VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING
8th JANUARY, 2025

Present: Ken Haxby-Thompson, Chrissy Haxby-Thompson, Alan Coul, David O'Toole, Phil Prince, Mal Hancock, Katie Ford, Keith Shaw, Steve Green, Lesley-Anne Skerman, Keith Newman, Barry Chick, Sandra Campbell.

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

2) **Approval of Minutes of Management Meeting held on 11th December 2024**

The following queries were raised from the minutes of last meeting:

a) Lesley Skerman asked whether the defibrillator had been checked. Keith Newman is familiar with this and he will check it each week. He said anyone can be trained to do this which would be handy for the future.

b) Barry Chick queried whether the League List could be sent out with the Membership Forms. It was decided they would not be sent out together. Keith Shaw has the template for the League Fixtures. Barry Chick queried whether he was going to produce the forms or are they going to be taken off templates from Norman Pearce. (System was Competition and League with Membership Form - Norman Pearce would then give details to Barry Chick for him to set up competitions). Barry Chick needs all entries in by the 1st April, 2025.

c) Steve Green suggested we have a detailed description of the competition details - Trophy and Triples are set by date, but others are not. These are set to be played over two days and must be played on the set dates. Keith Shaw said we could send the forms out via an e-mail so everyone can fill it in and will then know the rules. It was decided that Keith Shaw and Barry Chick would get together to organise competitions (Trophy needs to be on a separate sheet). Keith Shaw will then send the forms out. Barry Chick does not deal with Leagues.
Action by: Barry Chick and Keith Shaw.

d) Phil Prince - Dorset Rinks League is on Monday and Percy Baker on Tuesday. New Forest details have not been received

Ken Haxby-Thompson (President) then signed the minutes from the previous meeting.

3) **Safeguarding Officer's Report**

Steve Green told the meeting that his DBS check had been fully processed and his certificate has been issued (for 3 years). The cost was £21.38 for which he has received remuneration. He thanks the Treasurer for this.

Steve Green has registered our Club on the Bowls England Safeguarding Register. Also has contacted both Bowls Dorset and New Forest Bowling Association and given them an update along with his contact details.

Verwood Bowling Club Safeguarding Policy agreed at previous meeting.

Verwood Bowling Club Disciplinary and Misconduct Policy circulated for approval which refers us to Bowls England Regulation 9 - Club.

(Phil Prince asked if we should simplify it and should we set up a Disciplinary Committee. Alan Coul said this was covered in our Constitution)

Next Steps in line with the Safeguarding Training is 1) Anti-Bullying Policy and 2) Noticeboard to prepare as per requirements.
Action by: Steve Green.

Steve Green also said he would take responsibility for ensuring the First-Aid Kit is fully equipped. Keith Newman will take responsibility for the Defibrillator.

4) **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Coul has provided a copy of our Accounts for the quarter ending 31st December 2024. A small deficit of £89.00 has been incurred. A preliminary Budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025 forecasts a Surplus of from £4,000 to £5,000.

The Club has 67 playing Members as at the 31st December, 2024 but 4 will drop out. We have 40 Social Members. The new intake of 28 Playing Members for 2024 will pay full Membership cost for the first time and, providing all rejoin, this will generate additional income of £1,848.00. No provision has been made for potential new Members that we hope to recruit from our 2025 Taster Days.

Alan Coul said Lloyds Bank have now advised him that they have changed our Current Bank Account to a Community Account for their services. This creates a monthly Fee plus additional unspecified costs. He said he would like to investigate other banks. All in agreement.

Discussion ensued regarding dates for Taster Weekends. The following dates were agreed for 2025:

Last weekend of April (26th and 27th)
First weekend of May (3rd and 4th)

Alan Coul also spoke about our Electricity Agreement with SSE. Our present Contract ends on the 31st January, 2025 currently paying 27.6p per Kwh. A new two year Contract has been negotiated at a fixed price of 25.1p per Kwh.

New Greenkeeping Equipment is required, currently budgeted at £2,000.00.
Action by: Alan Coul and Phil Prince.

5) **Greenkeeper's Report**

Phil Prince is very happy with turnout of volunteers for maintenance. Although we are limited with what we can do at this time of year weather wise. Spoke about the sheds they could do with a bit of maintenance. Also there are wasps in green and the yellow patches was also discussed. He said Greensleeves will charge £100 per moss treatment when required. Nothing else to report on.

6) **Captain's Report**

Nothing much to report on. There are two leagues on the board for members to compete in. We are just waiting for the New Forest Fixture List - no action until then.

Short-mat which is held on Wednesday afternoon is going very well. Players pay £3.00 per session, thus generating income.

