

Victoria Petanque Clubs Inc.

Registration No. A0056483K
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Secretary
(Position vacant)

President
(Position vacant)

Special General Meeting – Minutes Camberwell Petanque Club Lynden Park, 64A Through Road, Camberwell, 3124 Saturday 18 February 2017

1. The meeting was called to order at 11.15 am

2. Welcome

The meeting appointed Peter Curtis as Chairman of this SGM.

There being a quorum of at least 5 authorised delegates, Peter Curtis welcomed the delegates and observers and declared the meeting open. Peter Curtis then outlined the specific business of this Special General Meeting; to consider the recent resignations of, and to elect office bearers to, the VPCI Committee.

Peter Wells acted as Minute Secretary to the Meeting.

3. Attendees as Club Delegates (9)

Colin Buckley (Caulfield Petanque Club)
Greg Culley (St Andrew's Beach Petanque Club)
Guy Mercier (Camberwell Petanque Club)
Peter Curtis (Mt Macedon Petanque Club)
Peter Wells (Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club)
Pierrot Lubin (Weird Entertainers & Petanque Club)
Rodney Deakin (Longbeach Petanque Clubs)
Serge Wilmann (Dove Petanque Club)
Warwick Paton (Main Ridge Petanque Club)

4. Attendees – Observers (10)

Christian Lucette (Weird Entertainers & Petanque Club)
David Almond (Mt Macedon Petanque Club)
Geoff Turner (St Andrew's Beach Petanque Club)
Graeme McIntyre (St Andrew's Beach Petanque Club)
Jean Francois Veyssiere (Weird Entertainers & Petanque Club)
Max Chaperon (Weird Entertainers & Petanque Club)
Peter Barker (Camberwell Petanque Club)
Ros Allen (St Andrew's Beach Petanque Club)
Sue Gray (Camberwell Petanque Club)
Terry Barter (Camberwell Petanque Club)

5. Apologies

Ken Field (Pyrenees Petanque Club)

6. Proxies

The following VPCI member clubs submitted proxy voting forms:

Pyrenees Petanque Club, Smythesdale Petanque Club and Portsea Petanque Club

7. Business of this SGM – Office Bearer Resignations

To accept the resignations from the 4 VPCI Office Bearers, Peter Curtis indicated that, if present, all previous office bearers could state the reason(s) for their resignations and accept questions from the floor if they wished.

7.1. Resignation of Graham Jones as VPCI President

Graham Jones resigned in a note dated 13 January. As Graham Jones was not present the following motion was put.

Motion: That the meeting accept the resignation of Graham Jones as President

Proposed: Peter Curtis (Chair)

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.2. Resignation of Graeme McIntyre as VPCI Vice President

Graeme asked the meeting that he be allowed to deliver his reasons for resigning without interruption. He stated that he resigned on 16 January 2017 as he was dismayed at the rejection by the Caulfield Petanque Club of VPCI motions at an earlier Committee Meeting (held on Monday 14 October, 2016) where it was agreed not to clash Calendar events under certain clearly specified conditions. He also remarked that he was very disappointed that Caulfield Petanque Club decided not to confirm (they abstained in the vote) the 2017 Victorian State Calendar at the VPCI AGM (held on 4 December, 2016). He noted that these Minutes were publicly available and the actions of Caulfield Petanque Club on these 2 matters put the viability of VPCI in jeopardy, and noted specifically that other sporting codes would have imposed penalties on individuals or the club for such actions. Graeme stressed that this is an issue that the new VPCI Committee needs to address.

Graeme closed his remarks by agreeing that he would, if nominated, stand again for this position of Vice President, or, if not nominated as Vice President, would offer to stand as a General Member of the VPCI Committee.

Coin Buckley asked to respond. He referred the meeting attendees to a detailed written letter circulated to all Victorian Clubs about the events of 2016. He stated that he believed that Caulfield Petanque Club had not been treated fairly in respect of the 2017 Victorian State Calendar and could not in good faith vote for the motion to confirm this Calendar and thus abstained. Further, the late addition of the Dove Twilight Tournament to the Calendar had potential clashes with Camberwell and Caulfield Doubles on Sundays in February. Whilst very much supporting the Dove initiative and the structure, the above clashes were a concern on future registrations for these Sunday competitions. Also, the Club wanted a tournament in late March to test its new pistes before Easter and was willing to swap to do so.

With respect to the matter of intending to hold a Doubles Tournament on the same day as the Victorian 2017 Shooting Event, he made the following comments: The request by the Club should have been drafted better to reflect a request and not a demand. The primary driver was to give the Club experience in running multiple events on one day as would occur at the Easter Tournament. On reflection, if one-on-one discussions between the respective Secretaries had occurred straight after lodging the request, the train of events may not have occurred and, as a minimum, the email to the VPCI may have been redrafted to reflect a proposal and with supporting reasons

With regard to proposing to clash a Caulfield Petanque Club tournament with the Pyrenees Petanque Club Avoca Triples in November 2016, Colin stated that Caulfield Petanque Club felt a direct approach to the Pyrenees Petanque Club seeking approval to hold a tournament at Caulfield at the same time covered matters, but upon reflection did agree that this approach should have been addressed through the VPCI Committee.

