

# **CHELTENHAM WHADDON BOWLING CLUB**

## **MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held at the Clubhouse on Thursday 05 June 2025 at 2.00pm**

Present: Dave Hooper, Dave Simmons, Andy Todd, Gail Gilbert, Debby Hooper, Julie Beaven, Mike Newman, David Hearle, Ken Campbell

### APOLOGIES

Jill Whistler, Micky Martin, Peter McGiffie

### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. In the absence of the President, Dave Simmons took the chair and, with the approval of the meeting, signed the minutes of the previous meeting on 04 April 2025 as a true record.

### MATTERS ARISING

2. We reviewed the list of outstanding actions and noted updates and completions as follows:

- 2409/02: further offers of sponsorship were in progress from Avonmore and Iglu
- 2409/04: we decided that, as the spare short mat had not been disposed of, despite repeated advertising by Andy, if possible it would be used to carpet the men's changing room, or if that is not possible to scrap it. Action complete.
- 2505/01: See para 9 below. Action complete.
- 2505/02: Complete – general reminder to membership issued.
- 2505/03: Julie Beaven had spoken to Cheltenham Probus, who did not use the clothing rail and had now dismantled it, noting that they would be happy for the club to use it, if needed. Action complete.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND OTHER FEES

3. In its report of February 2025 the finance sub-committee recommended that,

- Subscription fees should be raised to £180
- Short mat fees be increased to £2 per session (includes roll-ups and league sessions)
- Skittles membership be increased to £15

In opening the discussion on whether to accept this as a proposal for the AGM, Dave Simmons stated that £8k of the predicted £10k deficit was the 'one-off' cost of upgrading the electrical system and that we now had regular hire income from Cheltenham Probus amounting to about £2k per year. Andy noted that membership was now at 81, higher than the assumption of 70 in the forecast, though most of these would only be paying £40 as novice bowlers.

4. Dave believed that in the light of these developments the proposed increase was too large and in any case, an incremental approach would be more acceptable to members and less likely to lead to them leaving. He confirmed that a rise to £160 would still probably allow us to break even and we would still have about £18k in reserve. Dave Hooper contended that a larger increase might be preferable to build up this reserve and that the full fee should be payable for any bowling, including short mat, however, neither suggestion

found any support. The Committee asked Dave Simmons to revise the financial forecast, taking into account the recent changes, to inform a final decision on the level of increase at our next meeting in July.

**Action: 2506/01**

5. We did accept the increase in short mat and skittles membership fees, which had remained unchanged for many years. The sub-committee had not mentioned fees for Social membership, however, the Committee did not believe it would be fair to full members to leave this at £30 and felt that this fee should increase to £35, which would be included in the AGM proposal.

6. In response to an invitation to suggest other matters that might be put to the AGM, Debby Hooper raised her concern that the club was not consistent in decisions on the 'New Bowler' category and we agreed to adopt a stricter interpretation and change the designation to 'Novice Bowler' to make it clear that only those just taking up the sport were eligible.

7. Gail Gilbert then raised the issue of green fees and collection of money due to the club as a whole. While Andy had reminded members that green fees were due for casual roll-ups (excepting where the purpose was to introduce a prospective new member), a further reminder was required, reiterating the need for funds to maintain the green and its surrounds.

8. Gail also noted that the process for hiring the club had not worked for the recent wake for Tudor Morris and we agreed that it was important to adhere to the procedure to make sure that information was available to all involved.

#### CHANGE OF CLUB UNIFORM

9. Andy had researched potential suppliers for a new club uniform to be introduced to mark the club's centenary (Action 2505/01) and produced a short list of 4, together with a selection of designs to demonstrate the various styles available. Prices depended on the number of shirts ordered but were all in the range £23 - £29, including the club badge and wording, player's name if required and in most cases sponsor's logos. All the manufacturers offered a 'kit builder' online offering standard designs, but also had design teams, who would help with any bespoke changes we wanted to make. The computer-based sublimation process they used meant that prices would not be affected.

