VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2025 - 7.30 PM

1) Apologies for Absence -

Sue and Bob Child; Ray Greenham; Keith Shaw; Angela and Mike Daymond; Duncan Campbell; Katie Ford; Lesley and Maurice Skerman; Kevin Parry; Albert Webster; Gordon Parkes; Jan Piper; Paul and Linda Rowbottom, Malcolm Cleife.

2) President's Address

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting. Thank you for all coming. I am very pleased to see you and we can now proceed with the meeting. (I will address the meeting in the Open Forum).

3) Approval of Minutes of 2024 AGM

Chrissy Haxby-Thompson approved the Minutes of the 2024 meeting and this was seconded by Alan Coul.

4) Secretary's Report

Sandra Campbell - I have enjoyed my first real year as a member of Verwood bowls Club, A bit of a learning curve but very enjoyable. The ladies this year had a few problems with numbers before the Taster Days. However, since then we have had some really good lady bowlers join so things are looking up for next year.

We are looking forward to playing in competitions next year. However, I think it will be New Forest Division 5 (mixed) as the travelling will not be such a problem. We tried friendlies this year and although it looked promising at the beginning it failed because the local club we were going to play were too busy with competitions (a lesson learned).

I think I can speak on behalf of the Committee when I talk about the maintenance team. Phil Prince and the teams that faithfully come on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, sometimes in spite of the weather, to carry out the maintenance. I know everyone is so grateful for the work they do - without the green we would not have a club. So thank you.

5) Treasurer's and Auditor's Report

Alan Coul - Good evening. Sorry about the mask a legacy from our Skittles evening! I am pleased to present our audited Accounts for the Financial Year ending 30th September 2025. I am even more pleased to announce that the Club has achieved a Surplus of income over Expenditure amounting to £7,270.00, virtually double last year's performance. These successive surpluses are reflected in our financial resources which now stand at over £21,000.00.

This has not happened by accident. Our present and last year's Committees and other helpers have worked hard to achieve this level of success. Page three of the Accounts, Phil's Audit letter, highlights the salient reasons for this accomplishment.

I would like to thank Phil for auditing these accounts. We had a few hiccups and I am still not sleeping at nights due to a minor arithmetical difference of 0.002%!!

Any questions? I hope not!! Over to you Mr. President for the vote.

6) Adopt Annual Accounts 2024/2025 for current year ending 30th September, 2025

The Audit was duly approved - Approved by Barry Chick and Seconded by Mal Hancock.

7) Incoming President

Ken Haxby-Thompson will carry on for another year as President.

8) Election of Vice President

Keith Newman, Vice President, has said he is happy to carry on as Vice President for another year. This was approved by Ken Haxby-Thompson and seconded by Chrissy Haxby-Thompson.

9) Ballot for any nominated officers and Committee members.

There was a ballot for in favour of keeping the same Committee members next year as this year. Following a ballot of hands there were 16 persons present who agreed to this. However, at this time, we do not have a Publicity Secretary nor a Fixtures Secretary. There was nobody at the meeting who wished to take on these positions.

10) Election of Management Committee Officers and members.

Following the above Ballot the election of the Management Committee Officers was agreed.

11) To adopt the revised Constitution.

This was done last year therefore no need this year.

12) Any Other Business

i) Ken Newman wanted to mentioned the Suggestion Box that was put up in the Clubhouse this year. He said he wanted to make sure everyone was aware of this and if persons present did not want to stand up here they could always put their suggestions in the box.

ii) Alan Wase addressed the meeting as follows.

Sandra and I wish to thank the officers and Membership of Verwood Bowling Club for their friendly and welcoming manner shown during our visits and games.

I have enjoyed the enthusiasm shown during the coaching sessions and have been rewarded by observing the progress made in their bowling

techniques. Well done to all involved and a thank you to all members supported this activity, especially the President, greenkeepers and others.

The bowlers who have partaken in these coaching sessions are, in my opinion, more than ready to develop their skill and experience by participating in either friendly or league games against other clubs

I am planning to do a presentation on 'How to Mark a Singles Match' and continue by providing some hints and tips which can be used during bowls match. This will probably be arranged towards the end of November.

Thank you.

Ken Haxby-Thompson thanked Alan for all his work since joining us. Ken Haxby-Thompson and Alan Wase will come up with these dates at the end of November for training sessions

VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB

OPEN FORUM

The following Committee Members will be invited to speak first, followed by any Playing and Social members who wish to speak.

1) **President (Ken Haxby-Thompson)**

Ken Haxby-Thompson addressed the meeting:

Following on from our successful taster sessions of last year (2024) where we decided, for the first time, to run two consecutive weekends (Saturday/Sunday a.m.) of open days we followed the same pattern this year. I am happy to report this has resulted in over 60 new members over the 2024 and 22025 season. The consequence of this has been a very active season, with regular turn outs of over 24 players on each of our roll ups plus some new, never bowled before members bowling in some of our league games. Well done to all those players.

