

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 Monday 21st JANUARY 2008 AT 8pm

PRESENT

Joe Hoyle (President), Andrew Prince (Secretary), Tom Creak (Treasurer), Janet Baker, Martin Baker, Gordon Cochrane, Kaoushik Gentilal, Nick Goodheart (Club Captain), Ray Impey, Alan Leadbeater, Michael Wheatley

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

John Anderson

1) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS A G M

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

2) MATTERS ARISING

There were none

3) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At last year's AGM it was suggested that I was being a prophet of doom and was unable to see the green shoots of recovery that were starting to happen.

I am sorry to say that I have not noticed this recovery as yet.

2007 has been a fairly stand still year. The best we can say is that we have arrested any further decline.

Adult Membership is shown as 31 of which 22 visit the Club with various degrees of regularity, two are now resident in Spain, and 7 are invisible family members and people who have joined solely to play league boules.

Club Competitions

The Club Triples, Doubles and Singles Competitions attracted totals of 4, 6, and 10 entries respectively. This compares to the previous year when entries of 5, 10, and 6 were received.

Social/Mélees etc

Bonfire Night mélee, meal, fireworks & bonfire attracted a total of 37 members and guests, (an increase of 11 over previous year).

Christmas Presentation Meal saw 17 members and partners attending (an increase of 6)

Other Competitions

The Max Jorda Cup Competition was cancelled with the intention of replacing it with another unrestricted Open Triples Evet next year.

Other Playing Matters

Will be left to Club Captain

It will be obvious that the number of members taking part in Club Competitions is falling. I am hopeful that for next year the new Committee will look at whether to abolish/amend the Club Champion system in view of the reduced competition. It is possible to make it more attractive by increasing the number of events for which points could be awarded. The more regular attendees at the Club will therefore be in a position to obtain more points.

It is not for me to suggest what next year's Committee should be looking at but I feel it is important to get an early look at ways of increasing membership. March is probably the best

month to attract people for "Come and Try" Days and Open Days etc. (although to be fair our last two Open Days gave us an increase of 1 member)

I would like to thank the outgoing members of the Committee for their efforts this past year.

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. The website had been revamped and the Secretary hoped it was an improvement.

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 £1,429.37 up £362 up on last year.

6) CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Once again with the current state of the club the Thames Valley midweek league was the highlight

Harrow Karrow - came second in Division 1, after Tom Wilson left for Spain, Gordon Cochrane took over running that squad, he is doing a good job.

Harrow Seniors – Unfortunately they were relegated, but only just.

In the League Cup it was fair to say that neither team did well.

The TV league will be key for next year.

Congratulations to Janet for winning the EPA Ladies triples, along with Mary and Merle from Croydon.

The Fuller's mixed doubles were held and were again successful.

7) PISTE MANAGERS REPORT

There had been very little activity this year, Groundsman instructed when necessary to weed-kill the piste

8) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

None were forthcoming from the floor. Joe, Andrew and Tom stated they were unwilling to stand again this year.

Michael Wheatley indicated he was willing to stand as Treasurer.

To help the AGM's understanding of the roles and the jobs last year's Committee had undertaken (mainly by just the officers) Joe read out the role specifications from previous minutes: -

President

- Figurehead;
- Calls and chairs HPC Committee Meetings;
- Chairs the Douai Sub Committee (no longer appropriate);
- Sits on the OLSSC Committee (now normally undertaken by Ray Impey).

Secretary

- Receive and reply to all correspondence;
- Liaison with Local Authority;
- Harrow Sports Council;
- Harrow in Europe Organisation;
- Liaison with BPA (EPA/BPF) and all other Petanque Clubs;
- Sets Agendas;
- Takes and retains minutes of all HPC committee meetings and AGMs;

- Orders and sells club clothing;
- Prepares and sends out news sheets as appropriate;
- Purchases Trophies when required and arranges engraving;
- (In addition to the above in recent years the Secretary has run the HPC Website).

