

**EDGORTH BOWLING CLUB**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE 2024 SEASON**  
**Meeting minutes**

**Venue :** The Barlow, Library

**Date :** Wednesday 12th February, 2025 at 6.30pm

**1) *Chairman's introduction and opening remarks***

Kerry welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that as the meeting's originally planned date would have been on Valentine's night, it was thought better to move it forward by a couple of days.

He thanked the new Greenkeeping team 'The Magnificent Seven' and in particular Peter and mainly Kevin's work in creating the new Irrigation System which would undoubtedly prove its worth in the coming season. He also thanked Robert D for his work managing the finances, Ronnie for managing the refreshments, Joan and Margaret Whittaker for managing the advertising boards, Andrew Spencer for supporting Kerry as chairman and his expertise with Insurance issues and finally the Club Secretary Andy W for the general organisation of the day to day running of the club, the leagues and competitions.

He stated that the 3 Gardening Days we held were successful and hoped for more support next year. He confirmed that Margaret Whittaker and Maureen Hall had agreed to organise catering for future competitions and gardening days.

He suggested we should offer a more structured approach to the Tuesday afternoon social bowling sessions, in order to improve team performance in the various leagues and to help people get to know each other. This could be achieved by organising a small round robin competition for those interested, which he was happy to do if there was enough interest.

**2) *Attendance Record***

Kerry confirmed that there were 29 Members in attendance which exceeded the minimum quorum. The signing in sheet has been retained by the Club Secretary.

**3) *Apologies for absence***

Kerry noted that 17 Members had given their apologies for the meeting.

**4) *Absent Friends***

Kerry noted that we had 2 Members who had passed away this year (Brenda Heathcote and Ron Leversedge) and a one minute's silence was held in their memory.

**5) *Approval of the minutes from the previous AGM on 16/02/24***

Andy Warman stated that the previous AGM minutes had already been agreed at a Committee meeting but needed formally adopting at this meeting. They were available on the website and had been emailed to all members. They were proposed and seconded as a true record and accepted unanimously with no abstentions.

**6) *Proposals from Members***

The proposal that 'A resolution is recorded that the Club's annual accounts shall not be disclosed to a third party without the membership agreeing that there is a compelling reason to do so' as raised by Robert Downie was discussed.

The background was that the new Chairman of the Barlow Trustees had requested sight of the Club's accounts but had not provided any reason for this. The meeting was reminded that as an

unincorporated private members club such information was not required by the Trustees in the running of the Barlow Charity and that providing any financial information should not be done without good reason.

One member suggested that we should take a more co-operative approach with the charity Trustees and give them the information. It was agreed that everyone wanted a good relationship with the Trustees, however we had repeatedly asked for clarification as to why the information was needed but no reason had been given. Several members confirmed that we needed a good reason in order to give out this type of information.

A vote was then taken, all except one member agreed with the proposal, there were no abstentions. The motion was therefore carried.

### **7) *Financial Report and Honorarium***

Robert Downie stated that accounts going back to 2021 were still being finalised between himself and Kathleen H who was acting as an independent examiner. No issues had been identified but the activity was time consuming due to the number of transactions (both in cash and bank transfers) involved. Robert then summarised the accounting process that the Club adopts i.e. draft accounts discussed at the AGM which were then finalised later following detailed inspection.

Kathleen gave a summary of the major movements in the accounts during the financial year, including £4,500 being sent to the Stroke Association and a similar amount being held by the club as restricted funding to be used for enhancing the facilities of the Club only. The overall bank balances at the start and end of the financial year were given and Kathleen confirmed that she now had copies of all the bank statements for 2021 and that work was ongoing with detailed inspection, including analysing various emails giving details of cash transactions into the Club account. She recommended that we should revert to the old 'cash book' recording style of data recording throughout the year and minimise using emails to manage cash handling. This would make the analysis much simpler for her.