Colin was then asked, twice, by Greg Culley if he publicly acknowledged, at any stage, that the behavior by Caulfield Petanque Club had been a key factor causing the disagreements previously described between his club and VPCI, and was he, or the Caulfield Petanque Club, prepared to accept some responsibility for those disagreements. Colin basically replied, twice, along the lines already stated above. Colin indicated that he considered the Minutes were not prescriptive resolutions, rather they were expressions of principles to consider for future Calendar structuring.

Motion: That the meeting accept the resignation of Graeme as Vice President

Proposed: Peter Curtis (Chair)

Vote: Passed unanimously

7.3. Resignation of Rod Deakin as VPCI Treasurer

Rod Deakin, who also resigned on 16 January 2017, felt that some of his reasons had already been covered adequately by Graeme, but added that he was appalled by some email correspondence from PFA (under the PFA logo) that was of a bullying nature.

When asked by the Chair whether he would consider standing as Treasurer again, Rod replied he would not dismiss outright that idea but would not accept a nomination at the SGM or in the immediate future. He did state, however, that he would stand by the comment in his letter of resignation in that he would provide any assistance required of the VPCI Committee to ensure an orderly transition to a new Treasurer, and in the absence of a new Treasurer would be prepared to act in the capacity of a Book-keeper for a while.

Motion: That the meeting accept the resignation of Rod Deakin as Treasurer

Proposed: Peter Curtis (Chair)

Vote: Passed without dissent

7.4. Resignation of Peter Wells as VPCI Secretary

Peter Wells, also resigning on 16 January 2017, indicated that he had resigned for much of the same reasons as both Graeme and Rod, but also indicated that, while he would not go into specific details without a PFA Director present to put their point of view, there had been significant unwarranted, and he suggested, unlawful, interference, in the function of VPCI by PFA. Peter mentioned one such case that ended in PFA threatening, in writing, to intercept his emails. Peter also mentioned he felt that resignations were the only way to make the point that VPCI Member Clubs should not openly dispute or countermand VPCI Committee decisions, and that PFA had no right to interfere the way they had done in the business of VPCI. Peter ended his statement by indicating he had already agreed to a formal nomination to stand as VPCI Secretary once again.

Motion: That the meeting accept the resignation of Peter Wells as Secretary

Proposed: Peter Curtis (Chair)

Vote: Passed without dissent

8. Business of this SGM – Election of VPCI Office Bearers

It was noted that there were now 3 nominations for office bearer positions as follows:

Max Chaperon as President

Graeme McIntyre as Vice President

Peter Wells as Secretary

There was a call for any further nomination from the floor of the meeting. None was offered. This being the case, the Chair, Peter Curtis, announced the following decisions of the SGM:

Max Chaperon as VPCI President

Graeme McIntyre as VPCI Vice President

Peter Wells as VPCI Secretary

9. Close of Meeting

Peter Wells thanked Camberwell Petanque Club for their hospitality in making their rooms available for the meeting and putting on morning tea/coffee/biscuits. He also thanked Peter Curtis for Chairing the meeting, and all authorised delegates and observers for attending.

Peter Curtis closed the meeting at 11.45 pm.

Signed:

Peter Curtis
Chairman

Peter Wells
Minute Secretary

(Date) -----

Notes added by Peter Wells in an attempt to provide context to some points raised.

The following extract is a complete copy of Item 5 of the Minutes of the VPCI Committee Meeting of 24 October 2017

5. Open Discussion on Draft 2017 Calendar

All clubs were invited to send a representative to discuss the circulated document. An hour was allocated for this item. Clubs were asked to outline their concerns and suggestions with specific reference to the possible 'clashing' of Calendar events. The outcome was a clear majority viewpoint that clashing of events was only acceptable if the arrangement clearly maximised player participation on the day and was in no way detrimental to either club/tournament, and only under very strict conditions, and they were:

1. Well separated (by distance) Calendar tournaments (and not simply tournaments in separate Regions) are acceptable on the understanding that both clubs agree. An example is the proposal to have a 'clash' on 12 February 2017 (the 2 clubs involved are separated by nearly 250 km).
2. Where a major petanque event is to be conducted and the registration field is full or closed well in advance of the event date, another club may request to run a second Calendar event on the same day. An example actually occurs on Sunday 30 October 2016 where registrations for the Weird Masters tournament is now closed, and VPCI have agreed that Caulfield can host a tournament.
3. It is totally unacceptable at present for any other Calendar event to clash with the Avoca tournaments conducted by the Pyrenees Petanque Club.

These conditions were accepted and agreed to by VPCI and a majority of club representatives present.

Club representatives were thanked for their contributions and the pleasant manner in which these discussions were held.

Peter Wells agreed to update the 2017 Draft Calendar and circulate to all clubs for final comment.

Final comment. All speakers at this VPCI SGM were treated very fairly by all other attendees. The initial request by Graeme McIntyre to be heard without interruption was then afforded to all other speakers, and the meeting was conducted in an orderly and cordial manner.