

**Woodhall Spa Town Bowls Club**  
**Minutes of Committee Meeting**  
**1000hrs Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

**Present:**

Dave Walsh (Chairman)  
Steve Anderson (Treasurer)  
Sam Elgar (Secretary)  
Val Sylvester (Croquet Secretary)  
Terry Butchart (Sponsorship Liaison/Bar Subcommittee Lead)  
Paul Bastiani (Membership/Property/Friendly Fixtures Secretary)  
Ron Nicholson (Bar Subcommittee/Vice Chair/Greenkeeper)  
Phil Redman (Fixtures Secretary)  
Pauline Mallon (Joint Competitions Secretary)  
Kevin Mallon (Joint Competitions Secretary)

**Apologies:**

Ian Kendal (Safeguarding/Health & Safety)  
Bev Redman (Social Secretary)

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Agreed as correct.

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

Dave stated our Green is receiving compliments every time another club visits to play, with some going so far as to state they long to live nearer and be a member at WSTBC.

Dave is delighted to see newer members playing in the Leagues which puts us in a strong position for 2026 entries, not fearing we will have to drop any second team entries.

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

Ron thanked Dave and many others for the compliments on the Green and will be sharing these with the rest of the Greenkeeping team.

Ron put forward a proposal to complete work to achieve effective drainage in the SW corner of the Green (area nearest clubhouse end entrance gate):

## **A Proposal For Draining of The Wet Area In The South West Corner Of The Green**

**1. Summary.** It has been known for some years that the South West corner of the Green, an area approximately 6mtrs square, suffers from poor drainage and is consistently considered

to be wet to soggy. This proposal will outline a method to improve drainage in the area and the associated costs.

**2. Prerequisites.** Core samples to be taken from each square meter to determine extent of affected area, depth of soil and moisture content.

**3. Method.** Dig a series of trenches 0.5 mtrs apart down to the depth of the underlaying hardcore. The trenches to be excavated by a powered trenching machine. Fill the trenches to a depth of 50mm with 5mm pea gravel, then a 25mm sharp sand and backfill to the surface with the spoil removed by trenching.

The logic behind this drainage method is that each trench will improve the vertical draining of the top soil while at the same time leaching moisture from the side walls of the trench.

**4. Costs.** Estimated costs are as follows:

- Hire of trenching machine. £150.00
- 5mm pea gravel £135.00
- Shape sand £46.00
- VAT @ 20% £66.20

Estimated Total Cost £397.20.

Following discussion, it was noted hiring a trencher would be more effective than hiring a Verti-cutter to produce a French drain like effect. It was noted that we may be unlucky enough to have a clay bed under this area causing the issue so it would be useful to survey this via core sample or soundwave technology prior to identifying the most suitable solution. Ron will investigate costs involved with core testing – if anybody has connections in this area, please do let him know.

Howardson's have booked a seminar & finger buffet with demonstration on the Green for 23rd September which will raise valuable funds. For this reason, Autumn Green work will not commence until after the event and so the Green will remain open for a week longer than originally planned (weather dependent as always). From 8<sup>th</sup> September one rink will be closed for work however the rest will remain open until 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025.

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

Steve presented his below report:

#### **P&L Statement for the period 27th June - 6th August 2025**

Gross profit: **£1,201.28** - Mainly derived from Green Fees, Bar Takings, Kitchen Profits and a Raffle.

Total Expenses: **£232.63** - Mainly derived from Electricity bills.

Net Income: **£968.65**

### Balance sheet as at 6th August 2025

Community Barclays: **£ 17,534.53**

Petty Cash: **£ 996.41**

Current Liabilities **£ 58.29** (Electricity bill to be paid on 19th August)

Total Current/Savings: **£ 18,530.94**

Total Current Assets: **£ 18,884.04** (£ 353.10 held in stock)

It was noted that without sponsorship of the Open Competitions in 2025 they had made a slight loss and agreed we must seek out suitable sponsorship moving forward.

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

Sam read out an email received from Jean Girling thanking the Committee for their continued hard work which was appreciated by all.

Sam will be submitting our affiliation and County entries by 1<sup>st</sup> September and will copy Treasurer Steve in as these are submitted. Dave Walsh has the County Competitions entry grid currently to consult with those wishing to enter in 2026, please liaise with Dave ASAP so we can get the submissions in.

The finer details were covered for the Salmon Trophy that afternoon, it was noted that this event would benefit from assistance on the day from those not playing, as at other events.

Car Boot advertising as well as earlier evening starts and mole trap information was prepared to release the following day, with Phil adding it would be so helpful if other(s) could assist him with car boot set up from 6am BH Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Please contact Phil if you would be willing: [phil.redman@btinternet.com](mailto:phil.redman@btinternet.com)

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

Paul reported that four new members have joined. A warm welcome to Patrick & Julie Morris, Arthur Bradford and David Pell. ☺

Two more club shirts have been sold with 12 remaining in stock.

