VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY, 2026

Present: Ken Haxby-Thompson, Chrissy Haxby-Thompson, Sandra Campbell, Keith Newman, Alan Coul, Steve Green, David O'Toole, Mal Hancock, Phil Prince, Barry Chick, Angela Daymond and Keith Shaw.

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence** - No apologies received.

2) **Approval of Minutes of Committee Meeting 14th January, 2026**

Angela Daymond wanted to amend a point in the previous minutes. As she sits on the Solar Farm Committee it would be a conflict of interest for her to put forward a request for a grant for the Verwood Bowling Club. Noted.

3) **Safeguarding Officer's Report**

i) PAT Testing. Steve Green has booked testing for Monday 23rd February, 2026 with a local company (New Forest Portable Appliance Testing). The cost is £55 including first 10 items (£1.50 per item thereafter). Thank you to Mal Cleife who replied as a follow-up from a question raised at an earlier meeting on this subject.

ii) Alan Wase has informed Steve Green that he has commenced his DBS application in line with his capacity as Coach. This is the recommended action and will place us as fully compliant. We will have to fund this. Steve Green enquired with County and they only fund Safeguarding DBS. The cost for the club is therefore £20.00.

iii) Amendments to our Constitution in relation to R9 are in hand.

iv) Suggestion Slips. There was one suggestion slip in the box containing two suggestions. This will be covered during Any Other business.

4) **Competitions Officer's Report**

Barry Chick told the Committee there was not a lot to report at this time until BOWLR is up and running. Phil Prince asked if the competitions this year would be drawn out of a hat - the answer was yes.

No meeting arranged to discuss who is in what competitions at the moment - 23rd May Rev. Williams.

Angela Daymond brought up the fact that there was a difficulty with too many e-mails being sent out at one time. Nothing decided how we could deal with this.

5) **Treasurer's Report**

i) Alan Coul said we had a very successful recruitment this year. £10,100.00 in joining fees and £30,034.00 in Bank at present time.

ii) We now have an account with Vodaphone for our club phone. They have given us a half-price account for this year (Barry Chick dealing with this). We were out of contract with our other provider hence new contract with Vodaphone. It is a two year contract, cost will be £25.00 for the first year (was £40.00 before). Ownership of the account will change from Barry Chick to Alan Coul.

iii) Angela Damond set out in an e-mail what is required for us to submit an application for a grant from the Solar Farm Committee. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this and how we could set out our outgoings for the coming year. Phil Prince said we would very likely have other bills to face i.e. new Sprinklers (x 4), trees, fences, machinery. Steve Green asked whether we could emphasise that this past and coming year will have been exceptional as far as outgoings are concerned.

Phil Prince - **Minimum Financial Reserves**
"The club aims to maintain minimum Financial Reserves equivalent to one year's expenditure (based on the average of the latest 3 years of expenditure) plus a contingency sum* of £10,000.00. The reserves figure used in this test is the current financial year's opening balance less any actual and anticipated extraordinary expenditure in the current year.
*Such a contingency sum to be reviewed periodically"

What we need to approve is the principle not a specific sum. The proposal is "the average of the last 3 years normal expenditures + aa additional sum, say £10,000 for any "unknown" major expenditure".

6) **Greenkeeper's Report**

i) Wet weather hindered maintenance of the green in the last month. We have been replacing edging and there has been a good turn out of volunteers. Nigel Crowhurst and Tim Garrick new volunteers on a Wednesday. Malcolm Cleife

has also volunteered and they are here today. Brian Dooley has joined as a playing member (last year he helped even though he was only a social member).

ii) Phil Prince has sent Alan Coul a couple of quotes for work on trees which is required (£1,000.00). This quote will increase because it did not cover another tree which could be a danger. We have also had a quote from a Fencer including concrete posts etc.. This is for just under £4,000.00. No-one else has been approached as we are happy with this quote. Discussion. Angela Daymond on Committee for Solar Farm, if we get the quote ready it could be put forward at next meeting. It is very wet at the moment so fencing may not be done at this time. However, it is thought he will go ahead as soon as possible. Phil Prince said we need to send a note to the Town Clerk Council regarding this work although we cannot go ahead with the work until the grant is approved. Ken Haxby-Thompson said we should contact the fencer to say we are awaiting result of grant from Solar Farm Committee.

iii) Sprinklers - Keith Newman reported on where we are concerning the replacement of the four sprinklers. Stewart, who runs the company has promised he will do the work. Keith is chasing him all the time and he should come back in the next couple of days. Keith will chase him again this week if he has not contacted us. It is a specialist job.

7) **Captain's Report**

Dave O'Toole said there was a new date for Percy Baker competition (he will put it up on the board in the club). Division 5, New Forest - six players including two ladies. Division 4 - one lady. Bournemouth and District, Saturday 28th February, 2026. Not entering this this year as we have in-house competitions organised. Dave O'Toole will e-mail Sue Dooley with this information.

