VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING
10 SEPTEMBER, 2025

Present: Ken Haxby-Thompson, Chrissy Haxby-Thompson, Phil Prince, Alan Coul, Lesley Skerman, Keith Newman, Keith Shaw, Dave O'Toole, Mal Hancock, Barry Chick, Sandra Campbell.

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

Apology for Absence received from Steve Green and Katie Ford.

2) **Approval of Minutes of Management Meeting 13th August, 2025**

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

3) **Safeguarding Officer's Report**

Steve Green (Safeguarding Officer) sent his apologies. He asked that we mention he has sent a communication to the Committee regarding the potential amalgamation of Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowling Association. The e-mail is also posted on the Noticeboard in the Club.

Ken Haxby-Thompson said he knew that this amalgamation has now been approved.

4) **Competitions Officer's Report**

Barry Chick not a lot to report as all games have now been concluded. Finals Days are this Friday and Saturday. Trophies have all been returned. Winners and Runners-Up names will be put on Trophies following Finals Weekend. Everything is ready for Friday morning.

5) **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Coul reported that we are holding £22,700.00 (the bulk of which is in the Deposit Account). We have had to pay £804.00 for the irrigation bill.

6) **Greenkeeper's Report**

Phil Prince (Greenkeeper) reported as follows. He said there is a lot of work to be carried out following end of season (scarifying etc.). The intention is that next Monday moss killer will be put down and then scarify the following week. He said maybe we should order some different kind of seed because of the dry spots. However, by the time it is down acorns will be falling as well as leaf fall. Phil Prince told the Committee that he has a Cardio problem but hopefully this will not affect things too much. When we have a general meeting Phil said he will be asking for more help.

Ken Haxby-Thompson said more support is needed or maybe we will have to pay someone to carry out another cut on a Saturday.

Phil Prince said the Oak tree issue has not progressed so far. Hopefully he may be able to progress it to enable a report for the next Committee Meeting. He said it has been noticed that the Council and other staff had been dredging the stream adjacent to the tree.

7) **Captain's Report**

Dave O'Toole told the Committee that the Friendly game at Sixpenny-Handley has been arranged for Sunday the 21st September, 2025. He asked for car-share if possible.

Dave O'Toole said we won the game at Gillingham which was our last match. We ended up second to bottom and may be relegated from Division 3 to Division 4 in New Forest Bowls.

8) **Membership**

Keith Shaw reported that we have had a very successful season with new members joining. At a recent roll-up 24 members attended which shows new members are joining in.

12) **Social Secretary**

As Chrissy Haxby-Thompson had a medical appointment her report was brought forward.

i) Date for prize giving needs to be arranged. After discussion it was decided that Presentation Day would be **25th October, 2025 at 12 noon**

ii) Fish and Chip and Darts evening. There will be a maximum number of 24 participants. It will be held fortnightly the first date being **7th October, 2025**.

iii) Short Mat in the Club will commence on **Wednesday 17th September, 2025 at 2 p.m.** (it will be held weekly). Organised by Dave O'Toole.

iv) The new Trophy Cabinet is to be relocated as it is in the way of the Short Mat games.

9) **Correspondence**

i) Sandra Campbell told the Committee Lesley Skerman had forwarded a message from Janet Ballard regarding the NFWBA Management Meeting to be held on Tuesday 30th September, 2025 at Brockenhurst. After discussion it was decided that none of us at the Meeting could attend.
ACTION: Lesley Skerman said she would reply to Janet Ballard giving our apologies.

ii) A 2026 Open Tournament form had been sent to the Club Secretary. This competition is to be held at Lyme Regis from Saturday 20th June, 2026 to Thursday 25th June, 2026. After discussion it was decided that the form would be put up on the Noticeboard. The travelling distance from Verwood to Lyme Regis is 1 hour 34 minutes.
ACTION: Sandra Campbell to put the form on the Noticeboard.

iii) Sandra Campbell received an e-mail from Andy Wilson (President and Match Secretary NFBA). Part of the message read '*In accordance with NFBA rules we now look to the next club in sequence (Verwood BC) in order to see if they can put forward a nominee for election as VP (Vice President)'*. Following discussion it was decided that we are not in a position to put a nominee forward.
ACTION: Sandra Campbell will contact Andy Wilson (President and Match Secretary New Forest Bowling Association). She will send our apologies for not being able to put a nominee forward.

iv) Sandra Campbell has sent a thank you card to Martin Gilham (Chairman of the Verwood Football Club). Steve Tubbs spoke to Mr. Gilham as he knew they had a trophy cabinet at the club which was not used. Mr. Gilham told Steve Tubbs we could have it as we had a use for it. Steve Tubbs was mentioned in the thank-you card.

