



THE VETERANS SQUASH RACKETS CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

President: Philip Ayton

Chairman: Tom Hendry

Minutes of the 55th 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 29th April 2018.

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

41 members attended plus all above: Nick Sheppard, Tariq Mushtaq, Stuart Harland, Sam Balsdon, Aubrey Waddy, Howard Cherlin, Steve Jackson, Chris Ansell, Mandy Akin, Albert Akin, Mike Halpin, Jane Belle, Jeremy Krzystyniak, Ash Chakraborty, Nick Peel, Alan Thomson, Chris Harland, Mark Taylor, Gordon Coulthard, Ian Russell, Chris Lowry, Nick Atkins, Andy Hartley, Ali McMeckan, Roger Sulley, Alan Leffen, James Dubois, Levin Laughton, George Aplin, Nick Dart, Bernard Laughton, Rachel Woolford, Richard Winter, Laurence Molke, Graham Edwards, Stephen Pusey, Stuart Hardy, Dillwyn Rosser, David Clarke.

Apologies were received from Mick McLaughlin, Tony Bronsdon, David Marshall, Alan Oates, Vinnie Taylor, Peter Cattrall, Dean Clayton, Jeremy Hilton, Robin Mace, Jane Law, John Shaw, Ian Ross, Chris Wilson, Peter Child, Jonathan Gliddon, John Batty, Tony Hulse, Ronnie Davidson, Paul Clarke, Martin Pearse, Patrick Fleming.

1 Opening of AGM

The President opened the meeting at 15.25 and welcomed all those present.

2 Minutes of 54th AGM

These were read, Tariq Mushtaq proposed, Tony McStravick seconded and it was carried that these minutes were a true record and were accordingly signed by the President.

3 Matters Arising

a) **Single vs Double Dot ball.** Following discussions by the Committee it was agreed that both parties would need to agree to using the single dot ball instead of the standard double dot.

b) **Rule change – reducing the eligible age for membership.** Stuart Hardy, clearly not agreeing with the decision by the members to reduce the eligible age of membership, wished to know whether there was any evidence to prove that the decision was justified. He was advised that membership had increased significantly during 2017 but it was too early to answer his question.

4 Treasurer's Report

12 months accounts to 31st December 2017 were explained by Di Hendry the Hon. Treasurer. Overall these showed a healthy situation and adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mandy Akin seconded by Nick Dart and carried by the members.

5 Chairman's Report.

The Chairman delivered his report as follows: "2018 is another special milestone for the GB Veterans Club. It's our Emerald Anniversary. It is 55 years since, in December 1963, a small group of 'older' players met at the RAF Club to form a new Veterans based Club. It is now 4 years ago since I took over as Chairman from the evergreen John Woodliffe. (John won his first GB Vets trophy in 1984 – the O45 Doubles with Mike Perkins – and 44 years later he is still winning!)

I am delighted to report that our Club remains in good heart. As you have heard, our finances are in good health. We continue to make progress in both our membership numbers (which includes a continued growth in our lady members) and our outreach to all parts of the UK. We are still struggling to add new friendlies to our fixture list, but we have succeeded in reenergizing some older ones; the key to expanding our fixtures remains the availability of new Match Managers willing to arrange and run fixtures.

This year has also seen further strengthening of the traditional weekends with the Fitzwilliam

Club (run by Steve Jackson) and York (run by Adrian Wright). The Festival of Squash has Now become a popular event held in early November (with great support from the RAC Woodcote Park and James Dubois.

There are areas, however, that we still retain ambition to move forward on – they include the strengthening of the game (including doubles) outside of the South East and Overseas Tours. Our Club Tournament remains one of our strengths. We have successfully extended the range of categories to include ‘non-County players’ with great success. Our Club is hugely in debt to Geoff Howes for his continued hard work to ensure its success over many years. Slightly further afield, a number of our members are looking forward to playing in the 2018 World Masters in Charlottesville USA at the end of July. We wish them well. Congratulations also go to all our members who continue to excel in Regional and National events. All these details are always recorded in Nigel’s splendid Club Newsletters.

A Chairman can only be as good as his supporting Committee. We are lucky that we have a strong and hard working Committee who continue to dedicate their time to our Club. I thank them on behalf of all our members. Di Hendry has now been our Treasurer for two years and has mastered all the details of running the financial side of our Club. I would especially like to extend my thanks to Nigel Belle. Nigel administers the Membership files, produces Newsletters and initiates the website content and runs a significant number of matches.

I forget how many times over the last few years I urged our younger members to come forward and serve our Club, but until recently, this had not happened. However, we are delighted to welcome Nick Sheppard who has agreed to play a role (yet to be confirmed) for our Club in the coming years.

Our Committee is always working hard to find new blood and energy to run the GB Vets. So Please volunteer if you are able to help in any way, perhaps by arranging matches, tours or, Indeed, in any way you are willing to contribute to the further development of our Club.

I do believe that, despite the challenging time that squash is going through, our Club still plays a vital role with England Masters to encourage maturing squash players to continue playing into their mature years!

Thanks for all your continued support.” Tom Hendry, Chairman.

6. Election of Officers.

The Chairman advised that all current Officers, apart from the Hon. Match Secretary, had agreed to stand for reelection. The future role of the Hon. Match Sec. and individual Match Managers would be discussed in Committee. It was proposed that Nick Sheppard join the Committee and as there were no other nominations for any of the posts it was agreed to elect all Officers en bloc. This was proposed by Lance Kinder, seconded by Tariq Mushtaq and carried.

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

7 Any other business.

a) GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

The meeting was advised that new regulations were due to come into effect on 25th May this year. Nick Sheppard and Robert Smith, Committee members, agreed to investigate the implications for our Club.

b) Club Tournament.

Howard Cherlin wondered why the number of entries were this year down on last year. He was advised that whilst original entries were only down by 9 there had been many last minute unfortunate withdrawals, due in the main to injuries. It was agreed that the Committee would investigate ways to increase the number of entries for next year.

c) Scoring system for future Club Championships.

Mandy Akin proposed that all singles matches be played PARS (Point a Rally Scoring) to 11. After much discussion it was agreed that i) Ladies and Men’s age groups to 55 be PARS to 11 and b) Men’s over 55 and all Doubles matches be played PARS to 15.

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 16.05.

10th June 2018.

Distribution: President, all committee members, England Squash Masters Chairman.
(Note: These minutes to be formally approved at the 56th AGM in April 2019)