

CHELTENHAM WHADDON BOWLING CLUB

MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at the clubhouse on Thursday 21 October 2025 at 2.30pm

Present: Graham Hughes, Dave Hooper, Dave Simmons, Andy Todd, Gail Gilbert, Micky Martin, Debby Hooper, Julie Beaven, Peter McGiffie, Mike Newman, David Hearle, Ken Campbell

APOLOGIES

None

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The minutes of the previous meeting on 04 September 2025 had been circulated with the agenda and were approved and signed as a true record by the President

MATTERS ARISING

2. We reviewed the Action List, which had been circulated with the agenda:

- 2409/02: Sponsorship. Iglu and Avonmore had agreed to provide signs to go up at the club, for which they would contribute £150 each. Cellar Supplies were providing a free cask (88 pints). Waghorne's also provided 9 meat vouchers over the summer (value £270), for their advertising board. This covered our immediate suppliers but we would continue to explore other opportunities.
- 2501/01: Andy had added centenary celebrations to the agenda for the Open Forum after the AGM to engage members and elicit more ideas.
- 2502/03: Gail was concerned that some safety issues were still outstanding but could be actioned at the next maintenance morning, in case of questions at the AGM.
- 2508/01 & 2509/01: Andy had drafted resolutions regarding increase in subscriptions and discount for new bowlers, to be approved later in the meeting.
- 2509/02: Andy had made initial inquiries regarding Aceit shorts & trousers. All were priced at £34, but discount would be offered for bulk orders, though they would only discuss this at the point of ordering. Material for trousers would be more in the tracksuit style. Customisation with logos/club badge was also possible. For comparison, prices for bowls shorts and trousers (similar type of material to club shirts, but heavier weight) from our current shirt supplier, Zapkam, were £15.99 for bulk orders of more than 15 items. Again they can be customised with flashes or stripes of colour and/or club badges and logos.
- 2509/03: BE are currently updating their smoking policy, so Gail is waiting for this to make sure that a club policy is in line. BDA have guidance that smoking should not be permitted on the green or its surrounds as players and spectators have a right to breathe fresh air. We will need to identify a suitable location for smoking.
- We did note at the last meeting that glasses should not be taken onto the green or surrounds as a safety issue. We agreed that this should also apply to bottles. When the green is in use again only plastic glasses, probably reusable ones, will be available to take outside and signage will be put up to this effect.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS ON SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR AGM

- i. To raise annual membership subscriptions from 1 April 2026 as follows:
 - a. Full playing membership to increase by £20 to £170
 - b. Associate membership to increase by £5 to £15

Background: We have undertaken a full review of costs at the club, such as heating, lighting and water, which have continued to increase over the past year. We have also had several large items of unexpected expenditure: notably essential repairs to the electrical systems (over £8,000), failure of the cellar cooling (potentially £3,500). As the fabric of the club is ageing, it is likely that we will be faced with further repair/upgrade costs in the future. We have also lost income from skittles – only 4 teams currently use the club. We may be able to reduce heating costs, following the end of our current deal; we have received some small increases in income (Iglu use of car park, Cheltenham Probus); and we continue to look for new sources of funding through sponsorship. Nevertheless, the Treasurer's forecast is that we will break even at best this year, but with depleted cash reserves. The Committee therefore believe that we need to set subscriptions at a level which allows for a small surplus to boost our reserves. We would remind members that match fees are included in this fee and, compared to other bowls and sports clubs, our fees remain well below average.

- ii. To abolish the discounted annual membership subscription for new bowlers (currently £40 p.a.)

3. We had already provisionally approved the wording of these resolutions online. However, Dave Simmons suggested that, rather than abolishing the discount altogether, we should set it at 50% of the full fee, which is a disincentive to people joining, especially when part way through a season. We recognised that the purpose of the discount was to offset in part the cost of buying bowling equipment but felt that the current level was set too low. Other objections were that it had been inconsistently applied and caused difficulty in deciding who qualified or not. Furthermore, the Committee had debated this previously and decided on the current wording. A vote on whether to add the option of a 50% rate was tied 4 for, 4 against, but was passed on the casting vote of the President. The Secretary will therefore add a 3rd clause to this effect to Resolution i., which, if passed, will mean that Resolution ii. will fall – it would be illogical to vote for a 50% discount, then immediately abolish it.

Action: 2510/01

4. In response to a query from Gail, Andy confirmed that as the Constitution stands, social members are not entitled to vote at the AGM, though they may attend and speak. This means that though she is a member of the Committee and takes responsibilities in other areas, she cannot materially influence any decisions at the AGM. The Committee agreed that this was unfair and therefore voted unanimously to propose an amendment giving the right to vote to any social member serving on the Management Committee.

Action: 2510/02

BAR/NEW TILL

5. The bar review sub-committee proposed that we purchase a new till; a straight replacement would cost in the order of £275, however, a more modern touch screen version was available for £395 with no ongoing costs. This would simplify the job of bar staff, as they would just have to press a button for bar items and it would total items and calculate change if cash was tendered (this may have the benefit of encouraging more members to volunteer). It would also integrate with a Sumup card reader, though we would keep the existing card reader as a backup. It was programmable, so prices could be changed easily. We voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a new till, which Dave Hearle and Dave Simmons would take forward.

Action: 2510/03

6. Regarding the cooling of the cellar Graham had taken advice that simple venting would not solve the problem: in hotter periods it would simply exchange hot air for hot air. The beer cooler had been serviced and was working more efficiently and while the weather was cooler we could manage. The problem was not necessarily keeping the cellar cold but maintaining an even temperature. Other options such as a free standing air conditioner or a roof mounted cooler (available for c. £549) were under consideration. David Hearle would also ask for advice from Cellar Supplies as to the best way forward.

AOB

7. Gail suggested that we should complete **BE's Club Health Check** survey, which would give us a better idea of the state of the club and where we needed to improve or make changes. She would obtain the form and circulate it for completion by the relevant officers.

8. Debby reported that most respondents to her poll on alternatives for the **coffee morning** were in favour of cancellation, however, we would try to fit in an additional event later in the year.

9. The Monday short mat roll-up sessions had been oversubscribed: playing rinks of 4 made the mats very crowded and some players only had half a session. Micky proposed that we hold 2 sessions, 1200 – 1400 and 1400 – 1600, with a maximum of 12 players in each, which would ensure everyone had a decent game. Wednesdays were not so busy, so no change to them. The Committee agreed.

10. There would be no Committee meeting in November, due to the AGM.

Prepared by:

Andy Todd

Secretary

Signed as a true
record:

Graham Hughes (President)