

THURROCK & DISTRICT BOWLING ASSOCIATION



FOUNDED 1946

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

T&DBA Executives and Delegates Meeting **held at** **Tilbury Community Centre on Tuesday 13 October 2026**

Agenda

Opening Address

Rob Brewer opened the meeting by thanking all those present for attending and stressed the importance of attendance at both this and the end of season meeting, now that the frequency had dropped from four to two.

1. Present

Executives

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

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 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 Tuesday 21 April 2026 (ExDM2026-04) were passed unanimously.

6. Matters Arising

Only one matter arising from the earlier meeting appears to be still outstanding which is a replacement for the post of League Secretary.

7. General Secretary's Report

Correspondence received regarding three changes to competition rules:

- Grays Town Bowling Club proposes an amendment to the eligibility criteria for the TDBA Champion of Champions 4 Wood Singles competition so that entry is restricted to the winner and runner-up of each affiliated club's 4 Wood Club Championship.
- 10 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS COMPETITION.

"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"
- To amend the TDBA Competition Rules so that semi-finals are no longer required to be played on neutral greens. Instead, the team drawn at the top of the fixture should be awarded home advantage.
- The TDBA align its competition format more closely with Bowls England by reducing the number of ends played in the Fours and Four Wood Pairs and Mixed Pairs to 18 ends.

Update on League structure for 2027/28. An Executives Meeting was held on 29 September to discuss the League structures for 2027/28. There have been developments which have, largely, left the Association with little option other than to continue with the current structure. This does have ramifications for at least two of our Clubs.

Update on Ford Sports current situation. As at this moment in time, the Club has been informed the new date for closure will be sometime in January 2027. This at least gives the three main interested parties involved in a possible takeover of the Club and its premises (Basildon Sports and Leisure Company, Homes England and Basildon Council) more time to try and iron out a solution.

8. Treasurer's Report

Dave Haworth reported that this would be the final time that he will deliver the financial statement of accounts. Bill Coleman will present the full accounts for the Society at the AGM. Dave will verify these and confirm their accuracy prior to the meeting. As can be seen from the report below, there has been very little activity since the last report.

Current Account balance April 2026 CF **£4225.19**

INCOME

TALBA contribution to finals weekend £100

EXPENDITURE

Finals weekend buffet costs £250.00
Umpire costs £50.00

Total Income

£100.00

Total Expenditure

£300.00

This means Current Account balance inclusive of income/expenditure

£4,025.19

Added to Mansfield BS total balance of

£3,977.49

Total Balance & operating capital CF

£8,002.68

9. League Secretary's Report

Robbie Clark explained the rationale behind decisions on League structures for 2027/28. The following is basically a precis of what was said initially:

A TDBA Executive Committee meeting was held on Tuesday 29 September to discuss a number of issues prior to the Executives and Delegates Meeting on 13 October. The main amongst these was the structure of the Leagues for the 2027/28 Season. After a very lengthy discourse on the subject it was decided, despite the likely ramifications for at least two member clubs, the league structure would remain unchanged.

The reason for this is that following the loss of a number of members Springhouse may not be able to enter a team in Div 2 next season. This alone renders the Division not viable as you cannot run a meaningful competition over 12 weeks with less than 5 teams, who are already playing each other twice. Also, Stanford-le-Hope feel they will be able to field 3 rinks next year so the net result of this is that Ford Sports and South Ockendon will be unable to take part in TDBA or, presumably, Group 9 competitions in 2027/28.

The rationale behind the decision to stay with the current format is that to go, for instance, to a 2-rink format would be detrimental to too many members from a Club like Springhouse who currently have about 17 players to play 3 rinks, which allows them a fair number of games each over the season. However, if you go to 2 rinks, they can still only field one team as you can't support two teams of 8 with only 17 players, leaving 9 very unhappy bowlers unable to play a meaningful number of games over the season. The same argument holds true for a triples format, as well as failure to provide a triple reduces the match to two rinks, whereas playing full rinks means that at least one rink can be played as a triple. This argument probably holds true for at least four or five Clubs in the TDBA (Aveley, Springhouse, Carreras, Thames Sports and Pitsea). Therefore, for the greater good of the many both Ford Sports and South Ockendon become the sacrificial lambs so to speak.

Following the above there ensued lengthy discussions regarding the various different options that might be taken up to alleviate the situation. However, it was eventually decided, reluctantly, that the recommendation of the Executive Committee to retain the existing league structures appears to be the only way forward that benefits the majority of Clubs and their members. The issue will be formally decided on at the AGM, by which time there may be changes that will affect the final outcome.

Robbie finished by saying that whatever was decided would be pointless unless a new League Secretary was forthcoming.

10. Competition Secretary's Report

Dave Haworth gave the following report:

A very short report from me as we do have some motions to discuss around changes / suggestions. I will provide a full breakdown of competition stats at the AGM. I am pleased to report that there were no competition related issues during the season that needed any input from myself. The competitions resulted in some very keenly contested games at our finals weekend. The weather was kind to us and the hospitality provided by Thurrock BC was very much appreciated. I'd like to thank Phil and his band of helpers for all their hard work throughout the weekend making sure we had bacon sandwiches to get us through to our buffet lunch, with somebody always available to serve us a beverage or two in between. And let us not forget those individuals who prepared the green and set up and cleared the rinks over both days. Sometimes we tend to forget the amount of background work that goes into staging such events. A finals weekend isn't just about the bowling. I must also thank Terry Mizen for using his contacts and arranging for us to have an umpire on both days. I also must thank both Robbie and Russ for marking the singles games over the two days. That's really about all I have to say other than to ask Secretaries and Delegates to make sure their clubs e-mail me their list of officers once they have held their AGMs, as per my e-mail this week. This ensures we are sending information to the right people. Finally, I am currently reviewing our rules and constitution to identify any out-dated or legacy content given the recent changes over the last few years. Rob will share all the proposed changes / corrections so they can be ratified at our AGM, bringing our constitution and rules up to date.

New proposals

Semi-Final Venues

We believe the time is right to amend the TDBA Competition Rules so that semi-finals are no longer required to be played on neutral greens. Instead, the team drawn at the top of the fixture should be awarded home advantage.

Champion of Champions 4 Wood Singles Eligibility

The eligibility for this was discussed and voted on at the last AGM. And it was decided to adopt the following:

"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"

The new proposal is that the entry should be restricted to the winner and runner-up of each affiliated club's 4 Wood Club Championship as well as the previous season's winner

Competition formats

Proposal that the Association align its competition format more closely with Bowls England by reducing the number of ends played in Association fixtures as follows:

Fours: 18 ends

4-Wood Pairs: 18 ends

Mixed Fours: 18 ends

11. Any Other Business

A list of Committee Members prepared to stand for 2027 is at Annex A.

The 2027 TDBA Competition Finals will be held on the weekend 11/12 September 2027

12. Future Meetings

The AGM will be held on 19 January 2027

T&DBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2027

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

T&DBA SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2026

POST	POST HOLDER	STANDING YES/NO
Account Examiner	Dave Haworth	NO
Assistant Match Secretary	POST SUSPENDED	N/A
Assistant Competition Secretary	Robbie Clark	NO
Assist. League Secretary	Rob Brewer	YES
Selection Committee	POSTS	N/A
	SUSPENDED	N/A
Competition Committee	Dave Haworth	NO
	Robbie Clark	NO