VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING
12 FEBRUARY, 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, Sandra Campbell.

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Keith Shaw (on holiday) and Alan Coul (in hospital). Ken Haxby-Thompson updated all present regarding latest news on Alan Coul. Everyone wished him well and offered their assistance if needed.

2) **Approval of Minutes of Management Meeting held on 8 January,2025**

Phil Prince said there was no issue with wasps (as stated in Minutes) but with Leatherjackets. Ken Haxby-Thompson then signed and dated minutes for filing and viewing by members.

3) **Safeguarding Officer's Report**

a) Steve Green (Safeguarding Officer) asked that we confirm agreement to the Anti-Bullying Policy that he e-mailed to all last week. Agreement confirmed by Committee members.

b) Steve Green said he is building a folder of all the agreed Policies to date and this completes the recommended set (tempered to our club). As a result he will now display it all on our Noticeboard in a month or so. We will then be set up. He also said we have a good club, friendly and welcoming.

c) Steve Green asked for the 'March 2025 BDA Weeks of Learning Programme' to be sent to all Committee members (which was done). Steve Green has enrolled for 'Safeguarding: Is your club ready for the season ahead?' He said there are quite a few different sessions, on a variety of topics. And as a bonus are free.

d) Steve Green has checked the wall mounted First-Aid Kit and all is good. (We do have another (older) kit out in the kitchen. He has sorted through and removed all the out-of-date material).

4) **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Coul, as reported above, in hospital at the moment. Chrissy and Ken Haxby-Thompson in contact with him. As far as the finances are concerned, everything is up-to-date and there is £19,000.00 in the deposit account. This is being overseen, in the absence of Alan Coul, by Chrissy and Ken Haxby-Thompson.

Following the payment day on 1st February, 2025 there was a discussion on the number of social members we have. Worrying number compared with playing members.

5) **Greenkeeper's Report**

a) Liquid sprayer for green purchased and being used. There are lines where it was missed so will be done again to cover whole area. Better than using contractor (Iron Sulphate Moss Killer).

b) There will be further Leatherjacket treatment in the Spring, ongoing. There are bird pickings noticed on green which we will have to keep an eye on.

c) Volunteers still good and the shed is being painted this morning.

6) **Captain's Report**

Chris Fripp sent the following New Rule for Division 4 to Dave O'Toole:

'League Division 4 (a) Composition - Division 4 will be made up of not more than eight teams comprising 4 rinks of triples and will play home and away games with each other team in accordance with the Division's programme. The club's lady bowlers are permitted to play in this Division but at least two men must be included in each triple. Promotion to Division 3 will only be possible if the team has 12 male bowlers for Division 3 LEAGUE DIVISION 5(b) Composition - Division 5 will be made up of not more than eight teams comprising 2 rinks of triples and will play home and away games with each other team in accordance with the Division's programme. The club's lady bowlers are permitted to play in this Division but at least one man must be included in each triple'.

Does this interest in the new rule mean Verwood are not interested in swapping places with Downton in Division 3?'

Dave O'Toole said we have a problem as we have not heard from Downton yet. Division 4 and 5 can be played by ladies and gents (but not just ladies). All Fixtures are in place at the moment but we need more names. This is a quiet time of year in respect of Leagues.

7) **Membership Secretary's Report**

Keith Shaw away at present. He submitted his report as follows:

'Following the Membership Renewal Coffee Morning, and a number of telephone conversations, I can now report on the status of renewals for the coming season.

A number of members have declined to renew their membership:

Brian and Brenda Hall; John Mcquirk*; James Milne; Lawrence Northam*; Barry Papworth; Steve Sheppard; Michael and Sue Whitting*

Those marked with * joined in 2024 the others in 2023.

The reason given for most leaving was poor health though two of the 2024 members said that they just hadn't managed to play more than a couple of times. I wonder if we could be more proactive with new members and specifically encourage them to come to roll-ups and other events.

A number of playing members have re-joined as Social Members:

Geoff Batstone; Tony Bird; Erica Bradley; Brian and Sue Dooley; Norman and Sue Pearce; Geraldine Ribbons.

Two of the above joined in 2024.

We have one new Playing Member - Robin Peirce who is willing to play in competitions and leagues.

We have two new Social Members - Peter and Sheila Everett.

One member has switched from Social to Playing Membership - Penny Cooper.

I have not heard from one Playing Member despite phoning - Daniel Ferguson (Joined 2024). I have not had a response from six Social Members'.
(Keith Shaw 07/Feb/2025)

8) **Correspondence**

Correspondence received has been acknowledged.

a) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson, Sandra Campbell and Katie Ford are meeting up with the West Moors lady bowlers for coffee on Tuesday 18th February, 2025 (Karen Oakes). We have had e-mails from several clubs (Devon and Isle of Wight) asking if they could book games with us. Unfortunately because of the size of our club and number of lady players we have had to say no. However, a message from the Lady Captain of West Moors had asked if we could play some friendlies with them, hence the meeting next week. Sandra Campbell will update the Committee at the next Committee Meeting

b) Sandra Campbell and Chrissy Haxby-Thompson will be attending the New Forest WBA Spring Meeting being held on Thursday 27th February, 2025 at Brockenhurst Bowling Club.

c) New Phone - There are still a few weeks left before the existing phone contract expires therefore still available. Wi-Fi working on new phone.