It was stated that as in previous years, no honorarium had been paid to Committee members this year.

### **8) *Secretary's Report***

Andy Warman gave a summary of the year's bowling, including membership, the Committee, insurance, social / Club competitions, league matches, winter bowling, support to the community (Diverse Ability Taster days) and the 50 Club.

When mentioning the withdrawal of the 'A' team from the Turton League, it was stated by the Secretary that some ex 'A' team players might then join up for the 'B' team in order to increase the squad size slightly which would help us to better support the end of season League competitions. This point was picked up on by Barry Robinson who stated that, in his role as Chairman of the League, the Turton League had agreed at their recent meeting that no-one from the ex 'A' team would be allowed to play for the 'B' team, and that if the Secretary had been bothered to turn up to the meeting, he would know this.

The Secretary responded that he had been unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments, had phoned the League Secretary (Jim Sheffield) to relay his apologies and had arranged for another club member (David Brierley) to attend as the team captain was also unavailable. David B stated that no discussion regarding the make-up of Edgworth teams had taken place at the meeting. Barry said that Mike Bailey, Jim Sheffield and himself had agreed it and an email to confirm their decision would be sent by Jim the following day.

Some heated discussion took place between Barry and various members concerning the discriminatory nature of that approach and whether the Club should now withdraw both teams. Kerry called the meeting to order several times and closed the discussion by stating that he would follow this up with Jim Sheffield and Mike Bailey after the meeting.

2025 Subscription fee – the Secretary advised that due to continued rising costs the Committee had reluctantly agreed to recommend a fee increase by £10 to £40 per year, the first increase for 3 years. One member suggested that the Club should use its reserves to fund the extra costs and to maintain the Subs at the previous level. A detailed explanation of what the reserves were for was given by another member and due to the cost of replacement machinery for green maintenance alone, in their opinion our reserves were about right. It was also noted that there was an amount of Restricted funding in the overall bank balance and that this could not be spent subsidising membership fees.

A vote was held on the new fee amount, 3 people disagreed and the remainder voted in favour. Motion carried.

Match Fees – the Committee had previously agreed that these are to remain at £2 per match.

A full copy of the report presented at the meeting will be put on the website.

### **9) *Greenkeepers Report***

A detailed report was provided in writing by Peter Russell and was presented to the meeting by the Secretary as neither Peter or Kevin were able to attend. This report will be added to the website.

In summary, the maintenance team consists of Kevin Breen, Peter Russell, Ian Price, Andy Tighe, Paul Booth, Peter Oakes and Stuart Duncan, who took over green maintenance duties at the beginning of last season.

The main team focus was on improving drainage of the green by reducing compaction, regular verticutting and tining to reduce thatch. Adding organic material ('humigranule') was done in certain areas initially to strengthen the root area and reduce infections. A significant level of re-seeding was done at the end of the season, especially in areas where the green had become damaged.

In creating the irrigation system we were able to use cheaper organic granular fertilisers which can be watered in rather than relying on rainfall.

Equipment servicing / repair was carried out under the supervision of Nigel Dickenson, either by himself personally or by using the mower specialists at Darwen.

New equipment was bought: a front wheel attachment for the Groundsman spiker to allow it to be used more easily and by more people; also a replacement scarifier (secondhand).

2025 onwards.

The biggest issue for the future is the need for additional volunteers to help. We could do with at least another three bodies (male or female) to assist with mowing, barrowing, tining / spiking, leaf collecting and irrigation duties. Please advise the Secretary if you can offer some help, no matter how small.

### **11) *Nominations for new committee members***

The current committee of Joan, Ronnie, Kevin, Andy, Andrew and Kerry confirmed they were happy to continue in their existing roles. Also, Nigel Dickenson would join the committee and act as Safeguarding Officer. All were elected unanimously with no votes against and no abstentions.

### **12) *Chairman's closing remarks***

Kerry thanked all for attending and formally closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8pm.