

Three Mile Cross Bowling Club

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 17 May 2025

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

1. **Apologies:** Daf Ashby (DA) Membership Secretary

2. **Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 April 2025**

Accepted

3. **Matters Arising**

a) Boundary Dispute

CM encouraged all members of the committee to go and look at the disputed area and confirmed that all members had received BB's latest update on the situation. This stated that Bill Rhymes (BR) had not rejected our latest draft agreement but had again submitted one of his own. Essentially he is only asking for ingress and egress to an area of his property adjacent to TMX land. He has gravelled this area which is land belonging to the club and an area which cannot be categorically stated to belong to the club. He is not disputing ownership. It was agreed that we were prepared to allow BR ingress and egress over our land with acknowledgement of our ownership but he would not have access to the whole ditch area. In addition we would also require him to remove the trellis fence he has erected over TMX land. BB then read out sections of an agreement previously prepared but not submitted to BR which covered these matters but did not commit to continuing the agreement with BR's successors as stated in his own agreement. It was decided to go back to BR with the agreement presented by BB and invite him to discuss the issue with members of the committee. BB, AS, CM and PW agreed to take part in these discussions. **Action – BB**

b) Grounds maintenance

MV had been asked to send out a message to the membership asking for help with jobs around the club including painting. She asked DF if help was still required. He said that the clubhouse window frames needed painted and the benches around the green needed rubbing down and re-sealing. MV will send out message. DF also mentioned that the club was in need of a strimmer and was currently borrowing one belonging to a member. **Action – MV**

c) Others

KH said that he had not made any progress on the honours boards but it was on his to-do list.

A message had gone out to the membership regarding help with green on loan days. LS reported that there had been some response but not enough and it was predominantly ladies offering assistance.

CM and MV aware that safeguarding policies needed updating but it had not been done yet.

BB said the WhatsApp group had been updated and included about two-thirds of the membership. CM stressed that any messages intended for the whole membership should be sent by email.

MV confirmed that Roger Bryant had been thanked for offering to stand in as Chair.

BB confirmed that he had spoken to Montelle Motors about their tenant using the TMX driveway to work on their vehicles. BB said that the tenant had made a positive response to our complaints.

4. Treasurer's Report

DB reported that our insurers now require a fire risk assessment and that he had organized this but at a cost of £534. He is awaiting the report but the assessor indicated verbally that there were no major issues. He pointed out that the fire extinguisher in the workshop was unsuitable for use in a confined space and that we may want to consider changing it to one containing CO2 or remove altogether. It was decided to wait for the report before taking any further action. DB confirmed that we have still not received our fire safety certificate from RES and he will chase this.

It was noted that the drop in membership has meant there has been fall in subscription income of just over £2000. However, DB said that as of 17 May 2024 we had £12,900 in the bank and today we have £12,487 so he was fairly happy with the club's financial position. There are outstanding bills for £308 for water, £100 for paint and a bill for stocking the bar. Hosting the Berks v Dorset match brought in £525.50 plus bar receipts. CM noted that events like this are a valuable income stream for the club and that it is important to make people happy while they are with us.

DB has circulated details of our income and expenditure to the committee and is working on a comparison with last year's figures. He has also put in a grant application for financial assistance with the proposed adaptations for disabled use.

AS said it is important to keep track of water usage costs as this is a significant bill. Currently we are spending £18 per night on watering which should resolve the problem with bumps according to the contractors. CM said it would be useful to have projections for key areas of expenditure. BB noted that the drop in membership has a knock on effect for the club's income. A colleague from another club estimated this to be around £400 per member in lost match fees, bar income etc.

It was agreed that DF should go ahead a purchase a strimmer for the club.

5. Data Protection – standing item

CM reported there were no issues.

6. Safeguarding – standing item

A safeguarding issue was discussed and strategies put in place.

7. Green on Loan Events Management

AS noted that the club is good at hosting these events but he has found it to be a bit compartmentalized in that people have their own tasks and they attend to these. He felt that there should be one person to oversee the day to ensure that there was someone to welcome visitors, mark doors, equipment was put out and put away etc. AS agreed to compile a checklist. It was agreed that a club member should be nominated on the day to carry out this role. BB volunteered to oversee the next event on June 8. **Action AS**

David Brown left the meeting at this point.

8. Advertising around the Green

BB said he had noticed the advertising around the green at Woodley BC and a member has told him that this produces an income of around £2000 pa. He felt that this was something this club should be looking at. AS raised the issue of tax liability for non-mutual trading. DB to be asked to look into this as a matter of priority. **Action – MV**

9. Equitable Distribution of Responsibilities/Tasks

CM said that she wanted to foster a sense of ownership among the club members. This could be achieved by improving the involvement of the members, many of whom have skills and interests that could benefit the club. MH voiced his concern about the lack of volunteers to man the bar on Friday nights. DiF said the committee was doing too much and there was a need for greater input from club members. It was agreed that there was no easy answer to this issue but creating rotas which required people to opt out and find replacements was a start.

10. Review of Open Days

PW reported that on May 5 there were 10 attendees seven of whom have applied for coaching. On May 10 there were a further 10 attendees six of whom have applied for coaching. There are an additional two full members wishing to do the coaching course. They will not be required to pay for this. It was noted that a number of new bowlers are unable to attend all the coaching sessions for various reasons. Two individual men are unable to attend any of the sessions and Eileen is unable to do Friday nights when they are available. KH and BB offered to help them with some coaching. PW will ensure Eileen is kept in the loop on this. The committee recognizes the value of Eileen and David's contribution to maintaining a strong playing membership. While it is important that all new members undertake some coaching it is important that we do not turn away potential new members. To this end if Eileen does not

have the time to offer coaching to new bowlers who cannot attend the formal sessions she can ask for assistance from experienced members of the club. **Action - PW**

11. Officers' Reports

DiF confirmed that the club was booked in to have its Presentation Evening at Bearwood Golf Club on November 8 and that the details are being finalized.

KH confirmed that all the club competitions are up and running.

LS recommended putting the purchase of a new cooker on hold as the present one is working well.

AS said that traditionally the club has donated £50 pa to the Berkshire Bowling Benevolent Fund although this has not happened for the last two years. It was agreed to resume these donations.

MH reported concerns about members accessing the bar area without explanation when there was a member on duty. He will fit a bolt mid-way on the lower door to the bar and put up a staff only sign when there is a member on duty. He is also going to provide some training for members who wish it on Friday 23 May and produce a checklist for bar staff.

MV read out some notes on behalf of DA. She confirmed that the Lotto was going ahead with 26 people having purchased tickets. If none of the 9 unsold tickets come up it will make £340 for the club, if they do, £33 each time. With regards to membership the final numbers are - 22 Ladies, down three from the end of last season. 32 Gents, down nine from the end of last season. One Junior, down one from the end of last season. 20 Social, down seven from the end of last season. This totals 75 plus 11 PLM/LM.

BB ran through the results so far this season and expressed concern about the number of players wishing to take part in Men's Friendlies He suggested that perhaps some of these should be changed to mixed teams. He also noted that Linda Fruen was doing an excellent job as vice captain and ladies' vice captain.

12. AOB

BB said that he had been advised of an incident at the club which had led to a concern being raised. There are various procedures in place to deal with such concerns and the committee will take action in accordance with these procedures.

13. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 12 July 2025 at 9.30 in the clubhouse.