



**NORTHWEST
COUNTIES**
Squash League

**MINUTES OF THE NWCSL 66th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD at Warrington Sports Club
Monday 24th June 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

Present: NWCSL Committee

John Hugall	President
Yawar Abbas	Chair
Geoff Walton	General & Match Secretary
Bernie Gill	Lancashire Chair
Hannah Hodgson	Chair Cheshire
Andrew Nickeas	President Cheshire
Andrew Breen	Chair Merseyside
Joss Garvey	Vice President
Ged Shields	Referee Coordinator

Introduction & Welcome NWCSL Chair Yawar Abbas

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 66th AGM and thanked them for taking time to attend.

Below are bullet points from the Chairs introduction.

- Thank You to Our Sponsors Courtcraft, Dunlop, 305 Squash, PSA
- 234 Teams From 68 Clubs 23-24 Season
- Increase of 13 Teams from the 22-23 Season
- Excess Of £10,000 Grants to our 3 Counties used for Grass Root Development
- Funded 4 Referee Regional Workshops
- Historic Prize Money to all 305 Div1 Teams to qualify to play in the Courtcraft Play-Offs
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There were 42 clubs present: 315, Alderley Edge, Barnton, Bollington, Brooklands, Brookside, Cheetham Hill, Chester Rugby, City of Manchester, Clayton Green, Crewe Vagrants, Delamere, Disley, DL Chorley, DL Manchester, DL N Manchester, Fairways Lodge, Glossop, Grove Park, Heswall Holywell Leisure, Knutsford, Lancaster Uni, Liverpool CC, Macclesfield L, Marple, Markland Hill, Monton, Moss Side, Moss Farm, New Brighton, New Mills, Neston, Prestbury, Rochdale CLS, South Shore, St Peters Burnley, Southport & Birkdale, Tattenhall, The Northern, Village Bury, Warrington, Wigan, Whitby, Winsford, Woolston, Xaverian,

There were 16 clubs absent without apologies: Alsager, Blackpool DeVere, Bury, St Annes, Haslingden, Hyde CC, Leyland Leisure, Lymm RC, Mollington Banastre, Northern Crosby, Preston Grasshoppers, Rochdale, St Annes, Tame Valley, Xaverian,

2. Apologies Clubs: Blackpool CC, Blackburn N, Bowdon, Brook Hotels, Capitol Squash, Delamere, DL Cheadle, DL Manchester, Total Fitness Whitefield, Wrexham Brymbo, YMCA Thornton

3. Apologies Committee

Henry Stone, Dave Thomas, Andrew Beeston

4. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 24th May 2023 which had been previously circulated to clubs, as well as being made available on the website, were taken as read.

Acceptance of the previous year's minutes was Proposed City of Manchester, seconded by Woolston SC and unanimously approved.

5. Matters Arising: No Matters

6. NWCSL ACCOUNT 23-24
SUMMARY

Bank Account Opening Balances

Account 60669512	£500.00
Account 10665939	£1,493.83
Account 20704466	£34,929.95
Total Opening Balance	£36,923.78

Bank Account Closing Balances

Account 60669512	£500.00
Account 10665939	£218.73
Account 20704466	£35,212.92
Total Opening Balance	£35,931.65

Income

Interest Income	£535.33
Sponsorship	£5,000.00
Squash 57	£120.00
SquashTV	£2,850.00
Summer League	£170.00
Suspense Entries	£100.00
Winter League	£12,905.00
Winter League Club Fees	£1,895.00
Total Income	£23,575.33

EXPENDITURE

County Grant-Rebate	(£10,000.00)
Grant	(£300.00)
IT administration costs	(£2,156.00)
Juniors	(£500.00)
League administration	(£2,505.31)
Professional Fees	(£510.00)
Referee Fees	(£4,921.60)
Referee Workshop	(£231.60)
Sponsorship	(£250.00)
SquashTV	(£2,888.00)
Tax	(£304.95)
Total Expenses	(£24,567.46)

Net Surplus/Deficit for the Year	(£992.13)
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Acceptance of Accounts: Proposed by Woolston SC, Seconded by Southport & Birkdale. Unanimously approved.

The General Secretary thanked the auditor, BWP Inspire, for auditing the accounts on behalf of the League for 2023 - 2024.

