VERWOOD BOWLS CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2024

Present Committee: N. Pearce; K. Haxby - Thompson; S. Dooley; A. Coul; B. Dooley; ; D. O'Toole; K. Newman; C. Haxby-Thompson; M. Hancock; P. Prince; J. Roberts
Absent: B. Chick

Present Members: S. Pearce; L. Dilleyston; S. Rennie; S. Child; R. Smith; S. Green; K. Shaw; S. Fry; R. Fry; M. Foster; N. Dodd; T. Bird; D. Campbell; S. Campbell; E. Murphy; R. Phillpot; LA. Skerman; M. Skerman; K. Ford; R. Wood; R. Usher; A. Usher

1) Sue Dooley (Secretary) read out list of Apologies for Absence.
Barry Chick, Angela and Mike Daymond, Lynn and Paul Kunert, Kevin Parry, Malcolm Cleiffe, Brian and Brenda Hall, Bob Child, Dennis Kelly, Peter Campbell and Geoff Batstone.

2) The meeting was opened at 7.30 by Norman Pearce (President). He said we had had a very good year and was pleased with how many new members joined which boded well for the future of the club. Hopefully we will have more members next year.

3) Approval of Minutes of AGM 2023. Proposed by Sue Dooley and Seconded by Ken Haxby-Thompson.

4) Secretary's Report (Sue Dooley)

"It has been a very successful year for the club with very well attended taster days which resulted in many new members. A huge thanks to Keith Newman and everyone who helped on the days to make all feel welcome.

I hope that it will be repeated in the coming season. We have revamped the Constitution mainly thanks to Alan (Coul) and hope you will all adopt it for future years.

I would like to wish Sue and Norman (Pearce) good luck for the future and a big thank you for all they have done for the club over many years. Lastly, it's good to see some of our new members putting their hands up for the new Committee and wish the whole Committee well for the coming year".

5) Treasurer's Report (Alan Coul)

The Club has generated a surplus of £3,654 in this financial year (2023/2024) after three consecutive deficits amounting to £10,000. The improvement has been due to an influx of new Members, increased income from social activities and a substantial cost saving on electricity. Alan thanked Phil Prince for auditing our books of account. It is hoped that a surplus can be sustained for 2024/2025 when our new members, if retained, will be liable to pay a full year's annual subscription.

6) The Accounts were duly approved, proposed by Sue Dooley and seconded by David O'Toole.

7) Incoming President. No election is necessary as it is automatic as per our Constitution. Norman Pearce told the meeting he wished us all well and had enjoyed his time here. Before handing over the Chair, Norman presented an inscribed tankard to Phil Prince in recognition of his Green Keeping services. He then handed over the Chain of Office to Ken Haxby-Thompson.

8) Election of Vice President. Proposed by Jane Roberts and Seconded by Norman Pearce - Keith Newman was so elected.

9) Ballot for any nominated officers and Committee members. Proposed by Brian Dooley and Seconded by Jane Roberts.

10) Election of Management Committee officers and members.

11) To adopt the Revised Constitution – Proposed by Chrissy Haxby-Thompson and Seconded by Jane Roberts.

12) To elect the Auditor for the following season – Proposed by Sue Dooley and Seconded by Ken Haxby-Thompson.

OPEN FORUM

Members of the Committee were offered to speak first followed by any other members.

1) President (Ken Haxby-Thompson). Ken said he was looking forward to the next year as President. He thanked Norman Pearce and wished Norman and Sue all the best on their move from Verwood.

2) Keith Newman (Vice-President) is standing down from the Publicity post but wished us well for the next season.

3) Secretary. As new Secretary for next year Sandra Campbell had nothing to add. However Jane Roberts, currant Ladies Captain, read out the following:

"I took over as Ladies Captain several years ago. At that time we had a good number of players which enabled us to play in the New Forest, the Bournemouth and District and the Bowls Dorset Leagues. Over the last couple of years we only had enough ladies for the newly formed New Forest Division 5 Mixed League. Hopefully we will continue to play in that until such time as we have enough ladies to play in the Ladies League again!

It is enjoyable, sometimes challenging, and good experience to play at other clubs and I would encourage our new ladies to seriously think about joining in next season.

It will certainly help our new Captain, Sandra, who actually had a couple of away games at the end of last season. I am sure she will encourage you to give it a go playing alongside more experienced players. During my time as Captain I've had invitations to other clubs Captain's Days with fun bowling with tea or light meal after. These were well attended and enjoyed by all.

I will help Sandra when she needs it and will continue to support the Ladies Section and the Club.

Jane Roberts"

4) *Alan wanted to highlight the Easyfundraising which has been used and has raised to date £221.00. Every little helps to keep the club financially healthy. He asked that everyone has a look at it and use it when purchasing goods online. There are 7,500 companies, e.g. John Lewis, Amazon, B and Q to name a few.*

5) *Membership Secretary. Keith Shaw introduced himself as the new Membership Secretary.*

6) *Fixture Secretary – vacant.*

7) *Competition Secretary. Barry Chick was unable to attend but had sent the following message:*

"I had a very good response this year with more people entering competitions. The Finals Days went very well with some new names appearing on the trophies this year. It was a great shame that we did not have the weather we hoped for, everyone managed to cope with the downpours of rain without getting too wet. Many thanks to those who helped me on the days with marking and setting up the equipment.

Next year it has been decided to run the weekend trophy games slightly differently, names will be added to a trophy entry sheet placed on the notice board in the Clubhouse prior to each event, giving plenty of time for player to record their names.

I look forward to welcoming you all next year to enter as many competitions as possible, this will give you more experience in playing against other members of the club and improve your game."

8) Men's Captain. Dave O'Toole is this year's Men's Captain.

9) Ladies Captain. Sandra Campbell.

10) Social Secretary – Chrissy Haxby-Thompson. Chrissy has organised a Christmas Coffee morning. She would like ideas for other fund raising events.

11) Greenkeeper. Phil Prince spoke about the difficulties this year with Leatherjackets but is very pleased with the treatment added and hoped for a successful conclusion. Although he was leaving as greenkeeper it has now been decided that he will oversee

and assist with the general maintenance. He is very pleased with the number of members who are now carrying out maintenance work during the closed season (ie Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays).

12) Publicity – Katie Ford introduced herself as the new Publicity Officer.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1) Steve Green is the new Safeguarding Officer. He is on an on-line course next week. He will update members at the next meeting. Bowls England have been very helpful in assisting Steve.

2) Robert Wood. Robert wants to re-join as a full member but as he has mobility problems he will need assistance getting on/off the green etc. He said he thought he was still a good player and, if members agreed to help him, would very much like to join.

3) Constitution. It was agreed that the membership fee for the year would not be increased. It was increased last year but there is no need to do so this year.

4) Tea and coffee (and biscuit) was free but during this year a charge has been added, ie 50 pence. This has been readily accepted and will remain. Alan Coul said every little helps with keeping the club afloat.

5) Spring cleaning and general cleaning. At present time Sue Child is responsible for most of this work. Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said there will be a meeting in February to arrange a Rota which would be much fairer.

6) Robert Phillpot asked if there were any thoughts on having solar panels fitted in order to generate money etc. Alan Coul said this had been discussed. A grant would be needed as the initial cost would be quite high. Also, where would the battery be installed? It is a ‘job in progress’?

7) Ken Haxby-Thompson asked Sue how Bob was following the accident. She said he ‘was ok’. Ken said we all wished him a speedy recovery.

As there was no other business the President closed the meeting at 8.25pm.