

MINUTES of VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB SPRING MEETING held WEDNESDAY, 29TH MARCH 2023

Present : 28 playing members; 1 social member

1. Apologies : Alan Coul, Alice Bulley, Norman & Sue, Pearce, Denise & Norman Pugh, Sue Bay, Catherine & Peter Jones, Gordon Parkes, Fred Vic, Hilary Walker
Action
2. Welcome – Barry Chick, President welcomed everyone to the meeting.
3. Membership Secretary's Report – 35 Playing men, 14 Playing ladies, 42 Social. There is an improved playing membership – Norman Pearce sent his apologies for the lateness of forms due to printer problems. Barry welcomed new experienced playing member, Steve Green.
4. Treasurer's Report – Mike Daymond reported that funds were adequate but are always subject to unexpected additional expenditure. Electricity charges had increased from 52p per unit in October to 82p in November, but now a new regime has been advised whereby the unit charge is 56p, but the standing charge per day has now increased from 48p to £1.62 per day. He would be grateful if there was a member who could research an alternative supplier. Likewise, any help with advice on alternative heating for the clubhouse would be appreciated.
Research Requests
5. Men's Section – Brian Dooley reported on the Men's leagues – all matches now listed on the Fixtures List. Players asked to indicate their availability for the April & May dates now on the League Noticeboard. Team lists would be put on the league noticeboard and the website.
League Players
BD
6. Ladies' Section – In Alice Bulley's absence Jane Roberts read her report that just 8 ladies attended the Ladies Meeting on 22nd March. There will be no Ladies league but ladies can play in New Forest Div 5. The quality of the new ladies' shirts is disappointing but it was pointed out at the meeting that drip dry and a cool steam iron had helped remove the heavy packing creases. Sue Child has offered to take responsibility for the kitchen and Alice expressed her appreciation for the cleaning regularly carried out by Bob and Sue Child, plus the cleaning of the carpet.
SC
7. Green Matters – Phil Prince expressed warm appreciation to those who had worked so hard on the green through the winter : Pete Campbell, David O'Toole, Mal Hancock, Ed Murphy on Mondays and the Friday crew of Nigel Holt and Dan Ferguson. Regular brushing of the green had been carried out by Bob Child, Nigel Holt, Geoff Batstone and Pete Campbell. Repairs to the broken sprinkler system had been carried out by Keith Newman and Mike Foster and the Monday crew had worked hard clearing leaves and acorns in the autumn and recently with distributing the gravel for the ditches round the green. Geoff Batstone had painted the bowls equipment shed and front fencing, and was currently painting the benches. New member, Steve Green, has already joined the working party. Barry Chick and Brian Dooley have offered to paint the white boarding. Outside contractors have been hired to apply moss treatment, to hollow and tine the green and to fell two trees. Oak tree branches are due to be trimmed. The Monday working party will return to working in the mornings at the start of the season. Also, the green will need swishing and brushing every morning on the days the green is not cut – essential due to wormcasts. More help needed.
Help needed
8. Fixtures Secretary – Angela Daymond reported that the Fixtures List was now complete and had been circulated to all members; she explained the layout for the benefit of new members – no play Monday mornings, on other days play may start at 10.30am to allow for any grass cutting; Trophy days start at 10am. Taster Sessions are Saturdays 22nd and 29th April and Wednesday, 3rd May, plus Sunday 7th May when there will also be a bowls try-out as part of the Coronation Fayre on the Recreation Ground. Help needed.
Help Needed

League Practice for all those interested in playing in a league and General Roll-ups are for everyone. Friendlies are the opportunity for anyone to gain match experience in a friendly atmosphere.

The notice to sign up for the **Opening Triples on Saturday, 15th April** is up (*Sunday alternate*) – those new to bowls at the end of last season may take part and will be put with experienced players. The Fixtures List will be on the website and put on the noticeboard two months at a time.

AD

9. Competitions Secretary – Barry Chick expressed his disappointment at the low numbers entering the Club competitions. Currently there are not enough entries in all the ladies' competitions and no entries for the Novices competition which does not start till July. Additional players needed for two of the trophy days.

Support
needed

- a) New Pairs Competition – Sue Dooley reported on her guidelines for a new internal pairs competition in a round robin format, own choice partners. There will be points awarded and she is donating a trophy for the pair with the most points. It will not be part of Finals Weekend. Rounds will be played on Friday afternoon or evening – yet to be decided, and will start at the end of May. There will be a notice on the Social noticeboard with details.
10. Social Activities – Chrissy Haxby-Thompson has stood down due to health issues and so Angela reported on events. The skittles had been most successful and much enjoyed. Although it was charged for at cost, it benefitted Club camaraderie.

SD
All players

The Quizzes and Beetle Drive had been successful and the whist had provided £50-60 per week for the club during the off-season; lower during the summer. Bingo and the Games Afternoon had not been supported and low numbers for Dominoes meant it was held at home.

Help would be needed on the Recreation Ground for the Coronation Fayre bowling opportunity which needed manning 12noon to 5pm as well as the Taster sessions on the green in the afternoon.

Help
needed

- a) Formation of Social Sub-Committee – Angela explained how a Social Sub-Committee would benefit the club and was a role that could be played by bowlers and social members. Denise Pugh had offered to be part of a committee, but would not lead due other commitments elsewhere. Angela explained that she could not be part of this group unless she relinquished other roles.

Help
needed

11. Publicity – Keith Newman reported on the many varied actions he had already taken to promote the Club with posters in many venues and shops, leaflets in the Library as well as contacting surgeries to advise on the benefit of bowls. Other avenues were purchasing feather flags plus vinyl banners to fix to the poles of our large noticeboards with consideration of possible sponsorship. There is a Q code on our promo. He urged members who use Facebook to join the Bowls Club page. He will also contact Forest FM.

KN

12. President's Conclusion – Barry thanked his hard-working committee and advised that at the AGM in October some Committee members would be relinquishing or reducing their roles. A Club Secretary and a Treasurer would be needed and some of the roles currently held, needed to be broken down to make them less onerous, such as Fixtures Secretary. He drew attention to the benefits of the defibrillator which tells you what to do when in use, but there would be another training session in 2024. He felt that the annual fee of £150 was worthwhile if it saves a life.

OPEN FORUM

Just one point was raised with the response that those entering the Club Mixed Triples Competition must be available for both dates when the rounds are played : Wednesdays 5th July and 2nd August.