The appoint of BWP Inspire as auditors for this financial year was Proposed by Alderley Edge, Seconded by Moss Side SC. BWP Inspire appointed unanimously approved.

7. Election of Associate Member Clubs and New Club Members

All Associate Member Clubs Have Been Members for More Than 10 Years Therefore Do Not Require Re-Electing There Are No New Clubs Applications.

8. Election of Officers

Geoff Walton announced he is relocating to Oxford. Geoff will continue as Match and General Secretary until suitable replacements are found.

There were no additional nominations. All current officers were prepared to stand and were duly elected. The President, Vice Presidents & Hon Legal Advisor are ex-officio members & do not need election at the AGM.

Proposed by Knutsford SC, Seconded by Liverpool CC.
All Elected Unanimously.

9. England Squash Affiliation

Paul Makinen presented the new affiliation scheme for individual memberships and clubs.

- Individual members will join directly.

More choice for members:

- Support: £10
- Just Play: £15
- Play Plus: £25
- Clubs will only pay for courts (£75/court, capped at 6 member: Free
- Junior: £15
- Coaches Club: £65

Benefits Offered

Up to £10 million of public liability and personal accident cover Insurance

- Enhanced clothing and equipment discounts/offer's
- Access/discounts to competitions, workshops, courses
- A tree planted for every member
- Access to exclusive contests and 'money can't buy' experiences
- Discounted WSO refereeing courses and workshops
- 25% discount on Squash Player Magazine • Market-leading SQUASHTV discount (Play Plus)
- Access to 'Diamond Club' rewards and discounts

Geoff Walton Explained:

- The NWCSL Constitution states that clubs must be affiliated members of ES for their teams and players to play in the NWCSL. A change in the constitution can only be made at an EGM or AGM.
- Players must be affiliated to ES to play in ES sanctioned events, inter county and for England.
- Cheshire, Lancashire, and Merseyside receive an enhanced rebate from England Squash based on the number of clubs and players within their respective counties. The affect of clubs and players not becoming members will have a negative impact on funding within the counties and some development projects may not take place
- A reduction in ES Membership would almost certainly have a negative financial impact on funding from Sport England to ES.
- A strong governing body is essential for squash development at all levels.
- The NWCSL committee support the new ES affiliation scheme

The floor was invited to comment on the new ES membership. There was a concern that players would not join the new scheme. How would casual team players be treated? Would they have to join the new scheme if they only play 2 or 3 times in a season. **Action ES to come up with a solution for casual team players prior to the 24-25 season start in September. GW to follow up.**

10. Women in Squash

Hannah Hodgson Chair for Cheshire asked the NWCSL to support the Women in Squash Project. The objective is to engage more women and girls in squash.

The Pilot project will set individual goals, action, support and reflections within groups of women and girls. There will be monthly online network meetings led by an experienced coach-mentor including guest speakers from the world of sport. Groups will communicate through social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp.

The outcome being a connected community using their voice for positive change across squash.

The ask is for the NWCSL to cover the pilot project cost of £5000 to provide initial data and insight to present to England Squash. **Action to be discussed at the next NWCSL committee meeting.**

League Restructure:

The league restructure presented at the 2023 AGM was again discussed. A decision not to implement is for the 24-25 season was take by the committee in

11. AOB

- League Master Offer Box League, Ladder and Tournament
- Div 1 teams that competed in the play-offs were asked to invoice the league.
- **Action GW to post conversion chart for playing to 11 or 15.**

12. Presentation of Divisional Winners:

Div 1 Warrington 1, Div 2C Wigan SC 2 1, Div 2W The Neston SC 1 , Div 2E Fairways Lodge 1, Div 3CN Blackpool CC 1, Div 3NE Rochdale CSL 1, Div 3CS DL Cheadle 1, Div 3SW Brookside 1, Div 3NW Southport & Birkdale 2, Div 3SE Bowdon 2, Div 4 CN Clayton Green 1, Div 4NE Haslingden 1, Div 4CS Monton 2, Div 4 SW Mollington Banastre, Div 4NW Liverpool CC 5, Div 4SE Disley 1, Div 5CN YMCA Thornton 3, Div 5NE Whitefield Squash 4, Div 5CS Macclesfield 3, Div 5SW Chester Rugby 4. Div 5NW Wigan SC 6, Div 5SE Moss Side SC 2

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at approximately 21.30.

Geoff Walton
24th May 2024