

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

MINUTES OF THE 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT WARRINGTON SPORTS CLUB ON THURSDAY 24th MAY 2001 AT 7.30 PM

Present: John Hugall	Chairman
Bob Ireland	President
Dave Goulden	General Secretary
Henry Stone	Honorary Legal Advisor & Treasurer
Brian Oswald	Vice President & Chairman of Merseyside
Bud Foster	Division One Representative
Martin Wren	Chairman of Cheshire
Brian Rhodes	Vice President
Norman Astbury	Vice President
Norman Chatburn	Vice President
Graham Horrex	Vice President & President Elect
Andrew Beeston	Vice President

Apologies were received from Vice Presidents: Robin Barlow, Colin Cary, Ron Coope (via Bury club) and Bernie Gill (Chairman of Lancashire)

The Chairman offered a speedy recovery to Ron Coope who had recently suffered from a heart attack.

There were 85 clubs represented, at some stage, during the evening.

1. Apologies for absence – received from 14 clubs
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 25th May 2000 were approved
3. Matters Arising – There were no matters arising
4. Our President, Professor Bob Ireland, carried out the presentations of plaques to the winners of each division that were present at the meeting. It should be said that it was rather disappointing that some 11 clubs were not present to receive their plaque without even offering the apologies for not being present, after being specifically requested to do so.
Plaques, shields and presentation glasses were made to each overall divisional winner by our President, along with Vice Presidents: Andrew Beeston & Brian Rhodes
South Shore were presented with the Division 1 shield,
Preston Grasshoppers with the Division 2 shield,
Y Squash 2 with the Division 3 shield,
Village Hyde 3 with the Division 4 shield and
Monton 3 with the Division 5 shield
as the overall winners of their division.

At the end of the presentations, our Chairman, John Hugall thanked our President, Bob Ireland, who would be retiring after 25 years of service to NWCSL. Bob Ireland had previously held the positions of Division 1 Club Representative and Chairman. He was presented him with a Silver Salver by John Hugall on behalf of the NWCSL.

The President then replied to the meeting, thanking them for the presentation and stating that he had enjoyed his time whilst serving the NWCSL. He had seen it grow from just two divisions to its current format of possibly the largest league in the world and wished it all the success for the future.

5. Rule amendments

Rule 1 Divisions, Promotions & Relegations

Add at end of last sentence in rule 1:

“except in the lowest division, where up to 3 teams may be allowed.”

Proposed: General Secretary

Motion: Passed

Rule 2 Scoring

Delete current rule 2 and replace with:

Points will be one for each game won with five bonus points for winning the match. In the event of a match being conceded by default the bonus will still be allowed.

Proposed: Brian Lingard
Seconded: Kevyn Hewitt

Motion: Passed

Rule 4 Teams

Delete current rule 4 and replace with:

- 4.1 Clubs must select and play available players in order of merit and in accordance with the club's playing order. If any team in a club shall not have a match on the relevant day, the club in question shall select players for that team as though it has a match so that the order of merit of other teams is maintained. The Committee may require any club to produce its selection of players for the team which does not have a match.
- 4.2 Captains must present a list containing their respective team orders to their opposite numbers before the commencement of a match. If a team is known to have a missing player before the match starts, the remaining players in the team shall move up in position in the playing order. If a player does not turn up after the start of a match, where still possible the remaining players in the team shall move up in position in the playing order.
- 4.3 If a player does not turn up after a match has started and it is no longer possible to move the remaining players up in position in the playing order or for any other reason a tie is not played or completed, the Committee must be informed. The Committee will decide on the allocation of points, any fines that may be imposed, and also any penalty that may be applied to the lower teams of the offending club.

Proposed: General Committee

Motion: Passed

Amendment to Rule 4 Teams – Part 4.1

- 4.1 Clubs must select and play available players in order of merit and in accordance with club's the playing order. Players who are injured or ill must play in their playing order position. If any team in a club does not have a match on the relevant day, the club in question shall select players for that team as though it has a match so that the order of merit of other teams is maintained. The Committee may require any club to produce its selection of players for the team which does not have a match.

Proposed: Wilmslow Squash Club

Motion: Failed

NOTE: The amendment to Rule 4 was voted on first and failed, hence the original modification was then voted on and was passed.

Rule 7 Eligibility of Players

Rule 7.3 (ii) :

Delete the words: "or the County in which the Associate Member club, for which he/she plays, is situated" and insert the word: "or" before Merseyside

Proposed by General Committee

Motion: Passed

The Following was put to the meeting for discussion only

Rule 1 Divisions, Promotions & Relegations

Potential changes to Promotion & Relegation numbers between divisions 3 & 4.

