VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB

COMMITTEE MEETING
13th NOVEMBER 2024

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

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**
One apology from Lesley Skerman, abroad at present.

2) **Minutes of Management Meeting** held on 9th October, 2024 approved.

3) **Treasurer's Report**
Alan Coul told the meeting there was not a lot to report. As of today liquid resources stood at £14,000 pounds plus holding £700.00 for the Christmas meal.

Alan said we need to update details of committee members who are approved for signing cheques etc on behalf of the club. This will be Sandra Campbell (Alexandra Warren) and Ken Haxby-Thompson.

4) **Greenkeeper's Report**
Volunteers for maintenance is going very well. Leaves clearance not too bad although the biggest oak tree, near the entrance, has yet to shed any significant amount of leaves. The large amount of worm casts has made mowing with the John Deere mowers very time consuming as the mud has to be constantly cleaned from both rollers. We have purchased a rotary mower, in use at time of this meeting.

Phil Prince told the meeting that we have got to think about renewing some of our equipment. He has identified sources and prices for the replacement of some of the bowling equipment. The drag brush is rotten and shedding bristles each time it is used. We have only two usable switches.

The prices (including VAT) are as follows:
Large Drag Brush (6ft wide) £203.00 (CMW)
Green switches with tip control £53.00 each (CMW)
A £12.00 delivery charge for the whole order from CMW.

Green Protection nets £45.95 each from Bowlamania.
Rubber delivery mats £14.50 each from Bowlamania.
A £6.95 delivery charge per order.

When counting/examining the green protection nets there were 8 which all appeared to be in good order. We need a minimum of 12 nets in good order to cover all six rinks.

It is suggested a couple of members are delegated to inspect the existing delivery mats to decide how many to purchase and how many to dispose of.

5) **Captain's Report**

Steve Green (Safeguarding Officer) attended meeting to update us on his progress (see Any Other Business).

Jane Roberts and Sandra Campbell attended the New Forest WBA AGM. There were lengthy discussions regarding Division 4 and whether to mix ladies and gents. This is in hand. There is a Bowls Dorset meeting on Thursday 21 November with Dave O'Toole and Sandra Campbell attending.

Also discussion involving difficulty getting a team together.

6) **Correspondence**

No correspondence.

7) **Publicity**

Katie Ford has just taken the position of Publicity Officer (previously held by Keith Newman) and a meeting between them is to be arranged. Once meeting has taken place Katie will commence her duties.

8) **Fixtures**

Barry Chick said it had been decided to run the weekend trophy games differently. Information Notices will be displayed in the clubhouse.

Dave O'Toole to arrange a short mat competition.

9) **Social Events**

a) Christmas Lunch. 43 members have put their names down, Chrissy Haxby-Thompson would like a few more (ideally 5). It is £37.50 per person.

b) December 7th – decorating clubhouse. Chrissy asked for volunteers (men) to get the decorations down from the loft.

c) Alan Coul updated the meeting on Quizzes arranged for 2025. There is a quiz on Friday the 29 November run by Geoff Batstone. Chrissy Haxby-Thompson suggested we should advertise our quizzes etc. to encourage more people to attend (already done).

d) There is a Christmas Coffee Morning arranged for Saturday 14 December. Katie Ford (Publicity Officer) to arrange publicity for this.

e) Darts and Fish and Chip evenings. These will be continued into the New Year. Very enjoyable evening. Barry Chick will be out of the country during December so Mal Hancock and Ken Haxby-Thompson have agreed to take over the running of them in his absence. The first one in December will be on the 10th. Barry will be back on 29 December and will arrange other dates.

10) **Any Other Business**

a) Safeguarding Officer:
Steve Green attended the meeting as the new Safeguarding Officer. He gave us a copy of the Safeguarding Overview.

During last season it had been pointed out it would be mandatory for all clubs to have a Safeguarding Officer to affiliate to Bowls Dorset/Bowls England. He therefore volunteered. He has completed and passed an on-line course for certification, with a one hour follow-up to be arranged to complete the training. Steve will then be authorised.

We have to have a Safeguarding Policy which needs to be agreed. Steve explained we need to temper this to our club and there is a template which we can use from BDA (Bowls Development Alliance).

Also there is a Code of Conduct which needs to be agreed. This needs to start next season and should be part of the Club Constitution. Steve gave us a copy of the BDA recommended version.

It is also recommended that all Committee members complete a free on-line 20 minute course.

Steve also agreed to take over the management of the Defibrillator and First Aid box.

It was agreed that the Safeguarding Policy and Code of Practice (fitted to our Club) would be written. DBS check required.

They will be displayed in the Clubhouse and new members will be advised of them and asked to read same.

Steve asked if he could attend the next few meetings in order to update us on his progress – agreed.

b) It was suggested by Keith Newman that new members would benefit from having a mentor. They would then have a good idea of how the club is run, etiquette rules etc. It was agreed that this would start next season.

c) There was a discussion surrounding the problems with sending e-mails en bloc, it seems that the system cannot cope with this and they are unsent. It was suggested we use a Blind Copy which might stop the problem. Katie Ford suggested using WhatsApp but not everyone has a Smart Phone.

Geoff Symonds sent an attachment to Sandra Campbell setting out reasons for problems and examples of how to send e-mails. Copy attached.

d) Dates for Trophy Competitions. When the dates are posted in the Club House members wishing to enter will have to tick the competition they want to enter and pay on the day. The closing date will be a week before the event.

e) Keith Newman raised the issue of not having the use of Norman Pearce's laminator. Sandra Campbell has one and offered its use. Agreed.

f) Barry Chick asked when we intend discussing dates of competitions for next year. Membership is to be paid by 1st February. There should be a club meeting to discuss this. Keith Shaw to send Renewal Forms out to everyone prior to the meeting so we know how many playing members we have.

g) Phil Prince discussed setting yearly fee today. He proposed the fee will be frozen, seconded by Katie Ford, Ken Haxby-Thomson and Chrissy Haxby-Thompson. The fee will remain at £132.00 for next year.

h) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said there was no wreath from the Bowls Club at Ferret Green on Remembrance Sunday (10 November, 2024). She proposed we would present one next year, seconded by Ken Haxby-Thompson.

i) Barry Chick wanted to know dates for Finals next year. Phil Prince proposed they would be 12, 13 and 14 September, 2025.

As there was no other business the meeting was closed at 11.15 a.m.. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday the 11th December, 2024 at 10 a.m.