VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING
9 APRIL, 2025

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

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

All Committee members present.

2) **Approval of Minutes of Management Meeting March 2025**

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

3) **Safeguarding Officer's Report**

a) Steve Green has followed up on the query from Sue Maggs at Bowls Dorset regarding his status in terms of training and DBS. We are now confirmed as fully compliant with the County.

b) Bowls Dorset will fund initial DBS checks for affiliated clubs. They have all the details they need to process that for us.

c) Steve Green has put together an announcement and introduction for the website which he will forward to Geoff to upload. He has also posted it on the noticeboard. Steve Green also asked for it to be included in the May Newsletter (Katie Ford).

d) Steve Green said he had built a greater awareness from recent on-line sessions/ webinars:
'Is your club ready for the season ahead?' (Bowls Development Alliance) - this was a really good opportunity to share with, and learn from other Bowls Clubs. We are in a good place and pretty much aligned with requirement. It became apparent that there is a surge of new Safeguarding Officers recently on account of the mandate deadline approaching.

'South West Sports Welfare Forum' attended by a variety of sports clubs from Gloucestershire down to Cornwall. Again, a good opportunity to learn, share and build up a network of support - including our local Sports Welfare Officer.

The message is that everyone has their part to play in Safeguarding and, as one attendee put it, 'It's about everyone looking out for each other'.

e) Recommendation from both Bowls England and Bowls Development Alliance is that all Committee members (including any coaches) complete the short interactive introduction to Safeguarding on-line course. Steve Green will e-mail the link to the Committee members after this meeting.

f) Steve Green has raised the question on the 'Unspent Convictions' being added to future membership forms (that was discussed at the last Committee Meeting) with both Bowls England and Bowls Dorset Association and now have a good example endorsed by both - asking if membership would have a negative impact on our club. Steve Green said we should review our current Membership Form and he is planning to meet with Keith Shaw to review same.

g) There is a Defibrillator Demonstration at 5 p.m. at the Club on Thursday 10th April, 2025. It is anticipated that between 15 and 20 members will attend.

4) **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Coul (now back with us) said everything is looking pretty healthy financially at the moment. We have had several amounts of money given to the Treasurer which is extremely welcomed. Although not all received as yet, £700 has been promised from various people (see **Publicity** - Keith Newman and Katie Ford). There is money to be paid out soon for green maintenance - £1,500.00.

We are in the process of changing Bank accounts from Lloyds to National Westminster. We had signed paperwork but this has been lost and we have re-done the paperwork (signatures) recently.

£1,705.00 was paid out in respect of Christmas meals etc.. This expenditure was reimbursed with an equivalent amount received from members who attended the Christmas meal at Remedy Oak.

Discussion during which Barry Chick handed Alan Coul £665.00 which he had accumulated since beginning of January for our Darts/Fish and Chip Tuesday evenings. These had now ceased until the end of the playing season.

5) **Greenkeeper' Report**

Phil Prince told the meeting that everything was generally alright.

a) There had been a problem with the new machine (Liquid Applicator) and the battery had to be replaced. Since then it is working well.

b) The green has come on very well recently although the cold nights had hindered germination. He is now looking at opening the club on Tuesday the 15th April instead of the 20th which was welcomed by all.

c) Keith Newman asked Phil Prince whether we need to use nets. He said we need not at the moment. With the dry weather water it once a week with one or two sessions with sprinklers. Ken Haxby-Thompson said there was one particular sprinkler not working properly (being looked at).

d) With a 10.30 a.m. opening on Tuesday 15th April dew brushes need to be used (swishing) before the first session. Phil Prince explained that using the dew brush is the best thing. He said there needs to be lunchtime cuts on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. He had put an e-mail out asking for three people per session. The green needs to be prepared for League games. He said some clubs cut every day but we will cut four times a week starting on Friday. **Ken Haxby-Thompson, on behalf of the Committee, would like to thank Phil Prince and the volunteers for their hard work resulting in the green being in excellent condition.**

e) Alan Coul asked if we were going to bowl only one way - Phil Prince said we would be bowling both ways this season.

f) Ken Haxby-Thompson asked if we had ordered the new protection mats yet - Alan Coul replied no, but he will do it when he gets home. Phil Prince has given him all the information he needs (from Nottingham). Cost and delivery charge - £45.95 each (x 4), Swishers (inserts), drag brushes being ordered. Two bags of sand coming this week. (Action - Alan Coul)

g) Barry Chick asked if the watering is on a timer? Phil Prince said it was but Barry Chick explained that he had painted the edges of the green (white) and did not realise the sprinklers would come on - paint washed off. Lack of communication. Notice of Watering Times - Monday, Wednesday and Friday - 12.30 to 3.00 p.m. - during the season the sprinklers will come on during the night.

6) Captain's Report

Dave O'Toole - Team Selection sheets completed. Dorset League - six instead of seven Blandford. Middleton Cup - Ken Haxby-Thompson. Sixpenny Handley - Nil.

a) Barry Chick asked where the New Forest shirts were. Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said we have four of them (men only).
b) Dave O'Toole and Mel Hancock - a Club Policy is choose best team available, but is based on who is available.

