

Minutes of NWCSL Team Captains' Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2016 at Alford Sports & Social Club, Manchester Road, Warrington, WA1 3NJ

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: Bernie Gill (Chairman), Dave Goulden (General Secretary), Steve Eccles (Match Secretary), Henry Stone (Treasurer & Hon. Legal Advisor), Nick Murrills (Hon. Legal Advisor), Joss Garvey (Referees).

Clubs: Out of a total of 101 clubs registered for the 2016/17 season, representatives from 74 clubs were present; 13 further clubs collected their stationery (or had someone collect on their behalf) but were unable to stay for the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from John Hugall (President) and from 5 clubs.

1 Chairman's Opening

The Chairman opened the meeting at approx. 7:30pm. He informed the meeting of issues currently facing England Squash & Racketball and the sponsorship Bearfaced Groceries for 2016/17, who were present at the meeting and would be giving a short presentation afterwards.

2 Sponsor Presentation

The owner of Bearfaced Groceries, Phillip Edge, gave an overview of the company, which is an on-line business dealing in fresh foods, which gives better deals to local farmers and customers. The sponsorship deal with the NWCSL is based on a unique code for all the clubs, through which players/family/friends can purchase goods from which the clubs will receive a 5% cash back and the NWCSL will receive a 5% cash back on the price of goods bought on a monthly basis.

Each Club present at the meeting were given a presentation pack which contained their club's code and information about Bearfaced Groceries. More information can be found on their website: www.bearfacedgroceries.co.uk.

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 ESR 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 20 September 2016

14 Team Divisions on 15 September 2016

12 Team Divisions 22 September 2016

The following free weeks have been included in the schedule

Week commencing Mondays 24 October (Half Term), 6 February (National Championships), 20 February (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 20 and 27 April 2017 with the Finals on 6 May 2017
These are shown in the Handbook (pages 24 & 25)

6 1st Division Responsibilities

1st Division teams should contact the Match Secretary 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 Quarter – by 17th September 2016

2nd Quarter – from 21st October 2015 to 30th October 2016

3rd Quarter – from 16th December 2015 to 3rd January 2017

4th Quarter – from 17th February 2017 to 26th February 2017

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.

Squad Windows are the same as above for Clubs with 2 teams in the same section of a Division, who decide that they will be playing squads (see later)

8 Handbook

As discussed at the Team Captains Meeting in 2015, it had been decided that just 1 handbook per club would be issued.

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 just before the start of the season .

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 & Steve Eccles
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 Steve

10 Disputes – 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. It is no good complaining if you are not prepared to speak out.

11 Rule Changes and Other Issues

There had been a number of rule changes at the 2016 AGM:

Rules 2.6, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.2, Old 7.4, 7.6 & 13

A summary is given below:

2.6 Extra Points for Juniors – Under 19 on the date of the match and registered with the League. A 'J' will appear behind their name.

4.1 Players who would on merit play in Div 1 match on a Tuesday are NOT able to play on a Thursday of same week.

4.2 Squads for clubs with 2 teams in same section of a division. Clubs can decide whether they will play squads or not. If yes, then the squads must be submitted to the Match Secretary in accordance with the dates in the Squad Windows. If no, then players for the 2 teams must be selected in accordance with rule 4.1.

It is recommended that Clubs read the Squad Rule in detail and contact the Match Secretary if they need further clarification.

4.3 Clubs with 1st team in Div 1 and 2nd team in Div 3 or below must submit a playing order for their 2nd team.

5.2 Match Date Alteration – if a team does NOT obtain permission, the non-offending team will be awarded the match.

Old 7.4 Limit on 'Away' players in a season has been removed. Clubs must still play at least 3 home players (as defined) in a match but the limit on no more than 4 away players in old rule 7.4 is now removed. Away players must still be bona fide members of a club etc (see Rule 7.1)

7.6 Number of matches at the end of the season has been reduced from 4 to 3.

Similarly, for the number of prior qualifying matches.

13 Clarification of requirements for appeals etc to the Committee – Note the changes in rules 13.1 and 13.3

Reminders as to the Rules

Clubs were and are also reminded that Team Captains should make themselves aware of all the NWCSL rules.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 P Withington – Lancashire Junior Closed Squash Championships 2016 are on 24/25 September 2016 at National Squash Centre

Entry can be done on-line: www.lancshiresquashandrocketball.co.uk

12.2 B Gill

a) Referee Courses are available, contact Joss Garvey (details in Handbook)

Cost £50 plus travelling expenses. Courses are approx. 3 hours long.

b) Should extra bonus points be awarded to teams with qualified referees?
To be considered by the Committee and put to the 2017 AGM if agreed.

12.3 Steve Eccles

- a) Club Reps using business email addresses, if away from business you may need to consider providing a personal email address to him.
- b) Club Reps should look on the NWCSL website for information and only email if the specific information is not available. Where specific information is available on the website, then the response will be to check the website.
- c) NWCSL does have a twitter account, so please make use of it.
- d) NW Master is again at Grove Park on 16/17 December 2016.
- e) Stationery – there had been a suggestion that stationery could be provided in a electronic version for clubs to print off their own requirement. Following discussion, on a show of hands the majority were in favour of hard printed copies of both the Scoresheets and Scorecards should continue to be supplied, although consideration could be given to providing an electronic version of the Team Selection sheet.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at approx. 8.40pm.