

THURROCK & DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1946

President: Vacant; Gen. Secretary: R Brewer; Treasurer: B. Coleman; League Secretary: R Clark; Competition Secretary: D Haworth;
Match Secretary: D Jago; Delegates' Representatives: T Mizen;

Thurrock & District Bowling Association Annual General Meeting held at Tilbury Community Centre on Tuesday 20 January 2026 Minutes

Chairman

Rob Brewer opened the meeting by thanking all those present for attending and then called for a minute's silence to remember those members who had passed since the last AGM.

1. Roll Call

Executives Present:

R Clark; D Haworth; R Brewer; B Coleman; T Mizen and D Jago

Delegates Present:

Aveley; Carreras; Corringham & Fobbing; Ford Sports; Grays Town; Orsett; Pitsea Riverview; South Ockendon; Stanford le Hope; Thames Sports; The Springhouse and Thurrock

2. Apologies

Executives: Nil

Delegates: Nil

3. Absentees

Executives:

Delegates:

4. Welfare

Obituaries:

Dave Dalley – Orsett

Tony Emberson – Thurrock

John Minness, Roger Reynolds and Ivor Myall – Thames Sports

Mike Salmon – Corringham & Fobbing

Stan Clark -Aveley

5. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes were approved unanimously.

6. Matters arising from previous minutes

Paragraph 7 – Treasurer’s Report

As indicated at the end of the report, the Executive Committee met on 5 February 2025 to discuss the current situation and potential financial implications. After considering a number of different scenarios it was decided that for the moment it would suffice to increase the cost of Presentation Dance tickets to £12.50, which would at least cover the significant rise in the cost of food and maintain the high standard of the buffet offered at this event. The cost to Club’s as part of the Association’s annual fees remained the same at £50 by reducing the number of tickets purchased from five to four.

7. Acting Treasurer’s Report

Dave Haworth reported that the health of the Association’s finances has remained good and is on a solid footing for the coming season. As has been said frequently, the financial goal of the Association is not to make a profit, but rather to ensure that the Association is in a financial position to enable it to carry out its normal business and its planned programme of events. The top line revenue, income, expenditure and account balances are as follows:

INCOME 2025 season
Total £4.376.85

EXPENDITURE 2025 season
Total £4179.588

Income over expenditure – provided a surplus of **196.98**

Competition and Finals weekend - saw a surplus of **£12.50** with an income of **£932.50** versus an expenditure of **£920.00**

The Presentation Evening – again was very well supported. This too saw a surplus of **£252.62**, with an income of **£2882.50** versus an expenditure of **£2629.88**. This was due to the hard work of Sue Clark who raised a whopping **£570.00** from the raffle event.

When all income and expenditure is added to 2025 opening balance of **£2325.89**, this equates to a final balance, which includes all un-cleared items of income and expenditure, of **£2522.87**.

When added to the Mansfield BS balance of **£3977.49** gives the Association a total of operating capital of **£6500.36**

The final figure for total operating capital does not include the interest payment from the Association’s Mansfield building society account which will be added upon the return if the passbook when the amount is known. I’ll update you on this at the pre-season delegates meeting.

The only other outstanding 2025 item not accounted for is the web hosting costs for which we have not yet been invoiced.

8. Account Examiners’ Report

Bill Coleman reported that the accounts had been examined independently and were passed as accurate.

9. Gen. Secretary and Correspondence

Update on future of Ford Sports:

FSSC Newbury Park – date of handover of lease now slipped to September 2026

Basildon Sports & Leisure Company – two proposals put to Homes England who own most of the land in the vicinity of the Bowls Club. Both of which include a provision for a replacement of the Club. If accepted by Homes England and Basildon Council this will safeguard the Club's existence for the foreseeable future.

None of the above is actually verified at the moment but the Club has every intention of completing its league programme even if it means completing the season by playing all its remaining fixtures away.

10. League Secretary's Report

League Data 2025

The 2025 season went very well, all league matches were completed but one, which was the Division 2 League match between South Ockendon and Thames Sports B, I do not know why this match after being cancelled was not replayed however this did not affect the division 2 league positions.

League Format for 2026

I am a little concerned regarding the structure of leagues for 2026, due to the unbalanced structure of the leagues with 7 in the premier 5 in league 1 and 7 in division 2, if we have the same Number of teams playing in 2026 as per 2025 then the leagues can run in the present format but if There is a change i.e. any team that at present can field three rinks but then withdraws or goes To only fielding 2 rinks then we have a problem with the structure of the leagues.

