VERWOOD BOWLS CLUB AGM

held in the Clubhouse on Tuesday, 3rd November 2026

Attendance : In excess of 50 members attended, but with no sign-in sheet there is no record of who they were.

Action

1. **Apologies** received from Keith Newman, David O'Toole, Alan Wase, Sandra Campbell
2. **The Minutes** of the 2025 AGM were taken as read and approved.
3. **President's Address** & Lifetime Memberships

   President Ken Haxby-Thompson recounted a very successful year and successful Taster Days in the spring bringing in increased membership. He praised the success of the Lifetime Membership scheme which he fully supported as 19 members had taken up the offer and raised valuable funds to enable the paving project to go forward. He assured members that the Treasurer fully supported the scheme and believed the loss of annual income was sustainable in the future.

4. **Audited Accounts**

   These were circulated at the meeting. Alan Coul answered questions on the figures and advised that he would continue as Treasurer for the coming year. Neil Sims had agreed to shadow him and become his successor at the next AGM. Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Sue Dooley, seconded by Brian Dooley and agreed.

5. **Election of Committee**

a) **President**

Ken Haxby-Thompson had been proposed and seconded on the Nomination sheet with Brian Dooley's name added as a second candidate on the day of the AGM. There were various arguments put forward regarding the validity of the addition of a second name at such a late stage but as the Nomination Sheet had no Closing Date on it and the sheet had remained in situ until the AGM, it was finally agreed that Brian Dooley could stand for election. It was noted that other names had also been added recently to the list where there were vacancies.

Brian Dooley addressed the meeting and questions were asked as to his views on the decisions made by the previous committee. A paper ballot was then held with the result that Brian Dooley was elected by a one-vote margin. There was clearly surprise all round but despite pleas to stay, Ken Haxby-Thompson, Chrissy Haxby-Thompson and Alan Coul (Treasurer) left the meeting. Keith Shaw also withdrew his nomination for Membership Secretary.

Brian Dooley then took the Chair and stated that it was clear that the Constitution should be looked at in detail by the new Committee following the various arguments that had been put forward. Committee

Election of Committee contd.

b) Other roles had only one person nominated on the notice displayed in the clubhouse with the following results :-

	Proposed	Seconded
Vice Chairman: Steve Sprason	S Dooley	B Dooley
Secretary: Sandra Campbell	A Coul	K Haxby-Thompson
Treasurer: Neil Sims (on the night)	S Sprason	P Kunert
Men's Captain : Richard Clarke	D O'Toole	M Hancock
Men's Vice Captain : Terry Brenner	L A Skerman	C Haxby-Thompson
Coach : Alan Wase	D O'Toole	M Hancock
Competition Secretary : Barry Chick	K Haxby-Thompson	C Haxby-Thompson
Safeguarding Officer : Steve Green	B Chick	K Haxby-Thompson
Membership Secretary : vacant		
Publicity : Alex Pupkis	A Daymond	T Brenner
Social Secretary : Angela Daymond (on the night)	B Chick	M Hancock
Green Co-Ordinator : Peter Campbell	D O'Toole	A Daymond
Ladies Captain : Christine Sims	C Haxby-Thompson	K Haxby-Thompson
Ladies Vice Captain : Allyson Usher (on the night)	R Usher	N Sims
Fixtures Secretary : vacant		

Keith Shaw described the role of the Membership Secretary and the need for Membership Forms to be issued by the end of January so that applications could be handed in during February. Barry Chick would be standing down at the next AGM and asked that someone considers taking on the role so they can learn the job alongside Barry. BowlR selects opponents in the various competitions which has made the role much easier.

6. **Any Other Business**

Peter Campbell asked for more help on the green on Fridays, although help is welcome on the other grass-cutting days too; Mondays start at 9am, Wednesday 8.30am and Friday at 9am. The Club is required by the Town Council to clear and dredge the ditch alongside the extra piece of land behind the green and extra help was needed to do this the following morning starting at 9am.

The formal part of the meeting closed
Followed by an Open Forum

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OPEN FORUM

a) **Insurance Cover** - Ed Murphy asked who was responsible if there was an accident when players arrived before mowing equipment had been put away. It was agreed that there needs to be stricter rules regarding the start of play. Committee need to set the rules and put an appropriate start time on BowlR. It was suggested that the whole of Monday morning should be blocked out as was done before BowlR was introduced. "Club accepts no liability" notice to be sourced. Players arriving before the groundworks are finished must wait under the covered area and not get out any playing equipment until all mowing equipment has been put away. — Committee — Committee

b) **New Paving** – Peter Campbell explained that the work would take 3 weeks and it was hoped to commence this in February.

c) **Visitor Fees** – A sign-in book for Visitors is needed; an honesty payment of £5 is required, allowing the same person three visits before they must become a member. — Committee

d) **Ken & Chrissy Haxby-Thompson** – Angela addressed the meeting stating that it was extremely unfortunate the way the meeting had unfolded. Chrissy & Ken had been extremely supportive of the Club and she proposed a vote of thanks in their absence. Robert Wood, a Past President, explained that Presidents usually only served one year, occasionally two or came back for a second term of office some years later.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm. The new Committee will meet on Tuesday, 10th November at 10am