

NORTH WEST COUNTIES SQUASH LEAGUE

Minutes of the NWCSL Team Captains meeting Held on 18th August 2009 at Alford Sports & Social Club, Warrington

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

There were representatives from approx. 70 clubs present, with apologies from approx. 10 clubs out of a total of 110 clubs registered for the 2009/10 season.

The Chairman opened the meeting at approx. 7:45pm.

1. Team Captain's responsibilities / player behaviour

Team Captain's responsibilities was dealt with by the GS, these included the following:

- a) Player registrations – to ensure whenever possible that all team players are registered before they play,
- b) Scorecards are correctly filled in, both website and posted copies – it is not unusual to receive scorecards with only names and scores entered, with no team names, date of match or match score,
- c) Scorecards still needed to be posted to Div Rep, whether that's weekly, monthly or as agreed with Divisional Representative, who needs them to police his section.

The Chairman covered the player behaviour issues, which included:

- a) Team Captains should attempt to diffuse potential conflicts before they become a problem,
- b) All Clubs know whom their problem players are and should be taking steps to ensure that problems do NOT occur. Clubs also have a responsibility in ensuring that their problem players are dealt with appropriately if problems do occur,
- c) Player do have a duty to respect Markers/Referees, who will always get the full backing of the Disputes/NWCSL Committees.

2. England Squash (ES) Affiliation Fees

The Chairman reminded clubs that in accordance with the Leagues Constitution, clubs had to be in credit with ES at the start of the season. Every season, it always seems to be the same clubs that have to be chased up for payment. The majority of clubs are usually invoiced by ES on 1st June each year, so clubs have over 3^{1/2} months to ensure payments are made in time. So far, the League has never taken the steps of stopping any club from playing in the league and would not wish to do so, but clubs also need to take the responsibility of ensuring that their ES affiliation fees are paid on time. The constitution also allows a penalty of 5 points per team per week to be deducted if fees are not paid on time. The League will seriously consider applying this penalty this coming season on clubs which are in serious default. Details of clubs, still with outstanding fees, could be obtained from the President, following the meeting, and an email will be sent to all clubs with outstanding fees to remind them.

3. Play-off Finals

At the AGM, Steve Cadwell (Wigan CC) asked about considering a Play-offs Finals Day, followed by a Awards Evening with Buffet and Disco or similar.

Since the AGM, Steve has looked at some potential venues and gave a brief update to the meeting, which is summarised below:

“Following the AGM, I've been looking into the cost of holding a play-off final/awards evening and dinner at several venues. The Village Warrington have quoted me £55 per head

for use of the squash courts Saturday 24th April, twin rooms, room hire and buffet dinner. Also, Fairways are going to quote something similar. The venue can hold 250 people so my thinking is that players could pay an extra £2 per match over the course of the season which would almost pay for the event.”

In general, the meeting thought that this idea had some merit and Steve will follow it up through the season with all the clubs, although it is likely that the date will have to be 1st or 8th May 2010, if we agree to have a Finals Day & Awards Evening.

4. Rule Changes & Others

The GS reminded the meeting of the rule changes from the AGM.

Rule 8.1 Notification of Results

If teams are entering their results on the website within 72 hours of the match, then scorecards do NOT have to be posted within 6 days to the Divisional Representative, although they still do have to be sent to him at the agreed schedule.

Rule 9 Starting Times

An addition to the rule, which states that there is no prescribed order for the matches to be played in.

The GS also reminded the meeting of some of the other relevant existing rules:

4.1 Playing Orders – following a full season, the ranking system does make it very clear if club playing orders are not being

5 Match Date Alterations – Both the Divisional Representative and the General Secretary must be informed of any postponements. Matches should NOT be postponed if a team cannot turn out its strongest team. Postponements must be played within 28 days of the original date, if you know that it will not be possible to re-play the match within 28 days, then don't agree to the postponement

6 Match Walk-Overs – 1st & 2nd Divisions cannot give a walk-over, one walk-over results in automatic relegation. 3rd & 4th Divisions cannot give more than one walk-over, two walk-overs result in automatic relegation.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that a minimum of 2 players, according to the rule, does constitute a team

7 Eligibility of Players

7.6 Players require permission following the 31st December deadline

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, 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.