9) **Publicity**

a) Katie Ford showed new layout for Taster Days. Discussed and changes made. Discussion regarding advertising the club showing benefits of joining us.

b) Discussion about distributing leaflets around the village. A5 holders are available. To advertise in Verwood Magazine costs £75.00 for a quarter page. It was thought it was not worth the money for the amount of response we get. Katie is being mentored by Keith Newman in order that hopefully we can get more sponsorship. Lots of companies mentioned, Katie Ford and Keith Newman to approach them regarding this.

c) Phil Prince said Bowls Dorset are advertising 'Get Outdoors' on Dorset Council, we are not in this. Also should we ask about advertising at the local Doctors surgeries.
Action - Katie Ford.

d) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson asked Katie Ford to advertise on Facebook etc for club.
Action - Katie Ford.

e) Alan Coul and Chrissy Haxby-Thompson are going to be on Forest FM 92.3 to advertise Taster Day weekends (as they were last year).

10) **Fixtures**

All fixtures now on boards in Club.

11) **Social Events**

a) Call My Bluff quiz being arranged for another evening. Enjoyed but it was thought too short. Chrissy Haxby-Thompson has discussed with organisers and it has been suggested we have a break in the middle. Initial cost to Air Ambulance was £65.00, there was a voluntary collection of approximately £50.00 and Verwood Bowls Club made £90.00.

b) Tony Bird is running Diverse and Eclectic Quiz on Friday 7th March, 2025.

c) Keith Newman and Mal Hancock are running Mega Music Extravaganza on Friday 4 April, 2025. Keith Newman asked if people could donate prizes which would mean more money for the club from the proceeds. Phil Prince asked if there could be play-off questions?

d) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson suggested we run something on May 5 (Monday Bank Holiday). Maybe a BBQ and bowls game. Katie to advertise to see how many people interested. Good idea but we have to think about the Taster Weekend on the 3 and 4 May (Saturday and Sunday) would we have enough time to organise it.
Action - Katie Ford.

e) Lesley Skerman had discussed with Sandra Campbell whether we could hold a Chilli evening with some kind of event alongside (maybe Rotary Club and Club Members darts competition). To be discussed further.

12) **Any Other Business**

a) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson has organised and advertised for members to clean the club weekly. This has been needed as Sue Child and Bob Child have been carrying this out on their own. Volunteers had come forward. There will be two people per week and because of the number of volunteers means any one couple will only work once every five or six weeks.

b) Barry Chick raised several points:

1) We have discussed any members of Costco (who would be willing to get supplies from Costco). It was decided that we could get these when Morrisons etc. have offers on.

2) A date needs to be set for the Competition Draw on a Saturday. This to be added as Any Other Business on next month's Agenda.

3) List of Entries by Keith Shaw for beginning of April.

c) Dave O'Toole said the friendlies with Cranbourne/Sixpenny Handley clubs have not been decided yet. He will let us know when received.

d) Lesley Skerman asked if we had got any further with the hand dryers in the toilets (to replace paper towels). We know that the electrics will cost so it was decided that Richard Caddy (electrician) would be contacted for an estimate. Chrissy Haxby-Thompson to contact him. We know the cost of the hand dryers already. They may be subject of a grant. Alan Coul is going to be asked to contact the Town Council (Solar Farm) to see if this is viable.

e) There was a suggestion made regarding the club having a Suggestion Box fitted. It was thought to be a good idea. To be added as Any Other Business on next months Agenda.

f) Lesley Skerman asked if the Winter Programme (fish and chip/darts night) could be carried on all year as it was so popular. Discussion about this but it was decided that we would be too busy during playing season and it would interfere with any roll-up/competition during the evening. There are other events taking place, Trophy Event people get-together.

g) Defects Book located and is now on display in the club (Keith Newman).

h) The Committee would like to thank Angela Daymond for her e-mail raising several items of interest. We would always encourage members to let us know if they have anything they wish to draw to our attention. These can always be added to our Agenda to be discussed at the Committee Meeting, as was Angela Daymonds e-mail.

i) Watering the green will commence at the end of April. Keith Newman said the jet needs repairing before then. Also there will be no Internet/Broadband following the end of the telephone contract.

j) As of last month's Minutes, any owners of bags and paraphernalia which has been left for sale etc. need to remove them by today's date. As nothing has been removed it will be disposed of today.

As there was no other business the meeting was closed by Ken Haxby-Thompson.
The next meeting will be on Wednesday the 12 March, 2025 at 10.00 a.m.