VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER, 2025

Present: Ken Haxby-Thompson, Chrissy Haxby-Thompson, Alan Coul, Keith Newman, Sandra Campbell.

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

Apology for Absence received from Steve Green, David O'Toole, Mal Hancock, Phil Prince, Barry Chick, Keith Shaw.

2) **Approval of Minutes of Committee Meeting 7th October, 2025**

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

3) **Safeguarding Officer's Report**

Steve Green sent his apologies but entered the following report:
Sandra and I met with The Neighbourhood Policing Team on November 6th at Ferrett Green to talk, in the main, about the incident earlier in the season when large objects were thrown over the hedge onto the Green whilst members were playing.

Overall it was a positive discussion and well worth the visit.

- *In their opinion we should well have called 999 for the earlier incident.*
- *We have taken up their offer of a Crime Prevention Survey for the Club and await contact to arrange.*
- *They have offered to come and speak to us about issues and reports etc..*

I have two on-line Training Sessions to complete in November which centres around the changes to Regulation 9 (Disciplinary Rules in Relation to Misconduct at Club Level).

The new version is being renamed as R9 and due for issue early December.

The two sessions are:
i) Introduction to R9
ii) R9 : Categorising Complaints.

I will give a full update at December's Committee Meeting.

(Also mentioned whether there is anything we can improve on following on from a medical incident at the Club?
WWW … What Went Well?
AFI … Area for Improvement)

Following on from mentioning the incident it was advised (by Ambulance Medics that attended at the time) that Aspirin be kept in our First Aid box. It should be administered under supervision. It was questioned whether any medication should be given but we were told about the Aspirin by the Medics attending. There was also discussion about the Three Word Location when calling emergency help (Post Code covers a large area so the Three Word Location is for the specific location). It is on the notice board at the Club.

4) **Competitions Officer's Report**

Barry Chick sent his apologies. There is nothing to report at this time.

5) **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Coul reported that there is £22,300.00 in the Bank at the present time.
He is holding about £800.00 as receipts from Members for their Christmas meals. No payment due to Remedy Oak until after the meal.

Ken Haxby-Thompson is to send a message out reminding everyone of the Christmas Lunch. At the present time there are only 27 members signed-up.

6) **Greenkeeper's Report**

Phil Prince was absent from the meeting but sent the following report.

1) *We have continued to receive good support from the volunteers on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. These groups continue with the clearance of leaves and acorns from the Green, ditches, and surrounds and brush/swish the wormcasts. This involves a major effort each time, leaving little capacity to carry out other work. However, what is very apparent is that working these 3 times per week is presently insufficient to adequately keep the Green/ surrounds clear of the aforementioned debris. A 4th group to work both during the season and out-of-season is advisable.*

2) *We have applied the nematode treatment which took many hours.*

3) I believe we are still awaiting information from a potential contractor for the repair/replacement of the irrigation system. Keith Newman to update the Committee as and when.

4) I have sought to gather certain information in order to proceed with the procurement of a tree surgeon for the major trimming of the tree(s) on our boundary with the memorial field. The area of the green nearest these trees is badly affected by the trees sucking out all the moisture in the summer.

I have received information from Dorset Council with regard to the various Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) in the vicinity. With the exception of a TPO referring to a copse of trees on the land backing on to the car park, behind the shops on Ringwood Road, none of the TPOs supplied relate to our land or boundaries. However, I find it puzzling that no TPO has been supplied for the very large Oak tree next to the entry gate. We have believed until now that a TPO would be in existence for such a prominent tree.

I have also requested all the title deeds etc from the Land Registry (LR), for the land that we lease. The LR state that they cannot find any information registered with them that relates specifically to the land we lease. They suggest the land is unregistered. I had also supplied them with the apparent Tile Deed reference number that we have on file, but to no avail. This also seems puzzling.

