be needed by the Divisional Representatives or the Disciplinary Committee, if there are any disputes.

h) Cancelled Matches – it is the home team’s responsibility to update the result. Clubs are reminded that permission is required in advance of any match cancellation by the Divisional Representative and either the Match Secretary or General Secretary.

i) Home Teams should be present to receive the away team and be organised. Remember that both teams need to exchange scorecards, already filled in with their players’ names, before the start of the match.

4 Season Timetable

Matches will start on the following dates:

Division 1 on 12th September 2017

All other divisions start on the 14th September 2017

Fixtures are scheduled for the following dates.

Week beginning:

2017

September 11th, 18th and 25th

October 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th

November 6th, 13, 20th and 27th

December 4th and 11th

2018

January 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th

February 5th and 26th

March 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

April 2nd and 9th

THERE ARE NO MATCHES WEEK OF 23rd OCTOBER 2017 – HALF TERM

THERE ARE NO MATCHES WEEK OF 12th FEBRUARY 2018 – BRITISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

THERE ARE NO MATCHES WEEK OF 19th FEBRUARY 2018 – HALF TERM



The Match Secretary apologised that some sections of a Division had less than the ideal number of teams but geographical reasons were mainly behind these restrictions.

5 Play-offs

The Play-offs will be on 19th and 26th April 2018 with the Finals on 5th May 2018

These are shown in the Handbook (pages 16 & 17)

6 1st Division Responsibilities

1st Division teams should contact the 1st Division Representative if they are unaware of their responsibilities for this Division.

a) Referees

The Referee's coordinator (Joss Garvey) stated that each 1st Division club should receive a list of the Referee for their home matches. If any match is cancelled, then the Club should contact the Referee or herself, if they are unable to contact the Referee.

1st Division clubs should also remember that they should provide hospitality for Referees, i.e. a drink during the evening, as well as food & drink at the end of the match.

b) The Match Secretary reminded clubs that he does need to receive a player registration form for 'Away' players, which can be found on the NWCSL website.

7 1st/2nd Division and Squad Windows

Player playing order windows for Divisions 1 & 2. There are 4 opportunities to submit lists:

1st Division Clubs were also reminded that they must submit a playing order for their 2nd team, if it is NOT in the 2nd Division.

DIVISIONS 1 & 2 RANKING LIST WINDOWS 2017-18

Initial Lists before 10th September 2017

Window 1: 21st October 2017 to 30th October 2017

Window 2: 16th December 2017 to 3rd January 2018

Window 3: 10th February 2018 to 25th February 2018

SQUAD RANKING SUBMISSION WINDOWS 2017-18

Initial Lists before 10th September 2017

Window 1: 21st October 2017 to 30th October 2017

Window 2: 16th December 2017 to 3rd January 2018

Window 3: 10th February 2018 to 25th February 2018

Squads can be applied for if 2 teams are in the same section of a Division.

8 Handbook

Each club would receive 1 hard copy handbook.

The Handbooks had been printed and were being distributed with the league stationery.

A few errors had however been noted which would be corrected and a revised pdf version would be posted on the NWCSL web site, as well as issuing, by email, an electronic version to Club Representatives.

If anyone noticed anything, which was incorrect, the Match Secretary should please be notified.

9 Players Code of Conduct

The following guidance was covered by Joss Garvey & Geoff Walton

Further on players behaviour/language

- Respect the marker
- Respect your opponent
- Calm players down if things are getting over-heated
- If you believe that a Referee may be needed for any match, then contact either Joss or Geoff

Geoff Walton stated that conduct violation would not be tolerated and where ever necessary the committee would take the appropriate action.

10 Disputes



Nick Murrills went through a flow chart detailing the dispute procedure. This had also been distributed to all clubs by the General Secretary.

A Disputes Form is available on the website.

Further information, including supporting letter can be sent with the form.

The Disputes Form must be sent to the appropriate Divisional Representative, with a copy to both the Match Secretary and General Secretary.

This form must be signed by the designated Club Representative.

It is the Club's responsibility to get in touch.

11 Rule Changes and Clarification

There had been a number of rule changes at the 2017 AGM: This have been integrated into the rules and are in the 2017/18 hand book. It is the clubs responsibility to ensure all players within their club are made aware of the rules and act accordingly.

Nick Murrills encouraged members who felt rules needed amending or adding to contact the General Secretary with their suggestions and recommendations.

Nick Murrills stated that a statement had been posted on the website regarding division composition. There are many requests each year for a team to stay in a division even if relegated, a club to not be promoted, new teams added in a higher league etc. and what this means is there are voids within leagues. Historically the match secretary has been empowered by the committee to decide on applications and to accommodate teams where he can. He went on to say the committee are not blind to what has been said on social media voicing their views on such decisions. Going forward the committee would be looking at implementing transparent procedures that would not just rest on the match or general secretary's decision.

Various members from the floor voiced their concern and asked for the league make up to be changed. Geoff Walton explained unfortunately it was too late to change any of the league structure but promised the committee would do everything it can to implement new procedures.

12 Junior Eyewear

The Chairman stated that all juniors playing in the NWCSL must wear WAF certified eyewear. A list of eyewear had been posted on the website.

13 Any Other Business

Dave Goulden stated that the league was short of divisional representatives and asked for volunteers to come forward by contacting himself or the General Secretary.

There was a question from the floor can junior games be cut from 15 points per game to 11 points per game where the venue closes at 10pm. The response was that the committee would take advice on this point.

14 Closing Statement

The chairman thanked everyone for attending and wished them all a safe, successful and enjoyable season.

15 Stationary was distributed to all clubs present. Those clubs not present would have the stationary posted and be invoiced for the post and packaging

The meeting closed at 21-15