

Three Mile Cross Bowling Club

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 11 October 2025

Present: Claire Morrison (CM) Chair and Communications, Bill Bissett (BB) Club Captain, Adrian Salmon (AS) President, David Brown (DB) Treasurer, Mark Holder (MH) Bar, Keith Hall (KH) Fixtures Secretary, Linda Salmon (LS) Ladies' Secretary, Derek Fagg (DF) Green Maintenance, Peter Welland (PW) Recruitment and Michele Vale (MV) Club Secretary.

1. Apologies: Daf Ashby (Membership Secretary) and Diane Fagg (DiF) Entertainments

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 9th 2025.

Accepted

3. Matters Arising

a) Boundary Dispute

CM reported that she, along with BB, AS and PW, had a meeting on 1 September with Bill Rhymes (BR) regarding the dispute over access to land (to include TMX land and land adjoining his property and that of TMX). At this meeting BR agreed to look at our amended draft agreement. A further meeting was arranged for 30 September between BB and BR to reword the draft agreement after BR had consulted his solicitor. On 3 October the sub-committee met again and reworded the draft agreement to refer to a parcel of land allowing access. BB then met again with BR and his solicitor and they went through the land registry plans and diagrams again. The solicitor suggested that as TMX was proposing to allow BR to access his land over land belonging to the club BR should pay a peppercorn rent in exchange. Reference to a small parcel of land not owned by TMX or BR is to be taken out of the agreement. CM reported reservations over BR's motives believing he may be playing a long game to gain ownership of this small strip of land through continuous use. It was suggested that the club could maintain it to illustrate that BR is not using it exclusively. AS suggested that we should mark the land the club owns in some way to avoid future disputes. The sub-committee will review the re-drafted agreement. CM said she was hopeful agreement over access was close and thanked BB for all his work on this issue. **Action - BB, CM, AS, PW.**

b) AS said his guidelines for green on loan days was complete and had been successfully trialed during the summer. The document will be put on the website so it can be accessed by the membership. It was hoped that from next season members of the club could take on responsibility for this task as well as others around the club. MH mentioned that he had been approached by one member interested in getting more involved.

c) DB said he had a meeting planned with the representative of another club to discuss sponsorship. He had been advised by a specialist that we could be liable for tax on any income not earned by trading with the club members, however, HMRC are not really interested in chasing small amounts so his advice would be to just do it. AS pointed out that the committee had previously agreed not to pursue outside income. DF thought that even if we had to pay tax on it the club would still be better off. DB recommended that we should go ahead and seek some form of sponsorship. This could be a task delegated to a club member outside the committee. The issue is to be taken to the AGM.

d) CM said the follow up to the fire assessment report is a work in progress which she would pursue over the winter with MH. It was pointed out that despite having been recently serviced the boiler was still cutting out DB said he would follow this up with the contractor. **Action CM, MH and DB**

4. Treasurer's Report

DB reported that rounding off the bar prices was working well. MH said that he was looking at Point of Sale technology in order to give an audited account of what is going on with the bar sales as at present there is no accountability. This equipment can be bought or hired and he is prepared to fund a trial himself. AS warned against making things too complicated as it may put off volunteers. DB said he would get a financial statement out before the AGM and the accounts would be audited by Andy Friend and Roger Bryant. He has received the promise of a grant of £1500 from Merry Eleemosynary Trust towards the cost of the proposed disabled adaptations. However, he said the quote will need recosting. KH said he would ask his son-in-law to do this. DB went on to say that our financial reserves are higher than they were this time last year despite some unexpected expenditure and a drop in membership. The current balance is £16,366. CM said she is concerned about the lack of detailed information regarding income and expenditure and as a result it was difficult to know exactly what was going on. DB replied that he will provide this but he is dealing with a new accounting system and it was taking time to get used to it. He is also hampered by not having last year's figures readily available.

a) DB recommended an increase in subscriptions of £5 to take account of inflation. He believes the match fees can remain the same as this year. PW recommended that new bowlers should be asked to pay a subscription if they joined the club after coaching on top of the £30 coaching fee. This would not only boost income but help identify those serious about wanting to bowl. The meeting agreed that subscriptions should be raised to £150 for playing members, £35 for social members, £35 for junior members and £35 for new bowlers joining after coaching.

MH left the meeting at 11.40 after saying he was willing take over the organization of short mat bowls over the winter from Kaz Clarke. He will try and gauge interest and see how it goes. DF suggested introducing some other activities such as darts. **Action – DB, MH**

5. Funding for green upkeep and general maintenance

DF said that he had received some complaints about the speed of the green with some members and visitors commenting on its slowness. The contractor has come up with some proposals to make the green run quicker which he can introduce in March but will cost about £1000. He thinks deep spiking at this point is not necessary. DF thinks part of the problem is due to over watering and next season he intends to introduce more spot watering. As this is time consuming he and AS thought this might be something else that could be opened out to the membership. DF thought the club should follow the contractor's recommendations for the green and see how things go. The meeting agreed to make the necessary money available.

