

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held Monday 2nd February 2026

Present: Elaine Beckton (Chairman), Tony Hill (Treasurer), David Woodman (Hon Sec.), Carole Woodman (Ladies Secretary), Sue Kelly (Ladies Captain/Safeguarding Officer), Anthony O'Sullivan (Fixtures Secretary), David Gadd (Men's Rep), Jeff Askew (Greenkeeper), Derek Shermon (President). Andy Lobb (Men's Captain).

1. Apologies for Absence – Letitia Rivett Old (Ladies Rep)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting –

Minutes of the Meeting held Monday 1st December 2025, previously circulated, were signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous Minutes / Items Completed.

None

4. Correspondence.

Received Confirmation of Group 4 Spring Meeting Tuesday April 7th. 10.00 at Carnon Downs.

Letter of thanks from Cornwall Air Ambulance for Charity Donation.

Entry Form for Men's over 70's Pairs Competition (Displayed on Notice board.) Completed form and entry fees to be submitted at Group 4 Spring Meeting

Team nomination form for Men's Captain's Shield Agenda team for Group 4 Spring Meeting.

Confirmation of arrangements for Tour game with Chepstow BC, Thursday 14th May at 2.00.

Report of Development Seminar from David House

Sent

None

5. Matters being Raised

- 1) Fixing dates for major Club days.
President's Day will be on Saturday 11th April 2026, Captain's Day on Saturday 26th September 2026 and Charity Day will be on one of the first two weekends in August.
- 2) The Sponsored Competition to be organised by Derek is likely to run in September, with the weekend of 12/13th or 5/6th as likely candidates. Derek will confirm.
- 3) Carole outlined progress with the 2 wood Mixed Triples League, which we are entering this year. The full schedule has been agreed with the other competing Clubs including the two Newquay clubs that the Men do not normally play. It is hoped to give as many Members the opportunity to play as possible, and to include all levels of experience/ability. Forms are now displayed on the Club noticeboards and Ladies and Men Members are invited to enter their names as an expression of interest.
- 4) The Club Social Programme had been discussed previously, and the Committee would like to put the Programme on a more planned footing to give Members plenty of notice and to try to organise varied events at more regular intervals than we have recently been able to provide.
It was felt that a small sub-committee should be convened (not necessarily confined to Executive Members) led by Andy Lobb.
Social events, particularly over the winter season, are useful both as a means of raising funds but more importantly to maintain the social cohesion of the Club over the entire year. Any ideas from the Membership for events would be warmly welcomed.

6. Honorary Secretary's Report

Following from David House's report on the Development Seminar, there will be a presentation at Chacewater on 19th February at 10.00. David House, the Secretary and Ladies Secretary plan to attend and anyone interested are welcome to attend also. This may help us widen our own development programme.

The Secretary and Ladies Secretary will be visiting family in Australia from mid March until late April, and we will need to find cover for Secretarial duties in their absence. The Secretary hopes to be able to continue to deal with email items while away, but some emergency cover will be necessary.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that funds are in a healthy condition for this time of year and that Annual Membership fees will become due at the beginning of April.

He reported that the old electric meter had been removed and we now have a single functioning meter. This has allowed us to enter into a new contract with the suppliers resulting in an approximate 10% reduction over our previous tariffs, although the general cost of energy is still increasing.

Jeff has clarified the position with the water meter.

There is a problem with the door to the machine shed which now presents a real danger of Members using the mowers etc of hitting their heads. It needs to be replaced with an 'up and over' unit. We have already agreed to replace the Clubhouse door which has been delayed while a suitable keyless access system is sourced. The legacy left to the Club by Lucie should largely if not fully cover the cost, and it was proposed that we move forward and obtain these replacements.

8. The Ladies' Secretary Report

Carole has passed on the fixture dates for the new Mixed Triples League to Tony O' and John French and agreed to organise team entries for this competition. Rippon and Date fixtures have been given to John French to add to the website

9. Fixtures Secretary's Report

Tony O'Sullivan has now largely completed compiling the list of fixtures and John French has entered the information on the website.

10. Greenkeeper's report

The Green has been spiked in both directions and treated, but growth is currently relatively slow.

The recent bad weather has hindered the efforts of the Tuesday Working Party, and the new doors have still to be fitted. It was agreed that funds should be made available to replace the rear elevation to complete the repair and replace the remaining rotting timberwork. A line of slabs need to be obtained to lay at the end of the building. The blue fence at the front of the car park had blown down in the recent storms, and it was decided that it served little purpose as the front edge was clearly delineated by the rhododendron bushes. The remains of the fence would be cleared away but not replaced.

