

Minutes of WBPC Committee meeting 7 February 2025

Present: Martin Hudson (Chair), Mal Jones (Treasurer), Ken Johnson, David Goodes, Phil Lear, Bob Houghton, Chris Houghton (Secretary)

Agenda:

- Lease, rent and contribution update
- Membership status
- Banking, finances, interest account
- Pairs, information and procedure
- Gravel costs for piste and path
- Floodlight costs
- Social events
- AOB

Lease, rent and contribution update

Martin reported that the CIC have the cash to cover the legal costs to transfer the lease, this means we do not have to pay. As yet we do not have the documentation.

Due to the weather conditions there have been no football matches or park runs since mid-November. This impacts on the income for the Sports centre.

Membership status

Chris reported that currently we have 52 paid members with 2 members still to renew when they return from holiday. 9 members have not renewed this year, in the main due to poor health. We have 1 new member (Lynn Tait) and 2 part time who, hopefully, will renew in the summer.

Banking, finances, interest account

Mal reported that WBPC currently have a healthy balance in the Lloyds account. It was **agreed** that a savings account could be opened with the Skipton building society at 3% pa when appropriate.

Pairs information & procedure

Phil has 10 couples and sixteen singles who wish to play in this year's Pairs competition. He has drawn the names of the singles to be paired and created a fixture list of 17 games starting on March 3. Couples will pay £30 and singles £15 which they will be asked to pay directly into the WBPC bank account (or by Cheque to Mal). **Phil to email details to competitors.**

Phil suggested a WhatsApp group for the pairs but after discussion this was decided against. He will use WhatsApp to communicate with the smaller groups for leagues and friendly matches.

Piste layout

The current pistes are 4.5m wide, however they should be between 3 & 4 metres. Martin has calculated that if they are reduced to 3.7m each, this would give us one extra piste. It will only need the ropes between each piste to be moved. It was decided that there would be no need to change the new pistes for now.

Gravel costs for piste and path/ Floodlight costs

Ken gave a very comprehensive breakdown of the costs involved to improve the paths the pistes, provide sleepers for the new training piste and different gravels available. He also gave a breakdown of the costs for extra lighting for home league matches. In total the costs amounted to approximately £540 which also included the cost of yacht varnish to maintain "Sheila's" bench.

Ken will talk to Matt Ralphs to see if he able to get these items at cost. **Phil** to ask Caerleon contacts for advice on size of gravel for training piste.

Social Events

Dave reported that a Skittles evening has been arranged for 5 April at the Conservative Club. So far 31 members have signed up. The price will be £10 per head, to include a finger buffet (£5 per head).

Dave also proposed a 2nd Skittles evening later in the year (possibly November), 2 Quiz evenings (May & Sept at the Sports Centre), 2 BBQs, June & August, and a Bingo evening. A Roulette evening was also suggested as a possibility.

AOB

- Phil reported that 14 people have expressed interest in playing league matches of which only 7 will play away matches. Paul Symmonds won't be playing league matches this year which means there will need to be someone to train to run bar for home matches. John McGillveray has offered to be trained which Brian Fountain can do.
- Phil proposed buying pennants at a cost of £6 each to present to the 4 regular clubs who play us in friendlies & one for Bath who will play us on May 9th. **Martin** to obtain the art work.
- On May 9 WBPC will host a 3 mixed melee matches with City of Bath Petanque club who will be on a tour weekend, also playing West Hereford PC the following day and Abergavenny on the Sunday. Their weekend will conclude with a meal at the Royal Hotel RoW for interested members of all the clubs. **Phil** will organise the melee and refreshments.
- Phil is also hoping to arrange a tour to Bath & Northy Arms (4 miles from Bath). Dates to be arranged.
- Money paid for the melee will be held by Phil. He will use this to pay for league refreshments. Monies left at the end of the season will be passed to Mal to be paid into the club account.
- Phil and Mal plan to offer coaching which will be open to all but especially for those taking part in league matches. Everyone should be playing to the same rules, for all games. Most members are now playing to most of the rules. **Chris** to send out a copy of the rules just to remind members.
- It is possible to apply for a Town Council grant of up to £750. It was suggested that a few benches around the playing area might be of benefit to the club. **All** to look at possible suitable benches.
- **Chris** to send out reminder that as from 31 March afternoon sessions will commence at 2.00pm

Meeting closed

Minutes of WBPC Committee meeting 9 July 2025

Present: Martin Hudson (Chair), Phil Lear, David Goodes, Bob Houghton, Chris Houghton (Secretary)

Apologies: Mal Jones (Treasurer), Ken Johnson

Agenda:

- **CIC matters**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Membership & Communications**
- **Competitions & Play**
- **Social Programme**
- **Maintenance**
- **AOB**

CIC matters

Martin updated the committee on the Draft Licence to Assign between the CIC, Cricket Club & HCC. This has not yet been finalised but looks OK. (This is to pass the lease for the tennis meadow, which the Petanque club occupies, from the Cricket Club to the CIC). When this is agreed we will need a contract with the CIC. At that point we will need to make payment of £158 x2 for back rent for the years 2024 & 2025. From 2026 the rent will be £158 per annum which is set by HCC.

