

## **MC Minutes – 19<sup>th</sup> February@7pm**

Present: David Rose (President), Carolyn Dearlove (Vice President), Karen Oakes (Ladies' Captain), Dave Oakes (Treasurer), Trevor Brown (Men's Captain), Keith James (Shortmat Captain), Kim Best (Membership Secretary)

Apologies: Mike Dorman (Club Secretary), John Rawlinson (Health & Safety Officer)

No trustees were in attendance

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a minor amendment necessary in relation to Update on Lease Agreement section: Sports Club need to be replaced with WMMH.

DR to Liaise with MD to make the amendment prior to publication.

### **Matters Arising**

DR confirmed that the new bar lighting is to be installed on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February

DR is also due to meet with the company that supplies our surveillance equipment w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> February to amend the list of people that currently have access, recognising that some ex-members are still able to view security footage. It was agreed that John Merritt, Ian Smith, Dave Oakes and David Rose would be those with access going forward.

The flyscreen in the kitchen was repaired and reinstalled prior to the Food Safety Inspection

The kitchen received a 5 Star rating thanks to the efforts of everyone involved cleaning, reorganising and disposing of old unused equipment and clutter. The inspector did raise the issue of the floor in the kitchen becoming a potential issue as continual wear would no doubt affect the current, broken up condition of an area of the flooring.

DR to ask RM as Facilities Manager to investigate any possible short term solution without us having to commit to the expense of replacing the flooring for now.

DR to also follow up with RM regarding disposal/repositioning of the 'coffins' in the clubhouse

### **Officer's Reports**

TB raised the need to confirm with MD that player registrations with Bowls England and Bowls Dorset are in hand and will be submitted in accordance with the respective deadlines.

KB presented a membership review now that renewals are completed:

Total number of members including Social: 144 (2025 – 141)

Playing Members

Outdoor: 102 (Men:63, Ladies 39) (2025: Men 70, Ladies 46)

Shortmat: 82 (2025: 95)

Lost 2026: 25 (2025: 31)

KB added that no members were lost as a result of them being unhappy with the way they were treated while being a member. Main causes were regrettably members that had passed away or are now suffering from health issues that prevent them from continuing to play.

It was noted that a number of new members that joined in 2025 didn't renew as it became apparent that bowling wasn't for them.

### **Member's Liaison**

A member asked whether we could in future pay for match fees by card rather than by cash.

DO commented that it's something he has considered a number of times, but had concluded that additional administration needed in reconciling transactions was excessive. He also made the point that match fees were an essential method of allowing the club to collect an amount of cash that allows liquidity during the normal course of our operations. As a result, card payments for match fees would not be an option for the foreseeable future.

A member was concerned that the club should continue to operate a system of volunteers to look after and water the tubs/planters that add so much to the appearance of the club during the season. *See Green Stewarding Agenda Item*

To improve access, it has been suggested by a member that we add steps and handrail to the far side of the green to allow anyone that needs assistance, to be able to exit the green at that side. Currently, we only have steps available at the clubhouse end of the green.

In principle it was agreed that this is a good idea. Costs need to be investigated and reported back to the MC.

### **OPEN DAY 2026**

It was decided that Open Day 2026 will be run in exactly the same way as 2025 given the successes we had in attracting so many visitors last year. KB will coordinate and enlist volunteers where necessary. KO will coordinate coaching efforts on the green.

Promotion and marketing of the event will concentrate on the methods that appear to have been the most successful last year. Primarily a door-to-door leaflet drop in West Moors, Verwood, St Leonards & St Ives along with occasional leafletting events outside Sainsbury's

It was agreed that costs in line with last year for these items was acceptable.

Based on evidence received from visitors last year, it is felt that radio and magazine advertising were not that successful in attracting people to attend and so won't be utilised this year.

It was agreed that we should provide the option of food on the day - DO volunteered to run a BBQ offering burgers and sausages

CD will redesign/refresh the leaflet

DR will update the Open Day banner to add the correct date and will arrange production of the green 'Our Most Recent Successes' banner that is mounted on the public facing side on the clubhouse.

