



**THE VETERANS SQUASH RACKETS CLUB
OF GREAT BRITAIN**

PRESIDENT: Nigel Belle

CHAIR: Ian Graham

**MINUTES OF THE 62nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Veterans Squash Rackets Club of Great Britain
held via Teams
on MONDAY 27th OCTOBER 2025 at 7.00pm**

Present:	President	-	Nigel Belle
	Chair	-	Ian Graham
	Hon Secretary	-	Rosalind Featherstone
	Hon Treasurer	-	Robert Smith
	Hon Fixture Secretary	-	Nick Sheppard
	ESM Chairman	-	Stuart Hardy
	Committee Members	-	Karen Hume
			Ash Chakraborty
	Area Representative	-	Allen Barwise

14 members including the above attended the meeting: Barry Featherstone, Catherine Ruffle, Gordon Coulthard, Jane Belle, Harry Parkes.

Apologies for absence: Robin Mace, Alex Perry, Nick Perry, Vinnie Taylor, Andrew Beeston, Paul Clarke, Mike Clemson, Tom Hendry, Clark Adam.

1. Opening of AGM

The President opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed those present. He thanked his hard working committee members for ensuring that we have a very successful, vibrant and financially stable club looking after over 400 members. The AGM normally takes place at the annual tournament finals and it is hoped that it will return to this practice next year.

2. Approval of 61st AGM Minutes

These minutes from 8th September 2024 had been posted on our website and emailed to all members. They were proposed by Ian Graham, seconded by Allen Barwise and carried unanimously that they were a true record.

3. Matters Arising

Nil.

4. Approval of 2024 Accounts

The Hon Treasurer advised that he still has 40 members to chase who he thinks will renew. A lot of them were new members that came in with the new system which did not require them to pay the subs when they entered. The current bank balance is considered to be in a healthy state at £8,740.09. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Nick Sheppard, seconded by Karen Hume and carried unanimously.

5. Chair's Annual Report 2024/25

The last year has been another busy one for our members and with 25 joining shows the continuing strength of the club.

Our tournament was smaller in number but entrants had a great day with plenty of highly competitive squash. Keith Ragg will build on this in 2026.

Nick Sheppard has continued to forge ahead with multi player matches involving a great range of players. The Festival was, as always, a successful event with the RAC achieving a maiden victory. Allen Barwise continues to arrange tours with York, Jersey and Ireland. GBV won 8 medals in the European Championships (2 Gold) and 9 medals in the British Open (3 winners).

Finances in the capable hands of Robert Smith, continue to remain positive with club contributions towards travel abroad.

Our website is almost complete as new features are added. Apart from invitations to play in fixtures, we intend to notify all members of news items uploaded to the website. SendPulse will be used to formulate newsletters and put info together for members.

I am delighted to say that all present committee members have agreed to serve for a further year. As Chair, on your behalf, I thank them all for their hard work to keep GBV running successfully.

Ian Graham

Chair

Report proposed by Allen Barwise, seconded by Stuart Hardy.

Ian Graham added that there are plenty of tours being organised by Allen Barwise. If there was sufficient interest then tours to Malta and Gibraltar could be arranged. Nick Sheppard is arranging multiplayer fixtures and there are plenty of smaller fixtures taking place.

6. Election of Officers

The meeting was asked to approve the Club Officers en bloc as per the list below who had all agreed to stand again. Ash Chakraborty was welcomed as a new Committee Member. It was proposed by Jane Belle, seconded by Catherine Ruffle and carried unanimously that the Officers below be elected:

President	Nigel Belle
Chair	Ian Graham
Hon Fixture Secretary	Nick Sheppard
Hon Treasurer	Robert Smith
Hon Secretary	Rosalind Featherstone
Tournament Director	Keith Ragg
Committee Members	Karen Hume
	Ash Chakraborty
Area Representatives	Allen Barwise (North)
	Ian Ross (Scotland)
	Lynne Davies (Wales)
	Andy Murray (Midlands)
ESM Representative	Stuart Hardy (Ex Officio)

7. Any Other Business

Nigel Belle thanked Nick Sheppard and Brian Brock for the fantastic work over the last year on the new website. Emails are now being sent for newsletters, fixture alerts, AGM notification. Nick Sheppard advised that Brian Brock has been asked to put in a function that when an article is added to the website an email can be generated automatically informing members that there is something new on the website. Ash Chakraborty asked if the website could be monitored with how many hits it has on a quarterly basis. Nick Sheppard will speak to Brian Brock about this.

Vinnie Taylor emailed raising whether a team could visit Canada for a tour. Allen Barwise advised there is currently an England team visiting Canada once a year. The cost of arranging a tour would be very expensive but it will be brought up at the next committee meeting. Nick Sheppard said tours closer to home should be explored.

Nick Sheppard commented that there are fixtures arranged each month through the season – Cambridge University in October, the Festival in November, Nuffield Health St Albans in December, Oxford University in January and the Navy in February. There's a break when the Home Internationals take place but then there is a big match against the Civil Service. Allen Barwise has had contact with David Lalor in Galway to arrange a tour there if there is enough interest.

8. **Closure of 62nd AGM**

There being no further business the President thanked all for attending and wished everyone a joyous Christmas and trouble-free 2026. The meeting closed at 7.22pm.