



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At Firth Park, Heckmondwike

10.00am on Saturday 18th April 2015

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from : Steve Penny, Jack & Janice Walsh, Nigel & Ann Haycock.

List of Attendees: Gordon Walsworth, Alma Johnson, Amy Best, Jane Farrar, Clive McCulloch, Carol McCulloch, Janet Spencer, Clive Westley, Roger Farrar, Roger Johnson, Harry & Anne Overend, Norman & Margaret Aked, Mavis & George Fynn, Dennis Crisp, Eric Harrison, Ken & Doreen Hutchinson, Ken & Christine Billington, Bob & Marion Samme, June & Peter Firth, Cath & Ralph Clegg, Jean & Alan McCulloch, Alan Norfolk, Peter Wharton, Pam & Alan Wallace, Roy Henstock, Chris Hopkins, Kath Westley. (36 inc committee members)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2014 AGM and MATTERS ARISING

The minutes had previously been circulated via the blog and notice board. There were no matters arising beyond what is included below. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Roger Johnson, seconded by Alan McCulloch and unanimously voted by attendees.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman, Gordon Walsworth, felt that the past year had been a successful and enjoyable one. He paid tribute to the excellent work of the whole committee and hoped that they would all continue, if elected, to serve on the committee.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT

1 The first point to emphasise is that HPC is one of the largest and best attended petanque clubs in the Northern Petanque region. Very few clubs have 30+ players turning up twice a week in all weathers throughout winter and summer to play. We have around 62 members of whom 53 I consider "active members" who have played regularly or several times this year.

2. This would suggest that the club is enjoying a successful period. I think that this is due to a number of key points. Firstly the committee, with Gordon at the helm, Alma, Jane, Janet,

Carol, Clive and Amy have been there from the start and have done a brilliant job in organising so many enjoyable occasions such as Bastille Day, Grand Depart, Afternoon Tea and of course the Xmas do, as well as money raising schemes such as bonus ball, raffles etc. Secondly, the numerous non-committee members including, Roger Johnson, Roger Farrar, Kath Westley, Eric Harrison and numerous others who put loads of effort around club whether it's raking and maintaining the terrains, de-littering the park, and cleaning the club house etc. While on that point, members are cordially invited to put their names on the list kept on the notice board if they have a couple of hours to spare and would be happy to do one of the monthly clean-ups. Thirdly and very importantly the whole membership has supported the club and its events and helped create a brilliant social atmosphere that makes playing the game enjoyable and worth the effort of coming in all weathers. Thankyou to everyone.

3. The past year has seen some developments in petanque. New clubs, Huddersfield and Mirfield have spread the game locally and a number of our members deserve great credit for the way they have gone out of their way to help them develop. Particularly as Heckmondwike is only a year older and more experienced than Huddersfield. It has meant that not only do Heckmondwike members have more opportunities to play petanque on different terrains and different days, and making new friends, it also happens that members of these clubs are keen to visit us and become members. We welcome them. It's now possible to play petanque 6 days a week within a five or six mile radius of here.

4. It also now means that there are more and more opportunities to compete in competitions. HPC has hosted several Northern Petanque events and it is noticeable that more and more of our members are entering them and certainly giving a good account of themselves winning some notable games and getting closer and closer to the talented players around Yorkshire. As individuals and as a club our playing standards are rising. In having a developing relationship with Huddersfield and Mirfield we have taken the opportunity to plan a number of events/competitions called Kirklees Open Events which are open only to members of our three clubs. This will hopefully give our members a chance to play for cash or prizes, against other club players without having the "superstars" from Northern clubs reaping all of the rewards.

These events appear in the club calendar and everyone is encouraged to have a go in them. Heckmondwike has kept to its commitment of not having such events on our social play days. It is understood not everyone wants to be competitive beyond an enjoyable social game. I firmly believe that enjoyable, social petanque is still a key factor to a happy, successful club.

5. A small West Yorkshire league has also been agreed with Leeds Petanque joining the three of us playing a short season of games home and away against each of the other three. There will only be 6 members in each team. We will endeavour to give everyone who showed interest in this at least one game in a team. More info to follow soon on dates and fixtures etc.

The HPC club calendar will be added to soon so if anyone has any suggestions of an event that we could play petanque to and perhaps enjoy food and drink please let me, Gordon or any committee member know.

