

SAXONS PÉTANQUE CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2019

The seventh Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday December 14th 2019 at 11.15am in the Leisure Centre, Cricklade.

1. Apologies

Gerry Ough, Brenda Clary, Peter Shepherd, Pam Poole, Mike Wells, Norman Crowther, Elaine Sharp, Keith Sharp.

There were 25 members present.

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the last meeting were circulated at this meeting.

Andrew asked that the minutes be accepted as a true record of events. They were passed unanimously.

3. Welcome and President's report

Andrew gave a general thanks to all members who had contributed to the smooth running of weekly events and in particular to those who have worked to maintain the pistes, Nigel and Keith as captains of the 2 Saxons teams taking part in the Cotswold League during the season and to Malcolm for his efforts with coaching the game throughout the year.

Two main developments had been to pursue the possible addition of 2/3 pistes and to acquire a new clothing supplier for the club.

- The new piste development plans were progressing through meetings with local councillors but the responses had been slow. One stumbling block was the lack of a formal agreement between the club and the owners of the land. The latter was being resolved between Wiltshire Council and Cricklade Town Council, but little progress was possible until security of tenure was achieved. Ron stated that the RedLine charity will provide £2,000 towards the cost of piste development but only when security of tenure was in place.
- Joe Paris had found a new local supplier who offered a variety of clothing and hats which could be ordered either in bulk or individually. At the same time the club took the opportunity to modernise the club logo which now appears on all items of clothing and used extensively on documents and the website.

4. Treasurer's report and accounts for 2018/19

Accounts from 1st December 2018 to 30th November 2019 were circulated by Ron.

Main **income** came from:

- members subscriptions - £610
- christmas raffle - £80
- clothing sales - £457

Main **expenditure** went on:

- clothing - £540
- Leisure Centre rental - £160
- Printing & stationary - £77.12

Overall balance showed a **net surplus** of £306.59

Overall **net assets** were £1358.12.

Ron also produced an expenditure budget for 2020 based on Petanque England subscription, Leisure Centre fees, Piste maintenance, Prizes, Website fees. Capital expenditure included a new shed, digital clock, hand tools for piste maintenance. To meet this budget he projected several possible scenarios for membership fees and numbers of members.

The report was passed unanimously.

5. Funding of new pistes and Subscriptions for 2019/20

Andrew noted from Ron's budget for 2020 that spending priorities would be on a new shed and piste maintenance (mainly gravel and wood) and so recommended an increase in the membership fee to £20. A vote was taken and a large majority were in favour. So for 2020 the adult membership fee would be £20. The Junior membership fee was again agreed by a large majority to remain at £5 for up to the age of 18.

Joe Paris and Nigel Law had costed expenditure needed on the proposed new pistes and the club would need to raise funds if we were to go ahead as there was nothing forthcoming from the site owners. There had been plans to widen the public path next to the tennis courts for safety reasons and erect fencing but the Leisure Centre did not have these as a priority. We should therefore concentrate on acquiring more piste space.

Jan Weaver said that to hold Petanque England and GWR competitions required 9 pistes so this should be the aim.

Colin Missen asked how often we had 36 players at one time on the existing 6 pistes. This year it had happened on only one occasion in the summer. However Andrew felt that many members preferred playing doubles rather than triples and extra pistes would help achieve this on a regular basis.

Keith said that the club members had to decide what the future of the club was – to stay with the current capacity which suited the existing membership or expand to allow more external competitions and possibly attract more and younger members.

A vote was taken on this and 7 wanted the status quo, 10 wanted development of the pistes.

Gill Brookes raised the safety issues created by the movement of adults and children close to the existing pistes. As the Leisure Centre had said no to fencing in our plans we would have to look at this as a priority anyway in the future.

Joe mentioned that if provision for a wider path was made this might bring the existing lower drainage area between pistes into the centre of the playing area.

As we didn't own the pistes it had been difficult to make these changes to the playing area. The committee would pursue the piste development based on the 10-7 approval by the membership.

6. Saxons Tour of Spain 2019

Keith reported that this year had been one of the most enjoyable at Almunecar in southern Spain. There had been a group of 21 from Cricklade, Malmesbury, Cirencester, Bath and Marlow clubs who had benefitted from a lovely hotel, Hotel Helios, close to the beach and playing area.