DF went on to say that he felt that the club needed to provide some new seating, cushions and umbrellas around the green to make it more comfortable for spectators and generally smarten up the club. The committee agreed to spend £200 on 12 new chairs from B&Q..

It was also noted that the edge of the green opposite the clubhouse needed raising. This would cost around £1000. The meeting agreed with AS's proposal to try and fix the worst bits for next season and do the job properly next year. **Action - DF**

6. Recruitment Strategy

PW had previously circulated a report put together by the Recruitment Team with proposals to try and resolve some of disconnect between various parts of the club regarding new bowlers. He proposed that between them the team would track the progress of each new bowler with the aim of getting a better idea if someone would join and sorting out any problems at an earlier stage. He circulated a draft of the report sheet saying he would need to discuss the plan with the club coach. When a new bowler had paid their club subs they would be allocated a buddy to make sure they knew how things worked within the club. Any enquiries about possibly joining the club outside of the open days should be referred to PW who would make arrangements for them.

DB said he had been approached by the local MP's office asking if she could visit the club on one of the open days as an opportunity to meet with some of her constituents. After some discussion the meeting felt that would not be appropriate for her to visit the club in her official capacity.

7. AGM 2025

a) CM said that the Constitution needed updating and had circulated a list of proposals to achieve this. The meeting went through the proposals

S4 (a) and 5(a) after some discussion CM said she would take up the suggestions and send out a format for the selection of the Men's Bowling Section Officers for the committee to approve.
S6 e) The club competitions committee will comprise the club captain, ladies' competition secretary and the men's competition secretary.

S10 c) new wording agreed

S11 c) new wording agreed

S17 b) new wording agreed

S24 new wording agreed

S25 c) new wording agreed.

b) MV reported that nominations had been received for all the committee posts for 2026 with the exception of Asst Treasurer. These will need to be ratified by the AGM. **Action CM**

8. Club Competitions 2026

Following some issues which occurred during the course of the 2025 club competitions BB said he has updated the competition rules incorporating some of the rules which apply to county competitions. He hopes that this will clarify the rules for all competitors. He will circulate the document to committee members and ask for comments. **Action – BB**

9. Club shirts

CM advised the committee that she had ordered nine new shirts but when they arrived it was found that they were of slightly different quality and had some small design changes. The small size also came up very small. The supplier advised that this was because they came from a different manufacturer and that any shirts which did not fit would be replaced. They will also provide some sizing samples.

10. Short Mat Bowls

This was dealt with under item 4.

11. Data Protection (standing item)

CM reported that the CCTV policy is not on the website yet as it requires some amendments which are in hand. **Action – CM**

12. Safeguarding (standing item)

CM advised the committee that AS, MV and herself had attended an on line Bowls England seminar on the new regulation regarding misconduct and disciplinary issues due to be introduced in December

13. Officers reports

CM told the meeting that the video of Finals Weekend and the Candlelight match made by Stuart Barry is to go on the website along with some photos he took. The printer we had previously used for the presentation evening certificates was unable to produce them this year but CM said she has found a different printer who will produce them at a lower cost. All other paperwork for the evening is in hand.

BB reported that the season was successful overall despite some cancellations through lack of support. He thanked Linda Fruen for taking the Wednesday evening matches all of which took place.

KH reported that Suttons had indicated that the Ken Baker Trophy contested with TMX may need to become a mixed match. Also the men's matches with Reading and Caversham will become mixed. The annual shield match with Hungerford was cancelled because of hot weather and the re-arranged fixture was also cancelled by Hungerford.. A county two-wood competition will be held at TMX next year. The name plates of winners on two of the club competition trophies are full. AS and LS have offered to replace the trophy for the husband and wife competition but the ladies' two wood trophy still needs replacing. MV will email the membership to see if anyone would like to donate a replacement. KH also noted that the car park needs some attention to fill in some dips in the surface. **Action – MV**

DiF reported through DF that 49 people had signed up to attend the presentation evening and she now just needs to confirm who has paid. She is planning to hold a Christmas craft afternoon on November 30th and a horse race evening on 12 December. She will confirm after speaking to MH.

14. AOB

a) the meeting was happy to agree with a proposal that Nesta Friend's name should be included on the county honours board. **Action – KH**

b) a query was raised as to the suitability of the sweets offered by the club this year as after match gifts and it was decided to phase out this custom in line with a number of other clubs.

c) MV told the meeting that the RCBBA required us to affiliate any new members who had joined the club over the summer. This has been done.

d) CM thanked the committee for their support over what turned out to be a challenging year and wished her successor well. On behalf the committee DB thanked CM for all her hard work.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 17 January 2026 at 10.00 in the clubhouse