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.

The GS stated that a number of clubs had been in default of this rule once again this past season but he had had no choice but to apply the rule when brought to his attention, particularly where promotion and relegation could be affected.

One club raised the issue if this rule gave an advantage to clubs with two teams in the same section/division. It may appear to do so, but the GS stated that the club has still to comply with rule 4.1 on player order of merit.

9 Starting Times

Late starts usually result in late finishes.

Teams should endeavour to have 3 players available for a 7.00pm start.

Away (& Home) teams should 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 complete the match. No club or player has the right to claim a tie, only the committee can make that decision.

5. Website

Transfer of Players

If you have players transferring from another club, do NOT register the player again. Please provide details to General Secretary, including player name, previous club and player ID number. This allows the players record, including his ranking points to move with him.

New Registrations

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.

Team Administrators

The GS will be emailing all clubs for an update for all administrators who will be entering results. The current list does contain a number of people who are no longer involved and requires tidying up.

6. 1st Division team responsibilities

JC had just recently sent an email to all 1st Division team managers or club representatives of what was required for the 2009/2010 season. The details are listed below:

1. PLAYER REGISTRATION

PRIOR to the first match of the season you will be required to register all your 1st team players, on the NWCSL web site and on the special 1st division player registration form also available on the web site.

ALL PLAYERS MUST BE REGISTERED BEFORE THEY PLAY.

2. PLAYER RANKING

The playing order in accordance with rule 4.2 will be closely monitored this season, following the introduction of the rule last season. Your playing order must be based on the NWCSL web site ranking. Also taking into account a players Dunlop PSA world ranking. A copy of your ranking list is attached. Please confirm acceptance. If your proposed ranking is different then you must provide an explanation for consideration by the committee at least 1 week prior to the 1st match to Dave Goulden and myself.

3. RESULTS

Result notification, to enable distribution of results to the web site and press it is very important that I receive a copy of the match card by fax at the latest by 5.00pm the following day, please try and enter the results on the web yourselves, this will save me time. NOTE the match card is still required by post within 6 days of match.

4. FINES

MISSING PLAYERS (1st offence) £30.

LATE STARTS (7.30pm start time), 7.40pm – Warning, 7.50pm - £15, 8.00pm - £30, 8.10pm - £45.

Note, the referees have been requested to complete the start time on the match card.

7. 11 up for 2nd Division

11up for the 2nd Division had been raised by a number of people/clubs. Although it had been discussed at the AGM in May, it had been deferred to the Team Captains Meeting to allow clubs to discuss with their players.

Following further discussion at this meeting, it was decided that the GS would email all (relevant) clubs to allow them to discuss with their players before deciding on this issue, since it appeared that this had NOT been done in the period following the AGM.

The GS reminded the meeting that the league rules did NOT cover the scoring method, so it would not be subjected to an AGM, unless a new rule was introduced to cover it at a future AGM.

8. Restructuring

The GS stated what the consequences for 2009/2010 season were.

Divisions 1 to 2 would remain at 14 teams per section.

Divisions 3, 4 & 5 would contain 12 teams.

One of division 5 sections may retain up to 14 teams because of geographical considerations.

It was unsure whether there were possibilities of some division 5 sections with 8 teams.

Relegation at end of 2009/10 season, if Division 2 sections are reduced to 12 teams will be:

Division 2 – 6 teams relegated from 14

Division 3 – 4 teams relegated from 12

Division 4 – 3 teams relegated from 12

9. Sponsorship

The Chairman explained the situation with regards to the sponsor, JJB Sports.

Although we had a further 2 year extension of the sponsorship deal, JJB had informed us that they would be pulling out. The Chairman explained that our Lawyer is considering what action, if any, we should take.

Other potential sponsorships are being pursued although they were only luke-warm possibilities.

10. Handbooks

It is hoped that the handbook will be ready for printing by the end of August.

Apart from 2 items, Club Representatives & Division Lists, all other items had been prepared.

The GS will email all clubs to confirm that both the number of teams and club rep. details had not changed from Club Entry Forms, although some club rep. details have still to be supplied.

11. Any Other Business

There was no further business and the Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 9.05pm.