10. We first established that only the shirt would be changed, moving to a single colour, probably black, for shorts/trousers/skirts, ending the grey v. white debate and that we would stick to the club's traditional green & gold colours. This meant that we would not need to change the existing tracksuit top and rain jacket. We selected Zapkam as the preferred supplier: they produce our current kit, so colours will not be a problem; they are cheaper than others and locally based in Gloucester, which will avoid delivery costs.

11. Andy would now produce a selection of 4 designs from the Zapkam catalogue for the Committee to consider at its next meeting, from which they would select 2 to put to a members vote. **Action 2506/02**

#### CHANGE OF WEBSITE PROVIDER

12. Andy had been trialling a potential new website for the club, using the Bowls Group application, which was developed by a bowler, specifically for bowls clubs. Our current site hosted by Hugo Fox together with rink booking and a membership database from Bowlr, which don't integrate. Using this solution keeps everything in one place and provides additional facilities such as availability for matches and the ability to give captains and club officers admin access to update relevant pages.

13. He had looked at other possibilities, such as acquiring extra modules from Bowlr, who could also design a website to integrate it all, but this would come at significant cost. Another candidate, called Teamo, offered availability etc, however, it had no bowls specific modules to cover rink booking for example, so we would still need to keep Bowlr, again at a higher cost.

14. The annual cost of licensing the Bowls Group application is currently £279, which is more than the combined cost of Hugo Fox (£36) and Bowlr (£120). However, we could offset this by selling advertising space to sponsors and suppliers on the home page and we would have more control over the appearance and content of the website. It also provided a secure, password-protected Members Area, which would be used for any personal data.

15. Members of the Committee were generally impressed by the appearance of the trial site, even though not all the pages had been populated. We agreed in principle to switch to this new application, but having paid for Bowlr for this season, it did not make sense to do so until the end of this season. This would allow time for Andy to continue developing the trial site and populating it with our content, so that it would be ready to go then. He would also prepare working aids for members and officers on how to use the new site and provide a demonstration session. **Action: 2506/03**

### AOB

16. Andy had printed a new publication from Bowls England '**Benefits of Affiliation**', which described in detail all the services which BE could provide to member clubs. He would leave a copy with the club information in the foyer.

17. Gail noted that the **clothing rail** was in need of cleaning and proposed that we sell off as much as possible to clear out the older stock at a discounted price. The Committee approved this proposal.

18. Gail also reported that the **dishwasher** had tripped the main circuit breaker and that this had tripped several times recently, not just from the dishwasher. We agreed that we should engage our electrician to check the system to see if there was a fault. We also agreed that the dishwasher no longer worked effectively and should be replaced with a domestic version, which would be easier to operate. We set a budget of up to £300 and Gail would come up a suitable replacement. **Action 2506/04**

19. David Hearle would be hosting a **visit by the 41 Club** on Monday (09 June) and that he had booked 3 rinks. He would advise members that the roll-up would be affected.

20. He wondered whether we should also now **replace the condemned cooler cabinet** in the bar, which had been out of action for several months. The Committee agreed that he could measure up for the correct size and get prices for a replacement. **Action 2506/05**

21. Julie Beaven asked for advice on the ladies' **friendly fixture with Moreton-in-Marsh**: over the previous 2 seasons we had travelled to Moreton, but they had not fulfilled our home fixture. The Committee was content for her to talk to the Fixture Secretary about dropping this match.

22. Mike Newman reported that he had heard complaints about **favouritism in selection** of a certain player, who did not appear to be dropped. Dave Hooper explained that the Selection Committee always tried to be fair and offered dropped players the next available game. It emerged that this affected mainly Afternoon Triples matches, which were not covered by the Selection Committee, though again that selection process did not favour any particular player.

23. Dave Hooper asked about a new **plaque in memory of Tudor Morris** and was informed that it had already been purchased.
24. He reported that the **funeral of Campbell McColl**, long time President of the NGL, would take place on 18 June and NGL teams had been asked to donate to his family's chosen charity in his memory. The Committee agreed that the club would donate £20 for the NGL to pass on.
25. We agreed that our **next meeting** would take place on Thursday 03 July 2025 at 2.00pm.

Prepared by:

Andy Todd

Secretary

Signed as a true  
record:

Jill Whistler (President)