

Three Mile Cross Bowling Club

Minutes of the Club Annual General Meeting held on November 16th 2025

1. Introduction

The Chair, Claire Morrison (CM), welcomed the 27 members in attendance to the meeting and thanked Neil Argyle for setting out the room. Before the proceedings commenced she asked for a few moments quiet to remember those members who have passed away this year – Terry Welshman, Joan Baker, Yvonne Lock, Pauline Robertson, Brian Mace and Cynthia “Bub” Wheeler.

2. Apologies

The Secretary, Michele Vale (MV) reported that she had received apologies from – Kaz Clarke, Gerry Clancy, Linda Fruen, Paul Fruen, Eileen Allen, David Allen, Michelle Birtwhistle, Jeff Birtwhistle, Cleve Wicks, Malcolm Foster, Linda Salmon, John Robertson, Susie Mew, Ellie Wood, Nesta Friend, Marilyn Wardle and Richard Clark.

3. The President

Adrian Salmon (AS) thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting. He said he was pleased with what had been achieved during his two years in office citing the raising of the green edge, various painting jobs which smartened up the club’s appearance and the resolution of the boundary dispute with one of our neighbours as examples. He gave special thanks to Bill Bissett (BB) for the time and effort he had put into that particular matter. He urged members to read the minutes of the Management Committee meetings so they could see the wide range of issues the committee deals with on behalf of the club. AS extended his thanks to the club’s committee members, volunteers and team captains and gave his good wishes to those who would be taking up new posts.

The President went on to say that the club has been kept running for another year and despite losing 19 members we had maintained a small surplus of funds. He expressed his concerns for the future and said he believed the club to be at a crossroads. He said more new members and fresh energy are required to secure the club’s future. This will be achieved by finding ways of increasing our income, improving our facilities and ensuring we continue to offer a warm and welcoming environment. He believed that by working together he was confident that we can make the club even stronger.

AS concluded by again thanking everyone for their support, hard work and commitment to the club. He announced that the President’s Charity had raised £188.34 which he has rounded up to £200. This will be given to Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care .

CM thanked AS for his outstanding services and the time, energy and support he has given to the club and its members. She also extended her personal thanks for the support he has given to her.

4. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last AGM held on November 17th 2024.

A vote was taken and they were accepted as a correct record.

5 .a) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, David Brown (DB), said he had found his first year in the role somewhat daunting and he thanked AS for his support. He also thanked Roger Bryant and Peter Welland for auditing the accounts. Referring to a summary of the accounts which were previously circulated he noted that last year the club finished with several hundred pounds less in the account than at the start of the year but this year had a surplus of nearly £2000 This was despite unexpected costs such as new insurance requirements costing £550 and mower repairs of £1660. Next year he is budgeting for improvements to the green which will cost about £1000 and hopes there will be fewer surprise expenses. There was some discussion about the charge for taking part in the weekly Webber and it was established that it is £2.00 per person and free for juniors.

b) Proposed changes to subscriptions in 2025/6

DB suggested a £5.00 increase for full membership taking the annual subscription to £150 would be appropriate to keep up with increased costs. He also proposed that new bowlers joining the club after completing coaching should be charged £35 for full membership for the rest of the year.

A vote was taken and the changes accepted.

6) Appointment of Auditors 2025/6

Andy Friend (AF) and Peter Welland (PW) volunteered to take on this role.

A vote was taken and their offer was accepted.

7) Sponsorship

CM explained that the Management Committee had discussed the possibility of seeking sponsorship from local businesses as way of supplementing the club's income and were now asking the members if this is something they would wish to pursue. AS told the meeting that the club had received money from sponsorship in the past but this had been dropped because of potential tax liability on income raised and resultant extra work for the treasurer. He explained the difference between mutual trading and trading with outside members and its implications. A general discussion followed about what forms this sponsorship could take if it went ahead.

A vote was taken and it was agreed that the club should go ahead and seek sponsorship.

