

**Minutes of the NWCSL Team Captains meeting
Held on 2nd September 2008 at Alford Sports & Social Club, Warrington**

Present: Bernie Gill (President), Dave Goulden (General Secretary) & John Cunningham (1st Division Divisional Representative)

There were 64 clubs present, with apologies from approx. 15 clubs out of a total of 115 clubs registered for the 2008/09 season.

1. Team Captain's responsibilities / Player behaviour

The President dealt with the expectations of the NWCSL Committee over team captain's responsibilities and player behaviour, dealing first with player behaviour issues.

The President stressed that Team Captains should attempt to diffuse potential conflicts before they become a problem.

Clubs also have a responsibility in ensuring that problem players are dealt with appropriately if problems do occur. All Clubs know whom their problem players are and should be taking steps to ensure that problems do NOT occur, including taking appropriate internal disciplinary steps, if necessary.

The President also stressed that player do have a duty to respect Markers/Referees, hence the marker also has a role to play in all this by correctly applying the disciplinary rules, whenever necessary, which may include penalising players for both their conduct and the conduct of their spectators. Any marker, who correctly applies the rules, will always get the full backing of the Disputes/NWCSL Committees.

The Team Captain's other responsibilities including:

(i) ensuring all his team members are registered on the web site and that a new player is registered within 7 days of playing. The process of registering players is very simply, taking only a couple of minutes. If you don't have administrator access, then either get the person at your club who does to do it or let the General Secretary have either the details of the player to be registered or request administrator access for yourself. Whenever possible, new players should be registered before they play.

(ii) 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.

(iii) scorecards are posted to the appropriate Divisional Rep., unless the scorecard is to be 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. Rule Changes & Other Relevant Rules

At the 2008 AGM, the following rules were amended:

- 1.1 There will, where possible, be one first Division, up to three second, up to six third, up to nine fourth, and sufficient fifth Divisions to accommodate existing teams and additional clubs and teams. Each division shall be divided into such sections as the Committee shall decide are appropriate and each section may, where possible, contain up to fourteen (14) teams, each team containing five (5) players. If there are insufficient teams to make up an appropriate number of sections in Division 5, then Divisions 4 and 5 may be combined although consideration will first be given to reducing the number of teams to eight (8) in some or all sections of Division 5 only with each team playing each of the other teams 3 times during a season.

- 1.2 At the end of a season the top team in each section of Division 2 and the top 2 teams in each section of each lower Division will be promoted. The number of teams relegated from each section of each Division will be such number as is required to accommodate
- (i) all promoted teams and
 - (ii) any changes to the number of teams in each section of each division.
- 4.2 In the 1st Division each club must submit a playing order for its team before the start of the season **for approval by the Committee.** Where a team's proposed playing order is different from that of the League's ranking list, the club must provide an explanation **for consideration by the Committee** as to why it is different and, if such explanation is accepted, approval.
Each club may also submit at such other times during a season as may be specified by the Committee from time to time a revised playing order with an explanation for consideration by the Committee and, if such explanation is accepted, approval. **If no revised playing order is submitted at such times, the Committee will treat the previously approved playing order as having been re-submitted for approval.**
The players in each team in the 1st Division must play in the order specified in the playing order approved by the Committee from time to time.
Permission must be requested from the 1st Division Representative for any player whose name does not appear in the approved playing order to play in a 1st Division match.
- 7.7 No player may play in the last four league matches of a division or the play-offs for that division unless he or she has played in at least four league matches in that division, or a lower division, for that club earlier in the season. **In extenuating circumstances** the General Secretary, the Committee or any one of its sub-committees can permit a player who does not meet the above criteria to play for a lower team in his/her club during the last four matches of the season, provided that the club's playing order of merit is maintained in accordance with rule 4.1.

The amendments to rules 1.1 & 1.2 were made to allow for the proposed restructuring of the League.

The new rule 4.2 requires the 1st Division teams to play to an approved playing order. The amendment to rule 7.7 may allow regular team players to play for a lower team in a lower division during the last four matches of the season, providing that they are playing within their club's order of merit.

Other relevant rules that the General Secretary highlighted to the meeting were:

4.1 Playing Order

The new Player Ranking system will show more clearly when players are playing out of order - See later under website changes

5 & 8.2 Match Date Alterations & Notification of Results

Permission from both the Divisional Rep and the General Secretary MUST be requested before any match is postponed. Failure to do so, may result in no points being awarded for the match and a fine. Matches should be only postponed for good reasons, which do NOT include a team being able to turn out their strongest team. Clubs should make sure that players from lower teams understand that they should move up to play for the higher team in accordance with their clubs Order of Merit. Approved postponements should also be rearranged within 6 days and played within 28 days of the original match date. If you do NOT believe that your team can comply with this requirement, then do NOT agree to a postponement.

- 6 Match Walk-Overs
The 1st & 2nd Divisions are NOT allowed to give a walk-over.
In the 3rd & 4th Divisions, 2 walk-overs result in automatic relegation at the end of the season
- 7.6 Permission after 31st December
Permission is normally automatically granted to players, who played the previous season for the same club, if they have been unavailable due to injury, business or personal reasons. If players had transferred to a new club at the start of the season, but had been unavailable due to injury, then permission may be granted.
Permission may also be granted to new players to the NWCSL, since the Committee believe that they do NOT want to stop anyone playing the game, although each situation will be looked at independently and will depend on a number of factors, such as the potential effect on promotion and relegation, in order to be fair to other teams.
- 8.1 Notification of results
Scorecards MUST be sent to the Divisional Rep within 6 days of the match.
The Divisional Rep may extend this period for teams/clubs entering results weekly on the website, but it is up to teams/clubs to speak to their Divisional Rep about this.
- 9 Starting Times
One of the Team Captains responsibilities is to enter and initial the start time of the match.
Teams should endeavour to have 3 players available for a 7.00pm start.
Late starts usually result in late finishes.
Away (& Home) teams should (out of courtesy) inform their opponents, well in advance of the match, if there are going to be any problems with regards to players arriving late.
Where clubs have a deadline for matches finishing, then ensure that all your opponents are aware of this situation and, if necessary, keep a record of the times that players arrive, in case there are any disputes later. This may determine which team is awarded the points for unfinished matches due any deadlines on court times.
Remember also, In the event of a Club's late arrival every effort must be made to

player ID number. This allows the players record, including his ranking points to move with him.

