

MINUTES of The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

VALVERDE LAWN BOWLS CLUB,

HELD ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30TH 2015

Present

Henry Parlour	President
Margaret Wilson	Secretary to the President
David Russell	Chairman
Maria Romano	Treasurer
Peter Hollis	Captain
Jen Preece	Secretary
Geff Williams	Vice President
Diane Williams	Social Secretary
Terry Kerr	Fiscal Committee Chairman

The meeting opened at 3pm

As well as the 9 officers of the club there were 29 voting members present

1. Apologies for absence:

Mel Knickle, Jenny Preza

2. Introduction

The President of the club, Henry Parlour, thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them to the 7th AGM of Valverde Bowls Club. Henry asked that the members of the Management Committee stand and introduce themselves to the members and state their role within the club. Other members of the club with specific roles did the same.

3. Minutes of 6th AGM 2014

The minutes were approved by the meeting . No matters arising.

4. President's Address

Henry Parlour announced that he was retiring as President of the bowls club. This was his own decision as he felt that it was time for someone new to take on the role. Henry thanked members and officers of the club past and present for their outstanding support.

From the start Henry wanted the bowls club to be run by the members for the members and in an atmosphere of generosity. He believes that in the main his dream has been realised and that we now have a pleasant social bowls club.

He asked that members give their support to whomever they elect as their new President.

Henry believes that support for both the club and the restaurant is vital for our ongoing success. He stated that our success is the envy of all who play on our greens. He spoke of the importance of the restaurant and the goodwill of Jorge and Flor without which we would have no club. He requested that we not spoil things by anger and misunderstandings but take our concerns to Godfrey Williams, Vice President who will relate them to the Management Committee.

Henry went on to give a big thank you to David Russell, retiring chairman, who has done so much to ensure the growth and success of the club. He also thanked Jack and Maria who do so much for the club, Godfrey and Diane who have made their mark in such a short time and Peter who has come of age as our Captain. Special thanks were given to Carol Barnes for her work with the visiting teams, often over and above the call of duty.

The club is praised repeatedly for hosting of the tour groups. Our hospitality and friendliness is second to none.

Henry went on to mention by name other members of the club who contribute to its success. He gave special mention to Nick our green keeper who is so proud of his involvement in the club.

Finally Henry thanked Margaret , the secretary to the general assembly and asked that she serve the new President with loyalty and enthusiasm.

5. Reports from the Management Committee

David Russell, Chairman,

also announced his retirement after 4 years in the post and said :

“Thanks to a fine and well behaved membership, VBC is a great club to belong to, the most pleasant organisation I have ever had the privilege of being part of. Quite evidently too the standard of everyone’s play has improved substantially and Club membership seems stable now, in the mid seventies, with more Annual memberships.

I am pleased to have helped, along with Terry Kerr, and Joe Scott of Tavira, the re-entry of VBC to Bowls Algarve so that all the clubs of the Algarve can play each other and we will be playing with the most talented players in the country, which of course includes some of our own. You should note though that individual club members can continue membership of Bowls Portugal (BP) and can play in BP championships.

We are indeed a busy club with tours, championships and special events. The calendar is packed year round and I can see the wistful looks on British visitors faces when I tell them “ We never close” .The range of internal competitions has increased a lot, with the introduction of the VBC Aussie pairs on Wednesday afternoons and the mixed drive on Fridays, Now we have the BA Saturday league and the Cameron cup and the Eastern League (CEAB) lives on, though reduced a little with the withdrawal of Canela

The Green still receives great praise and is in great shape thanks to Jack and Nick and our facilities are looking good, thanks to the efforts of Jack and Maria and Peter.

The relationship with our hosts, Flor and Jorge of Don Camillos, is on a good footing and everyone loves the environment they have helped provide. May it continue

harmoniously. We should let them know.

I would like to say a special thanks to the management committees during my term (past and present) for helping me to run the club, remember they are all volunteers.

Captains Peter Hollis and Keith Henley and John Freeman (sadly no longer with us)
Treasurers Maria Romano and Jeff Perry (who helped me, over 8 months, rewrite the VBC constitution !!)

Secretary Jennifer Preece

Social secretaries Diane Williams and Sue Hunt

Vice Presidents Godfrey Williams and Jack Romano

Fiscal Chairman Terry Kerr

And other helpers over the years

Carol Barnes, Penny Henley, Margaret and Peter Wilson, Eric Brown, David Laing
Brian Pullin, Ken Rawlins, and Roma Gilchrist not forgetting Nick our groundsman

Lastly, I hope you like and enjoy the new Roll of Honour presentation board in the Pavilion. It's my last project and I will soon make the final corrections though the competition record still has holes in it. If anyone spots any and can help make corrections, please tell me. Its easy to fix.