Martin circulated copies of a draft document from the CIC for discussion. This covered the use of the Sports Club for Awards & Presentations, Food, Bar and Post event close down. Martin will attend the sub committee meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Mal sent a report on the club finances which are in good shape. The Quiz night raised £155, Skittles £200 and the Pairs competition £450 (this will be less prize money). **David** Goodes also reported that the BBQ in June raised £306 profit. (payments to Hanks were £157-63 and Sundries £28)

Chris asked if a new savings account had been opened up for reserve funds as discussed previously. Not as yet. Also if we could have a more detailed accounts as there were no details of maintenance and improvements costs. **Mal** to be asked for more detailed account in future.

Bob asked if there were any plans to gravel the far end of the area leading to the back gate. Would need **Ken** to estimate how much this would cost.

Chris suggested that in future we buy in geraniums for the planters, as they would withstand heat, and need less watering. To be considered.

Membership & Communications

Membership now stands at 66 members, with several new members since May. Although we look to be losing at least 6 members later this year, due to moving home, numbers look stable.

Chris to send out message to members advising them that during the exceptionally hot weather expected there is no obligation to play matches or turn up for club sessions.

Competition & Play

Phil reported on League, Friendlies and club matches

League

Currently WBPC are at the top of their league with 7 games left to play.

The next match was a 2nd round qualifier for the SLKO cup against Stranded Cruisers from the 1st division. Lost our first match, so the results of the next 2 games will be compared with other teams to decide the ¼ finalists.

Phil has difficulty getting league teams together, particularly when people have holidays as he doesn't have a big enough squad.

Friendlies

3 matches left to play – Caerleon and Llandaff in July and Monkston in September.

One member was concerned that the friendlies were taken too seriously by visiting teams and that maybe we should have a club charter for friendly matches. This was discussed by the committee and whilst it was agreed that some people can be a little obsessive we need to play to the rules as set out by Petanque England and a club charter would not be possible.

There was also a further discussion on how friendlies were organised. **Phil** organises melees as often there are not equal numbers in the teams. **Martin** preferred a more competitive approach with club against club teams. For this season **Phil** will continue with the melees but in future he will go back to teams depending on numbers.

Pairs

Malcolm & Brian have finished top in the pairs having won all their matches. There are still 3 matches to be completed. **Dave Thorne** has made a new wooden spoon for the bottom of the table.

Singles

Phil is looking to organise this during August. There ensued a discussion as to whether there should be a trophy for this but it was decided that this competition had been organised as a fun event and the current “trophy” would suffice as agreed previously.

Marches pairs & singles

Phil & Clive were playing in the pairs at Clehonger on 6 July

The singles are to be held at WBPC on 17 August. An email will be sent to encourage members of any standard to take part as it needs more participants to keep it running. Phil & Mal are entering. Club to provide teas and coffees but not food.

Social Programme

David is looking to organise a 2nd BBQ in August. Date agreed was Wednesday 27 August at 2pm. £12 per head as before. Also a quiz at the end of September & a Skittles night at the end of October.

The committee thanked David for organising an excellent BBQ in June.

Maintenance

Martin thanked Bob for acquiring the new “No Parking” sign for the back gate, free of charge. As George will be moving shortly, **Bob** has agreed to take on the role of groundsman and will rake the pistes.

Ken’s mowing schedule seems to be working, although with the current heat and dry weather there has been little growth. **Ken** to be asked if the shelters need repainting.

AOB

Phil suggested there should be a cabinet for trophies in the shelter. After discussion the committee agreed that a more appropriate place would be a shelf in the Sports Club.

Meeting closed

Minutes of WBPC Committee meeting 29 August 2025

Present: Martin Hudson (Chair), Phil Lear, David Goodes, Bob Houghton, Ken Johnson, Mal Jones (Treasurer), Chris Houghton (Secretary)

Agenda:

- **Tennis meadow lease & Contract – latest news**
- **Current Finances – spend v budget**
- **Savings account – Mal’s proposal**
- **Membership issues – pro rata subs, evening & weekend use**
- **Maintenance issues – strings, raking, bench & surrounds**
- **Competition progress & results**
- **Social programme – BBQ, skittles, quiz dates**
- **AGM & committee suggestions and elections**
- **AOB**

Tennis Meadow Lease & Contract

Martin updated the committee on the current situation. The transfer of the lease has stalled due to the County Council insistence that the Sports Centre work through a solicitor, who has not been lined up yet. As yet it isn't clear what costs are involved and whether we will be asked to make a contribution. Situation ongoing.