League Fixtures for 2026

I will not be publishing the 2026 league fixture programme until early April 2026 I know that this is an inconvenience as clubs want to put the fixtures in their fixture books, but please bear in mind that it is a bigger inconvenience for the league secretary who spends many hours compiling the fixtures in January only to find after publishing them in February teams pull out in April after clubs have had their Spring meetings and then find they don't have the personal they assumed they had in the previous Autumn when they had their AGMs.

League Winners & Runners Up 2025

I would like to congratulate all the league winners and runners up which were as follows.

Premier Division Winners	Grays Town A
Premier Division Runners Up	Springhouse A
Division One Winners	Grays Town B
Division One Runners Up	Springhouse B
Division Two Winners	Ford Sports
Division Two Runners Up	Stanford Le Hope

As per the current association league rules at least one team must be promoted and relegated from each division per season.

The remaining promotion and relegation places from the Premier league and Division One will be decided when I know the structure of the leagues for the 2026 season, this of course totally relies on how many entries we get in the leagues, **all clubs must inform the league secretary no later than the 21st March 2026** of teams they wish to enter.

This is normally done at the T&DBA AGM in January but because of my earlier point regarding the compiling of fixtures I will accept league entries no later than the above date. At this present time, I am only certain of four Clubs who will play in Division 2 in 2026. I am still waiting for The Springhouse to confirm whether or not they will have a 'B' team playing with three or two rinks.

This completes my report for the 2025 season, one I have enjoyed immensely; I would like to thank the Association Committee the Delegates and the Club's team captains for their help in the past year.

At the end of the meeting Robbie indicated this will be his last season as League Secretary and he will not stand for re-election next season.

11. Competition Secretary's Report

Dave Haworth reported that the 2025 competition programme ran smoothly throughout the season. The only issue that needed his intervention was to remind all competitors that match arrangements and all communications must be between those team members listed as the team contacts. This is to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding and ensure total clarity on match tie arrangements.

Competition entries for 2025 were up nearly 9% on 2024 which is encouraging when you consider the national trend and the difficulties our outdoor sport faces with shrinking of club membership numbers and sadly that clubs themselves struggling to survive.

2019	53	29	31	52	33	20	10	18	15	17	278	
	-4	6	2	-5	4	2	-3	0	-3	-1	-2	-0.71%
2020	33	19	23	44	24	15	8	14	16	10	206	
	-20	-10	-8	-8	-9	-5	-2	-4	1	-7	-72	-25.90%
2021	35	19	24	41	25	21	7	16	6	10	204	
	-18	-10	-7	-11	-8	1	-3	-2	-9	-7	-74	-26.62% on 2019
2022	47	29	30	47	28	22	7	17	18	11	256	
	12	10	6	6	3	1	0	1	12	1	52	25.49% on 2021
2023	45	31	29	46	28	16	8	14	11	14	242	
	-2	2	-1	-1	0	-6	1	-3	-7	3	-14	-5.47% on 2022
2024	54	29	20	50	31	18	7	17	11	12	249	
	9	-2	-9	4	3	2	-1	3	0	-2	7	2.89% on 2023
2025	63	35	30	48	27	16	9	17	13	13	271	
	9	6	10	-2	-4	-2	2	0	2	1	22	8.84% on 2024

He thanked all delegates for promoting and encouraging their clubs and members to support the competitions. It is only through this that T&DBA can continue the tradition of providing a competitive environment for those who enjoy this aspect of our game. He asked Delegates to pass on his appreciation to your clubs.

He thanked Grays Town BC for hosting our 4th joint T&DBA and TALBA finals weekend. Given its success, he saw no reason why this cannot continue into the future. He expressed his appreciation to all those members who help in the green preparation and set up and those individuals who help feed and water us on both days. In spite of the ominous weather forecast, it remained mostly dry and did not impact on the enjoyment of the event.

This was the third year where the T&DBA Inter Club Knock out formed part of the finals weekend. Again, results were such that this enabled him to programme this with minimal impact on competitors. For the time being he is still reluctant to state that this will be a permanent arrangement at this time until there is some further evidence that this is sustainable going forward.

Finals weekend for the 2026 season will be on 12th & 13th September. No venue has yet been decided, so any club who would like to host the event, do please register your interest with me. I do need to emphasise the normal caveats of not only must your green be of a suitable standard for the playing of finals, but that your club must be able to provide level of catering needed for the event.

Because of the delayed AGM and the proposals currently under consideration for changes to the C of C completion, the sharing of the competition entry forms has been delayed until immediately after the AGM. These will need to be returned back to him by 31st March at the latest.