I wish you all and the club well for the future.

Maria Romano, Treasurer,
reported that the club has had a very busy year with over 700 visiting players. We have a membership of 73 and are currently seeing an increase in full members over play and pay members.

There have been no surprises during the year in our finances and copies of the year end financial report were circulated for members to examine. Maria asked that they check the report and see her regarding any queries.

Peter Hollis, Captain,

has now been Captain for one year. He reported that the club changing rooms have been decorated and improved and thanked the organisers of the Race Night which helped to finance this.

He gave thanks to Nick our green keeper for his good work and stated that in the future we shall be needing new mats, and also a store for our chemicals.

There were 19 visiting tour groups in the spring and 16 in the autumn. Feedback from these groups has been good and we have received praise from the tour organisers.

Peter noted that there is a need to improve etiquette on the green.

The Summer Singles competition was a great success, with thanks to Alan Preece for organising it .Club roll ups have been made more interesting with Monday's wine and Friday's drive. The Anniversary Pairs Competition was well supported and produced a home win. Thanks to Eric Brown for taking over the scoring in the absence of Jeff Perry.

He mentioned the success of our Wednesday Australian Pairs League, and this years Club Championship matches are underway. Two rounds of the President's Shield competition have been completed.

The CEAB league has started with the Vilamoura Premier League, the Valverde Australian Pairs and the Pedras Winter Triples.

Peter gave his special thanks to Terry Kerr for handling the negotiations for Valverde joining Bowls Algarve.

Finally he announced that we have 21 tour groups booked for spring 2016.

Diane Williams, Social Secretary, thanked all the members for their support over the past year. Social events have included a summer barbeque at the home of Jack and Maria and a lunch on the beach which 38 people attended. More recently Teresa and Geoff Allen organised a Treasure Hunt and Brian Pullin a quiz night, both of which were highly successful. Many thanks to all three.

The Christmas dinner and stay at The Holiday Inn will be at the end of November with the benefit this year of a private room for our meal and our own entertainer.

Diane stated that she is planning a Valentines dinner dance for next year.

Geff Williams, Vice President, said his role on the MC was to take any complaints or suggestions from members, that they may have regarding the club to the Management Committee. His aim was to make the club better.

He stated that there had been complaints regarding drinks prices in the restaurant but that the visiting teams have nothing but praise for our restaurant and see it as a great bonus for the club.

5. Election of Officers

President

Henry Parlour has resigned as President.

David Russell was proposed by Henry Parlour and by a show of hands, was duly elected as President, there being 37 votes for and none against.

Chairman

David Russell has resigned as Chairman.

Mary Ann Whitehead was proposed by David Russell for the post and by a show of hands, was duly elected as Chairman, there being 37 votes for and none against.

Fiscal Committee Chairman

Terry Kerr has agreed to stand again, there was no opposition, and he was re elected.

7. Any Other Business

Godfrey Williams, Vice President formally thanked David Russell for all his hard work as our club Chairman over the past 4 years. He wished him luck in his new job as our President.

Godfrey also formally thanked Henry Parlour for having been our club President since the founding of the club. He spoke of Henry's contribution to the club both in person and financially. He illustrated this by reading a letter from Bill and Stella Crittall, holiday visitors to the club who wrote in praise of Henry, and of the excellence of our

club in general.

Terry Kerr asked if we were looking to restrict the number of visiting tour teams in the future. The window for visiting teams is quite small and we depend on the good will of members to participate in competing with the teams. He asked if teams could maybe play against each other?

In answer it was stated that there were no plans to restrict the number of teams. It was felt that there was always room for manoeuvre, and that we would manage the situation as it arose. Carol Barnes stated that she always tried to keep the weekends free of visiting team matches.

Mary Ann Whitehead asked if she could give her thanks to all members present for voting for her as club Chairman. She stated that she received so much help and support from the club during her bereavement last year that she wished to give something back to the club. Mary Ann asked that the members support her again in her new role.

Henry Parlour invited all members and their partners to attend his retirement lunch on Monday November 9th. This was his thankyou to the club.

8. Date of the next AGM

This will be decided at a later date by the management committee

David Russell declared the meeting closed at 3.40pm.