Looking towards the new season, Jeff reminded the meeting that we had agreed to purchase a new set of blue match mats to replace the badly worn white mats. The remaining white mats which are still usable would be cleaned and used for casual play.

Some of our benches have been repaired but are in poor condition. Jeff suggested that replacement with heavy duty plastic models should be considered. Similarly, it was pointed out that some of our parasols were not up to the job and should also be replaced.

Jeff also pointed out that our scoreboards were very old and had been obtained second hand to begin with. Some thought needs to be given to see if we could afford replacements. It was noted that many Clubs had sponsored scoreboards, paid for by sponsors who obtained advertising by displaying their business sponsorship on the boards. Andy agreed to look into this as a potential means of replacement.

The recent wet weather had resulted in the leaks in the roof posing an ever increasing problem. We need to pursue potential major funding assistance for replacement of the roof etc with Paul Bearham.

11. Safeguarding

Nothing major to report, other than the Manager of the Bowls Development Alliance has changed. This is a national organisation

12. Publicity Report

Nothing to report this month.

13. Application for membership

Paul Dooley had applied for and been granted full Membership.

14. AOB

Andy Lobb suggested that social and fund-raising events were advertised on the website well in advance. He reported that the siting of the dartboard was well under way and times when it would be used should be included on the website. It was suggested that Events should be displayed in a different colour to match fixtures, if that was possible.

There was some confusion about green fee payments for casual play on our green. Under the Constitution, fees for casual play or for Guests are to be determined by the Club. While a small charge is made for Guests, there are at present no charges made for casual play by Members. Green fees for County or Mining League matches, Vice Presidents matches etc are collected by the Club but determined by those bodies.

The cleaning rota still remains a point of contention. The full rota is available in the Clubhouse and on the website but seems often to be overlooked. It was decided that those who were scheduled each month would receive a reminder at the start of the month. David Gadd pointed out that many of the new members were unaware of the Cleaning rota and the duties involved, and that it would help if a short description was available.

The proposed showerproof tops that had been examined were felt to be inadequate, and Sue Kelly has sourced a different manufacturer and would obtain examples

It was proposed that the Trophy in Mike Diston’s memory should be the Men’s Singles Trophy.

Derek Shermon pointed out that the President’s Chain of Office needed updating and that the ribbon was now too short and needed to be replaced with a longer one. Sue Walker had agreed to arrange for this via our usual engraver.

Elaine noted that our stock of Club shirts for new Members was low and it was agreed that more should be purchased.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12.00 am.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 9.30a.m.

Chairman..... Date.....

Development Seminar at Bodmin-Report from David House

This took place today and, as agreed, I attended on behalf of the club.

It comprised a presentation about the Bowls Development Alliance from Molly Cousins who is attached to Bowls Cornwall this year to help and guide clubs on how they can develop, particularly focussing on recruitment. She being reached at mollycousins@bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com and/or 07557 819569

Many of the ideas replicate those I put forward in my own presentation. The major difference being the help that's available and that funding to achieve them might also be. One of their projects being "Bowls for health" which encourages those with physical or mental health issues to participate in bowling, as groups supported by clinicians. Funding is available from Sport England.

There is a "Health checker" on the BDA website which enables clubs to answer a series of questions and receive a BDA assessment of how well they are structured for the future.

The BDA run regular webinars on a variety of subjects, each lasting an hour, which we can attend.

The Bowls England funding portal shows where and how funding can be accessed for a variety of different reasons. Molly can assist on how to do this, what phrases to use and what to avoid.

There will now be a series of local seminars, one in each of the groups. Ours being at Chacewater on 19th February at 10 am. It's purpose being to encourage all the clubs in the group to work together and prepare both an overall group plan alongside those at club level.

As you might imagine I made some contributions to today's discussions, this subject being close to my heart. They were well received.

There was a presentation from Wadebridge on how their membership has "recovered to pre-Covid" levels. I wasn't impressed! They aren't doing anything special whilst making a lot of effort with school children. They benefit from being in a prominent position in a town. I don't our numbers dropped because of Covid, because we kept the club together and since have been more imaginative than just running taster days.

Trying to coordinate our next Open Day with the upcoming Commonwealth Games, which will feature bowls on TV, makes sense to me. I think all the clubs in Cornwall will probably try to do the same thing at the same time.

The Group 4 Spring Meeting is on Tuesday April 7th at Carnon at 10.

Regards

David