7) **Membership**

a) Keith Shaw said all membership forms have been delivered. Renewal date is 1st February, 2025. He asked if we were going to provide coffee/tea and biscuits when members attend to pay their annual payment. Chrissy Haxby-Thompson and Sandra Campbell will do this - 10 to 12 noon.

b) Lesley Skerman asked whether new members should be sent forms by e-mail. There was a discussion but general consensus was that there seems to be difficulty in downloading same. Alan Coul said we have discussed an electronic renewal system which would simplify the whole process. Members need to own a printer.

The topic remains open.

8) **Correspondence**

Sandra Campbell has received two requests from Isle of Wight (Kim Stent) and Torbay Country Bowling Club, Devon (Mary Jenkins) bowling clubs. They have both asked if we can accommodate them on the 17th May, 2025 with six mixed rinks for 18 bowlers. After discussion it was decided that as a small club (with no bar and small changing rooms) we should decline this. Sandra Campbell will reply to both to this effect.
Action by: Sandra Campbell

Sue Dooley had forwarded to Sandra Campbell the Bournemouth and District Entry Forms 2025. This is something we do not seem to enter.

No other correspondence.

9) **Publicity**

a) Katie Ford (Publicity Officer) has produced and sent out a new News Letter with lots of information. Sponsorship was discussed as this is something we need to progress. The Council, The Hub, The Heritage Centre should be approached. It is difficult as no-one seems to want to part with any money. It was decided that in March Keith Newman and Katie Ford should visit these establishments with a view to sponsorship. Castleman Estate Agents should also be approached to replicate their Donation of £100 for 2024.
Action by: Katie Ford and Keith Newman.

b) Taster Days - Chrissy Haxby Thompson suggested we should advertise these weekends on our outside Notice Board (agreed).

c) Alan Coul will arrange a live on-air Forest FM radio interview for advertising our Taster Days.
Action by: Alan Coul.

10) **Fixtures**

Nothing to report on at the moment. Still awaiting paperwork from New Forest.

11) **Social Events**

a) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said everyone seemed to enjoy the Christmas lunch at Remedy Oak Golf Club. It was agreed that it was better that the annual Trophy Presentation occurs at the Club rather than at the Christmas lunch.

b) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said we must advertise more during the winter months in order to publicise social events at the club. Guests are welcome to attend our quizzes, we can accommodate 36 people (40 maximum). It was agreed that we should advertise our club social events.

c) Katie Ford is sending out a News Letter once a month which advertises the monthly social events.

12) **Any Other Business**

a) Steve Green proposed we send out leaflet to new members to give them the opportunity to learn about the basic rules of the game of bowls, competitions etc.. Agreed.

b) Keith Newman asked if anyone knew where the Defects Book was. He is unable to locate it at the moment.

c) There is still a problem with sending large number of e-mails out at the same time. Should address it to yourself and then send to Recipients on BCC. Keith Shaw said he would make sure all Committee members are on the Website.
Action by: Keith Shaw.

d) Barry Chick said there will be 24 darters on Tuesday 14th January, 2025 (full). The last darts evening was very successful.

e) Alan Coul wanted to discuss the cost of phone line and Broadband. Currently the annual cost is £400.00 per annum, paid monthly. As the phone is very rarely used and only manned on days when Members attend the Club this is an

unnecessary expense. It was discussed last year when it was thought that a mobile phone might replace our telephone and Broadband system. Alan Coul has a mobile for use by the Club. This was agreed and the current contract with Vodaphone would not be renewed. A basic Pay-As-You-Go Sim Card with Tesco will be required.
Action by: Alan Coul.

f) Phil Prince said the only problem with the above is that the water irrigation system may need some kind of Broadband. Latter is under investigation.
Action by: Phil Prince and Keith Newman.

g) Lesley Skerman and Katie Ford are on Facebook. Lesley said that a bowler had enquired through Facebook about coming to try at our club. Keith Shaw not on Facebook nor any body else on the Committee.

h) Barry Chick asked if we could go to Costco to get our supplies. We could but nothing was decided.

i) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said we need to organise cleaners for the Clubhouse. Sue and Bob Child have been doing it all the time and it is time somebody else took over.

Katie Ford to advertise in the News Letter for volunteers, two required per session. If we can get ten or twelve people to volunteer, to clean on alternative weeks, then it would mean each pair would only clean every five or six weeks.

A meeting has been arranged for 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday 15th January, 2025 at the Clubhouse. Chrissy Haxby-Thompson, Alan Coul, Steve Green and Sandra Campbell plus Sue Child to attend.

j) Still need a meeting to dispose of unwanted items in Clubhouse.

k) Phil Prince suggested we should have hot-air hand blowers put in both toilets. This was agreed and Alan Coul to look into prices for purchase and installation.
Action by: Alan Coul.

13) **Date of Next Meeting**

As there was no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 11.40 a.m.. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 12 February, 2025 at 10.00 a.m..