All other banners that were produced last year are in good condition and will be re-used.

## **West Moors Fun Run**

MD put forward a proposal regarding the club opening up our facilities to visitors of the West Moors fun run. We understand that WM Scouts are already planning to offer refreshments to visitors during the event and don't wish to appear to be competing with their efforts.

While there is some merit in trying to attract new, younger members to the club – it was decided that there's too much of a danger of encouraging the public to view the availability of the club as a 'Public Convenience' going forward.

The Ladies' section has entered a team into the fun run.

## **Green Stewards**

It was decided that a modified Green Steward role will still be operated during the season.

Monday to Friday between 10am and 12pm – there is no requirement for any cover to be provided on an afternoon.

A green steward will be required to:

Open the club, assist with putting out equipment for matches where required and water the plants surrounding the green. Norman Todman will be asked to continue his coordination of the rota. It was also suggested that the rota should be loaded onto the new Club's website that will hopefully reduce the number of 'no shows' during the season.

## **Setting of project budgets**

Refurbishment of Men's Toilet

The project has been deferred until the end of the outdoor playing season on the condition that a plan is in place and a budget agreed in good time. DR to follow up with RM (Facilities Manager) to ensure this is done.

## **Modernising the appearance of the Clubhouse**

A wide-ranging discussion took place about how we could improve the appearance of the bar area and modernise the interior of the clubhouse. The imminent installation of more intimate/dimmable downlights in the bar area will improve the appearance.

Replacement of the square tables in the bar area is under consideration, particularly in relation to height/type of tables we should adopt. It was agreed that our existing 'lounge chairs' will still provide the main seating in the bar area and NOT be replaced.

CD has identified a cost-effective alternative table to replace the existing old ones, but there was a debate about whether we replace these with similar but more modern design of the same height, or whether we should provide a lower, occasional/lounge type table in the area.

TB has some lower profile tables at home that he is prepared to loan to the club on a temporary basis for us to be able to evaluate the practicality of that style.

DO proposed freestanding trellis room dividers to effectively section off the bar area. It was generally agreed that this could be an easy and relatively cheap solution that was visually attractive. However these need to be costed.

DR proposed that we should replace the doors on the changing rooms, boiler room and disabled toilets with a modern white design. Some discussion resulted in whether or not these needed to be fire doors. DR understands that they aren't necessary on the changing rooms but will clarify the legislation and advise accordingly.

It was recognised that additional doors for the kitchen and the swing doors in the entrance would need to be painted or replaced in order to give a uniform appearance inside the clubhouse. Potentially becoming a big job! It was suggested that Doors of Distinction would be a good source of decent quality doors. This needs to be costed.

The MC has more work to do in deciding a way forward and agreeing a plan and budget for any refurbishment. The project is on going and will be picked up again at the next meeting, if not before!

### **Friendlylies/Touring Teams**

DR posed the question about how we could increase the number of events this year. Friendlylies are an important revenue source for the club, both in terms of the bar and some food availability now that we have volunteers available to provide it. We currently have less events in the diary than we had last year. DR to liaise with Barbara as match secretary to see if she is able to utilise her network of contacts to arrange more matches.

### **Disposal of old club documents**

MD proposed enlisting the support of Dorset Archives Services in securing the ongoing storage of old club documents. It was unanimously agreed that MD should pursue this as a great option for clearing out the office/storage room and report back on progress.

### **Any Other Business**

CD proposed including another U3A shortmat session for the season commencing September 2026. It was unanimously agreed that U3A could have a session next season under the same terms as 2025

### **New Website Demo**

The MC were shown a demonstration of the new club website, currently in the process of being finalised. Everyone was asked to refer to CD and DR for anything additional that they would like to see included.

Once the website is established, key members will be given access and trained on how to operate the CMS (Content Management System) used to manage the content shown on the site.

DR thanked CD for her efforts in getting the website to the stage that we are almost ready to launch it to an unsuspecting world!

### **Date of next meeting TBC**