VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING
16 JULY, 2025

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

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

Apology for Absence received from Katie Ford, Lesley Skerman, Keith Newman and Barry Chick.

2) **Approval of Minutes of Management Meeting 18th June, 2025**

Phil Prince said the Green Book was working well. The minutes of the last meeting were signed, dated and filed.

3) **Safeguarding Officer's Report**

Steve Green (Safeguarding Officer) reported on the following:

a) The latest Safeguarding Bulletin (June 2025) from Bowls Development Alliance is now posted on the noticeboard with the topic of 'Is Safeguarding Visible in your Club?".

b) Steve Green said he proposes we include our adopted Code of Conduct as part of our Membership Registration from next year.

c) Steve Green has spoken with both Alex and Xander (Pupkis) regarding the Safeguarding Children requirements, in particular nominating someone to report to and contact details. There is a recommendation to gain sign-off from both parent(s) and child. (Steve Green and Sandra Campbell first contact for Xander Pupkis (junior bowler)).

d) Photography and Video Recording Policy is now complete and included in our Safeguarding Folder.

e) Headlines:
- Parents/carers to give written permission for images of U18's to be taken and used;
- Only publish any bowler's name alongside image and never any other personal details.

f) Alan Wase needs to obtain a DBS check as Coach. This still remains outstanding.
ACTION: Steve Green to follow up with Alan.

4) **Competitions Officer's Report**

Barry Check is unable to attend meeting but sent a short note to be read out.
'As far as the competitions are concerned all I can say is that they are progressing smoothly without any big problems arising which could affect any one competition. I will see you all on the green as and when'.

5) **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Coul (Treasurer) reported that everything is ongoing and we are in a healthy position financially. Switching banks is proving difficult. He has considered switching to another Bank but still working with National Westminster for the switch. We have more new members which is financially helpful for the club.

6) **Greenkeeper's Report**

a) Phil Prince reported that there continues to be good support from volunteers on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He said he wanted to talk about the work carried out by the Wednesday team. Peter Campbell had cut the hedge and they all chipped in to clear the cuttings. We have had a problem with youths coming through to the back of the green and throwing items over onto the green. Bob Child and Duncan Campbell worked at closing the hole they use. The Police were called but none attended at the time (ongoing).

b) One of the water sprinklers was tested and it was not rotating. It is now working but is leaking and needs sorting out. We may have to replace two sprinklers (seals not working). Keith Newman said he will make contact with another club and find out who we should get in touch with for advice.
ACTION: Phil Prince working on it. Keith Newman contact another club.

c) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson asked if Rink 1 should be put out of play. Phil Prince said not at the moment but we have a problem with the big oak tree

which overhangs the green and sucks moisture out of the green. Phil Prince thinks we need to halve the tree. The local Council have been very helpful but this needs more discussion. We need to look at the Lease Agreement to see who has responsibility for the tree. Angela Daymond has some information and Barry Chick may have a copy of the Lease (if not the Trustees will be contacted).
ACTION: Angela Daymond (to be asked for information) and Barry Chick.

d) Steve Green asked Phil Prince about any hosepipe ban which would affect us. He thinks we are exempt.

7) **Captain's Report**

David O'Tool said he was very happy being able to put a full team out for every match - unfortunately we have lost every match so far. Waterside Bowls Club is top of the league. Dave O'Toole is going to contact Sixpenny Handley to rebook the friendly that was postponed (on 13th July, 2025) due to the very hot weather.
ACTION: Dave O'Toole to contact Sixpenny Handley.

8) **Membership**

Keith Shaw told the meeting that there was not a lot to report. He said we have another three new playing members (Roger Steedman and Sandy Steedman (both from West Moors) and Beryl Cleeve). This makes a total of 84 playing members and 53 social members.

9) **Correspondence**

Sandra Campbell needs to respond to an e-mail from Janet Ballard (NFWBA) regarding clubs who are able to put forward a member to be Vice-President in 2026 and following on until 2030. Following discussion it was decided that Sandra Campbell would tell Janet Ballard that we will not be in a position to put anyone forward to undertake these rolls.
ACTION: Sandra Campbell to reply.

10) **Publicity**

Katie Ford absent from meeting but supplied information to be read out at the Committee Meeting - as follows:

'I have heard back from three sponsors - two can't make it and one can. I should have a full picture by 31st July. Is there any room to move the date if we only get one sponsor attending?

AOB -
Payment for playing visitors - can we charge for visitors as it would bring in extra income. Golf clubs do, our whist club does. If it is agreed, should we add x amount of visits a season and a stipulation that the visitor has to play with a member, can have use of the club bowls and has to sign a visitors book?

Finally, Lesley and I would like to tender our resignations at the end of this outdoor playing season. We will carry on as members and continue to support the club.'

11) **Fixtures**

There are six matches remaining:
Three Dorset; Three New Forest. Sixpenny Handley outstanding (to be rearranged).

11) **Social Events**

Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said everything was running smoothly at the moment.

12) **Any Other Business**

a) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson and Sandra Campbell have organised a meeting for the lady bowlers on Wednesday 30th July, 2025). This is to find out what they are expecting next year as far as competitions (leagues) etc. and their commitment.

b) Price for playing a game of bowls (non members). It has been decided that we will charge £5 per playing visitor. We do not want to encourage non-players therefore they can play three times.
ACTION: Ken Haxby-Thompson to reply to Katy Ford.

c) Steve Green spoke about a problem on a Tuesday evening recently (youths throwing items over the hedge, not just small items but if some of them had hit a bowler it could have been quite nasty). The Police were called but did not attend - said they would issue a Crime Number (still waiting for that).
ACTION: Steve Green is therefore going to contact the Police again.

d) Steve Green suggested we put cards by the Suggestion Box to encourage use.

e) Mal Hancock asked if Alan Wase was supplying drink for his surprise party for his wife Sandra. Ken said he was and none of the drink in the fridge would be used. Another discussion ensued about situation with drink at the club. Suggestion that maybe we could have zero alcohol drinks. This issue is ongoing.

f) Ken Haxby-Thompson reminded everyone about Alan Wase holding a surprise party for his wife on Friday evening and hoped we would have a good attendance.

g) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said we should send a thank you letter to Steve Tubbs for making the lovely sign now under the clock by the door.
ACTION: Sandra Campbell to send such letter.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 13th August, 2025.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 11.07 a.m..