

THURROCK & DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1946

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

Thurrock & District Bowling Association Executive Meeting **held at** **Tilbury Community Centre on Wednesday 15 October 2025**

Minutes

Opening Address

Rob Brewer opened the meeting by thanking all those present for attending.

1. Present

Executives

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

Delegates

Present: Aveley; Carreras; Corringham/Fobbing; Ford Sports; Grays Town; Orsett; Pitsea Riverview; South Ockendon; Thames Sports; The Springhouse; Stanford Le Hope and Thurrock

2. Apologies for Absence

Nil

3. Absent

Nil

4. Welfare

Obituaries

As for last year, the roll call for those of our members who sadly pass away during the course of the year will be held at the AGM. Please let Rob Brewer have the details before then.

5. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous Executives and Delegates Meeting held on 16 April 2025 (ExDM2025-04) were passed unanimously.

6. Matters Arising

Nil

7. General Secretary's Report

Rob Brewer reported that an incident involving an erroneous statement regarding another Club had been made on another Club's social media platform. He went on to say that Clubs who use social media as a means of communication should be aware that any posts that are made, especially those mentioning other Clubs or their members, need to be factually correct and not based on rumour or speculation.

He also drew attention to the list of T&DBA Committee post holders and the fact that all were willing to stand at the AGM to continue for another season. This did not preclude any other members from putting themselves forward for election to any of the existing posts at the AGM. This would require a proposer, a seconder and the agreement of the nominee to stand for election to reach the Gen.Sec. by 31 December 2025.

Addendum: Post meeting Dave Jago agreed to stand for the post of President which will run alongside his duties as Match Secretary.

8. Acting Treasurer's Report

Dave Haworth in his role as Acting Treasure reported that as Bill Coleman, our treasurer, was unfortunately incapacitated for some time just prior to the start of the season, he has continued to manage the Associations finances, hence his delivering tonight's report. Having done so, this creates a conflict of interests when it comes to his carrying out his role as the account auditor. To this end he will continue to prepare financial accounts for the remainder of the year up to the AGM. This will then enable Bill to audit the accounts independently to ensure they are a true and accurate record for 2025, when he formally takes over all duties connected with the Treasurer's post.

Current Account balance April 2025 CF **£3,984.39** (incorrectly reported as **£3,942.39**)
 This was due to my having removed the over-payment amount from the actual receipt total by mistake)

INCOME	EXPENDITURE
TALBA contribution to finals weekend £100	Finals weekend costs £250.00
Donation from the executor of Alan Gray £105.86	
(having removed the outstanding accrual from 2024 total CF which accounted for the trophy insurance payment made)	

Total Income	£205.86	Total Expenditure	£250.00
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This means Current Account balance inclusive of income/expenditure **£3,940.25**

Added to Mansfield BS total balance of **£3,977.49**

Total Balance & operating capital CF **£7,917.74**

9. League Secretary's Report

Robbie Clark reported the following:

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. The reason why this match, after being postponed, was not replayed is not known but this did not affect the Division 2 league positions.

League Format for 2026

He expressed a little concern 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. However, if there is a change i.e. any team that at present fielding three rinks either withdraws or goes to only fielding two rinks then there will be a problem with the future structure of the leagues.

League Fixtures for 2026

In view of the above, he will not be publishing the 2026 league fixture programme until early April 2026 which 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 personnel they assumed they had in the previous Autumn when they had their AGMs.

League Winners & Runners Up 2025

He congratulated 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.

He finished by saying this completes my report for the 2025 season, one I have enjoyed immensely and I would like to thank the association committee, the delegates and the club team captains for their help in the past year.

10. Competition Secretary's Report

Dave Haworth reported that he would provide a full breakdown of competition stats at the AGM. There were no major competition related issues during the season that required direct intervention by him. However, there was an issue around match arrangement, where there was a lack of timely and clear communication between the teams involved and a misunderstanding of who is responsible for initiating and dealing with the match arrangement and the communications. He then reminded all those participating in competitions that it is the responsibility of the "challenger" i.e. the team contact listed in the contact list to initiate and liaise with the "opponent" team contact in order to agree all match arrangements and not other team members.

Regarding the finals weekend, in spite of the menacing weather conditions, it was fortunate no one had to don any wet gear over the two days. Again, it was possible to be able to combine successfully with TALBA and run both Associations finals matches side by side. He expressed his thanks Terry Mizen and Grays Town BC for hosting the event. They made sure bacon sarnies were readily available both mornings as were the refreshments from the bar with a buffet lunch made available for contestants. As always, thanks to the army of helpers who prepared and set out the green, as well as clearing it all away after everyone else has long gone home. Obviously, it's a bit early to start thinking about next season but he will have to look at potential venues for next year's finals soon into the New Year. Any Club is welcome to volunteer but the stipulations are that the Green must be of a suitable quality and the Club must be able to provide catering on both days.

He concluded by saying he will be sharing a proposal to be voted on at the AGM concerning one of our current competitions. The ever-decreasing number of clubs has far reaching impacts, not least for the competitions run by the Association. One competition where this is most apparent is The Champion of Champion competition. At best it has had a maximum of 12 entries during his tenure, but the norm is 8 or maybe even 9 entrants. Such low numbers in his opinion questioned its sustainability going forward and therefore he will be proposing that in future, in addition to each Club champion and the previous season's competition winner, eligibility is extended further to all winners of Association competitions in the previous season. Potentially, this will provide a maximum increase in number to 16 entrants. Thus, guaranteeing the viability of the competition going forward at the same time as maintaining the target audience and standard of play implicit in the name of the competition itself. He asked that this be shared with your club's members for their feedback.

11. Match Secretary's Report

Dave Jago reported that the decision to limit the number of outdoor fixtures due to various competitions and the Basildon and District league fixtures appear to have been the right one. Two fixtures were played, a charity event and the match against TALBA both of which were very successful. It is planned to carry this on to next

season. As far as winter fixtures are concerned, these have been reduced from 22 to 13 which appears to be sustainable at the moment. However, the future is less certain with the age factor and the unwillingness to continue driving on dark winter nights coming more to the fore. In order for us to continue it is imperative that more players put their names forward. To this end a list of fixtures and contact details are on the Association website so if there are any prospective players in Clubs, please encourage them to get in touch otherwise there is a danger that we shall no longer be able to play winter fixtures in the future.

12. Any Other Business

Nil

13. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be the AGM to be held on Tuesday 20 January 2026 at the Tilbury Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Minutes: Rob Brewer