

MINUTES

Of the Annual General Meeting of the Valverde Bowls Club, held at the Restaurant Don Camillo on Sunday 4th October 2009

Present:

President of the Table: Henry Parlour
Vice President: Fran Parlour
Secretary: Sue Jepson

Fiscal Committee:
President: Terry Kerr
Secretary: Lawrence Boni

Management Committee:
Chairman: Gordon Linford
Treasurer: Jeff Perry
Secretary: Jan McGlynn
Club Captain: Guy Gomes
Vice Captain: Tom Sanderson

The meeting opened at 10.30 a.m.

Apologies: Barry Adams (Fiscal Committee). Guy Gomes, although present at the start of the meeting, gave apologies for having to leave early.

1. Henry welcomed those present and thanked them for attending.
2. He asked if there were any questions arising from the Minutes of the I.G.M. of 18th April 2009. No questions. It was proposed by Bill Smith that the minutes be accepted; seconded by Terry Kerr and approved unanimously. Henry asked that those present make notes on any questions they wished to ask regarding items on the Agenda, and put them forward at the end of the Committee's presentation.
3. Henry told those present that in Feb/March 2007, Vale do Lobo closed the Bowling Club and despite our efforts, told us they did not have any land available for a new site. Fortunately we made contact with Don Camillo Restaurant and we were offered land at the back of the restaurant, on which to build a green. We now have a signed 10-year lease on the land, for which we pay a small rental per year. We also have use of a section of the storeroom, which has been adapted for our changing rooms. Henry said as Jorge and Flor were not present today, a letter should be sent to them, thanking them for their generosity, as without them there would be no Valverde Bowls Club.

Officers of the Club were elected by the Founder Members, and Henry then proceeded to thank:

- Guy Gomes, Captain, for monitoring the construction of the green and sourcing all equipment needed for the green and club as well as maintenance issues, irrigation and the fitting out of the changing rooms. He also does an excellent job as Captain of the Club.

- Jeff Perry, Treasurer, for all his hard work in getting the club started, as it was Jeff who took up the challenge when Vale do Lobo collapsed. He was thanked for his work in connection with all matters of a commercial nature and detailed communication with all members and potential members, in addition to his Treasurer Duties. He set up and maintains the Club Website, which has proved to be invaluable and acts as a diary to many members.
- Jan McGlynn, Secretary: for her work in promoting the club, obtaining sponsors and dealing with enquiries for fixtures from visiting touring teams. She also attends the Algarve Bowling league meetings with Jeff Perry, on behalf of Valverde Bowls Club.
- Tom Sanderson, Vice Captain: For his support in setting up the club and functions, in conjunction with Guy and arranging teams to represent the club. He also runs the Spider Competition at the Friday roll up games.
- Gordon Linford, Chairman: For his excellent work in keeping the Management Committee firm in its resolve and acting upon points raised in Committee. He is responsible for sourcing and obtaining our Club polo shirts and sweatshirts, and sundry items to be presented to our visitors. He keeps everyone on the right track and thanks to you Gordon.

Without these Committee members, there would be no Valverde Bowls Club.

Thanks should be given to David Laing and Lawrence Boni who assist with subs and setting up the green on our roll up days. To Margaret Linford who has helped with the social and catering arrangements, sometimes in the face of adversity, and of course for her support of her husband Gordon. To Gavin Alderman, who although not a playing member of our club, has produced some wonderful bowls gatherers for our use. To Barry Adams, for helping Guy with the refurbishment of the store room. To Terry Kerr: for offering to take on the planting project, which will be starting soon. We look forward to seeing the difference it will make to the area around the green.

Last but not least thanks should be given to all our Founder Members for their investment, without which we would not be here today. In thanking the members present, Henry said he thought that with their continued enthusiasm, Valverde Bowls Club could only go from strength to strength.

4. Jeff Perry, Treasurer, then gave his report and handed a printed version of this to those present which detailed income and expenditure. He explained that we had 25 Founder Members who had raised €79,216, Henry and Fran had given an additional loan of €15,000 and green fees from May to August 2009 had raised €2,158. The total income up to the end of August was €96,374. Jeff said he was quite pleased with these results, considering the very adverse financial climate in effect at the time. Capital costs to establish the club exceeded income by about €9,000, and some of this is still outstanding. With regard to the budget for the current operating year, Jeff said he was quite confident about his budgeted income €24,360, but the expenditure side included a lot of guesswork; this year will be a learning process. He said every week we see new members and was pleased to see many of these returning again and again. We already have firm bookings for 11 UK touring teams, which is excellent for such a new club. Overall, Jeff said we should just about break even this year, which he thought was a little disappointing, and that we must be careful to keep costs down and to work at bringing more income into the club. He asked if there were any questions.

Bill Smith asked if there was a time scale for refunding Founder Members' contributions and Jeff said these would be repaid whenever the club could afford to do this. There were no more questions.

5. In the absence of Gui Gomes, Tom Sanderson gave the Club Captain's report. The summer league was enjoyed by all, but we did not achieve any remarkable results. We have played 2 friendly matches against Pedras and Isla Canela which were enjoyed by all. We have a lot of visiting bowls touring teams coming to Valverde BC soon, and Tom asked for more bowlers to show their support and enter their names for the teams. The winter league starts on 10th October, which does involve a lot of travelling to venues, but if anyone would like to take part in this league, they should contact Tom or Gui. We shall be entering some bowlers into the Poppy Day competition, to be held at Parque da Floresta in November. Arrangements for our Inaugural Day on 18th October, were well underway. Tom asked bowlers to respect the dress code, when representing the club in competitions. He reminded bowlers to always carry their Bowls Algarve membership card, which could be requested at any time. Entries for the Bowls Algarve championships have now closed and everyone should pay their entry fees to Tom as soon as possible. Tom said he hoped everyone would enjoy the bowling season.

