

**Woodhall Spa Town Bowls Club**

**Minutes of Committee Meeting**

**1000hrs Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Present:**

Dave Walsh (Chairman)  
Steve Anderson (Treasurer)  
Sam Elgar (Secretary)  
Val Sylvester (Croquet Secretary)  
Terry Butchart (Sponsorship Liaison/Bar Subcommittee)  
Ian Kendal (Safeguarding/Health & Safety)  
Paul Bastiani (Membership/Property/Friendly Fixtures Secretary)

**Apologies:**

Bev Redman (Social Secretary)  
Pauline Mallon (Joint Competitions Secretary)  
Kevin Mallon (Joint Competitions Secretary)  
Ron Nicholson (Bar Subcommittee Lead/Vice Chair/Greenkeeper)  
Phil Redman (Fixtures Secretary)

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Agreed as correct.

**Chairman's Report (Dave Walsh)**

Dave showed the Committee the Patchett Cup, and a discussion was held around what work is required on it.

The Greenkeeping team has been very busy killing the moss, cutting, scarifying, seeding and top dressing the Green as well as giving the patio a jet wash. Thank you, Team.

**Greenkeeper's Report (Ron Nicholson)**

Apologies - report as delivered by Chair above.

### **Treasurers Report (Steve Anderson):**

Steve reported that maintenance remains our main expense. The club's total equity on 6th March 2025 stood at £13583.50.

Profit and Loss for the period February 7th, 2025, to March 6th, 2025, was a net loss of £1549.91. This was mainly composed of continuing set up costs for Green Maintenance but subs are about to come in.

### **Secretary's Report (Sam Elgar):**

Sam presented the Friendly Fixture memorabilia commissioned to Sally Bearman and presented Steve with her invoice to pay this week. It was agreed that the Friendly Fixture memorabilia will be handled by Sam and Paul, who have the Friendly Fixtures in hand over 2025.

Sam stated that she has still not received our Open competitions application forms to share with other club Secretaries. Steve agreed to send these to Sam for forwarding and it was noted that all the teams who have free entry to Open Triples this year (as rained off halfway through in 2024) require contact to confirm and pay for any meals required.

Sam ran over the AGM minutes received from Lincs EBF. Dave will be receiving the handbooks soon; no other items impact our club. Dave added that the Boston, Coningsby and Woodhall AGM's have now all been attended and entries paid.

### **Membership/Property Secretary's Report (Paul Bastiani):**

Paul has received three applications for membership from our new Croquet playing members: Martin Russell, Dr Peter Seabourne & Patricia Duke-Cox. Welcome.

### **Fixtures Secretary's Report (Phil Redman):**

Apologies & Report sent: Phil has started work on our Fixtures List but awaits the league website being populated so will share our list when complete via email, on our website and in the Clubhouse.

### **Friendly Fixtures Secretary (Paul Bastiani):**

Paul reported all Friendly Fixtures are now confirmed and on our calendar.

Sutton on Sea will be an Away friendly only this year, with home next year and remain in this format of alternating years due to busy calendars.

Paul has provisionally booked a 16-seater coach with Kings of Stickney for the away friendly at a price of £525, he is hoping to get 16 names up at the Pre-season meeting this afternoon to secure the coach.

All Friendly Fixtures signup sheets, except for Collingham are up in the clubhouse, ready for sign up from the Pre-season meeting.

### **Bar (Terry Butchart):**

Bye Laws for Bar use are not ready for the Pre-season meeting so will be added by the Committee and emailed out, as per the Constitution.

Terry and Ron will arrange re-stocking the bar prior to Open Day on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Competition Secretary's Report (Pauline & Kevin Mallon):**

Apologies and Report sent: Pauline and Kevin have put up competition entry sheets which can be filled out from the Pre-season meeting that afternoon until the draw is made on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

They will be visiting Locks & Leather to look into trophy engraving soon.

### **Sponsorship/Liaison Secretary's Report (Terry Butchart):**

Terry reported that the entry fees do not come close to covering Open Competition prizes so he continues to seek sponsor(s) he will be chasing up his request in with Honda head office this week, they currently have an exclusivity offer but if this does not get taken up Terry will look at taking sponsorship from multiple companies and will also be approaching Suzuki in Boston.

### **Social Secretary's Report (Bev Redman):**

Apologies sent.

Bev has the tombola and raffle dates to work on.

### **Croquet Secretary's Report (Val Sylvester):**

Val confirmed herself and Jean Girling will take on Tuesday Trophy organisation, bringing it back to a learning focussed event and beginning at 2pm on a Tuesday as requested by members.

Val continues working with Fixtures Secretaries and has produced a suggested timetable to incorporate Croquet. It was clear Croquet fits into vacant slots well on Thursdays/Fridays and a Saturday or Sunday, Croquet will reschedule with Bowls to overcome any clashes.

Val identified 29 hours where nothing goes on, on the Green usually and will give a presentation to members at the Pre-season meeting of how croquet will fit in.

Val asked everyone to clarify that flat soled shoes are considered bowls shoes which was confirmed, there is no need to buy from a bowls shop so long as shoes have a completely flat sole.

Val shared that lots of Bowls Clubs are being approached by AC Croquet as this type of croquet works well on a Green in that no damage is caused. AC Croquet is a much more technical, gentle style of croquet than that of golf croquet, which you may have seen played elsewhere, such as at Jubilee Park. It is exciting that Bowls and Croquet are working together to maintain excellent Greens.

It was agreed that Croquet games will attract £2 Green fees, in line with Bowls games.

Debbie Lines will be attending who is a national Croquet Champion on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

Bowling members with an interest in learning croquet have the potential to do so in careful tuition at the outside of the Green.

Homes & Gardens local magazine will publish another article about WSTBC, highlighting our trial of Croquet also.

### **Health & Safety/Safeguarding (Ian Kendal)**

Ian asked that our 2025 fire extinguisher inspection certificates be displayed – Ron Nicholson was allocated this action.

Ian will situate a bucket of sand, outside the perimeter fence for cigarette ends.

Terry has arranged our electrical certificates.

First Aid Kits have been updated and fully stocked by Terry, who has also produced new accident and visitors' books and obtained a 50m extension cable for using electrical equipment at the far end of the Green. Thanks Terry.

The car parking spaces still need repainting which Dave and Ian will assist Ron with.

### **Any other Business:**

The Pre-season meeting Agenda was run over in preparation for that afternoon.

Ian asked Steve about renewal of club insurance, due in May and it was agreed that the constitution be updated to include Croquet can also be played during the 2025 season as a trial, in the constitution (which will need further update for 2026 season) to satisfy the insurers. All agreed that full liability insurance should be taken up at renewal.

We are yet to secure a new butcher following Horncastle's Busy Butcher closing. Steve and Ian will do some further research into this.

With there being no further matters arising the meeting was closed by the Chair at 1150hrs.

### **Next Committee Meeting:**

1000hrs Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.