He went on to thank his fellow Executive committee for their hard work and support they have given me during the year. A special call out must go to our league Secretary Robbie and his wife Sue who work so hard in arranging and doing all the necessary preparation to ensure the success of our presentation evening. Without their hard work, this simply would not happen.

He finished by saying that:

“Unless there are any volunteers wanting my job, this coming season will be my 14th year as Competition Secretary. I certainly did not expect to still be in office, having only volunteered to provide a backup capability if it were needed during a time when Leon Williams health had begun to fail him. I certainly have no intention of equalling his sterling service of 20 years. So tonight, I am announcing that I will be standing down at the end of the 2026, feeling that the time is now right. The sustained and consistent support within clubs to the competition programme that I have seen over my tenure, it is clear that the interest is there and the capability certainly exists for somebody new to take on the role and do what we all do as officers of Association which is to give something back to the game we all love, just as those individuals did who went before us”

12. Match Secretary's Report

Please see Section 13. Below.

13. Election of Officers for 2026 Season

Dave Jago has now withdrawn his willingness to stand both as President and Match Secretary for the 2026 season. His reasons are quite straightforward in that his being President made sense as long as he was Match Secretary and attending all of the matches he arranged. However, with regard to his being Match Secretary he feels the position is no longer tenable as his pool of players has shrunk to the point where he is no longer able to guarantee enough players to fulfil the fixtures he has arranged. The reason for this is relatively simple in that Roger Cornwell had the time and ability, using his legendary number of contacts, to be able to scour the country far and wide for players, many of whom, as we are all aware, didn't have any real TDBA bona fides. However, that was happily overlooked as it gave those players from Association Clubs the opportunity to play which they might otherwise not have had. The current situation is that Dave is largely restricted to using players from the Clubs in our Association and that is where the problem now arises as Clubs with their own friendly fixtures arranged, understandably expect their players to play for their Club and not the Association when a clash of fixtures occurs. Perhaps we should now consider whether it is feasible to run a programme of indoor fixtures in the future and with outdoor fixtures now reduced to two, whether the post of Match Secretary is even relevant any longer. However, Dave will still stay in post until the current round of fixtures he arranged are completed. The Executive Committee will hold a special meeting to consider this issue which will be raised again at the pre-season Executives/Delegates Meeting.

Re-election of those officers willing to remain in their current posts for the 2025 Season. The list is attached at Annex 'A' to this Agenda.

Passed

14. To Consider Motions

The Champion of Champions competition has seen an on-going reduction in the numbers of entrants, thus threatening its viability. Currently, eligibility is limited to the individual Club champion from the previous season (from those clubs within the Association) and to the current holder of the Association's Champion of Champions from the previous season. Therefore, in order to broaden the eligibility for entry to the Champion of Champions Trophy and thereby sustaining the viability of the competition it is:

Proposed by Dave Haworth and Seconded by Rob Brewer that one of the two following proposals are adopted for eligibility to enter all future Association Champion of Champions competition :

Proposal One (allowing for a maximum increase of an ***additional*** 16 entrants)

The Champion of Champions competition shall be open to all club individual champions of the previous season plus the current Association title holder. Additionally, all ***winning*** finalists who played in the other Association competition finals matches will be eligible, including the two male players from the mixed fours competition. Any member who played in a winning team in rounds leading to the final, but were not involved in the final itself, WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE.

Proposal Two (allowing for a maximum increase of an additional 3 entrants)

The Champion of Champions competition shall be open to all club individual champions of the previous season plus the current Association holder. Additionally, all ***winning*** finalists of the three other Association singles competitions will be eligible.

Proposal One was passed by a majority of 6 votes to 3 votes

15. Date and Time of Future Meetings.

The Pre-season Executives/Delegates Meeting to be held at a date to be decided in April 2026.

**T&DBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2026**

POST	POST HOLDER	STANDING YES/NO
President	VACANT	
General Secretary	Rob Brewer	YES
Hon Treasurer	Bill Coleman	YES
Match Secretary	Dave Jago	NO
Competition Secretary	Dave Haworth	YES
League Secretary	Robbie Clark	YES
Delegate to Executive Committee	Terry Mizen	YES

**T&DBA
SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2026**

POST	POST HOLDER	STANDING YES/NO
Account Examiner	Dave Haworth	YES
Assistant Match Secretary	VACANT	
Assistant Competition Secretary	Robbie Clark	YES
Assist. League Secretary	Rob Brewer	YES
Selection Committee	VACANT	
	Dave Jago	YES
Competition Committee	Dave Haworth	YES
	Robbie Clark	YES