Food, accommodation and weather was excellent for early October.

Thanks go to Sue McKechnie for organising the petanque program so well. Also thanks to Saga for looking after our group booking and their rep in Spain, Jaime, who was most helpful with individual requests.

Jim and Keith had spent some time looking at alternatives for 2019, including Tenerife, but at present everyone on the trip still favoured the same location in Spain and we wish to widen the offer to Cotswold League teams again.

Phil Weaver recommended a possible new location in Montenegro in the future where Saga could organise a similar experience with hotel and piste facilities. He would pass on the details to Keith for consideration.

7. Competitions Report and prizes

Andrew reported on both Club events and regional competitions.

Club results

- Winter Saturday scores 2018/19 winner – **Gerry Ough**
- Eileen Mitchell Cup winner – men **Malcolm Brooks**, ladies **Sheila Karran**
- Singles Main Competition winner – **John Osman**, runner up **Keith Dancer**
- Singles Plate Competition winner – **Ron Poole**, runner up **Andrew Batchelor**
- Doubles Main Competition winner – **Liz Cosham & Sheila Karran**
- Doubles runners up – **David Wall & Jim Mitchell**

Andrew used this opportunity to present prizes for these competitions.

The issue of prize money had been raised during the year and it was proposed that the entry fee should be increased from £1 to £2. This was carried after a tie in the voting with Andrew casting the deciding vote in favour of the increase to £2.

Regional competitions

Several members took part in:

- Bath Spring Open
- GWR Winter Doubles
- PE Hayling Island Inter -Regional Finals
- EuroCup
 - Saxons lost in the first round, then in round 2 of the Plate lost 1-4 to RWB
- Cotswold League
 - Saxons1 finished 2nd in the southern section with 7 wins and 3 defeats and enter the playoff finals taking place on the 5th April at the Red Bull.
 - Saxon Slingers finished 4th in the northern section in a tight finish with 6 wins and 4 defeats.
 - Andrew thanked the Saxons captains Nigel and Keith

Other events were:

- Eileen Mitchell Cup
 - £204 was raised for charity and thanks go to Jim and his family for a well run event, won by Malcolm.
- Haydon Wick matches
 - A set of 4 fixtures took place over the winter months with Saxons winning the final one in March with 7 wins 1 draw and 4 defeats.
 - Despite efforts by Chrissie Harwood to repeat the fixtures this winter Haydon Wick have been unable to raise enough interest.

Andrew also wanted to thank Malcolm for his regular coaching sessions through the year for members, local ladies and youngsters.

8. Petanque England

Personal insurance had again been raised as an issue during the year. This had been resolved at the last AGM by all committee members joining Petanque England giving the club financial cover. Again it was up to individuals to arrange their own personal accident cover if they felt it necessary. Keith had agreed in February to produce a risk assessment based on the Petanque England model as well, volunteering to be the Health & Safety officer provided it didn't involve too much admin. There was now an accident booklet available in the equipment box in case of any accidents while playing. These should be recorded for insurance purposes.

Bridget Batchelor raised general concerns about playing safety and the general awareness of players to the hazards around the playing area.

9. Election of Officers

Andrew Batchelor was stepping down as Chairman as he could not commit sufficient time to the role. Ron Poole was stepping down as Treasurer and Brenda Clary as a committee member.

Keith Dancer agreed to continue as Secretary, and Jim Mitchell as committee member. There were nominations for both Keith and Jim as well as Kevin Weatherhead for Chairman, Peter Chambers as Treasurer, and Sheila Karan as a committee member. There were no objections to the nominations and a majority of the members agreed that Kevin, Peter, Keith, Jim and Sheila should be the committee for 2020.

10.AOB

- Keith mentioned the club website which he and Jim maintained on a regular basis and encourage members to use it for results etc.
- Jan Weaver asked if club events could be published on the Leisure Centre notice board as well as on the website for those who didn't have internet access. This was agreed.
- Wilf thanked Andrew and Ron for their work during the last few years on behalf of club members.

Meeting closed at 12.40 pm

Keith Dancer - 14.12.2019