



THE VETERANS SQUASH RACKETS CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

President: Philip Ayton

Chairman: Tom Hendry

Minutes of the 56th 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 31st March 2019.

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

37 members attended plus all above: Nick Sheppard, Andy Normile, Mandy Akin, Rachel Woolford, Vinnie Taylor, Mark Belle, Jane Belle, Jeremy Krzystyniak, Jacqui Kinder, Maria Phillips, Terry Woodliffe, Steve Jackson, Stuart Hardy, Sam Balsdon, Mark Haydon, Mick Lowe, Howard Cherlin, Barry Featherstone, Roz Featherstone, Aubrey Waddy, Mike Halpin, Paul Clarke, Dean Newberry, Dillwyn Rosser, David Clarke, Brian Dobson, Dean Clayton, Paul Temple, Chris Howes, Gordon Coulthard, Dennis Champion, John Odell, Sam Mueller, Darren Withey, Graham Edwards, Geoff Redfern, Eunice Bond, Nigel Stiles, Dermot Hurford. **Apologies** were received from Ron Matthews, David Marshall, Mike Clemson, Patrick Fleming, Martin Pearse, Matt Belliere.

1 Opening of AGM

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

2 Minutes of 55th AGM

These were read, Dermot Hurford proposed, Stuart Hardy seconded and it was carried that these minutes were a true record and were accordingly signed by the President.

3 Matters Arising

Nil.

4 Approval of 2018 accounts

The 12 months accounts to 31st December 2018 were explained by Di Hendry the Hon. Treasurer. Overall these showed a healthy situation and adoption of the accounts was proposed by Eunice Bond seconded by Rachel Woolford and carried by the members.

5 Chairman's Report.

The Chairman delivered his report as follows: 'I am delighted to report that our Club remains in good heart. Our finances are in good health and we continue to make progress in both our membership and our outreach to all parts of the United Kingdom.

This year has also seen further strengthening of the traditional weekends with the Fitzwilliam Club (run by Steve Jackson) and whilst the traditional York weekend (run by Adrian Wright) took a year off in 2018, it will take place again on the weekend of 25-26th October. Nick Sheppard, who is now our Hon. Match Secretary has also initiated a new Cambridge weekend, but circumstances conspired to delay it until the summer.

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). Last year our GB Vets Team had a great day and wrested the trophy off The Army for the first time in four years. A great day was had by players and supporters. Do put it in your diary for November 3rd, either to play or support your team!

Our Club Tournament remains one of our strengths. We have successfully extended the range of categories to include "Non-County players" Men's O40 and Mixed Doubles 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 played in the 2018 World Masters in Charlottesville USA at the end of July 2018. We were thrilled to celebrate the achievements of all our members. A special mention, however, goes to Lance Kinder who won the Over 80's title. Congratulations also go to Karen Hume, Mandy Akin and Ian Ross who won silvers in their categories.

Moving back home, many of our members continue to excel in Regional and National Masters events. All these details are always recorded in Nigel's splendid Club Newsletters.

At the recent 2019 British National Masters held in Nottingham, GB Vets recorded an amazing haul of 8 winners and 6 runners-up. The winners: Mandy Akin WO55, Karen Hume WO60, Bett Dryhurst WO70, Mark Woodliffe MO55, Stephen Johnson MO65, Howard Cherlin MO70, Adrian Wright MO75 and finally Vinnie Taylor MO80. Congratulations to them all!

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 three years and has mastered all the details of running the financial side of our Club. We were delighted that Nick Sheppard took on role of Match Secretary. He has already arranged new fixtures and revived some that had lapsed. It remains a difficult task however, since many active players have so many options.

I would especially like to extend my thanks to Nigel Belle. Nigel not only takes on the bulk of the work that keeps our Club going, including the Membership files, production of newsletters and the web-site content, but he also runs a significant number of matches. Oh, and he also plays in many of the Masters' weekends and this year will captain the Over 75 English Team- alongside Darren Withey and Keeley Johnson who will captain their respective teams.

I have forgotten how many times over the last few years I urged our younger members to come forward and serve our club, but this is still not happening to the extent that we need. Your Committee continues to work hard to find new blood and energy to help 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.

To highlight this challenge, I have given notice that, in order to speed up this process, I have announced that I will give up the Chairman's role of the GB Vets Club after the 2020 AGM when Di will also resign as Treasurer.

We need to move forward and ensure that our club will continue to flourish. In the meantime, thanks for all your continued support'.

Tom Hendry Chairman

6. Election of Officers.

The Chairman advised that all current Officers, and the acting Hon. Match Secretary, Nick Sheppard had agreed to stand for reelection. As there were no other nominations for any of the posts it was agreed to elect all Officers en bloc. This was proposed by Vinnie Taylor, seconded by Mandy Akin and carried.

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

Due to his many other commitments Mike Clemson is retiring from being on our Committee as our Northern Area Representative. The Chairman thanked him for all his excellent hard work in the past and wished him well for the future. Mike has, however, agreed to continue to promote the GB Vets in the North of England.

7 Any other business.

Membership fee.

Nigel Stiles felt that the membership fee be increased from its current £10. The Chairman pointed out that whilst the current fee had been in place for decades, the a/cs showed that there was no need, currently, to seek an increase.

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 15.52.

30th May 2019.

Distribution: President, all committee members, England Squash Masters Chairman.

(Note: These minutes to be formally approved at the 57th AGM in April 2020)