

Townsend Hook Bowls Club

Pre Season Meeting Minutes

Saturday 28 March 2026 at 12 noon

1) Welcome to returning members and new members.

RF opened the meeting by welcoming returning members and new ones and hoped all had an enjoyable winter.

2) Thanks to all who helped out.

RF thanked all who helped out tidying up the grounds and the crew who helped assemble the new canopy extension.

In particular, special thanks to Steve, Gina and Tony who were painting the clubhouse. Norman made a container for the jacks which would enable all the equipment to be taken from the store when setting up the rinks.

3) Update – Car Park

Apparently, the Car park work will commence at the end of April/beginning of May 2026 and is expected to take up to 14 weeks.

Challenges with site access, contractors preferred storing plant equipment by the club's gate. We are looking at suitable alternatives.

In peak season, weekly activities actually mean the clubhouse/premises are in use six days per week.

In some cases it may mean fixture rescheduling, especially friendlies.

A discussion of drop-off solutions, possible use of hard-standing and alternate entrances were discussed as options.

An issue was raised about disabled spaces not being allocated adjacent to the both club entrances. On the proposal this spaces is for motorcycles.

4) Treasurers Report

Chris provided an overview of our Income and Spending over the closed season.

We received grants which have been applied toward the cost of the canopy extension.

Hall hire income continues (WI, Craft Club).

Sponsors have all renewed, Medway Blinds, Specsavers and Boundary Fencing.

Discussion took place regarding other potential local sponsors Tesco, Coop, local businesses etc.

The club has incurred additional expenses, composters, painting/maintenance, equipment, skip hire, some new ditch mats, new plastic chairs and carpet cleaning.

There will also the cost of new shirts.

Reserve fund remains untapped and continues to generate income as interest.

5) Captains for 2026 Season

RF indicated all captains for the new season and asked if any wished to say anything.

Pat said encouraged any ladies who wished to be considered for playing in the ladies league to put their name on the sheet. She also wanted to put two teams in the Biddenden ladies days this year, if possible.

Henry is Weald league captain and supported Pat's suggestion that members put their names down. The only drawback to the Weald league is the away matches can be some distance away so travelling is required.

He said that it is his intention to stand down at the end of the season, both as captain and fixtures secretary.

Any members who may be interested in any of these roles, please let him know.

Jack is captain of the Medway league, Maidstone Mens' league and Weekends and again encouraged full participation.

Malcolm is Wednesday captain for friendly matches and encouraged members to add their names to the play sheet even if it is full. Players often drop out and a reserve is often needed.

Emphasis on rotation, inclusion, and having reserve players is important.

Reserve players will be given priority for the next match if they don't play.

6) Fixtures for New Season

a) Chelsea Pensioners match.

This is scheduled for Wednesday 27th May

Invitees include local dignitaries, TMBC Mayor, Councillors and Deputy Lord Lieutenant Brigadier Peter Gilmore will officially attend; protocol for press and guest lists outlined.

Food arranged for players/visitors/VIPs; bar sales expected.

Event to be locally advertised; hoping for press coverage.

Protocol and event formalities will be balanced with fun day.

b) New friendly match opponent.

Introduction of Rochester Clarence, replacing Kingfisher as a fixture.

We will also no longer be playing Paddock Wood.

c) The bowls day trip to Eastbourne was very successful last year and will go ahead again on 31st August which is a Monday.

d) Competitions on Notice Board

All competitions (singles, pairs, hundred up, etc) now posted; there is a cut-off date for entry.

Payment this year for all entered competitions is required before participation.

This is to streamline administration.

7) Bowling Green & Grounds

a) With Roger Bingham's unavailability, grass mowing has been reorganized to be Tuesdays' and Fridays' with Mondays' reserved for weeding and maintenance. A task chart introduced for volunteer sign-ups for maintenance throughout the season. Members can now put their name to an individual task as access to the grounds is available via new key safe entry method for members.

b) Need regular group for general weeding and tidying up.

Past neglect of hedges, perimeter grass and not weeding has adversely affected the green quality due to weeds seeding and germinating on the green. We are aiming for more consistent attention in 2026.

8) Social Activities

Glynis, said that the club now has an active social program with quiz nights especially successful and well-attended.

She asked for new activity ideas—film night trial unsuccessful (only 6 attendees). Next social event: Games Night on April 10th; includes various games, house prizes, open invitation to members and friends. There will be food provided for some events.

Christmas quiz was a highlight featuring festive food and themed questions.

Regular fundraising through raffles; prizes commonly donated by members.

All funds are reinvested into the improvement of the club.

9) Any Other Business

RF asked if there were other items that members wished to raise.

A question was raised regarding the use of the Keysafe.

This allows members to gain access to the grounds to enable member access for practicing; club house not available.

Responsibility emphasized for members who may bring guests. For example, proper footwear. It will be the members' responsibility for the overall care of the green at this time. This is an honesty system provided at the request of members and if misused or abused the facility may be withdrawn.

Trophies - Old trophies to be reused for main club competitions (cup, singles, pairs, etc.); personal mini-trophy/badge for winners.

Club Shirts - New club shirts when issued will have the option to have individuals names on them printed for £2 per shirt. Instructions for shirt orders: label with name/payment, bagged, for collection.

RF said that the first rollup will take place on Tuesday 7th April as originally planned provided there is no more rain.

Lastly, RF said that, if possible, he like to stand down as Chairman at the end of the season.

There being no further business the meeting was closed