VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING
13 AUGUST, 2025

Present: Ken Haxby-Thompson, Chrissy Haxby-Thompson, Phil Prince, Steve Green, Alan Coul, Lesley Skerman, Keith Newman, Keith Shaw, Sandra Campbell.

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

Apology for Absence received from Dave O'Toole, Katie Ford, Mal Hancock and Barry Chick.

2) **Approval of Minutes of Management Meeting 14th May 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) reported on the following:

i) Steve Green contacted Dorset Police regarding the incident last month and has received a response, albeit not very positive. Without CCTV or descriptions of the offenders there is not enough evidence to progress. The response (CAU-35373-25-5500-002) does refer to the original report so we do have a baseline should any further issues arise.

ii) Steve Green spoke with both Alex and Zander regarding the sign-off for both the consent for U18 Bowler and Permission for Photography of U18 BowlerePhotography. Thank you to both Alex and Zander for their positive, and quick, response to this requirement.

iii) Steve Green has spoken to Alan Wase who is aware that the link to request is via Bowls England.

4) **Competitions Officer's Report**

Barry chick was unable to attend the meeting but said things were running smoothly due to the members cooperation.

5) **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Coul reported that the new Bank Account is now fully functional. We have three signatories. Following Alan Coul's contacting the bank regarding how difficult it has been to get to this point we have been given £30 by the bank for our trouble. At this time we have £22,300.00 deposited and £700.00 in cash. Barry Chick has £400.00 to hand over to Alan Coul.

6) **Greenkeeper's Report**

i) The possibility of extending the playing season was raised as we had had such a warm summer and this may extend well into September. There was a discussion around the table and the Committee voted in favour of this. (However Phil Prince was late and had not arrived at this point). Keith Shaw pointed out that if this was to happen he would have to alter the Green Book.

ii) The oak tree on the periphery of the green is a major problem for our green. Rink 1 is very dry due to lack of water. Phil Prince (who had arrived) said he needs to contact the Land Registry to establish whether this tree is on our land or not. He said it would cost £100 for each report and requested a sum of £200. This expense was approved by the Committee.

iii) Phil Prince said there was not a positive result regarding Saturday maintenance.

iv) Keith Newman has carried out a mower repair and it seems to be working OK. With regard to the sprinkler system it is working but some are leaking when rotating. He said at the end of the season he will have the sprinklers looked at by someone who knows about them. He added that it could be a significant expense.

v) As Phil Prince was now present Ken Haxby-Thompson brought the subject of extending the season again. Phil Prince said it was about year end - seed it, scarify etc.. It was moved last year to the 14th September and should be the same this year. Ken Haxby-Thompson to raise report and put on website to ensure all members are aware of closure on the 14th September, 2025. ACTION: Ken Haxby-Thompson to send report regarding end of season.

7) **Captain's Report**

Dave O'Toole (Men's Captain) sent his apology for not being able to attend but said everything had still been running smoothly with League games.

8) **Membership**

Keith Shaw said we had one new playing member since the last report (Steve Waters). Keith Shaw has been to the club with him about four times tutoring. He is trying to encourage him to attend the roll-ups.

9) **Correspondence**

Sandra Campbell replied to Janet Ballard (NFWBA) regarding a Vice-President for next year. She told her that we would not be in a position to put a Vice-President forward in the next few years. Janet Ballard replied saying they do no need anyone from Verwood as they are settled now until 2030.

9) **Publicity**

President and Captain's Day (Saturday 16th August, 2025). Ken HaxbyThompson explained what was proposed for the day. It was £5 per entry which included the games and an Afternoon Tea (scones, jam, cream and tea) and prizes for winners. There would also be a raffle. There were to be obstacle games and 'Spider'. 1.30 p.m. for 2.00 p.m. start. All monies raised will go to the Brain Tumour Charity - this was nominated by Ken and Chrissy Haxby-Thompson.

11) **Fixtures**

The friendly game against Sixpenny-Handley has not been re-arranged at this time.
ACTION: Dave O'Toole to rearrange.

12) **Social Events**

i) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson has arranged a Christmas lunch to be held at Remedy Oak Golf Club on the 19th December, 2025. Alan Coul will collect names and money for members wishing to attend.

ii) Keith Newman and Mal Hancock would like to hold another Music Quiz. This was agreed and will be held mid-October.

iii) A short-mat in the Club House will be held on a Wednesday afternoon after it was well attended last year and raised money for the club. Dave O'Toole will run this.
ACTION: Dave O'Toole.

13) **Any Other Business**

i) Keith Newman has found an on-line booking system which could replace the paper system. This was discussed at length and Keith Newman will look further into this. Phil Prince said we could also put the watering system on this and would then not have to physically alter it.
ACTION: Keith Newman to investigate further and report at next meeting (to be added to Agenda).

ii) Reference the above, Keith Shaw said he will look at this new system as it will replace the Green Book etc. which he produces.

iii) As discussed above (Greenkeeper's Report) Phil Prince has been given permission to access our Land Registry documents.
ACTION: Phil Prince.

iv) Katie Ford (Publicity) not attending meetings. Her wording for completing the Rink Book is added below. This is for discussion at the next Committee Meeting.

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 tampered with.

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 can play but if you start on a rink already booked, 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.

v) *Kevin Parry has asked whether we should buy a Trophy Cabinet for the Club House. There is no particular storage at the moment for our trophies. This was discussed and will be investigated (i.e. price of cabinet and where it could be placed in Club House). Alan Coul also suggested that we do need to refresh our Trophies.*

ACTION: To be added to Agenda for next meeting.

vi) Due to the problem we had earlier in the season (youths throwing debris over the hedge and a possible attempt to get through the front gate) it was suggested we maybe should have CCTV. This was open for discussion and will be added to the Agenda for next meeting.
ACTION: To be added to Agenda for next meeting,

vii) Steve Green has produced some forms to be filled in and placed them by the Suggestion Box. This may encourage members to use the Suggestion Box.

viii) Lesley Skerman said there was a very good article on our Website which would certainly help all players (but particularly new members). She explained when you first open the Website, and before you log on, look to the left hand top corner (line section). Open this and you will find towards the bottom "About Bowls" - click on this and on the left hand side there is a heading "How Bowls Is Played". Lesley said she thought this was a very well written article.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 11 a.m..

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday10th September, 2025.