VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
COMMITTEE MEETING
18 June, 2025

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

Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting at 10.00 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

Apology for Absence received from Keith Newman and Keith Shaw (both on holiday).

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:

a) May 2025 Safeguarding Bulletin from Bowls England reported the following:
- 98% compliance for Safeguarding Officers across all affiliated clubs
- 3 essentials : DBS, Specific Training and Registration - of which we are all good
- Website and Welcomes - we are all good

b) Steve Green said Alan Wase will need a DBS check as a Coach for our club. **ACTION** - Steve Green to check this.

c) Steve Green has completed both Safeguarding Children Policy and Supervision/Transportation of Children Guidelines. He has added all of this to our folder. Steve Green wanted to thank Phil Prince for his support and consultation.

d) Steve Green's next step is Photography and Video Recording Policy. **ACTION** - Steve Green said he aims to have this completed by the next meeting.

4) **Treasurer's Report**

Alan Coul reported that financially we are in a very healthy position (£21,000.00 in bank and he has £1,000.00 in cash to be banked). He told the committee that he was still having a problem with the bank switch (from Lloyds to National Westminster) with no response from either bank although he had sent details three times to National Westminster. He did say that it will make life a lot easier when he is able to bank electronically.
ACTION - Alan Coul to continue chasing the banks so the switch can be finalised.

5) **Greenkeeper's Report**

Phil Prince reported that there continues to be good support from volunteers on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Bob Child does the occasional Saturday but generally insufficient support for a Saturday cut. Four teams a week preferred but not enough support for this at the moment. The brushing attachment, used for the first time in a long while, is old but works quite well, although shedding a few bristles. Brushing the green works like a gentle scarifying. This probably needs to be done once a month during the season, depending upon the amount of rain.

The irrigation of the green needs to be done during dry spells. Applying liquid fertiliser is ongoing and we are planning to do a further two/three treatments of summer feed. The green needs to be sufficiently moist for the fertiliser to work effectively without stressing the grass. Phil Prince said we have an ongoing issue with the green i.e. dry at the top and wet at the bottom. The watering programme is adjusted accordingly. However, it is essential that all members take care to use nets when playing on a soft surface.

6) **Captain's Report**

David O'Tool said he managed to put a team out every week.

A friendly match has been organised and will be held on 13th July, 2025 at Sixpenny Handley with a start time of 2 p.m.

7) **Membership**

Keith Shaw is on holiday but reported as follows:

'**Membership Numbers** - Following the Taster Days we now have - 53 Playing Men; 27 Playing Women; 1 Youth; and 53 Social Members.
Members Without E-mail addresses - We have five Social members for whom we do not have e-mail addresses (their average age is 91). Norman Pierce had a system

where he created an e-mail account for each such member which was used in our e-mail system but the e-mail went to himself and he could deal with them manually.

We need to decide how we will deal with such members in the future.
Some possibilities are:

i) Set up dummy g-mail accounts which I would have access to and then deal with them manually. Looking after several extra gmail accounts seems a bit of an overhead.
ii) We could insist that all members have an e-mail address if they want communications from us. When we set up an electronic membership renewal system we would need to remember to mail paper copies to any members who haven't created an e-mail address.
iii) We could do nothing about current members but insist all new members have an e-mail address (then same as ii).
iv) Any other ideas?

ACTION - There were discussions about the above but will be discussed further (when Keith Shaw is back) at our next Committee Meeting in July.

8) **Correspondence**

An e-mail was received from Janet Ballard (NFWBA Acting Hon. Sec.) addressed to Lesley Skerman and forwarded to Sandra Campbell. The content of this e-mail concerns the problem of lack of ladies wanting to become Vice-President and then President. This year Sandra Campbell told them that she was not willing to put her name forward to be Vice-President next year. This was due to the small number of ladies at our Club. Next year may be different as we had a good response of lady members following the Taster Days.
This matter will have to be discussed further.

ACTION - Janet Ballard finished off the e-mail **'Whatever your position, would you please go to your members and talk to your Committees and let me know if you believe your club will be able to provide a Vice President between 2026 and 2030'**. A response needs to be decided at the next Committee Meeting (Sandra Campbell).

9) **Publicity**

A date of Sunday 24th August, 2025 has been put in the calendar for an invite for the Sponsors to come and have a game of bowls and coffee, biscuits etc.. This will give us an opportunity to show them what we are about. We will also invite Sheila and Peter (who very kindly store the gate key and also provide us with a beautiful show of flowers during the season).

Chrissy and Ken Haxby-Thompson have said they will arrange a date in order to meet up with the Trustees.

ACTIONS -

i) Katie Ford to send e-mail to Sponsors to invite them as above.
ii) Chrissy and Ken Haxby-Thompson to ask Trustees if they would like to attend on the 24th August, 2025.

10) **Fixtures**

There was a long discussion concerning the Round-Robin competition held on Saturday 14th June, 2025. Barry Chick said he did not know why it went on for so long but said it depends on how many people enter which determines the format for each competition. The format for the competition on the 5th July, 2025 will be a Knockout because there are 34 players.

Mal Hancock said we should make pairs men and lady bowlers (not just men) and after looking at the Cup it can be pairs (either sex). The Alf Lockyer Rose Bowl will in future be an Open Pairs competition.

Discussion regarding the booking of rinks. Alan Wase is allocated 6 rinks on Wednesday morning until 12 noon therefore any competitions should not be booked before this time.

Discussion regarding not having enough internal club competitions. Ken Haxby-Thompson and Alan Wase are going to arrange Internal Club Games on a Saturday.

11) **Social Events**

Chrissy Haxby-Thompson said there were no social events being arranged at the moment.

12) **Any Other Business**

a) A date for President and Captain's Day was discussed. Following this Saturday 16th August, 2025 was agreed on. Dave O'Toole and Ken Haxby-Thompson will discuss what format this will take. It was also suggested we have a BBQ and music. Another suggestion, which was looked on as easier to organise, was to contact Adam about fish and chips.

ACTION -

i) Ken Haxby-Thompson and Dave O'Toole to discuss format.
ii) Chrissy Haxby-Thompson to contact Alan re. Fish and Chips.

b) The question was raised again regarding how long a bowler can have the use of the club bowls from the shed. After discussion Katie Ford is going to put a message out via the Newsletter. It was agreed that any bowler can use the club bowls for one season but they must not remove them from the Club premises.
ACTION - Katie Ford to put the message on Newsletter.

c) Lesley Skerman said she had heard that the bowls in the shed were mixed up in the boxes. Allyson and Ray Usher have said they would be happy to sort them out. Agreed.
ACTION - Lesley Skerman to let them know.

d) Steve Green (Safeguarding Officer) has sent out an e-mail he has received. The start of the message is:
'Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) are pleased to announce they have been granted funding from Sport England to explore the potential of amalgamating as one organisation. Sport England's investment will enable dedicated project management resources and expertise to be allocated to this venture, as well as legal support to help create a new governance structure and corporation.'
The full message is available if required.

e) Barry Chick wanted to inform the Committee that he had received a marker's card which was not filled in correctly. He said there was a sample on the board but this had obviously not been seen/read. He asked what we can do about it as it needs to be sorted out. Ken Haxby-Thompson suggested Alan Wase could speak about it to new members at his coaching sessions on a Wednesday morning
ACTION - Ken Haxby-Thompson to discuss with Alan Wase.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 16th July, 2025. (Lesley Sherman offered her apology as she will be on holiday on that date).

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 12.00 noon.