I have also inspected various documents on file here that indicate that the eastern boundary of the land we lease is the brook. With nothing evident to the contrary, all of the above appear to indicate that we can carry out major trimming of the tree(s) that are growing in the bank on our side of the brook.

Phillip Prince - Lead Volunteer- Green Team

7) ***Captain's Report***

Dave O'Toole sent his apologies. Nothing to report.

8) **Membership Secretary**

Keith Shaw sent his apologies. Nothing to report.

9) **Correspondence**

i) Sandra Campbell has received a list of local fencers from Steve Tubbs. This list will be given to Phil Prince for him to action.

ii) Ladies Secretary position discussed. There has been no response to fill this position. Therefore we will no longer have a Ladies Secretary post and it will be managed by Chrissy Haxby-Thompson and Sandra Campbell.

iii) We have received a form to complete for Bowls England Champion of Champions Competition. As Barry Chick is not at the meeting Sandra Campbell will contact him regarding this.

iv) Annual League Entries and Handbooks form to be completed by 30th November, 2025. Sandra Campbell will do this.

10) **Ladies Secretary**

As we no longer have this position filled, and nobody has come forward, it has been decided that the Club Secretary and Publicity Secretary will combine this role with theirs for the present time.

11) **Publicity**

We do not have a Publicity Secretary at the moment although it was on the Committee Members form for anyone wishing to take this role on. We therefore will leave this as a Vacancy at the present time.

12) **Fixtures**

Ken Haxby-Thompson is collating a list of all local Clubs. This is with a view to approaching them to take part in Friendlies next season.

13) **Social Events**

i) Ken Haxby-Thompson reminded everyone that Alan Wase is doing a talk at the Clubhouse at 3 p.m. on 28th November, 2025.

ii) Also on the 28th November there is a Quiz Night (to be confirmed) being run by Kevin Parry. Be there at 7.00 for 7.30.

iii) On the 29th November, 2025 at 10.30 a.m. we are decorating the club. Be there at 10.30 a.m. (the more the merrier) - tea/coffee and biscuits provided.

iv) On the 6th December, 2025 there is a Christmas Coffee Morning. Starts at 10.30 a.m. - there will be Cup Cakes and Stollen/Mince Pies tea/coffee.

13) **Any Other Business**

i) List of fencers discussed (see Correspondence above).

ii) Fees for next year was discussed. There were only five Committee members present today but it was agreed an increase should be considered (new members should pay £70.00 for their first year). Alan Coul spoke about increases this year outlining how seed etc. for the green had increased in price.

As the discussion progressed, with small number of Committee members present, it was agreed that this should be fully discussed at the next meeting. However the general thought was:

- We should raise membership to £140.00 which is less than the current rate of inflation;
- Junior members will pay £70.00 each year until the age of 17 years;
- Social Members will now pay £15.00 per year.

iii) Committee Members for next year - as outlined above.

iv) Christmas Gifts:

i) Sheila and Peter (neighbours over the road) allow us to store the key in their back garden for our easy access also they maintain a wonderful flower display at the Club each year - a £50.00 Gift Voucher will be given to them at Christmas as a thank you.

v) Keith Newman gave us an update on the new BOWLR system we are hoping to install soon. The laptop donated by Gordon Parkes has now been cleaned and is ready for when we move forward with BOWLR. Keith suggests we could go live in January when Committee members (followed by other members) will receive a training session. BOWLR will help us with this initial training as this is new for most of us. The television fitted onto the wall in the club is now working so it looks good for January.

vi) Keith Newman is in contact with Stuart (Irrigation Technical Services) but is waiting for him to book an appointment to come to the Club. When he comes they are intending to remove the sprinkler head and housing from sprinkler number 3 and fit a new one. Keith will update us at the next Committee Meeting.

vii) The possibility of generating money by hiring out the Club for functions was discussed. After such discussion it was decided that we were a small club with not enough facilities so this will not be pursued.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 11.30 a.m..

The next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday10th December, 2025 at 10.00 a.m..