8) Proposed changes to the Constitution

CM referred to a document previously circulated which outlined suggested changes to the constitution. She said the proposed changes fell into two categories. These are a) minor amendments which included adjustments to phrasing and references specifically in relation to Bowls England policies and b) more substantial amendments concerning the organization of the club. The latter involved i) changes to the Men's Bowls Section Officers reflecting the changing structure of the club ii) the composition of the club competitions sub- committee which is proposed to include the Men's Competition Secretary, the Ladies' Competition Secretary and the Club Captain to ensure fair representation and iii) the introduction of a

reduced subscription fee for new bowlers who have completed coaching – for clarification she noted this would be full membership.

A vote was taken and the changes were accepted.

9. Captain's Report

BB thanked everyone who supported the friendly fixtures against other clubs. There were 38 games of which five were cancelled, three by TMX. He noted that the home fixtures were better supported than the away games. The Wednesday evening games all took place and were all won by TMX. He expressed his thanks to Linda Fruen for taking these games. He also thanked members for their support when he was incapacitated during the summer.

10. Fixtures Secretary's Report

Keith Hall (KH) announced that the Club Open Night will be held on Friday 24th April although the green may be opened shortly prior to that date. He went on to give details of various matches the club will host over the coming season the dates of which will be posted on the website when all the fixtures are confirmed. The Finals Weekend will be held on the 5th and 6th of September. He also said that on September 12th we would host Bedwelty Bowls Club which was on tour and he had been approached by Uffculme Bowls Club, also on tour, for a match on 2nd of September although this has to be confirmed. He noted that it was good to know that TMX had been recommended to them.

A discussion ensued on the need for everyone to be involved in these matches to provide a well organized day for our visitors as they provide a significant income for the club. AS said he has compiled a list of tasks which need to be undertaken to ensure the smooth running of the day under a general co-ordinator. He suggested this role could be shared around the membership.

KH went on to say that he would arrange for the honours boards to be updated this season. He expressed concern about the future of the old trophies as there was insufficient room in the cabinet noting that they needed to be kept. Several suggestions were made and the management committee will take this forward. He thanked Adrian and Linda Salmon for donating the new Partners' Trophy and Andy and Nesta Friend for donating the new Ladies Two-wood Trophy.

11. Greenkeeper's Report

Derek Fagg (DF) said that he and his team have tried to smarten up the green surrounds and the club house over the last season and they would like to take this further to provide a more welcoming and comfortable experience for members and guests. He said he had received some complaints about the slowness of the green and that he will be taking measures to try and resolve the problem. The back edge of the green needs raising and the team would be making some temporary repairs but he warned that the edge may need to be fully repaired in the near future. He said new green team members were needed and it was open to both female and male members. He closed by offering his thanks to all the members of the green team for their commitment and support over the last year.

12. Bowling Section Reports

Linda Salmon's (LS) report was read by Adrian Salmon. She said that it had been a good year for the club in the Thames Valley Ladies' League the team winning 12 of their 14 games and coming second in their league only one point behind the winners. She noted that the team's performance had improved annually over the last three years so was hopeful for next season. She expressed her thanks to those who helped with the teas and to the green team for putting out the equipment. She is handing over the captaincy to Debbie Bissett next year and wished her well.

The Ladies' Captain, Debbie Bissett, said she hadn't prepared a report as she hadn't been included on the agenda but said it had been an enjoyable and largely successful season. She thanked those who had taken part and wished her successor, Daf Ashby, well.

Terry Wardle (TW) reported that the Kennet League team had a good season despite the number of players being reduced for various reasons. A full team played every match with 26 members bowling over the course of the summer. The team finished 4th in the league winning three more matches than last year with a much improved point difference. He thanked all those who played, those who helped maintain the green, Mark Holder and Daf Ashby for running the bar and Diane Fagg and Linda Salmon for providing the best after match tea in the league.