10) **Publicity**

Ken Haxby-Thompson previously circulated a note regarding the booking on system. However last month a new format was included in the minutes (Katie Ford). Following discussions Phil Prince has amended this as follows:

NEW MANDATORY PRACTISE:

There are 6 numbered discs in a bag and 6 numbered hooks, which relate to the 6 rinks. These should be used in conjunction with the procedures set out below.

***Repeated Bookings**:*

The rink book already contains entries for rinks reserved for repeated activities such as league matches. These should not be altered.

***Internal Competitions**:*

Once a date and time has been decided, it is the competitors' responsibility to go to the club, draw a disc to reserve a rink (which has not already been reserved) for the game, replace the disc in the bag and then update the rink book. This should be done by blocking out the selected rink number column for the expected duration of the game. The entry should also name the players and add the word 'drawn'. Immediately prior to commencement of the game, the "challenger" should remove the drawn disc from the bag and put it on the numbered hook for the duration of the game.

***Casual play**:*

You can use the procedure above for booking a rink in advance.

If you decide to just turn up on the day to play, you should select your rink from the unreserved rinks by drawing a disc at random from the bag - however if you start on a rink already booked for later that day, you must finish your play well before the reserved game is due to start and quit that rink. You must in any event also enter the details of your game into the rink booking diary prior to commencing play.

Lesley Skerman asked how this would fit in with the automatic booking-on system. Keith Shaw said we would not need this in the future if we do have a booking-on system on line. (See Any Other Business).

11) **Fixtures**

End of season.

13) **Any Other Business**

i) Keith Newman has found an on-line booking system which could replace the paper system - he sent a short-cut of this to the committee members, received. The system is the same as the one used by Ken Haxby-Thompson at the Dolphin centre. There are three grades - Bronze, Silver and Gold with a

different price for each. It needs discussion before we proceed. The system we would probably get is the Silver one at £24.00 per month and it would have to be paid in advance.

Phil Prince queried the logging on. Keith Newman said there are two levels. Administrator is the higher level. There was a discussion regarding how we would use this and would it work for us. Lesley Skerman asked if there would have to be someone looking after it (for further discussion). Keith Newman said we would need a laptop situated in the club for everyone to be able to log in to and check. Also a screen would need to be in the club.

After discussion, Keith Newman said he will bring a television screen into the club and show us the demonstration he has put together. This will be at **10 a.m. on Wednesday 24th September, 2025** for the Committee so that a decision can be made as to whether we use this in the future. He said he will also send out an e-mail asking if anyone has a laptop to we can have as we will need one for booking on etc..

ii) Phil Prince - obtaining Land Registry documents - ongoing.

iii) New Mandatory Practise - see Publicity above.

iv) CCTV system. We have an old system at the moment. We should invest in a new system. Lesley Skerman asked if we could have a movement only system - yes.
ACTION: Keith Newman to investigate pricing.

v) Finals Days coming up. Tea/coffee and biscuits free.

vi) Ken Haxby-Thompson told the Committee that Alan Wase (coach) will be holding tutorials on the ethics of bowls and also marking cards.

vii) Oak Tree in grounds next to house. Sue Dooley has previously spoken to the owner and said our insurance does not cover us to work on her side of the hedge. Phil Prince has also spoken to her and told her she will have to get someone to cut her side of the hedge (this is due to fencing on her side encroaching part of the top of the hedge (to deter cats)). He said we are quite happy to cut our side and help with the sweeping up of acorns.

The meeting was concluded at 11.20 a.m..

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday the 7th October, 2025 at 10 a.m..