Current Finances

Mal presented a full breakdown of income and expenditure for the first 8 months of 2025. The club finances are in good order and there have been a number of new members this year. Mal suggested that it would be interesting to discover where the new members got information about the club before joining – word of mouth, passing during social play, website, previous press coverage? Would it be possible to update the membership form with the question. It was **agreed** this was a good idea.

Savings account

Mal had previously informed the committee of an Ethical savings account suitable for clubs in which to invest the contingency fund of £2000. The interest would go some way to cover bank costs on the main current account. It was **agreed** this should go ahead with Martin & Mal as signatories.

Membership

Chris reported that we currently have 68 members. Mal put forward a proposal that subs should be on a pro rata basis for new members joining later in the year, as follows:

Jan – March	£40
Apr – June	£30
July – Sept	£20
Oct – Dec	£10

Agreed

The pistes are available to use by members at any time during the week, including weekends and evenings. Some members do take advantage of this but mainly play during club sessions. **Phil** raised the question of a member who has friends who would like to join a club but can only play evenings or weekends as they work. Phil thought they might also be keen to play in the leagues. There was some discussion as to whether this would work or if it would create a club within a club. More information and discussion needed before a decision can be made.

Maintenance

Ken brought the committee up to date with a list of maintenance which has been carried out. He and Dave Thorne have repainted both shelters. Ken has also sorted out and tidied the inside of the shed section, and Dave has put up extra shelving. As we no longer have any need for the roller it was **agreed** that it could be passed on to Dave Thorne.

Ken has also removed a small tree growing against the fence and sprayed with heavy duty weed killer. Brambles have also been cut back and treated.

There has been little need for the mowing rota this year as it has been so dry there has been little grass growth.

Dave Thorne has donated a new waste bin.

The question of the widths of the pistes was raised as they are much wider than at other clubs. If the ropes are moved on the “new” pistes it would be possible to gain an extra piste. At the same time the ropes, which are too thick, could be replaced with new strings. **Ken** to implement.

Bob had agreed to take over the raking of the pistes from George, however, he, and several other members have suggested that members could rake a piste before playing as most people arrive 10 – 15 minutes before play. Likewise members taking part in league or friendly games could do the same. **Agreed**

Bob felt that although Sheila's bench has been protected with varnish it hadn't weathered well. Dave Thorne has offered to sand it down and paint it with French green external wood paint. **Ken** suggested that as the planters will also need painting, they might possibly be painted to match. **Agreed**

It had been suggested at a previous committee meeting that the far end of the area surrounding the pistes could also be covered in new gravel. It was decided that whilst this was a possibility, it could wait until 2026 to be discussed again.

Martin is to raise the problem of potholes at the entrance from the road, with the CIC.

Competition progress and results

Phil reported on the current competitions:

League

With only 2 more games left WBPC are top of their league. Only one point is needed to ensure promotion to the next league up. If the team is promoted we will need a stronger & more committed squad for next season.

Singles

Only 10 members have signed up to take part in the singles competition this year. Phil has received the "trophy" back from George who won it last year.

Friendlies

The match against Llandaff has now been played (the last was rained off). Phil is awaiting a reply from Monkston for the away match on September 11. Phil has a team of 9 for this.

Marches singles

This was played on 18 August at WBPC. 10 from Wilton participated. Phil got to the semi final of the main competition and Mal got to the final of the Plate competition.

SKLO Cup

We are playing in the semi final of the Plate at the Nags Head at Peterchurch on 17 September. The final is on 24 September.

Social Programme

David reported on the success of the BBQ at the Yew Tree Peterstow. It had been necessary to move the BBQ due to the threat of rain on the day. Many members had expressed their preference for the venue. It was suggested that if we plan to use the Yew Tree in the future would it be possible to store the club BBQ there. It was further suggested that **David** book early with the pub to ensure we get our preferred dates.

David to enquire.

The next social event planned will be the Quiz on 23 September at the Sports Club. £5 per head. Teams of 4-6 **Chris** to email members

The next Skittles night at the Con Club was discussed. It was suggested that this could be held on the same night as the AGM, which it was agreed would be on Friday 28 November. **David** to contact Adrian at the Con Club to see if that evening is available.

AGM

Friday 28 November.

Chris is standing down as secretary. Ken is also standing down. Bob has completed the one year he agreed to and has offered to stand for election again.

Martin to email membership re AGM and nominations for committee.

Chris to put together details of secretary's role.

