



## THE VETERANS SQUASH RACKETS CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

President: Philip Ayton

Chairman: Tom Hendry

### **Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain held at Colets Health & Fitness, St.Nicholas Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0PW on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017.**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>President</b>	-	<b>Philip Ayton</b>
	<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	-	<b>Lance Kinder</b>
		-	<b>Tony McStravick</b>
		-	<b>John Woodliffe</b>
	<b>Chairman</b>	-	<b>Tom Hendry</b>
	<b>Hon Secretary</b>	-	<b>Nigel Belle</b>
	<b>Hon Treasurer</b>	-	<b>Di Hendry</b>
	<b>Tournament Director</b>	-	<b>Geoff Howes</b>
	<b>Hon Match Secretary</b>	-	<b>Nick Markham-David</b>
	<b>Ordinary Members</b>	-	<b>Robert Smith</b>
			<b>Karen Hume</b>

**41 members attended plus Committee above:** Vinnie Taylor, Keith Hews, Steve Pusey, Alan Leffen, Martin Miller, Tariq Mushtaq, Aubrey Waddy, Jeremy Krzystyniak, Andy Normile, Jonathan Gliddon, Alan Thomson, David Clarke, John Woodliffe, Terry Woodliffe, Alistair McMeckan, Roger Sulley, George Aplin, Dean Clayton, Gordon Coulthard, Gordon Ross, Tony McStravick, Jim Switzer, John Odell, John Wild, Leighton Jenkins, Mike Halpin, Stuart Harland, Martin Bronstein, Lance Kinder, Howard Cherlin, Peter Culver, Robin Mace, Brian Phillips, Graham Edwards, Chris Howes, Jane Belle, Jacqui Kinder, James Dubois, Ian Russell, Sarah Howlett, Rachel Woolford.

**Apologies** were received from Mike Clemson, Patrick Fleming, Mandy & Albert Akin, Andrew Beeston, Jeremy Hilton, Paul Clarke, Ken Barrett, Stuart Hardy, Chris Goodbourn.

#### **1 Opening of AGM**

The President opened the meeting at 15.30 and welcomed all those present.

#### **2 Minutes of 53<sup>rd</sup> AGM**

These were read, Gordon Coulthard proposed, John Woodliffe seconded and it was carried that these minutes were a true record and were accordingly signed by the President.

#### **3 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4 Treasurer's Report**

12 months accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 were explained by Di Hendry the Hon. Treasurer. Overall these showed a healthy situation and adoption of the accounts was proposed by Howard Cherlin seconded by Lance Kinder and carried by the members.

#### **5 Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman presented his report for 2016/17 and outlined the Club's plans for the future. Membership numbers are stable, even slightly up year-on-year; we continued to make progress in our outreach to all parts of the United Kingdom. Indeed, we had recently had new members from as far afield as West Yorkshire and Plymouth! The Treasurer had confirmed that our Club finances are in good health.

The Chairman reported that, despite great efforts from a few, we were still struggling to add new friendlies to our fixture list although we had succeeded in re-energising a number of older ones. This year has also seen further strengthening of the traditional weekends in Ireland and York; the Festival of Squash, which is now held annually in November, has now joined these traditional, popular events. There are areas, however, that we still retain ambition to move forward on; these include the strengthening our activities outside of the South East, the launch of a doubles initiative and overseas tours. The Club Tournament remains one of our strengths. We have successfully extended the range of categories to include "non-County players" with great success. (The Chairman's thanks, on behalf of the Club, to Geoff Howes for his continued hard work to ensure its success over many years, was greeted with strong applause!)

The Chairman congratulated all the players who had played in the 2016 World Masters in South Africa, and especially highlighted the achievements of Karen Hume, Adrian Wright and Malcolm Gilham who won Gold medals. He also commended all GB Vets' members who continue to compete, with many excelling, in Regional and National Masters events.

The Chairman reminded the membership that 2018 was the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our club and welcomed any ideas from members as to whether we should have a celebration and what might be the nature of any such event.

However, the Chairman noted that there were some clouds on the horizon in the squash world. In particular, he echoed the views of many that there was a growing doubt as to whether England Squash was capable of moving our sport forward at a time when squash itself appears to be in decline. He confirmed there was much empathy between the GB Vets and the Masters as to the need to protect and develop our sport at the 'mature' level. To this end, a number of informal discussions have taken place, and will continue to take place, with members of the Masters Committee and all agreed that we should take a leading role in protecting and developing the Masters/Veterans game.

He thanked his strong, hard working and supportive Committee and advised that we had been fortunate in the last year to have had two willing volunteers to take over key aspects of the Club – Nick Markham-David as Match Secretary and Di Hendry as Treasurer. He especially thanked Nigel Belle who as Secretary administers the Membership, produces Newsletters, initiates the website content and also runs a significant number of friendly matches. He again urged 'younger' members to come forward and serve the Club, to volunteer in any way they can, perhaps by arranging matches, tours or join the Committee. Any such initiatives were a vital contribution to the further development of our Club. He concluded by saying that, despite the challenging time that squash is currently going through, he was sure that the Club was in good heart and he thanked all members for their continued support.

#### **6. Election of Officers.**

The Chairman advised that all current Officers had agreed to stand for reelection and as there were no nominations for any of the posts it was agreed to elect all Officers en bloc. This was proposed by Tariq Mushtaq, seconded by James Dubois and carried.

President	-	Philip Ayton
Chairman	-	Tom Hendry
Hon. Secretary	-	Nigel Belle
Hon. Treasurer	-	Di Hendry
Hon. Match Secretary	-	Nick Markham-David
Tournament Director	-	Geoff Howes
Publicity	-	Ian McKenzie
Committee Members	-	Robert Smith
	-	Karen Hume
Northern Representative	-	Mike Clemson
Ex officio-ES Masters	-	Martin Pearse

#### **7 Any other business.**

##### **a) Proposal to change the eligible age for membership.**

A proposal to change Rule 2 a) 'To encourage lady players over age 40 and male players over age 45 to continue playing the game,' to 'lady players over age 35 and male players over age 40' was put to the meeting. After much discussion and contributions from many members it was proposed by Vinnie Taylor, seconded by Karen Hume and overwhelmingly carried (well over two thirds as required by the rules) that rule 2a) be changed as proposed.

##### **b) Single vs double dot ball.**

Aubrey Waddy proposed that the type of ball used in GB Vets Tournaments should be dependent on the conditions at the time of play. For example to help avoid 2 or 3 shot rallies on cold courts a single dot ball could be used and conversely a double dot ball could be used on warm courts. It was agreed that this would be discussed in Committee.

##### **c) HiHo vs PARS**

The scoring system to be used in future tournaments to be discussed and agreed in Committee.

##### **d) Members by Region/Country in Handbook**

Proposed by Vinnie Taylor. It was agreed to keep as existing ie alphabetical.

#### **8 Closure of AGM.**

There being no further business the President thanked all for coming, thanked all Committee members for their hard work over the past year and closed the meeting at 16.15.

18<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

Distribution: President, all committee members, Chief Executive of England Squash.

(Note: These minutes to be formally approved at the 55<sup>th</sup> AGM in April 2018)