Another great bonus to all of us has been our new member Alan Wase who, being a fully qualified bowls coach, has been a great help in developing people's bowling skills by kindly running regular weekly coaching sessions. Thank you Alan for all the time you have given and which I know is greatly appreciated by all those who have benefited from your coaching skills. Another great benefit to us all has been the excellent condition of the green this year, which received many compliments from visiting clubs. A big thank you to Phil Prince and his merry band of men (a mention at this time was made that ladies had also helped!!).

Financially, as a small club, we have seen great improvement which Alan Coul (our Treasurer) highlighted earlier in the meeting.

My hope is that with all our new playing members, 29 ladies and 55 men, we will see a lot more activity in league play as well as some new internal leagues planned. Remember, all the club events are run by volunteers, from you the membership. So any ideas you have 'Bring 'em on'.

Thank you all for being here and I really look forward to our new upcoming season in 2026.

2) **Vice-President (Keith Newman)**

Keith Newman addressed the meeting:

We are trying to take the club forward into the twenty-first century and to this end are planning to install an online booking-on system. The television now on the wall, and when fully functional, will enable all playing members to use the system. Barry Chick and Dave O'Toole will be able to use it for their competitions, as well as other games, whatever they take on. The idea is that you can book on in the club and also in your home. We can expand it to roll-ups etc., we can also protect the green by using all rinks, spread the usage. We may also be able to use it when playing leagues.

The system will come into use when everything is agreed. We are going to do a sample booking-on and then when everything and everyone seems quite happy with the system it can go live.

Alan Wase asked if it would be Cloud Based so it could be accessed at home. Keith Newman said it would be so each member can book on etc. at home. He also asked if we could get another screen and powerpoint so he can carry out his training at the club 48"/50" screen (Ken Haxby-Thompson said he could look into this). If not he also asked if the television now on the wall could be taken down and situated elsewhere - problem with that is it is very heavy and would be difficult. Also another problem with a further screen would be storing it when not in use.

There was then an open discussion regarding this. Richard Clark said he would be able to let us have, when needed, a projector from the school he works at.

All of this to be looked into.

3) Safeguarding Officer (Steve Green)

Steve Green addressed the meeting:

This *was the inaugural season for a Safeguarding Officer at Verwood Bowling Club, as was the case for many clubs. It has come about as a result of the role becoming a mandatory requirement for full affiliation to Bowls Dorset and in turn Bowls England - our National Governing Body.*

The role to date has centred round compiling the relevant recommended policies for our club from scratch, all of which are filed within the Safeguarding Folder to reference, and is on hand and accessible for us all in the club.

The guidance and support comes jointly from both Bowls England and the Bowls Development Alliance who work in partnership throughout the sport. They also run all required training for the role.

Safeguarding isn't about these wordy policies - it's about creating a safe and welcoming environment for everyone involved in our Club from young players to adult bowlers, and our social members. It's about creating a culture of respect and fairness and we all have a part to play.

Our Code of Conduct, agreed this season, lists desired behaviours that define our club like Respect, Sportsmanship and Courtesy amongst others and will form part of our Membership applications from next season onwards.

I am open enough to say that I'm as new to this as it is to the Club, but soon realised the role should be tempered to the club and that is my aim.

I'm always happy to receive feedback or discuss anything aligned to Safeguarding for Verwood Bowling Club. Thank you.

Following Steve Green's report Sandra Campbell thanked him on behalf of the Committee and Club for all the hard work he had put in to bring the Club up to date with Safeguarding. She said she did not think there was anyone else who would have been able to take this on.

4) **Club Secretary / Ladies Captain (Sandra Campbell)**

As above - Agenda.

5) **Treasurer (Alan Coul)**

As above - Agenda. Alan Coul also added that he intends to be in his role as Treasurer for one more year. After that someone else needs to take on the role as Treasurer for the Club.

6) **Men's Captain (Dave O'Toole)**

Dave O'Toole told the meeting that we have had a good year. However he urges people to check on the notice boards to see any updates rather than having to contact Dave or Mal Hancock.

7) **Men's Vice Captain (Mal Hancock)**

Mal Hancock agreed with the comments made by Dave O'Toole.

8) **Greenkeeper (Phil Prince)**

Phil Prince addressed the meeting:

Greenkeeping report to the AGM 29/10/25
It has been another busy year on the Green. My thanks to all the volunteers who have put in a lot of effort to maintain the Green and surrounds to such a high standard.

