

HARROW PETANQUE CLUB
OLD LYONIAN SPORTS GROUND
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE OLD LYONIAN SPORTS GROUND
PINNERS VIEW
HARROW HA1 4QE
On Tuesday 3rd FEBRUARY 2009 AT 8pm

PRESENT

Joe Hoyle (President), Gordon Cochrane (Secretary), Andrew Prince (Treasurer), Janet Baker, Martin Baker, Simon Adamsdale, Nick Goodheart (Club Captain), Ray Impey, Alan Leadbeater, Malachy Hanley, Bruce Rowland, Penelope Lawrence, Tom Creak

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

John Anderson, Brian Brazier, Glenys Barker

1) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS A G M

The minutes of the meeting were signed and accepted as an accurate record.
Proposed Martin Baker, Seconded Ray Impey

2) MATTERS ARISING

Ray reported that there had been no progress on the idea of a pool table but this may be resurrected if a snooker club section does not happen.

3) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I consider 2008 to have been another year in which the Club more or less stood still. Some improvements and some disappointments.

Amongst the former, we should include :-

- We retained roughly the same number of members
- Our league teams performed acceptably in the Thames Valley
- The club held more organised events than for several years

The disappointments were mainly due to the lack of support and attendance of members.

Nationally there were some things worthy of note.

1. On behalf of the Club, I would like to congratulate Martin Baker on his selection to play for England, and his achievement in finishing top of the EPA Merit Table.

2. A determined effort has been made over the past 3 years to publicise the facilities that we can enjoy. 2008 saw the EPA using our venue to hold the Following National Events :- EPA Espoires; EPA Last 16; EPA Ladies Last 8; and an EPA Juniors and Minors Coaching Day. All were successful, but provided quite a lot of work for a couple of members.

Hopefully this will assist in raising the reputation of the Club. It appears that we can attract players from a considerable distance whereas we struggle to get our own members there.

Club Competitions

The Club Triples and Doubles attracted only 4 and 6 entries respectively. The Club Singles was cancelled mainly due to players wishing to attend a more attractive event

Other Competitions

The Open Triples and the Fullers Open Mixed Doubles received only 8 and 7 entries respectively

Other Playing Matters I will leave for the Club Captain

Social Events

1. Bonfire Melee/Meal/Fireworks evening saw 19 members/guests attend. Whilst the figure was down on last year it appeared appreciated.
2. Charity Melee had 10 entries and the proceeds went to Medicins Sans Frontieres
3. A Charity Pairs event arranged for August was cancelled due to lack of entries..
4. End of Year Melee/Meal/Presentations/Quiz Night. This was cancelled 4 days before the event. Only 6 members entered the melee and 11 members/partners wished to attend the evening. The number was obviously insufficient to justify the effort involved and the costs and time of the outside caterer.

The recurring theme so far is obvious. You will notice that both pétanque and social events have been poorly received and some in fact cancelled.

On paper, the list of members looks fairly impressive. However, I fail to see why so many become members of a Pétanque Club and then rarely visit the Club.

The idea behind having a scheduled "Club Night" and "Club Morning" has always been to encourage members to attend at those times and find other like minded members thus providing a sporting opportunity. These nominated sessions are currently Tuesday evening and Sunday morning. The attendance at these has been very poor.

In an effort to generate some enthusiasm for Club Nights, a Summer Melee League was organised on 5 consecutive Tuesday evenings in August. The attendances were much improved and the competition went to Round 5 before a winner emerged.

During October – January a similar Winter Melee League of 8 rounds has been held. In spite of the weather there have been between 9 – 14 attendees. Yet again the winner emerged on the last evening of the competition. None of these Tuesday evening events became casualties of the weather although on several evenings it did seem strange to see a dozen people playing the summery sport of pétanque, and then spend time scraping ice from their windscreens before they could go home.

We can only hope that this level of enthusiasm continues.

Sunday mornings however is a different matter, and I will mention this later.

Very shortly we will try to elect a Committee. I would like to make a personal view known before we do so. If you are on any Committee, the purpose is to make decisions on behalf of the membership. If you will be unhappy being part of that process, there is little point offering yourself as a candidate.

It appears that many members wrongly see the Committee as the Club working party. All members should be offering their services on working parties and giving general assistance. Equally all Committee Members should be helping each other with various tasks and volunteering to take on specific activities. It would be Utopian if some would share the load of running competitions and the various social activities.

Several matters have become apparent which I feel should be mentioned for the attention of the incoming Committee.

