VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING
14 MAY, 2025

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

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

Apology for Absence received from Lesley Skerman.

2) **Approval of Minutes of Management Meeting 9 April 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 (Safeguarding Officer) told the committee the Safeguarding Introduction is live on the website, posted on the noticeboard, Katie Ford included it in the newsletter and Steve Green also e-mailed it to all members.

b) The most recent communication from Bowls England stated that 1600+ Bowls Clubs have appointed Safeguarding Officers since the mandate, with 200 clubs still outstanding - they actually named all of those 200 clubs in the bulletin. Dorset is 100% compliant.

c) Club Safeguarding Checklist (Bowls Development Alliance) to go through as a group to highlight any actions … suggest we progress it over the next couple of months and Steve Green can then action anything we highlight as outstanding for the next meeting.

d) Steve Green said the Defibrillator demonstration evening was very informative and provided some good learnings on the subject and on the Defibrillator we have on-hand in the clubhouse. Thanks, and appreciation, were given to Derek for giving us his time and sharing his extensive knowledge and experience.

4) **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Coul reported that financially we are in a very healthy position with new players joining following the Taster Days. We have £21,600.00 (£1,888.00 being from new members). We need to purchase new club shirts as many have been sold recently - the cost will be around £500.00 which will of course be reimbursed over time.

5) **Greenkeeper' Report**

a) Phil Prince told the meeting there was ongoing good support from the volunteers. Irrigation water is currently going on weekly to give the green a good soaking during the current extended dry periods. Necessary to regulate the watering using the control panel, as the tank would run dry in under one hour. This is because the refill rate is less than half of usage rate - i.e. half an hour usage will take more than one hour to refill. This means that it takes eight hours to supply the water required to operate the sprinklers for the current requirement of 3.5 hours per week. Also, the tank does not sense when it would run dry and therefore it needs to be regulated in order to ensure it does not run dry or does not drop below a certain level when there is rubbish at the bottom of the tank. The current requirement of three-and-a-half hours sprinkler time per week may have to be raised to four hours during very hot and dry periods.

b) Katie Ford asked if we would be affected if there was a watering ban. Phil Prince said he does not think so.

c) Alan Coul asked whether we should upgrade the system. Keith Newman asked whether the sprinkler heads should be updated and we should see how much this would cost. He will ask Blandford where they get their spares from. Ours are working fine at the moment but one is leaking. Keith Newman estimated that holders and heads would cost between three and four thousand pounds to replace.

d) Phil Prince said Keith Newman is a great asset to the club with regards to machinery maintenance. He said the 'Spikers 'are getting old and we may need to look at replacement at some point.

e) Phil Prince would like to see if Peter Campbell would build another box. He would like this to grow turf so we can replace patches rather than use seed for those areas where we have trouble getting the grass to establish from seed. This was seconded and therefore the proposal passed. Phil Prince to speak to Peter Campbell.

6) **Captain's Report**

David O'Tool informed the members that everything was working well at the moment. We have full teams for every match. Richard Clark (new member) is willing to play in the league.

7) **Membership**

a) Keith Shaw reported that we have 32 new paid-up members of the club (28 playing and 4 social). He is now going to pass on details to Geoff Symonds to add to the website.

b) Phil Prince asked whether the new members were aware of the Green Book. Katie Ford asked to include this in the next newsletter.

c) New club members should be able to contact members in order to set up a game. Keith Newman asked whether we should have a booking system on the website? It was decided that this should be discussed at the next meeting. Keith Newman said he will contact Geoff Symonds to ask whether this is feasible. Phil Prince also said even if we have a WhatsApp group we will still have to book a game. (Sandra Campbell to add this to the Agenda for June).

d) Ken Haxby-Thompson is going to arrange a meeting for new members.

8) **Correspondence**

Lesley Skerman forwarded an e-mail to Sandra Campbell received from Ann Allman (Ladies Competition Secretary - Bowls Dorset). It was about junior members. As we now have one junior member it was sent to Zander Pupkis (under 16 joined this year) for him to look at and which may be of interest next year. Steve Green is going to look at DBS etc. with regard to looking after junior members.

9) **Publicity**

a) Katie Ford said there was just one outstanding donation to come. Keith Newman asked if we had all the new banners, if so he will put them up around the club.

b) Katie Ford had said she was in the process of getting money and new mats for the club. Unfortunately this is no longer the case. The colour of the mats was discussed and it was advised that we do not paint the edges white.

10) **Fixtures**

We have a return ladies Friendly match arranged with West Moors on the 28th May, 2025.

11) **Social Events**

Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said there were no social events being arranged for the near future. The bowls matches and lunch on Saturday went very well.

12) **Any Other Business**

a) It was asked how do we integrate our new members into the club. Ken Haxby-Thompson read a message he had sent out to the new members. He also sent a copy of the weekly time-tables and is keeping in touch.

b) Alan Wase is a new member and is also a qualified coach. Steve Green (Safeguarding Officer) is going to check he is up-to-date with DBS.

c) Ken Haxby-Thompson also mentioned the pink sheets which are on the notice boards in the club. He said he had informed all new members they are welcome to put their names down for these competitions.

d) Katie Ford said she had not done a newsletter this month.

e) Keith Newman said there was interest in another music quiz (Mel and Keith Newman). To be arranged.

f) Keith Newman said he had brought a number of CD's and DVD's into the club. They are by the bookcase and anyone can help themselves to them.

g) Jackets - Chrissy Haxby-Thompson is getting a rain-proof lightweight jacket, in club colours, for the Committee members to have a look at. If it proves acceptable Chrissy Haxby-Thompson will order them for any members interested.

i) Ken Haxby-Thompson has had a discussion with Alan Wase. Alan is interested in showing videos to new members to help them to understand and learn how to play bowls.

j) Barry Chick has had to change the ladies competitions to Round-Robins due to number of ladies involved.

k) Alan Coul informed the committee that he had received £600 from Katie Ford. This is the money received from sponsors.

l) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson wanted to explain about the bowls in the club shed. She said they are there for the use of new members to help them decide which size bowls are suited to them. They are not there for members to use as their own and should be used for a limited time only. Katie Ford to put this in the next News Letter.

m) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson wanted to remind everyone about lifts to league games. The passenger should pay the driver £3.00.

Discussion regarding dates of June and July's Committee Meetings. Due to holidays etc. the date for June's meeting will be **Wednesday 18th June, 2025** and for July it will be **Wednesday the 16th July, 2025**.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 11.20 a.m..