

NOTES FROM THE VALVERDE BOWLS CLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 8th APRIL 2011

The meeting opened at 10.00 a.m.

Gordon , the Chairman, thanked everyone for attending.

1. Minutes of last meeting: no items arising, minutes approved.
2. Report on Green: The green is bowling very well, and many compliments have been received. Guy reported that the green maintenance team want to close the green for maintenance, for a 2 week period. Guy will arrange this, and it will be put on the website.
3. Jorge has stated, via a recent letter, that he requires that the monthly storeroom rental be increased, and also that he intends to have meters installed to measure the club's consumption of water and electricity. Jeff and Gordon had attempted to talk to Jorge last month but he was too busy to talk. Jeff was asked to make it clear to Jorge that we consider the 50% increase in storeroom rental to be excessive. The installation of meters, however, is to be welcomed.
4. Members suggestions: Terry has suggested another members' meeting is held. This gives members a chance to express their views. This was agreed and a date in May to be arranged.

Tom made a suggestion that we should consider more in-club competitions. A round robin type of competition was suggested to run over a period of time. This was agreed and Guy and Tom to arrange this. Helen Armour won a very large teddy bear recently, which she would like to donate to the club to be used for a raffle/prize competition to be held only within our club.

Jan said some bowlers had talked about the forthcoming AGM, and a secret ballot had been requested. This was discussed and if we have more than one candidate per post, this could be done.

Margaret: said there have been a few complaints about the Spider competition, and some club members have said they do not want to participate. Jeff said if funds from the Spider, were for a specific charity, he would feel more comfortable. Some weeks we have 2 or 3 touring teams and he queried whether we should expect our members to pay and enter for the Spider. This subject was further discussed – as to whether all, or part of this amount should be donated to charity.

Jan suggested that at the next members' meeting we should mention the fact that all club members should lend a hand in putting out the rink equipment, and taking it in again at the end of the game.

Letter received from Tom Daly: Jan has received an Email letter from Tom, which she had previously circulated to all committee members. This was discussed, point by point.

Point 1: Tom suggested we purchase coloured stickers to be attached to bowls, during competitions, to make it easier for spectators to identify the bowls. The colours suggested: Red and Blue which would relate to the colours of the scoreboard. This was discussed and considered a valid suggestion. Guy will purchase these stickers on his next visit to the UK, and Tom Daly to be informed of this.

Point 2 of Tom's letter concerned gents and ladies championship finals, held on the same day. This is the highlight of the season. He said markers for this event were arranged on the day and he felt that these positions should have been pre arranged and the markers to be appropriately dressed. Guy admitted that there were some errors made this year. He considered we were lucky to have someone with Tom's ability and expertise, to point out the error of our ways. Next year we will hopefully not make the same mistakes, but it has to be appreciated that we are a new club and on a learning curve.

Point 3 of Tom's letter concerned the club finals, which had to be held over two days. He felt concerned that there were no representatives from the management committee present at the club pairs finals. He considered this a lack of respect and bad manners. This was discussed and point 2 refers to the Committee's views.

Point 4 of Tom's letter concerned rumours circulating regarding Valverde's position in Bowls Portugal and Bowls Algarve and that Valverde have been given an ultimatum, to choose one or the other. It was also rumoured that Vila da Luz will not now remain with Bowls Portugal but joint Bowls Algarve. He felt that our members have a right to know the truth and that the rumours should cease. This was discussed by the Committee and it was felt we should reply to this point and say that this is an unsubstantiated rumour, and all up to date information on the BA/BP situation is put on the website. The VV representatives at the BA meetings, confirmed that no indication had been given that VV were to be asked to leave BA.

It is to be hoped at the next BA meeting, this issue will be addressed.

Point 5 of Tom's letter expressed congratulations on our club in winning the Super Tens, Cameron Cup and Valverde Championships, and commended the club on the excellent teamwork in achieving this. He also complimented the recovery of the green and its now very acceptable standard. There was some discussion here by Tom and Guy regarding people dropping out because they didn't like the team selection. Gordon felt that any bowler, who is selected to play and the backs out, should not play in other competitions.

Smoking on the Green: Jan explained that some ladies playing in a competition recently, had complained about smoking on the green and had said they were allergic to the smoke. Should the green become a non smoking area? Tom admitted that he and some others were smokers, but he did not smoke on the green, only on the perimeter.

Touring Groups: it was queried that when we have a tour group on a roll up day – whether we should allow casual play on the rinks not being used. Some discussion followed and it was agreed this be permitted and that members will be given priority over PAYP/visitors in this situation.

9. Irrigation pump service: This has been repaired at a cost of 480€.

10. BP. St. Georges Day: Guy reports the entries for this are not going very well, and we need at least 42 bowlers to make the event viable, and to be fair to the restaurant. Guy will put an Email out to all BP members reminding them of the closing date of 17th March for this event.

11. Charity: A letter has been received from Pat Purkis. She has visited a home in Almancil, Associaco Social & Cultural de Almancil, and had met with Sr. Hermes Alberto the director, who gave Pat and Nick a tour of the home, including the new building for the elderly which they hope will be occupied in 6 months time. Sr. Alberto would be happy to come to our Club and give a presentation. He gave Pat a terra cotta savings bank, and some lapel badges for the club's use. (After the meeting Margaret and Jan asked Flor if she would be prepared to put this savings bank on the restaurant counter, and to sell the lapel badges. She seemed very pleased to do this, and hopefully restaurant clientele will put their loose change in this bank). After some discussion the Committee felt Pat and Nick should be approached, and asked if they would be the focal point for this charity, and liaise direct with the home. For members' information, it might be a good thing to know, how any collected monies are spent at this home. It was suggested that rather than give a sum of money, we actually buy goods that are needed. The Committee appreciated the efforts Pat and Nick had put in, regarding finding a suitable charity. It was suggested Spider funds and a special future charity match, be arranged for this Home.

12. Sponsorship: Jeff said we have received several offers for sponsorship. Currency Direct would like to sponsor an event. Also WorldWide Brokers have sent Jeff an email – they would like to sponsor us and come to the club to give a talk. Jeff said in his opinion there should be a person appointed, in the club, to deal with sponsorship – a “sponsorship supremo”. It was agreed we raise this item at the next members' meeting in the hope of finding a volunteer for this position. We will invite WorldWide Brokers to come and give a talk. The Committee also thought that our sponsors might be approached regarding sponsoring other items, e.g. league shirts etc. rather than give a sum of money/wine. We should aim higher, with regard to what we ask of our sponsors. For our Anniversary Game, it was thought we should approach David Hills in the first instance regarding possible sponsorship. This firm already provide our score cards.

13. Summer League: Guy reported that he has six names for the Bowls Algarve Summer league. For the Pedras summer league he has 16 names. That is sufficient to put up 2 teams. It was agreed the club go with the Pedras league. Jeff suggested Guy write to Connie and tell her that we do not have sufficient interest to pay in the Bowls Algarve summer league. Guy to inform Pedras that we will play in their league.

14. AOB: Jeff asked if it was intended to play for the President's Shield this year. Henry arrives in May. A date in October or November was suggested for this.

15. Date of next meeting: Thursday 5th May 2011.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.45 a.m.