6. With the advent of more petanque and competitions it is not surprising our level of play has improved. Also the fact that players want to improve their game is promising for the future. With this in mind we have arranged for two or three of us to receive a day of training from the Northern Petanque Association coaching supremo, Mike Walkley. Note its 2 hours long. We will not suddenly become world beaters but the idea is that we will get some idea of how to introduce items into our play activities that will help all members improve their playing standard. The techniques for different pointing shots, shooting and basic tactics etc will be highlighted along with ideas of how we can periodically do things to practise them. Eg similar to when we had the shooting, lobbing games at the Bastille Day event etc. I'm also thinking that perhaps once or twice a month, if our social play finishes early and anyone is interested we could have a short practise at types of pointing or shooting.

7. On the communications front this past year has seen the setting up of our blog. Thanks to Paul Simpkins at Huddersfield for his help in doing this. We now have 49 followers. I hope everyone is happy with this means of communication. It has helped us attract some new members in spite of the bizarre humour or lack of humour of some of our blog posts. I have to own up to most of them. Fortunately Jane is now beginning to add a more mature humour in posts. That is, of course, if you were the person that won bonus ball. Good to see members responding to some of the posts. Please toss in your three pennyworth whenever you feel like it. If you don't have a computer – get one and get on line. I still have lots to learn about how to use the blog to its full potential.

8. It is important that we continue to develop as a club. At present, except for the blog we don't go out of our way to attract new members. It's something we may need to think about in the future.

9. The terrain is already feeling its age and some improvement is underway. You will have noted the experimental piste No1 which seems to have been given a sort of approval, particularly by those who have played and won on it.

There is a possibility that Kirklees may help us with this. Encouraging noises have been made. I have asked if they could also transfer a few seats from the redundant bowling green up to our terrain.

10. Alma, our Finance Minister will advise us shortly on the state of our accounts, but I don't think it's too bad. Quite a lot of what we spent was on items that shouldn't occur too often such as the steam mop, the gazebo etc..

We always have to keep in the back of our minds that Kirklees may suddenly decide one day we should be paying for these excellent facilities.

11. There is an order being raised for club kit shortly. If anyone wants to add to it could they do so ASAP and within next two weeks please. See Carol or Jane. They will confirm prices and would like money with order please.

12. We are looking for ways of preventing boules and other items falling through the railings onto the bowling green but until a satisfactory, cost effective solution is found that is acceptable to Kirklees please be careful when hanging stuff on the railing or moving boules from the terrain surround etc.

Finally, thank you all for supporting this excellent club for the past year.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT/ STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Copies of the annual accounts had previously been circulated to all members. Copies were also distributed during the meeting. Alma noted that a number of items of expenditure, including the gazebo, steam mop, extension lead, trophies and some wine prizes were unlikely to be necessary again for some years. Some saving had been made with reduced expenditure on the successful Xmas Lunch. No queries were raised by members and the accounts were unanimously accepted.

6. CONSTITUTION

Following a meeting in May 2014 the committee had agreed unanimously that that no one person should hold two posts on the club management committee. The Constitution had been amended to reflect this decision following that meeting. The constitution had been reviewed by committee members prior to the meeting. No issues were raised and the Constitution was confirmed as suitable and appropriate for our club.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A motion from Roger Johnson that the whole committee be re-elected en bloc was seconded by Peter Firth and voted for by members unanimously. All current members accepted and agreed to continue as a committee member.

8. CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Chairman, Gordon Walsworth, announced that as far as could be ascertained there was currently no further funds available to us.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- i) A proposal from Clive Westley that the annual subscription remained unchanged at £5.00 for the coming year was seconded by Roger Farrar and unanimously accepted by members. Renewal subscriptions should be paid to Alma Johnson by 31st May in accordance with our Constitution.
- ii) A proposal by committee that we nominate a worthy charity that we would support at occasional club events was accepted by all members. A different charity would be selected each year. Chairman Gordon Walsworth suggested Alzheimer for this coming year. Jane Farrar advised that the forthcoming club Quiz had nominated Cystic Fibrosis Trust to benefit from any collection arising. Dennis Crisp requested that he be allowed to bring a collecting box/sponsor forms for a charity his son is supporting by climbing Kilimanjaro. This was accepted.
- iii) Members were reminded that an order for new club strip would be raised shortly. Contact Carol McCulloch or Jane Farrar with requirements and money with order please.

There were no other issues raised and the meeting was therefore declared ended by Chairman, Gordon Walsworth, at 10.40am

10. DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT AGM.

The date of the next Annual General Meeting was provisionally agreed as Saturday 16th April 2016 at Firth Park, subject to confirmation nearer that date.