During the playing season the grass has been cut three times a week (generally on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays). However, this is the bare minimum and the Green should ideally be cut 4 times a week and also spiked twice a week as a minimum. Therefore, more volunteers are needed.

On Mondays the grass cutting/spiking is carried out alongside other work by the Monday maintenance group. This group comprises Ed Murphy, Steve Green, Sheila and Roy Fry, Dave O'Toole and myself. The grass cutting/spiking on Wednesdays is carried out by Bob Child, Pete Campbell and Duncan Campbell, and on Fridays is carried out by Dave O'Toole, Paul Kunert, Gordon Parkes and myself, with assistance from Brian Dooley. These groups continue to operate during the close season, mowing as necessary alongside other seasonal work such as leaf/acorn clearance.*

Pete Campbell has also constructed new timber surrounds for the flower beds and a turf growing bed.

** Other work carried out on Mondays includes hedge trimming, applying feeds to the Green, ditch clearance, gutter clearance and removing leaf/acorn fall. At the season's end there are always other major effort tasks. One recurring one is to scarify and re-seed the Green. This year we will need to replace a substantial run of the wooden edging which has gone rotten. Also, much of the fencing around the clubhouse is in a state of disrepair and will need replacing. Extra volunteers to help with both of these aspects are welcome.*

In addition to the grass cutting, the Green needs to be dew-brushed/swished regularly on the other days of the week before the start of play i.e. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. This can/should be carried out by almost all members as the situation arises.

Dew brushing is essential to remove the morning dew to prevent the spread of grass diseases. Dew brushing is a fairly quick exercise which is not strenuous. However, if there is a significant amount of worm casts then swishing (or drag brushing) is needed to break up the casts as well as removing the dew. This does require more effort. Worm casts will break up more easily when they are dry.

The Green played very well this year despite the drought conditions in the summer. This was achieved in no small measure by having a working irrigation system. However, the system has now become troublesome and some major repairs are necessary although we are still waiting for some estimates from the contractor

Phil Prince - Lead volunteer- Greenkeeping

9) **Competitions Secretary (Barry Chick)**

Barry Chick addressed the meeting:

The entries for the competition season for 2025 was well supported with many of our new members entering for the first time. I hope everyone enjoyed the games they played and the opportunity of playing people of a higher standard as this is the only way to improve your own skill level in the sport.

We had a few new names to have engraved on the trophies this year, so well done to those who managed to stay the course and get through the finals and win the competition.

The number of entries this year were up on previous years, but unfortunately the ladies competitions still need more ladies to enter to make the elimination process worthwhile running.

I look forward to next year's competition season and hope to see more people entering, and hope that you all enjoyed your games this year.

Barry Chick also wanted to mention the lovely new trophy cabinet which we acquired recently. He said it was difficult to know who won what. Therefore Stewart Rennie very kindly designed and printed off cards for each trophy so you can immediately see who has won what. He was thanked for this.

10) **Membership Secretary (Keith Shaw)**

Keith Shaw sent his apologies for not being able to attend this meeting. However he did pass on this message: *"Many of the new members are new to bowls and many have been frequent players on the green. Some have become good players over the summer. All of which is very encouraging"*.
He also sent a copy of the membership statistics which can be viewed on our website.

11) **Social Secretary (Chrissy Haxby-Thompson)**

Chrissy Haxby-Thompson addressed the meeting:

It's great to see such a good turnout here tonight, it's been a great year for our Bowling Club, which I'm sure we've all enjoyed from the bowling to the social events of the past year.

As Social Secretary I've been very pleased at the response we've had to our events be it a Quiz, Whist or the very popular Darts. I would like to thank you all for your continued support and if anyone has any thoughts for a social evening please pass on your ideas. Many thanks.

12) Publicity Secretary (Vacant)

13) Fixtures Secretary (Vacant)

Phil Prince wanted to thank Peter and Sheila (who live over the road and allow us to keep our key for the gate stored there for everybody to have access to). They also are the two people that arrange and care for our lovely flower arrangements during the playing season. He just wanted to pass on our sincere thanks for all their hard work.

As there was no other items for discussion Ken Haxby-Thompson closed the meeting at 8.10 p.m..

List of people present at 2025 Annual General Meeting:

Robert W. Wood
Chrissy Haxby-Thompson
Ken Haxby-Thompson
Sandra Campbell
Phillip Prince
Stewart Rennie
Barry Chick
Keith Newman
Terry Brenner
Lynn Kunert
Paul Kunert
Robert Phillpot
Les Dilleyston
Alan Wase
Sandra Wase
Richard Clarke
Alan Coul
Dave O'Toole
Jane Roberts
Robert Smith
Steve Green
Roy Fry
Sheila Fry
Mal Hancock
Ed Murphy