

Minutes of the Valverde Management Meeting held on Friday May 1st 2015

Present

David Russell (Chairman)
Peter Hollis (Captain)
Maria Romano (Treasurer)
Geoff Williams (Vice President)
Jen Preece (Secretary)
Diane Williams (Social Secretary)
Terry Kerr (Fiscal Committee Chairman)

The meeting opened at 2.15pm

1. The Minutes of the last meeting held on Friday February 27th 2015

- The minutes were accepted by the committee
- No meeting was held in March as there were insufficient members of the committee available.

2. Monthly Reports

- Peter Hollis, Captain, reported that the Spring Touring Groups were very successful. Seventeen groups came to the club and eleven are booked for the autumn. The committee expressed their thanks to the Captain and to Carol Barnes for running the tour groups this year. Peter also expressed his thanks to Keith and Penny Henley for the initial bookings.

He regretted that the Spring Pairs competition was omitted this year due to time constraints. It was agreed that dates be set well in advance for the future competitions.

Some future dates agreed are:

Anniversary Pairs Saturday September 26th

Presidents Shield Saturday November 21st (rounds from 9th to 20th November)

Club Championships 19th and 20th March 2016

Peter will liaise with Tony Gilbert for the date and venue for the Bowls Portugal Finals 2016.

Peter reported that he has discovered an excellent trophy shop in Loule. Only two week's notice is required to prepare the trophies.

Terry Kerr has organised the VBC teams for the Spring Australian Pairs Competition which will run from May to June. Another competition will be needed for the summer months.

Peter stated that the towels presented to the touring groups had proved very popular. He suggested that chalk spray could be given instead next time but the committee agreed to continue with the towels until the supply runs out as they were a special deal.

The majority feeling among members is that the green is good. Jack Romano has asked that we purchase larger tines (9mm) for the machine. This was agreed. Nick, the groundsman, has to attend a legally required course on the safe use of chemicals. The cost is 175euros. New regulations also require us to provide a special store for storing chemicals. Maria will circulate a copy of the regulations.

Paint used on the edges of the green has been unsuccessful, as it is flaking off. Jack will try something different.

Terry asked if there is a limit to the number of tour groups as it impinges on league matches. So far this hasn't been a problem, and we will continue to try to fit in all requests. It was agreed to move the Club Championship start date forward to facilitate the early completion of the first two rounds.

Maria Romano, treasurer, reported that the financial position of the club continues to keep close to budget targets and there has been some improvement in income from touring clubs.

There have been some more repayments to founder members

Water and electricity costs are still within the estimated totals forecast in February

2014

Mirrors have now been put into the toilets and it would be good to provide some sunshades for around the green. This may be difficult however, due to the strong winds we sometimes get.

Bar prices at the restaurant have been increased by 20 cents except for coffee. Maria was informed of this prior to the increase.

Greetings cards sold at the club were 15 euros short. It seems some members are forgetting to pay. Maria will review and will cancel the scheme if this continues.

Membership has fallen from 79 to 73 members. But there are new applications pending.

There is now 600 euros in the founder members voluntary retained fund, which is earmarked to be used for the benefit of the club. Ideas please, from members..

- Diane Williams, social secretary, reported that the Christmas Party will remain at the Holiday Inn, Armacao de Pera. (survey preferences have been taken into account) Diane and Geoff are in discussion with the hotel on pricing. Diane suggested that the event be held in the Indian Restaurant which we can have for our private use. She has found a good female singer and group for 120 euros. We can choose our own menu with wine included. The date will be December 12th.

Diane also suggested that we hold a summer bowls evening at 6.30pm in July or August and a "chicken and chips on the beach" at the end of September

Teresa and Geoff Allen have organised a Treasure Hunt for October 23rd.

It was also suggested that we hold another race night and quiz night as they are very popular.

3. Sub Committee Reports

- Terry Kerr reported on the Valverde Fiscal Committee meeting held in March. The financial position of the club is satisfactory.

The committee discussed Fiscal Committee proposals to include amendments to the Code of Conduct covering PAYP member obligations to volunteer their green fees,

Whilst most members do pay when they come to the club there are exceptions, and of course some members just forget. The committee agreed that the obligation to pay fees would be written into the code of conduct. Other suggestions were a notice on the board or emails to pay as you play members. The committee would welcome suggestions as to how this problem can be solved. It was felt that it was not the treasurer's job to chase green fees.

The committee also discussed Fiscal Committee proposals on the dress code. which should be mentioned in and accessible from the club website section "About us"

While holiday visitors to the club are not required to observe the dress code except for appropriate footwear, members should observe the dress code even for club roll ups. There is an uninsured risk of accidents if proper bowling shoes are not worn. The committee agreed that an obligation to observe the dress code be added to the code of conduct.

New Membership Applications

- There is one new member application, Isobel Peters. Her membership has been accepted.

4. Any other business

- David Russell reported on overtures that have been made to him regarding bringing Bowls Algarve and Bowls Portugal closer together. David has spoken with George Humphreys of PDF, and Joe Scott of Tavira. There was long discussion on this issue. The club has also been approached by the new manager of Alvor Bowls Club who would like to arrange matches. It was agreed that the way forward was to suggest some "friendlies" over the summer and perhaps next winter but more discussion is needed.
- Members have supported the spider competition well this year. It was agreed however, that when the spider is won by a Valverde player it is their choice whether they keep the prize or give it to the opposition.
- Geoff Williams enquired about the IbeX insurance sponsorship. He thought that they gave a discount to Valverde members. David said that he would clarify this.
- Maria reported that Geoff Williams had obtained quotes for a large secure strong steel box to hold our equipment at the greenside to save members traipsing between clubhouse and green with scoreboards and mats etc. It was agreed unanimously to accept the 260 euro quote organised by Geoff.
- Geoff Williams has put an elephant moneybox on the table to collect fines. It was suggested these will be for: lateness, not signing the player list, swearing on the green and wrong bias. All on an honesty basis. Skips please note !

5. Date of the next meeting

- Friday May 29th 2015