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

Nil to report.

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

The Collingham friendly on 16<sup>th</sup> August is now full with 6 triples to play, drivers and fees are confirmed.

Pauline enquired if our Trophies require adding to the inventory, it was agreed these should be valued then added as this is good practice for insurance purposes also. Pauline & Kevin will arrange the valuations.

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

Terry reported the bar is doing well he has just passed £410 to our Treasurer and had re-stocked ready for the Salmon Trophy that afternoon.

Terry continues to check online for deals to obtain tea, coffee & biscuits and is happy to receive messages should we run low on items.

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

Pauline and Kevin have visited Locks & Leather and established engraving can be completed by them in a reasonable 1-2 weeks at their Boston store. All agreed we should use this service.

It is likely engraving will take place after Presentations Day on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Sep as there are still several competition games to complete.

Dave will continue to chase up the Patchett Cup as this will be required on Presentations Day.

The Open Pairs and Triples were discussed. Ron could really use more support next year, particularly from members available on the day, who are not playing.

Frustratingly after the Triples had taken place a team who had not responded to email about their eligibility, following the 2024 cancellation then requested a refund. It was agreed that the £15 should be returned to avoid additional admin and potential bad publicity.

It was agreed that Royal Mail will no longer be used for communications surrounding Open Competitions as it is extremely costly and reasonable to expect email to be available to all at this time.

The possibility of removing the timer at Triples was discussed as some games did not complete the maximum 9 ends in this time, it is being considered if 8 ends with no timer would work more favourably moving forward.

Discussion was had surrounding the Ray Dales Drawn Pairs. It was agreed that Paul, Ron & Val will oversee the pairing in this to ensure more balanced pairs. It would be good to get 24 names down for this Competition, the entry list is still out if you would like to add your name.

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

Brian Haskett has kindly made Terry aware that Sainsburys may be a viable sponsor. Terry will be looking into this.

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

Apologies sent.

Bev had prepared the Raffle for Paul to run during the Salmon Trophy that afternoon.

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

Croquet has continued to thoroughly enjoy and benefit from this experience.

So that competition rounds can be completed, we have withdrawn the Sunday sessions in August and hope this helps.

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

Apologies sent.

Ron has now got the certificates for our fire extinguishers and has sent Ian a document to update our Fire Policy. Risk Assessments can be completed in house.

(Hum some silly music whilst reading this paragraph!) When an accident took place with the score board dropping on Steve's toe at the Tripples, the First Aid Kit could not immediately be located, then two kits were found. Ian was allocated an action to laminate signage for First Aid Kit, which Terry will review the location of and advise. Pauline & Kevin took on the action to ensure the score board has a stable stand moving forward. Steve will look at the laptop used for Open Competition scoring as this kept freezing at the Triples.

### **Any other Business:**

Dave facilitated the annual Golfers visit for a game on 8<sup>th</sup> July. This went well and adds to club funds.

Paul has changed the barrel in the second external door so as we have a key to this for insurance purposes and Dave will hold an additional key in case of lock failure on the main door.

Steve & Ron will be reading the water meters as planned in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August.

A Trustee wishes to resign, and it is unclear if others also wish to. Dave Walsh & Val Sylvester have volunteered to become Trustees. Steve and Dave will work together to ensure we only need to change these with the solicitors once as the cost is the same regardless of numbers amended.

Dave raised that the Car Boot store requires wracking to utilise wasted space and the current shelving has deteriorated becoming a safety issue. Ron would also like some in the maintenance store. Terry will investigate quotes for portable shelving.

A discussion was held around footwear on the Green, it was agreed brands such as Sketchers are ok providing they do not have a heel.

Dave confirmed this is definitely his last season as Chair and made all aware that Terry will be standing, we confirmed that being a Trustee does not prohibit this and all offered their support to Terry.

We need to get a list up for Cricket Bowls to take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August soon. Di Redman has volunteered to provide scones for the event, Thanks Di ☺

Phil raised that the Car Boot traders would like the grill running as early as possible as they would like breakfast before it opens to buyers.

Phil had an unfortunate encounter with a scoreboard earlier in the week and is making enquiries about getting leg welded back on (the scoreboard, not Phil's - more humming required!).

Val will obtain a Committee Board nameplate for Ian then Terry will affix both Val's and Ian's.

Ron was unable to locate the Council Grants meeting held in Horncastle recently but has sent an email on the subject to ELDC.

Val made us aware the Heritage Committee have been giving venues blue plaques locally and she was given full support to investigate if we can be included in this.

With there being no further matters arising the meeting was closed by the Chair at 1230hrs.

**Next Committee Meeting:**

1000hrs Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025.