Treasurer

- Handles HPC bank account;
- Collects monies for HPC, OLSSC and BPA (now done by the London Treasurer and Membership Secretary);
- Maintains a Membership list;
- Prepares and presents balance sheet at AGM;
- Arranges bar rota cover on HPC nominated night (now covered by Ray or Andrew).

Club Captain

- Chooses teams for all league games;
- Chooses teams for the Duai Challenge;
- Attends BPA (EPA/BPF) Meetings;
- Arranges ad hoc competitions when available on Sundays both in and out of season;
- Audits balance sheet prior to the AGM.

There is no reason why the number of Committee posts should not be increased. If the following positions were filled by suitable and willing nominees, the workload could be spread and be less onerous on the few.

General Committee Members (4)

Some options for these roles could be: -

- Internal Competition Organiser;
- Public relations;
- Organisation and provision of social catering.

Ray stated that the situation was galling; there was no support for the committee from the general members.

It was stated that: -

The London Association might well fold without Harrow
We could not enter the Thames Valley leagues
We could still play pétanque as members of the OLSSC

A suggestion was put that Joe might stay on as President, Andrew as Secretary and Michael as Treasurer. Andrew said he was not willing to stay on as Secretary; he had done it for many years, he would however be happy to be a General Committee member and Webmaster.

In answer to a question, Alan said he was not able to take on a major role.

There were still no volunteers from the floor.

At this stage it was suggested that the AGM should close and an EGM be called as per the constitution.

Alan said we wanted new members and we should think of ways to attract them, possible recruitment drives, Joe pointed out we had done this, with fliers in many locations, Stations, Libraries, public notice boards etc, this had resulted in one new (occasional) member.

Tom suggested that perhaps the low turnout was due to the AGM being held on a Monday, a Sunday had been tried in the past and the attendance was just as low. Nick thought that the EGM was a positive way forward. He also stated that the club had been in decline for many years, the EGM might put a spark into it.

Ray said one of the problems was with members who used the club as a "pied de terre" for playing in other events. How often do we see some of the members!!!

Nick said we can't leave the Thames Valley teams until after the EGM (Andrew confirmed that the entry forms had to be in by February 4th).

Martin said that four people might well return to the club in an active way.

Notice for the EGM needs to be posted ASAP.

The meeting then dissolved into lots of small discussions, an outcome of this was that Joe said he was willing to give it another go provided: Andrew would stand as secretary with Gordon as assistant Secretary and Michael Treasurer. Andrew declined but Gordon agreed to take on the role of Secretary, with Andrew as Assistant. Andrew agreed.

The above were all elected en masse.

At this stage Nick said he would be Club Captain.

A Youth Development Officer was not necessary.

Ray and Alan said they were willing to be General Committee Members.

Elected en masse.

Ray indicated he was willing to be Piste Manager, in fact he had been elected to that post by the OLSSC at their AGM!!!!

Nick said that we needed Committee meetings. Last year's Committee thought that the email decisions of last year had worked out fine.

9) THAMES VALLEY LEAGUE

The meeting agreed that we should enter two teams; there might be the need to balance the squad. The meeting's attention was drawn to last years AGM decision regarding allocation of players to teams.

10) Club Fees

There was no increase in the OLSSC fees at their AGM, thus the HPC fees will remain the same.

11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To encourage members to rejoin in a timely manner it was decided to change the renewal date to 14th February, this will enable the monies to be sent to the OLSSC on time and membership to be sorted out for the EPA.

Ray informed the meeting that a Pool table might be purchased for the Bar to encourage some of the younger members to attend club nights etc.

Nick said that he would be holding a Beetle drive on the 28th February

Joe proposed that the events calendar be discussed at the first committee meeting, this was set for Tuesday 29th January

Meeting closed at 9:25 pm

..... PRESIDENT

..... DATED