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

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Alan Coul. Alan is still recovering from his stay in hospital. We all wished him a speedy recovery.

2) **Approval of Minutes of Management Meeting February 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 informed the meeting that Sandra Campbell had received a query from Sue Maggs at Bowls Dorset regarding the status of both his DBS Check and Safeguarding Training. He has replied to her with full details of his recent DBS Certificate and Training Sessions that he has attended. He does not believe there are any issues and currently awaits a reply.

b) Bowls Dorset are offering funding for 1 x DBS Check per club so once sorted Steve Green will liaise with Alan Coul.

c) Steve Green has started a Safeguarding section on our noticeboard. He will contact Geoff Symonds to put an announcement and introduction on the website as well (again once the query is sorted).

d) There are two upcoming awareness sessions:
   a) Is your club ready for the season ahead? (Bowls Development Alliance)
   b) South West Sports Forum Adult Safeguarding.

e) The latest bulletin from Bowls England as a focus on Safer Membership. There is a new requirement from our Governing Body (Bowls England) to include the following question - "Do you have any unspent convictions, terms or cautions?" New Forest has also communicated to check we have seen this with some good advice and reasoning. It is a proactive question to safeguard our membership to include on any new membership forms from next season for next year. Bowls England have also sent an example of a membership for which we should correlate with ours. Steve Green to meet with Keith Shaw to review.
Action: Steve Green and Keith Shaw to set up meeting.

f) There is a Defibrillator Awareness Session on the 10h April, 2025. Steve Green will put a further announcement out asking for confirmation of attendance which will help to get an understanding of numbers.

4) **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Coul sent his sincere apologies for his absence at this meeting. He reported as follows:

"Our financial resources as of today stand at £20,700.00. Immediate liabilities are about £700.00 with £641.30 due for Affiliation Fees.

Regrettably we have lost a number of Playing Members for a variety of reasons which has impacted our Subscription Income by about £1,100.00. Two more sparkling Taster Weekends are required!!

Our Live Broadcast with Forest FM has ben arranged for Wednesday the 16th April, 2025.

Have a good meeting."

5) **Greenkeeper's Report**

Phil Prince reported as follows:

a) We are trying to recover from winter damage. Moss/scarifying. Topping with sand where necessary etc. hopefully will help and generally looking better than last year. With regards to Leatherjackets another treatment will be necessary in the Spring.

b) We have a new Liquid Applicator. There was a problem with the battery running down (short circuit). A phone call was made to the company purchased from and a decision was made to replace the battery as it was defunct.

c) Feed has been added to the main tank and spread. Sprayed to get the seed working/germination.

d) Phil Prince said he was very pleased with the volunteers still attending.

6) **Captain's Report**

Dave O'Toole said there was nothing to report at the moment. He had not received any replies regarding friendlies.

Division 3 Fixtures now displayed on the board. Division 4 Mixed and Division 5 now in Division 3 not 4.

Dave O'Toole and Mal Hancock are attending meeting at Dorchester Bowls Club on 17th March, 2025.

7) **Membership**

Keith Shaw told the meeting that there was not a lot to report. Mr. and Mrs. Hall and Mr. And Mrs. Whitting have renewed as Social Members. The members list can now be looked at and edited. Action: Keith Shaw

8) **Correspondence**

a) Sandra Campbell sent details of Playing Members and form to Sue Maggs for Annual Affiliation fees - Alan Coul to send £641.30 to her by end of month.

b) Discussion regarding Broadband and club phone. Phil Prince suggested we cancel both and look at it later maybe a Pay-As-You-Go phone. Chrissie Haxby-Thompson suggested we take a vote on it - this resulted in a majority voting to keep the phone and Broadband

9) **Publicity**

Katie Ford and Keith Newman have been visiting shops etc. around Verwood requesting our flyers to be displayed on their premises (Aroma Coffee Shop (stand), Butchers, Costa Coffee, The Hub, Irvine Estate Agents, Council offices (A4 in Council). Peter Campbell is going to place one with the Rotary Club.

Katie Ford to try Library (there is also Tesco, Co-Op and the Memorial Hall. It seems they only want to display A5 size). There is one displayed outside the Club on our Notice Board. The committee would like to thank Stewart Rennie for all his work (for free as he did not want payment). A big thank you to him.

10) **Fixtures**

a) Names now on board for Leagues. Roll-Ups on Sunday morning and Tuesday morning 10.30 to 12.30 p.m., and Friday p.m.. Wednesday evening 6 p.m. League Practice. Full season List and general weekly plan to be produced by Ken Haxby-Thompson.

b) On Saturday 5th April, 2025 Barry Chick will pick teams for the Competition Draw. This will be from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

c) Verwood Bowls Club to open on the 20th April, 2025 which is a week later than last year (because of the green).

d) Mal Hancock asked if we were going to reinstate President and Captains Day. It was agreed and a date set for Saturday 16th August, 2025 2 p.m. start (game and BBQ).

e) Fixtures Date for Finals Weekend 12th/13th/14th September, 2025.

f) There will be a Fun Day the weekend before to wind up the season.

g) Sandra Campbell and Chrissy Haxy-Thompson have arranged Friendly Matches with West Moors. The first one will take place on Wednesday the 23rd April, 2025 at West Moors Bowling Club. Sandra Campbell has placed details on the notice board for anyone who is interested to add their name.

11) **Social Events**

a) The last Darts/Fish and Chip evening will be sometime in April (date to be announced).

b) Lesley Skerman has suggested a Chilli evening (may be held together with a Darts competition against the Rotary Club). This has now been put on hold until after the bowling season as it will probably be too busy to arrange it.

12) **Any Other Business**

a) See above Fixtures b).

b) See above Social Events b).

c) Keith Newman asked if there was potential for extending the playing season this year. Phil Prince said we have limited time to regenerate the green, this is the reason why the season is not later. Scarification and re-seed and we have to hope the weather is in our favour. Keith Newman asked if we could play on the green after this was done - Phil Prince said no to this and went on to explain why. Other clubs have the same season length and it is just the way it works. Is artificial green a possibility - no (probably cost etc.).

d) Keith Newman raised the question of having a Suggestion Box in the clubhouse. All agreed. Keith to purchase same and money from Alan Coul.

e) Discussion - Sponsorship on shirts. Barry Chick asked if this could be pursued. Also should we redesign our badge. This has been approached before i.e. having a round badge with Verwood Bowling Club on and our opening date. Needs further discussion. Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said we have sufficient badges for Competition Bowls for this season. If anyone needs a shirt or badge contact Chrissy Haxby-Thompson as she has the supplies.

f) Keith Shaw said there had been a worry about the heat of the plugs on the heaters. They just need to be put on a lower heat setting,

g) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said we need to look at purchasing new mats. This has been raised before and we should do it now before the start of the season. A couple of members had a look on their websites around the table and came up with prices - generally the same as you have to counter in delivery costs (The Bowls Shop £12.95 per mat and £3.50 delivery, Bowls England £14.95 plus delivery).

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 11.30 a.m by Ken Haxby-Thompson. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9th April, 2025 at 10.00 a.m.

Signed ……. Dated ……..