3. Registration of new players

When registering new players, the registration form allows you to enter a number of ranking points for the new player. If you know where approx. the player will be in your club order of merit, then enter the number of points that the player immediately below has. If no points are registered, then the system enters a default number (1600) of points and it will take up to 15 matches for the ranking system to accurately reflect that players ranking.

4. 1st Division team responsibilities

John Cunningham went through the requirements that had already been emailed to either Club Reps or 1st Team Managers, which is re-issued below:

New rule 4.2 - team playing order, please ensure you read and comply with this rule.

Your playing order must be submitted to the Ranking Sub-Committee, comprising of both John Cunningham and Dave Goulden, seven days before the start of the season. If your playing order is different than that shown in the new ranking system, you must justify it in writing, for approval by the Ranking Sub-Committee.

If your team playing order matches the ranking order then you only need to inform the Ranking Sub-Committee that your team will be playing as the ranking order.

Your playing order at the start of the season, once approved, is then fixed up to and including week 6.

It can be change prior to week 7 in accordance with the new ranking order after week 6 or by submitting a new playing order, for approval, if different than that shown in the new ranking system.

It is then fixed up to and including week 13.

It can be change again prior to week 14 in accordance with the new ranking order after week 13 or by submitting a new playing order, for approval, if different than that shown in the new ranking system.

It is then fixed up to and including week 19.

It can be change again prior to week 20 in accordance with the new ranking order after week 19 or by submitting a new playing order, for approval, if different than that shown in the new ranking system till the end of the season.

If a team is playing to an approved player order which is different to the new ranking system, then that playing order will continue, if a new playing order is NOT submitted after weeks 6, 13 or 19.

If you have any questions, please ask, do not guess.

In the 1st division the scoring system will be American scoring up to 11.

Do NOT re-register players on the web site that have moved from another club.

Contact Dave Goulden or myself to get them transferred, otherwise YOU COULD COMPROMISE THE NEW RANKING SYSTEM.

Please ensure your Club Representative is also aware of this condition, if it is not yourself.

Match cards must be faxed to me by both clubs, by 6.00pm on the Wednesday following the match. Wherever possible please post your own results. When entering the results on the web site, ensure that only the correct players names are entered.

ENTERING A RESULT UNDER SOMEONE ELSE'S NAME WILL COMPROMISE THAT PERSON'S RANKING POINTS.

Again, please ensure your Club Representative is also aware of this condition, if it is not yourself.

Last season we had to impose fines for late cards or no card at all, late starts and missing players, lets try and get through the season with no fines please. This is the level of fine you can expect. Missing player 1st offence £30, Late match card £5, Late starts (7.30 start time) 7.40pm – warning, 7.50 - £15, 8.00pm - £30, 8.10pm - £45. Note that the referees have been requested to record the start time on the match card.

Just to confirm it is only the 1st Division, which will be playing games of 11 up, point per rally.

5. Restructuring proposals

The Secretary stated what the consequences for 2008/2009 season were.

Divisions 1 to 3 would remain at 14 teams per section.

Divisions 4 & 5 would reduce to 12 teams, but will be dependent on number of potential teams in each geographical area. Some 4 & 5 divisions will retain 14 teams and possibility of some with 8 teams.

The free weeks for 12 & 8 team sections would be around the Half Terms break.

If half term is a different week to that allocated, then clubs/teams should look to bring forward or put back the match to the allocated week. It is important that the Divisional Rep is made aware of any changes.

There would be no matches during World Championships & National Championships in Manchester in October & February respectively.

At this stage, the potential proposals for end of 2008/2009 season are:

Divisions 1 & 2 will remain at 14 teams per section.

Division 3 will reduce to 12 teams per division.

The knock-on effect will be:

Division 3 sections: up to 5 teams relegated

Division 4 sections: up to 5 teams from a division of 14 teams &
up to 3 teams from a division of 12 teams

6. Sponsorship

This is the 2nd year of a 2 year deal of sponsorship with JJB Sports.

Further sponsorship for a further 2 year is likely.

The forms for Junior Development Grants will be sent out as soon as possible after the sponsorship money is received.

7. Handbooks

Printing will depend on how quickly the sponsor and printer can sort out relevant material and how soon final changes to teams and divisions can be settled, but it will probably the end of September before they are ready.

These will be posted out to clubs as soon as possible.

8. World Championships

The World Championships will be in Manchester from 11th – 19th October 2008 at the National Squash Centre, Sportcity

Details can be found on the website, www.nwcsl.org, for ticketing, VIP packages & volunteering.

As stated above, it has been decided to make this a free week in the NWCSL calendar, since it is rare to get World Championships within your region.

9. Any Other Business

The President stated that, currently, quite a significant number of clubs had NOT paid their England Squash Affiliation fees for 2008/2009.

He did have copy invoices, which had been sent out to all clubs.

Clubs should contact him, if they have any doubts over whether the invoice had been received and the payment made.