7) **Membership**

Keith Shaw - Membership forms discussed. We have older forms and they can be used this year. Keith Shaw will change some details on new ones. The old forms can be used on this year's Taster Days.

a) Keith Shaw is going to organise list of members available for Taster Days.
b) Discussion regarding mentoring new members - this was not done last season. Steve Green and Phil Prince talked about roll-ups and practice nights being a good time to encourage new bowlers and mentor same. Barry Chick said we should encourage new members to come to League games to learn.

8) **Correspondence**

Sandra Campbell has been in contact with Karen Oakes at West Moors. All set for our first Friendly match at West Moors on Wednesday 23rd April, 2025.

9) **Publicity**

Katie Ford and Keith Newman have been very busy canvassing for sponsors in Verwood. If all the sponsorship money is paid, £700 will have been raised.

They have managed a positive result with Andrews Butchers, 1st for Floors, Castleman, Custom Creations, H.G.W. Solicitors, Heathside Travel, Sparks (Barbers). Our sponsors will have banners hung around the ground apart from Castleman who will use a board and H.G.W. Solicitors who will provide us with Will and Probate information to be displayed in the clubhouse. The size of the Banners was discussed and where we place them.

It was agreed to hold a Sponsors Day at the club, probably on a Sunday, as a thank you. It was suggested we should supply tea/coffee and cakes and a game of bowls (date to be arranged). The companies will be included on our Website.

10) **Fixtures**

Blandford fixture up to date and Friendly game at West Moors on the 23rd April, 2025.

11) **Social Events**

a) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson had received a suggestion from Gordon Parkes. He thought we should hold a ex-Military/Veterans fun day on 5th May, 2025. Several ideas had been put forward for this date but as it was the day after our second Taster Weekend, and Street Parties may have been arranged, it was decided this was not possible.

b) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said we should arrange for a wreath to be laid by the Club on the 5th May, 2025. Dave O'Toole said he would organise this. Action: Dave O'Toole.

c) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson asked whether the Rotary Club were still up for a Darts evening with us. To be discussed.

d) Alan Coul reminded the Committee that Chrissy and Alan were being interviewed by FM Radio on Wednesday the 16th April, 2025. This was to advertise our Taster Days being held 26th/27th April and 3rd/4th May, 2025. Chrissy also mentioned that FM Radio attended a Taster Day last year (hopefully will attend this year).

12) **Any Other Business**

a) Katie Ford has the Flyers for the Taster Weekends and will distribute them.

b) Bob Child (Wednesday maintenance) was cleaning the glass table tops this morning when two of them shattered. We have four tables so it was discussed whether to replace the glass with solid tops rather than glass. Agreed and Ken Haxby-Thompson to look into this.

c) Suggestion Box (Keith Newman). Discussion as to where to put it. It was agreed that it will be placed next to the Defibrillator.

d) Dave O'Toole said it would be the last short-mat today. It had been very successful and Dave sent Alan Coul, via Bank Transfer, £581.00. (He also had 1Euro!!!)

e) Phil Prince asked who is organising the Rink Diary this year. It was discussed that we would look at the sheets for last year (organised by Norman Pearce) and see if we needed to amend. Keith Shaw to contact Norman Pearce and ask for the template.

f) It was agreed that, from now on, we would not have a sheet to sign-in when playing at the Club.

g) When bowlers turn up for games we were using playing cards to sort out teams. We now have discs in a bag which are hung up in the clubhouse.

h) Phil Prince mentioned problems with e-mails. The specific point he mentioned was that when people "reply" to an email sent from the club they should always choose the “reply” function and not the “reply to all”. Choosing the “reply to all” just bungs up the inbox of all the people on the distribution list. Where there is a large distribution list e.g. all men players then it can also cause the reply to fail and error messages appear in everyone’s inbox.

i) Barry Chick said all matches now displayed in the Clubhouse and on line.

j) Barry Chick told the Committee that he had been to see Norman Pearce who had a lot of items that he thought we might like (as he is about to move from Verwood). He told us, amongst other things, he had got:

1) Bowls videos (various) which could be transposed onto CD’s which would be handy for new bowlers to view.
2) In the mower shed there were spur shelf supports.
3) Filing cabinet now in Clubhouse.
4) Bowls Stickers (he has ordered 500 and red/blue stickers also ordered).

k) Lesley Skerman said she had spoken to Richard Caddie (electrician) about estimate for heaters in the toilets. Richard Caddie’s estimate £688.16 was the total for:
“Works to 3 hand dyer points, including new mains board. £300 for the new mains and associated equipment for the installation of the hand dryer points £388.16”.
The hand dryers themselves via Ken Haxby-Thompson were extra cost.
It was decided to put it on hold at the moment (Lesley Skerman will let Richard Caddie know). Keith Newman said he will look at new/replacement heaters which, if viable, will save us money.

l) Shortage of pens for scorecards. Ken Haxby-Thompson said he had a box of pens at home we could have.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 11.45 a.m..

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday the 14th May, 2025.