1. The need to address the lack of entries for internal Club Competitions. Last year it was decided to do away with the "Club Champion" award, due to reduced competition devaluing the award. This has certainly not solved anything. It may be worth a rethink; and perhaps increasing the number of events where points could be awarded thereby making it more relevant to members who spend more time supporting club events.(e.g. Melee leagues; charity events etc).

When the events programme is drawn up, there is nothing to prevent the Committee indicating thereon which of the forthcoming events will carry points that count to such an award.

2. In the last few weeks, there has been some problem concerning EPA Insurance Cover. Having read the small print of the 3 policies – I have yet to find anyone who really understands it. The EPA management were similarly perplexed when asked. So much so, a meeting has been arranged between the President EPA and Ins. Co .Reps to clarify the situation. The two main problems appear to be that:-

- a). If a Club has a non EPA member on the Committee, this almost certainly invalidates the Club Insurance;

b). Serious head scratching is taking place over Insurance problems that could arise when non EPA members are playing with EPA members. There is doubt over whether any compensation for damages caused by the non member would be forthcoming..

An early response to the queries has been promised.

3. Club sessions (particularly Sundays) need to be regular and attended. There is no point showing a Club Session on the website and then when possible new members come they find empty pistes. There is no point being a playing member if the piste is often deserted when you turn up for a game on a nominated club session.

Currently, some members arrange their own group visit to the Club at a time other than a nominated Club session. Others spend Sundays seeking competitions elsewhere, whilst others use the Club when they cannot find anywhere more interesting to go. None of these points are necessarily wrong; but if done constantly and without intermittent appearances at Club Sessions they show a certain lack of "esprit de corps".

A thorough overhaul regarding "club sessions" is required.

I will close this report by thanking the people who have devoted time and energy in keeping the Club alive, and also the members who have supported their efforts.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Committee had only met twice last year (commensurate with statements made at the last AGM that the Committee would keep the club ticking over), these meetings set the calendar etc. Other decisions were made by email discussion and decision. We have new benches around the piste and have hosted several EPA events this year.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

A statement of account was circulated. The accounts were audited by Nick Goodheart (Club Captain). The balance sheets are self explanatory.

We have a closing balance of £1,646.37 up £217 up on last year. There had been no income from club competitions, Triples, Doubles and Singles. From the EPA Events, the Bonfire Melee, the Fullers Mixed Doubles and the open Triples a profit of £115.72 was made. This was from the food supplied and the entry fees after the prizes were awarded. Around 80% of the entrance fee was awarded as prizes.

Membership report

Class	Sex	Total
Family Adult	Female	3
	Male	10
Family Adult Total		13
Full	Female	3
	Male	14
Full Total		17
Student	Female	1
	Male	7
Student Total		8
Grand Total		38

6) CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Some good things to note, Tuesday melees were successful and Joe should be acknowledged and thanked for organising these events. The new comers events were also useful and we have gained new members from this, it was also good to see some new members return to play at the club and play in the Thames valley league.

In the league Harrow Seniors were promoted to the first division and were also winners of the league cup plate. Harrow Karrow were again runners up in the first division.

Nick suggested reducing membership cost to younger members or perhaps offering free membership as an incentive to getting them to join. He also suggested that the committee may need to meet more often.

Joe commented that there is a need to have a fund of money in the account in case the club needs to relocate.

Alan questioned whether anyone was being discouraged by the membership fee.

Nick said that some younger members (18- 25's) coming back may be encouraged.

7) PISTE MANAGERS REPORT

Some work is needed on the piste, mainly more gravel.

Martin will find out where we can get some of the right size (granite dust) there may be a local company who can deliver.

Ray said we may need to treat the new benches this year, he will arrange for the new grounds man to spray weed killer.

The bottom piste is becoming overgrown with weeds and should be used more.

We will need to arrange a working party to do some tidying up and maintenance when the ground begins to dry out.

8) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No nominations for any of the posts had been received before the meeting.

The committee for 2008 all said that they would be willing to continue in post.

President Joe Hoyle- proposed Martin seconded Ray

Secretary Gordon Cochrane – proposed Tom seconded Ray

Treasurer Andrew Prince – proposed Alan seconded Gordon

Club Captain Nick Goodheart – proposed Mal seconded Martin

Committee member Ray Impey – proposed Alan seconded Tom

Committee member Alan Leadbeater – proposed Tom seconded Martin

9) THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE

The meeting agreed that we should enter two teams, Andrew was happy to continue as Captain of Harrow Seniors (Lyons) and Nick would be stand-in captain of Harrow Karrow

10) CLUB FEES

There is likely to be an increase in the OLSSC fees at their AGM, we will try to pass on as little as possible of this in the petanque club fees, but it may be necessary for some level of increase.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

..... PRESIDENT

..... DATED