No AOB

Meeting ended

Minutes of WBPC Committee meeting 17 October 2025

Present: Martin Hudson (Chair), Phil Lear, David Goodes, Bob Houghton, Ken Johnson, Mal Jones (Treasurer), Chris Houghton (Secretary)

Agenda:

- **Options for covering essentials of Secretary role**
- Volunteers in mind
- Association Management Services
- Restructure within current roles
- **Ideas for covering essential maintenance**
- No volunteers for the committee
- DIY, grass cutting, weed control, floodlights
- Volunteers in mind
- **AGM, skittles & buffet**
- One hour for AGM
- Short summaries not long reports
- Constitutions stays the same – 7 on committee
- Existing committee members just need approval
- New nominations need proposal and seconding
- Application form stays the same
- Club guidelines – add requirement for raking
- Presentations
- Help with moving furniture for skittles/buffet
- **AOB**

Secretary Role

Chris confirmed that Carol Thorne had agreed to stand for election to the role of secretary and that she would be meeting with Carol to further discuss what the role involved. **Martin** had looked into the possibility of using Association Management Services if at any time in the future the club was without a secretary. This would cost £300. Although this is not needed currently it is an option open to the club.

Maintenance

Most of the major tasks in the club have now been completed, although there is still a need for general DIY, grass cutting, weed control etc. Clive Davies has agreed to be responsible for the floodlights during the league season. In the meantime, Ken will arrange storage.

Clive Davies, Ken, Dave Thorne, Phil & Mal have agreed to help with mowing.

Martin has spoken with Nigel at the Cricket Club who is happy to cut the grass with his larger machine, or the club may be able to borrow it. Martin will find out the cost.

Mal suggested using the machine for the initial cut, when the grass will be a lot higher, and then using our own mower.

Ken & Bob have asked Dave Thorne if he will take on maintenance, with the help of others. Dave does not want to become a committee member but is happy to help

when he can. Dave suggested that any requests for maintenance should come through the committee and **Bob** will liaise with him. **Agreed**

Mal asked if there was any maintenance which was still outstanding. **Ken** reported that the bench, donated by Pat O'Hara, is to be painted by himself and Dave Thorne next week. Apart from this Ken has the maintenance up to date. The weeds have been treated and the sheds have been painted.

It was noted that the gravel on the old pistes were very thin and needed a top up of gravel. **Ken & Phil** will look for a medium grade gravel, to top up. Although Matthew Ralphs is no longer an active member, **Ken**, will try to contact him to see if he is able to help by getting a discount for us.

AGM, Skittles, Buffet

Dave has the list for the skittles and will liaise with the ConClub re the buffet.

Martin said he would like the AGM to last for only one hour which will mean reports need to be kept short. Any details of League and Friendly matches can be put on the Website. **Chris** asked if all the members who had taken part in League matches could be acknowledged at the AGM since they had all played a part in the league promotion. **Agreed**

Nominations for committee members will need to be in before the AGM. **Chris** to send out AGM details mid November. Committee members who are continuing will be voted for en bloc.

The application form will remain as it is and the Club guidelines will be updated to include asking members to tidy away rings and scoreboards after games and to rake the pistes.

Phil is arranging for the engraving on the Danny Webb plate and Danny has the new wooden spoon. **Danny** will present the plate, **Phil** the wooden spoon and **Martin** the singles trophy.

Next week **Mal & Phil** will be attending the Marches Committee meeting and presentation where they will receive the cup for coming top of the league. They will have a photo which **Martin** will send to the Ross Gazette with a press release.

After the AGM the room will need to be converted from theatre to club seating for the Skittles. **All** to help.

Martin to thank Pat O'Hara for the bench in memory of her husband John.

AOB

Chris to send out reminder for AGM & Skittles mid November.

Martin asked Mal for an update on the new savings account. **Mal** confirmed this had now been opened with Ethical Charity Bank with a current interest rate of 3%

Martin reported that the assigning of the lease from the Cricket Club to the CIC was almost complete. The CIC will then be our landlord with whom we will need a new contract.

The CIC is asking Balfour Beatty to repair the potholes in the entrance to the Sports Grounds.

The Chair of the CIC has volunteered to become the licensee for the Sports Club which will enable them to continue to sell alcohol on the premises.

Phil is looking at how to run the league team for next year. He has struggled to find enough players. **Phil** will prepare details of playing in the league which **Chris** will mail out to all members before the end of the year. Members will then have full information to decide if they would like to play before completing their 2026 membership form. To make life easier for the incoming secretary, Chris will mail out the membership renewal details in January.

David asked if entertainment was required at the Christmas Lunch. **Chris** to mail out to members to ask who would like to take part.

Phil reported that only 2 members from the Walking Club were interested in playing Petanque on Monday 27 October. It was suggested they join in the club session that afternoon.

Chris has mailed out to all members informing them that as from 27 October afternoon club sessions would start at 1.30pm

Meeting ended.