Open discussion on whether there should be only 2 automatic relegations from each section of division 3 and 1 automatic promotion from division 4. Relegation of the 3rd & 4th bottom teams in each section of division 3 and the 2nd top team in each section of division 4 should be decided by a play-off match

between the teams finishing in these positions. The play-off arrangements would be decided in advance of the commencement of the season, in a similar manner to the play-offs for the division winners. The same conditions on player eligibility would apply as in rule 7.7.

The discussion was opened by Barry King, Liverpool University Staff, who explained the reason behind the proposal was stop the current yo-yo effect of clubs moving between divisions 3 & 4, along with 4 teams out of 14 being relegated from division 3 was excessive.

The General Secretary provided information covering the past 5 years with regards to promotion & relegation of the same club team between divisions 3 & 4. On average:

- (i) 7 out of 24 promoted teams have been relegated the following season
- (ii) 5 out of 24 teams in relegation place are NOT relegated
- (iii) 5 out of 19 (24-5) relegated teams are re-promoted the following season

which lends some argument to the proposal about teams yo-yoing between these divisions.

Discussion from the floor was mixed in support and against the proposal, including the league pyramid structure, and whether that could be used to resolve the relegation issue. The GS reminded the meeting that this was discussed at last years AGM and, at that time, there was reluctance by last year's meeting to change the current structure. Even so, there was an underlying feeling from this AGM that the Committee should look further into this, including potential restructuring requirements.

6. Re-application from associate members

Re-applications were approved from Deeside, Glossop, Mainland, New Mills, Sports Connection and Tollgate.

7. Application from new clubs and additional teams

There were potential 2 new club applications, still to be confirmed, from Moss Side & North Manchester Hospital and a small number of additional team applications, David Lloyd Bolton, Preston College, Village Cheadle, although further additional team applications will only be fully known at a later date.

8. Presentation of Accounts

The Honorary Treasurer, Henry Stone, presented the accounts to the meeting. He explained that the financial year had been brought forward to 31 March, to give time for the accounts to be audited for the AGM.

Income had increased some £1000 from the previous year, mainly due to an increase in bank interest and an increase in team fees. Expenditure also showed a reduction of £700 over the previous year. As a result, we had been able to increase County grants, whilst printing, stationery, postage, trophies & engraving were all much the same in real terms. Handbook costs were slightly up from last year and various other expenses showed small decreases. £360 of computer parts, ansaphone and printer/photocopier had also been depreciated. Miscellaneous expenditure was well down on the previous year. This all resulted in a net gain of just over £1200 on the year, but the Treasurer also gave a breakdown of the last 5 or 6 years, since the last major sponsorship deal with BNFL, where the league had made some significant losses in some years.

The Treasurer thanked the auditor, Simon Westhead for auditing the accounts on our behalf.

Following the Treasurer's explanation of the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2001, acceptance of the Treasurer's report and figures were proposed, seconded and duly approved by the meeting.

9. Election of Officers

President	-	Graham Horrex	Proposed: Preston Grasshoppers Seconded: South Shore
Chairman	-	J.Hugall	Proposed: Sale Seconded: Warrington
Treasurer & Hon. Legal Advisor	-	H.Stone	Proposed: East Lancs Seconded: Congleton

were elected unopposed.

The Chairman also then proposed that our retiring President, Bob Ireland, should be elected as a Vice President, which was accepted by the meeting

10. Any Other Business

- (i) Referees/Referee Courses

The Chairman spoke on the proposal, that starting with Division 5, teams must have 1 or 2 players who have completed the Referees course. Discussions on rewards/penalties for teams with/without referees respectively was discussed to get a view on the practicalities of operating such a system.

(ii) Team Captains Meeting

The Chairman gave notice of a team captains meeting on Tuesday 11th September 2001 at Warrington Sports Club. All clubs/teams are expected to send representatives.

The Chairman also commented that during the previous season, the Disputes Committee had handling a number of cases, which could (should) have been sorted out on the night of the incident. Virtually in every case, the teams involved had NOT sent a representative to last season's team captains meeting in September 2000, where these issues were discussed in detail. It was the Disputes Committee's belief that if they had have done so, then the majority of these cases would NOT have reached the Disputes Committee's stage.

(iii) Brian Lingard, Neston, raised the question over the Dunlop double yellow spot ball, particular its use on cold courts, and the potential for tennis elbow problems resulting from it use.

The draw for the racket, kindly donated by Robert Forde, Titan Sports, was won by Merseyside Civil Service.

The meeting was drawn to a close by the Chairman at 9.20pm, who thanked both Vice Presidents and club representatives who had attended, Warrington Sports Club for the use of their premises, Robert Forde for donating the squash racket for the draw

Dave Goulden
General Secretary to the League