8) **Membership Secretary**

Keith Shaw reported that 18 playing members have not yet indicated they will rejoin. Of these Kevin Parry, Alan Wase and Sandra Wase had yet to pay (Ken Haxby-Thompson said that Alan and Sandra Wase are at this time on holiday in Mexico but he assured the Committee they will complete their membership on their return). We have five new playing members being either new to the club or upgraded from Social membership. Twenty of last year's joiners have rejoined, ten have not. Keith calculated that if Kevin, Sandra and Alan rejoin then we will be 2.5 subscriptions up on last year. We now have: Men - 48; Ladies - 24; Social - 33; Juniors - 2.

Following discussion Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said she will telephone several members who have not rejoined.

Keith Shaw wanted to discuss Aussie Pairs competition. He thinks people are interested but are concerned about changes. People are concerned about how it works. Also why are we not having a Roll-Up on a Tuesday.

ACTION: Ken Haxby-Thompson - These issues will be discussed and reported on at next Committee Meeting.

After discussion - a Roll-Up will still be held on a Tuesday morning.

Phil Prince said Rink 1 will need to be blocked as it needs to have time to reestablish itself (it suffered last year with lack of water because of the trees). Phil Prince will keep an eye on it and let everyone know when it can be used again.

9) **Correspondence**

i) Annual Affiliation Fees - Sandra Campbell said she had received the form which has to be completed and sent off before the 1st April, 2026. She will liaise with Alan Coul and ensure it is completed and returned on time.

ii) NFWBA League Fixtures and Knockout Competition. Sandra Campbell has sent a message out to the lady players asking if anyone is interested in entering these competitions. So far she has only received one positive reply. Phil Prince suggested it is left for another week for any replies. This will be done and if there is no interest she will inform the NFWBA.

iii) Sandra Campbell told the Committee that she is quite happy to remain as Club Secretary. However she does not want to remain as Ladies Captain. It is hoped one of the other ladies will take on this role.
It was suggested that Angela Daymond, Chrissy Haxby-Thompson and Sandra Campbell could hold a meeting with the lady players to see if anyone is interested in taking on this role and finding out why there is such a low response to playing competitions.

10) **Ladies Secretary**

Still vacant.

11) **Publicity**

i) Applying for a Grant from the Solar Farm Committee was discussed. See 5) Treasurer's Report above.

ii) Angela Daymond said she is sending a photograph to Verwood Vista magazine so we can advertise our club Open Days.

iii) Angela Daymond said her publicity e-mails are short so easy to print and to the point.

iv) Query whether the dates were correct for Taster Days on the Website. The dates are correct - they are the weekends 2nd and 3rd May, 2026 and 9th and 10th May, 2026.

v) There was discussion whether the wording under the photograph on the Website would attract outsiders. Ken Haxby-Thompson said he thought the wording was fine.

12) **Fixtures**

This is to be pursued. We need to look at our diaries before we look for friendlies with other clubs.

13) **Social Events**

i) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said we have not had such a good turnout recently. She thought it was maybe because the weather has been so wet and cold. There followed a discussion whether we should re-think our social calendar. There is still Stewart Rennie's quiz at the end of this month.

iii) Comments were made about the fish and chip supper on Dart Nights - not so good as it was. Maybe we could think about serving Pizzas instead of the fish and chips. Steve Green said he would be happy to cover the darts nights when Barry Chick was unable to do so.
ACTION: Thanked Steve Green and accepted his offer. Also let the Committee know any comments about the fish and chips/Pizzas.

14) **Any Other Business**

i) The Committee all read the letter from Peter Campbell reference reasons Bob Child (and Sue Child) have not renewed this year. Steve Green said the first question is how have we lost them? There followed a discussion about the content of the letter. One reason set out was Alcohol in the club. Chrissy Haxby-Thompson suggested Angela Daymond arranges a meeting with Trustees to see what their views are on the subject. We have all talked about the club being small and we would not be able to have a bar. Should there be a variation in the Deeds (Angela Daymond).

The first step is to speak to the Trustees. Second step question whether we need a Licence. Third step Steve Green will look at the reasons for a Licence etc..

ACTION: A letter will be sent to Bob (and Sue) Child from the Committee. This is to thank Bob for all his hard work. Also to tell him that we are looking into the content of Peter Campbell's letter.

ii) We need an electrician to look at the socket under the darts board. May be overloaded.
ACTION: Steve Green will speak to the PAT electrician to see if it needs changing and if so will he carry out the work.

iii) As stated in the last minutes Alan Wase will undertake repairs to the broken bench. However, following advice, we will not proceed with the construction of a Stimpmeter.

iv) Keith Shaw said the renewal sheets this year worked really well. Geoff (Webmaster) has said he can do something through the Website. However, Phil Prince said we should leave it as it is.

v) There has been very little response to ladies entering league competitions. Chrissy Haxby-Thompson suggested a meeting be arranged soon (Angela Daymond and Sandra Campbell).

vi) Keith Newman handed out a BOWLR Login Details form to each Committee Member. This will allow them to log on to the Members Portal. He explained it is not live so it is just a chance for members to explore the site. We have gone ahead with this system so meetings will be arranged for anyone who will need assistance.

Keith Newman and Keith Shaw have arranged a meeting for Friday the 13th March, 2026 at 1 p.m..

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 12.25 p.m.. The next Committee Meeting will be held Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 10.00 a.m..