VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING
7 OCTOBER, 2025

Present: Ken Haxby-Thompson, Alan Coul, Keith Shaw, Dave O'Toole, Mal Hancock, Barry Chick, Steve Green, Sandra Campbell.

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

Apology for Absence received from Chrissy Haxby-Thompson, Keith Newman, Phil Prince, Lesley Skerman, Katie Ford.

2) **Approval of Minutes of Management Meeting 10th September, 2025**

No comments regarding the minutes of the last meeting and they were signed, dated and filed.

3) **Safeguarding Officer's Report**

See Any Other Business.

4) **Competitions Officer's Report**

i) Barry Chick reported that everything is ready for Presentation Day, trophies all engraved. After presentation the trophies will not be taken home as we now have the Trophy Cabinet (before it was sometimes difficult to get them back on time). Certificates will be handed out and trophies placed in cabinet. The Presentation Day is at 12 noon on the 25th October, 2025. It is an American Supper (so requesting attendees bring a plate of food (or whatever to share)).

ii) Barry Chick is now busy with the Darts/Fish and Chip evenings.

iii) The Jim Scutt (Endeavour Trophy) was discussed. After discussion it was agreed who would be awarded this Trophy (Certificate and Cup).

iv) Dave O'Toole suggested we should have a competition for new members only (not including experienced bowlers who have joined from other clubs). This is due to Taster Days being too late for new members to enter club competitions as Barry Chick has to organise these before Taster Days. Ken Haxby-Thompson suggested we could have an Aussie Pairs Competition in place of the Dooley Trophy (to be discussed).

5) **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Coul reported that the yearly Accounts had been placed on the Website for everyone to view, he also bought copies with him for viewing at the meeting. He reported we had surplus of about £7,000.00 (more than last year). We had made money from Short-Mat, Whist and Darts events. There had been quizzes which had also brought in revenue for us. All in all it was a very good year.

Alan is now waiting for Phil Prince to Audit the accounts.

6) **Greenkeeper's Report**

Phil Prince was absent from the meeting but sent the following report.

i) We have continued to receive good support from the volunteers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. These groups will continue throughout the off season as there is plenty of ongoing work, but as ever more volunteers are welcome.

ii) The immediate tasks are to continue the clearance of leaves and acorns from the green and ditches, brush/swish the wormcasts and irrigate the section of the green where the sprinkler is not functioning.

iii) The end of season scarifying went well and seeding has taken place. The irrigation system has been deployed to facilitate the germination of the seed in the absence of any significant rainfall.

iv) Pete Campbell has constructed a frame in which to grow turf intended to replace bare patches in the green.

v) We have arranged for one of the John Deere mowers to go in for its end of season service.

vi) We have noticed that there has been some damage to the green caused by crows looking for 'leatherjackets'. Accordingly, I will be ordering nematodes to treat the green. The cost for treating the whole green is currently £274. The nematodes need to be applied while there is still some warmth in the soil and certainly before the end of October. They have a limited shelf life (in the fridge) and will be ordered once I have visibility as to when they will be applied.

vii) Keith Newman met with a representative of 'Irrigation Services' to discuss the state of our irrigation system and to find out what options are available. Keith will be presenting his findings separately.
ACTION: Keith Newman is waiting for a quote which is believed to be between £2,500.00 and £3,000.00. He is asking for permission to go ahead once he receives the quote.

viii) I wish to bring to the attention of the Committee the fact that since Norman Pearce has left the club no one is taking responsibility for baiting the rodent traps.
ACTION: Steve Green told the Committee that he is willing to bait the traps. Agreed.

ix) I would also urge Committee to arrange for the inspection of the fencing around the clubhouse with a view to arranging for (some) replacement panels.
ACTION:
a) Alan Coul (Treasurer) would need a quote regarding any work to be carried out.
He said he would also speak to Angela Daymond regarding possibility of a grant from the Solar Farm.
b) Sandra Campbell to contact Steve Tubbs to see if he knows of any fencers we could contact for them to come and view.

7) **Captain's Report**

i) Dave O'Toole is now running the Short-Mat game which is proving very popular. He is now going to run it on two days (Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons) because of its popularity.

ii) Dave O'Toole (and Sandra Campbell) attended the Bowls Dorset meeting at Dorchester. Nominations requested for role of Men's Secretary as Alexander Wilson is standing down. No hands raised at the meeting so ongoing. NFBA League Scoring System discussed but needs further discussion.

iii) Dave O'Toole is looking at Bournemouth and District games on a Saturday for mixed triples. He will be looking when the games are being played and have a look on the website.

8) **Membership Secretary**

No new members during the past month and nothing to report at this time of year. Keith Shaw said the new members we have are very enthusiastic.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 29th October, 2025 at 7.30 p.m.. Keith Shaw apologised as he will be out of the country and will not attend. He will give the Club Secretary a report to read out in his absence.

9) **Correspondence**

Sandra Campbell told the Committee that she had received forms from Sue Maggs - Annual League Entries and Handbooks and Annual Affiliation Fees. No rush to complete them. Alan Coul aware.

10) **Publicity**

Nothing to report on this month.

11) **Fixtures**

i) Friendly at Sixpenny Handley was very successful.
ACTION: Dave O'Toole is going to contact them to look into arranging friendly games for next season.

ii) Ken Haxby-Thompson is looking at contacting local club Secretaries with a view to arranging other friendly matches next season.

12) **Social Events**

i) Mal and Keith's Music Quiz is being held on 7th November, 2025 - 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m..

ii) The Darts/Fish and Chip games will start tonight (7th October, 2025). It will be held every two weeks (organised by Barry Chick).

iii) A Skittles Evening is being arranged by Sue and Bob Childs. There has been a good response so far by members wishing to attend.

iv) There are several other General Quizzes to be arranged.

13) **Any Other Business**

i) Steve Green (Safeguarding Officer). Bowls England are asking for the Code of Conduct to be signed off and added to Membership Forms in future. New members need to confirm they have read it and sign to that effect when joining.

ii) Keith Newman absent from Committee Meeting. However Mal Hancock read the following updates from Keith Newman:
   a) Irrigation problem (see vii) on Greenkeeper's Report) this has been approved. Once the quote has been finalised replacement of sprinklers can go ahead.
   b) The new CCTV cameras (with motion detection) will cost between £50 and £100.
   c) The cost of a keypad entry instead of keys for the equipment shed. The cost will be £27.99.

d) The cost of a wall bracket for the television will be approximately 25.00.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 11.10 a.m..

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday the 12th November, 2025 at 10.00 a.m..