Adrian Salmon presented the KLV A report saying that the team had a very successful season finishing second in the table having won 10 of their 14 games. He noted that this was achieved despite several of the regular players being incapacitated and he thanked those players from the B team who stepped up to help out. He also thanked their captain, Cleve Wicks, for his support. He said the club has entered two teams again for next season in the hope that there will be enough players to support them.

MV read out Cleve Wick's KLV B report. He told the meeting that the team played in the Kennet League Div 2 Central West. The team finished fifth in the league having played 12 games, winning three, losing nine and ending with a total of 41 points. He noted that the team was short on one player on a couple of occasions but the matches were still played. If there was anyone wishing to play for the team next season he encouraged them put their names down on BIAS.

13. Ratification of Club Officers

A list of proposed new officers was read out by MV all of whom had been proposed and seconded by full members of the club.

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|----------------|--------------------------------|
| President | Claire Morrison |
| Dep. President | Bill Bissett |
| Chair | Bill Bissett |
| Vice Chair | to be elected by the committee |
| Secretary | Michele Vale |
| Treasurer | David Brown |
| Dep. Treasurer | No nominations |
| Club Captain | Linda Fruen |
| Vice Captain | Terry Wardle |
| Greenkeeper | Derek Fagg |
| Fixtures Sec. | Keith Hall |

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Membership Sec. | Daf Ashby |
| Entertainments | Diane Fagg |
| Bar Manager | Mark Holder |
| County Rep. | Rod Fenner |
| Communications | Claire Morrison |
| Recruitment | Peter Welland |
| Health & Safety | Mark Holder |

A vote was taken and the appointments approved.

14. Ratification of Ladies' and Men's Officers

All of the following nominations have been proposed and seconded by full club members

Kennet League Captains

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|--------|---------------|
| Kennet | Terry Wardle |
| KLV A | Adrian Salmon |
| KLV B | Cleve Wicks |

Ladies' Section

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|-------------------|-----------------|
| Chair | Claire Morrison |
| Ladies' Sec . | Linda Salmon |
| Captain | Daf Ashby |
| TVLL Captain | Debbie Bissett |
| Fixtures Sec. | Linda Salmon |
| Competitions Sec. | Daf Ashby |

A vote was taken and the appointments approved.

15. Member's Item – Future of Friday Social Evenings – Neil Argyle (NA)

NA noted that when he joined the club Friday night was always a well attended social evening but recent years have seen a decline in attendance. He wondered whether members wanted to try and revive interest in the occasion or let it go. He thought that if the Webber was to be retained it would need a team of people to run it rather than expecting single individual to turn out every Friday. He suggested asking members what would make the evening more attractive.

A general discussion followed in which it was suggested that the Webber could be made more competitive but that would require regular attendees. It was noted that there was a better turn out when there was a barbeque but this needed someone to organize it. Some members pointed out that it was often difficult for members to attend due to work commitments as well as various matches being played on a Friday and throughout the week. It was noted that it was increasingly difficult to meet all the club's commitments with a reducing membership. The discussion then broadened out into how new bowlers could be better integrated into club life after comments that they felt excluded and it was difficult to find out information. PW was hopeful that this would improve with a new programme he was introducing next season. Various suggestions were made as to how to help new bowlers get involved.

The discussion resulted in a view that Friday social evenings were worth retaining and that it would be a good idea to gather information from the membership about what they wanted. Stuart Barry said he had experience of conducting surveys and he would be willing to assist with this. NA concluded by saying that the club needed to “think outside the box” to come up with ideas that might appeal to the membership in order to revive Friday nights.

A vote was taken and it was agreed to pursue the matter.

16. Handover of President’s Badge

AS thanked CM for volunteering to take over as Chair when the previous incumbent had left the club. Since then she had skillfully chaired not only the committee meetings but several sub-committees as well. He was pleased to be handing over the President’s Badge to a very worthy successor.