6. Jan gave her report on sponsorship and publicity. She has seen David Hills who reminded her that when we need more score cards we should let him know. He is also interested in sponsoring a competition, which would probably be in the New Year. Jan has requested that Gui deal with this and she will liaise with David. Gareth Bullock, a Bowen Technique practitioner, is sponsoring our Spring Open Pairs on 3rd March 2010. We do have a trophy for this event, but Gareth will provide two extra takeaway prizes plus extra prize items. He intends to promote his business with leaflets and by demonstrating short treatments.

For our Inaugural Day we have Lorna Marshall of "Celebrations" in Albufeira as a sponsor for this event. She has already visited the club to assess the layout, and intends to bring a couple of stands plus banners and balloons etc. She specialises in gift cards, wrapping paper, small gifts and customized Teddy Bears which are a great success. She has given us €50 towards takeaway prizes and is also providing extra prizes.

We continue to receive bookings from Bowls Tour companies, and Jack High have requested the use of our green next February for a private tournament, which will bring good income to the club. Connie of Alvor, who runs her own bowls touring groups, has asked if we can accommodate some of her parties next year. We have told her we would be pleased to do this.

The two local English language newspapers have been used by Jan in the past for reporting various competitions, and she will use them for our Inaugural Day results, plus photos. When Jan was at a recent trade exhibition, she was given a copy of the Goodlife magazine, which is now under the management of the Algarve Resident team. Jan has contact the Editor regarding the publication of an article on Valverde Bowls Club. The Editor was fascinated in the history of the club, and how we came to set it up and has asked Jan to write the article and submit photos of the green, for publication in the December edition of the magazine. Jan told the Editor that we were the only club on the Algarve which was funded, set up and managed by the bowlers. This will be wonderful exposure for our club, as it is a very upmarket magazine.

Jan thanked John Savage a member of our club, who has worked very hard in promoting Valverde Bowls Club throughout clubs in the UK. He has had some success and Jan has received some

enquiries from UK clubs, but so far no firm bookings. We hope John's efforts will put Valverde Bowls club on the bowling map.

Jan said she had so far managed to find some very generous sponsors and still had some in hand, should we need them for future competitions. Jan in closing, thanked Margaret Linford for stepping in and taking on the unenviable task of arranging food after our games, this has been an enormous help during the time that Jan was recuperating after her operation. She hoped Margaret could see her way clear to continuing to do this.

7. Jeff gave a report on this Agenda item. He said the 3 listed items were not really relevant to this meeting, unless anyone wanted to raise any questions. No questions raised.

8. In April of this year some officers were elected until the 2010 AGM and some for two years i.e. until the 2011 AGM. However a proposal has been made in that we appoint a Social Secretary to develop the social side of the club. Margaret Linford was proposed for this position. It was suggested Margaret has a sub committee to work with her, and Julie Sanderson and Pauline Feist are willing to take this on. D.J. Bristow is also willing to join this sub committee. Tom Sanderson thought that the social and entertainment element is a very important part of this club. It was proposed and agreed unanimously, that Margaret Linford be elected onto the Management Committee and that she appoint her own sub committee to help with this task.

9. A.O.B.: Terry Kerr asked Jeff Perry if the income obtained from roll ups and casual visitors could be itemised separately so that it can be easily seen what income we are receiving from outsiders, ie. the €10 bowlers be kept separate from the €6 bowlers. Bill Smith agreed the income should be displayed separately. Jeff agreed this is good idea but said there could be a practical problem in setting this up. Lawrence Boni thought this could be easily arranged as he is responsible for receiving green fees.

Regarding roll up days – Jeff said we had tried to use Sunday as a roll up day but Jorge is not willing to open the restaurant. Henry proposed that we have three roll up days each week - Monday, Wednesday and Friday with a 10.00 a.m. Seconded by Margaret Linford and agreed unanimously. This is to be effective from 2nd November. Terry Kerr thought there was a good income to be achieved from passing trade, and this was something we could not afford to turn our back on. Henry said he thought it could be arranged that a member be present on Tuesdays and Thursdays to man the green for occasional play. Fran Parlour suggested that Tuesdays could be allocated as a practice day. Jeff agreed to put this on the website and the Management Committee will work out the rota of persons to supervise the Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Jeff said at the moment he is also organising beginners' sessions.

Terry asked if any progress had been made with regard to providing our own toilet facilities, taking into account the closure of the restaurant on Sundays etc. Gordon said we had given this some thought but at the moment we had no plans to erect our own toilet facilities. Jorge has been approached by some members of the Management Committee and we hoped something could be agreed. Terry said he had thought that maybe a chemical toilet could be considered. Henry said that there was a contingency plan in that the company who are constructing our pergola, which will be roofed and have improved rainwater drainage, have said they could construct a wooden type chalet for use as changing rooms in which could be housed a chemical toilet. However he added that under our lease agreement we are safeguarded in that Jorge has an obligation to provide toilet facilities.

Henry said there was a further point he would like to raise. He said his brother and wife, who play in South Africa have reported that every now and again they have a “fun day” where everyone comes in fancy dress to the roll up and there is music on the green. Prizes would be given. He invited the new Social Committee to consider this suggestion.

Jeff asked that anyone with ideas on enhancing the club website should get in touch with him.

10. Date of next AGM: Sunday 3rd October at 10.30 a.m. at the Don Camillo Restaurant.

11. Gordon closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and by thanking the Committee for their continued work, and Henry for his valuable input. He said he hoped that the club continued to go from strength to strength.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.00 noon.

Signed Henry Parlour, President of the Table

Signed Sue Jepson, Secretary of the Table

Date: