

**EDGORTH BOWLING CLUB**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE 2025 SEASON**  
**Meeting minutes**

**Venue : The Barlow, Main Hall**

**Date : Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 at 6.30pm**

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

- 1.1. Kerry welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that last year the meeting was moved from its originally planned date so as not to clash with St Valentines Day, and this year, despite it being Friday the thirteenth, he hoped it would be lucky for us.
- 1.2. He went on to say that Edgworth Bowling Club exists because of the members and all those that do a tremendous amount of work, from the team who cut the grass weekly during the season, to the captains of the teams, those that stock up the kitchen, clean out the toilets, and tidy round the green. He said that he was sure he had not mentioned all the many other jobs especially those done by the secretary and other members of the committee but thanked everyone for their support and gave a special thanks to Kathleen for her efforts in fetching the accounts up to date.
- 1.3. Finalising his opening comments, he remarked that it had been a tricky year especially with negotiations with the Barlow Trustees of which more will be mentioned later. Thanks are due to Brian Elwell who used his professional expertise to enable us to come to an agreement on rent and security of tenure.

**2. Attendance Record**

- 2.1. Kerry confirmed that there were 19 Members in attendance which exceeded the minimum required for a quorum. The attendance register has been retained and is available.

**3. Apologies for absence**

- 3.1. Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from 11 members.

**4. Absent Friends**

- 4.1. Kerry noted that a former member, Joyce Makinson had passed away this year and gave the following eulogy:
- 4.2. "Joyce Makinson has been one of the most important people in the development of this club. She was a member of the committee and the chairman for many years and was instrumental in increases in membership, through involving ladies of the Women's Institute in playing bowls exclusively on a Friday afternoon. Many ladies would not be members of the club if it

was not for Joyce Makinson. She also organised the catering for events and competitions. I remember her scones with cream and a strawberry. She also captained a team in The Ramsbottom League. They eventually reached the first division. She was a good bowler. I remember a top bowler in the Bolton Leagues, Harvey Parnel, coming into the hut at Edgworth, throwing his bowls into his bag and saying, 'I've been beaten by a woman bowling from the hip.' Guess who that woman was."

- 4.3. Kerry asked all present to stand for a minute's silence for Joyce, a legend of this club, and this was respectfully observed.

## 5. **Approval of the minutes from the previous AGM on 12/02/2025**

- 5.1. Kerry 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 in the members area. They were proposed and seconded as a true record and accepted.

## 6. **Proposals from Members**

- 6.1. It was confirmed that the secretary had informed that no proposals had been received from members.

## 7. **Financial Report and Honorarium**

- 7.1. At Robert Downies request, Kathleen Hadjinicolaou addressed the meeting on the accounts that she has been working on which covered those for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, 9 month period ended 30 September 2023, the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- 7.2. Kathleen made a couple of copies of the full accounts for each of the periods available for those who wanted to look through them, and also a couple of copies of the balance sheet and income and expenditure account for each period, suggesting that those are really all the members need to look through, if they wished.
- 7.3. A copy of the balance sheet and income and expenditure account was handed out for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025, these being the latest papers which superceded the previous years.
- 7.4. In her presentation Kathleen summarised each of accounting periods and a full copy of her presentation is appended to these minutes, (Appendix 1). It is noted that although the club has a healthy level of assets, it is necessary to hold reserves in order to meet any major expenditure, for example replacement equipment needed for the green's maintenance.
- 7.5. Being satisfied with the accounts Robert and Kathleen had signed them off.
- 7.6. No questions were raised and the accounts were approved by those present.

7.7. Kerry thanked Kathleen for the hard work that she has put in to in order to fetch the accounts up to date and setting up the books in a manner that should mean accounts can be prepared on time going forward.

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

## 8. **Secretary's Report**

8.1. As Andy Warman was unable to attend the meeting, his report was read out by Andrew Spencer.

8.2. The secretary's report is appended to these minutes as Appendix 2 but the following items are brought to attention here and are further detailed in the appended secretary's report:

8.2.1. The competitions calendar for 2026 is mainly being drafted by Paul Booth and will be on the web site and added to the clubhouse notice boards as the season progresses. Paul is looking for extra volunteers to run some competitions.

8.2.2. Members need to advise their relevant team captains in good time, of changes to their preferred team choices and whether they are available again this year.

8.2.3. A small number of members have not yet filled in the latest membership form which is available on the club website.

## 9. **Annual subscription**

9.1. Andrew Spencer dealt with this item using a report that had been prepared by Andy Warman and agreed by the committee, as follows:

9.2. As discussed at the 2025 AGM, there is a need, with continuing cost increases being seen for every activity, for the annual membership fee to increase slightly every year, rather than trying to maintain a level then increasing it by a larger amount every three or four years, as has been the case previously.

9.3. You will also all be aware of the massive increase in rent now payable to the Barlow from May 2025, which is applicable for the next 5 years, until the current lease expires. The amount payable was agreed at £3000 per year and covers the lease of the Clubhouse, the bowling green and the dilapidated ex outdoor toilets that we use to store our maintenance equipment. Until this year we had not had a rent increase applied to the lease which was set 20 years ago at £25.00

9.4. At the same time, we will no longer receive the maintenance grant from Blackburn with Darwen Council this year as we have reached the end of their legal agreement with us. The amount lost will be in the order of £1,500.00 per annum. There are many clubs with such a grant reaching the end of the term and it is unlikely that the council will feel able to renew these agreements in the current financial climate. We will put forward an argument for this grant to be renewed, but clearly its availability

cannot be guaranteed or relied on. We were the first club to receive the grant and so there is no experience of the council entering into new agreements in recent years, and therefore there is no precedent set.

- 9.5. We have also seen a small increase in the annual insurance premium, although the rate structure has been fixed for the next 3 years.
- 9.6. The increase in rent and loss of the grant, plus increase to the insurance and payment for water (previously no charge was made by the Barlow), have meant that we need to find another £5,200.00 of income.
- 9.7. Your committee have discussed this at length and are looking at four avenues to replace the £5,200 we now need to find every year. These are:
  - 9.7.1. an increase in contributions from the membership;
  - 9.7.2. exploration of 'new' funding e.g. by holding fundraising events, increases in sponsorship, application for grants;
  - 9.7.3. identify and implement cost savings e.g. by servicing / repairing equipment ourselves and where possible buying less expensive green materials;
  - 9.7.4. using club reserves to make up the shortfall.
- 9.8. We therefore recommend the annual fee should increase by 5% to £42 per year. However, in order to partially cover the rent increase, an additional 'Increased Rent Levy' of £10 will need to be added, giving a fee payable of £52 per year, an increase of £12.00 on the membership fee. This represents a cost per member of only £1.00 per week, which is extremely good value and compares favourably with many other clubs, in particular East Lancs where they are looking at £70.00 per annum.
- 9.9. The proposal to increase the annual subscription to £52.00 was put to a vote which resulted in:  
For :18  
Against :1  
Abstain:0  
Proposal therefore carried.

## 10. **Greenkeepers Report**

- 10.1. A detailed report was given by Kevin and is appended to these minutes as Appendix 3
- 10.2. Kevin commented that help is always needed to keep the green clear of leaves, branches, etc. He thanked those who have joined in and asked for more volunteers.
- 10.3. Kerry thanked all who come to the club to look after and enhance the gardens, and in particular Margaret Turlington for the hard work that she has put into making the garden near the Barlow Reading Room. There will be more gardening days arranged and the dates will be added to the calendar. All who can join in will be welcomed and appreciated.

## 11. **Election of committee members**

- 11.1. The present committee being Kerry Holt, Andy Warman, Veronica Wilson, Joan Turner Andrew Spencer, and Kevin Breen, have all agreed to stand for re-election to the committee for 2026, to carry out the same roles. Brian Elwell has also offered to join the committee. All the above nominees have been properly nominated and seconded and have agreed to act on behalf of the club.
- 11.2. As there have been no other nominations Kerry asked for a vote for the above personnel on to the committee en-bloc. The result of the vote was:  
For: 18  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 1.

## 12. **Presentations**

- 12.1. Kerry made the following presentations to members as a thank you for their service to the club:  
Kathleen for her work on the accounts – chocolates.  
Margaret Whittaker for keeping the club house clean – flowers.  
Margaret Turlington for all her work on the MUGA days – chocolates  
Linda Spencer for looking after the web site – wine (handed to Andrew)

## 13. **Chairman's closing remarks.**

- 13.1. Kerry thanked all for attending and formally closed the meeting, suggesting that we adjourn to the Cricket Club for a drink.  
The meeting closed at 7:45 pm.

# APPENDIX 1

## EDGWORTH BOWLING CLUB – AUDITORS REPORT AT AGM DATED 13 FEBRUARY 2026

Over the last year I have prepared the accounts for the years ended 31 December 2021, 31 December 2022, 9 month period ended 30 September 2023, the year ended 30 September 2024 and the year ended 30 September 2025. All the accounts have been signed by Robert and myself for all those years as a true account of the transactions in the year.

There are a couple of copies of the full signed accounts of each period for you look at if you wish on the table in front of Kerry. I have also printed off 2 copies of just the balance sheet and income and expenditure account (which is all you need to see if you wish to) for each period. In order to save the planet, we have not printed off the full accounts for each period, as the position at each accounting period end has been superceded effectively by the accounts for the latest period being the year ended 30 September 2025.

For the year ended 30 September 2025 we have provided you with a copy of the balance sheet and income and expenditure account, which is 2 pages long rather than the 7 pages of the full accounts.

I just want to summarise very quickly the accounts for each of the accounting periods and pick out the main features of each set of accounts.

**The year ended 31 December 2021** – This was the year that was affected by Covid, so not all matches went ahead. The club made a loss from its normal bowling activities of £4,234, but this was covered by the Covid grants received of £7,263. Green advertising was minimal and Ken Heathcotes swims generated income of £1,263. The winter bowling on the MUGA started in October 2021. Fixed asset spending was minimal. There was £34k in the bank at the year end (up about £7k).

**The year ended 31 December 2022** – In this year income went up by £7,500 to just over £15,000, as a result of increased adverting (£1k), MUGA bowling (2 leagues including the night time one (£3k)), match fees and bar/ refreshment income. This created a profit from bowling activities of £3,489. There were no fixed additions, and the bank balance increased to £42k, fuelled by Kens second swims joint venture, although this money was owed to the joint venture at the year end (£3,701).

**The 9 month period ended 30 September 2023** – This year income went down to £11,300, mainly as a result of only having the Jan to March MUGA bowling (due to the shortened accounting period - £3k). £4,500 was spent on the grounds – over £4,000 of it on the rubber guttering around the green and replacing the timber frames around 3 sides of the green. These two things meant the club made a loss for the period of £3,605. This was covered by releasing Covid reserves mainly from the specific and general use reserves.

In this year the Club purchased their first wheelchair for the disabled, which was partly covered by a £500 grant. Including the wheel chair total fixed asset additions were almost £1,450. The bank balance went up to £45k, although £10,400 of this money was owed to the joint venture for the Kens Swims/ Midsummer Ball venture.

**The year ended 30 September 2024** – Income was up to £15k, due to 2 full sessions of the MUGA, and an insurance claim re storm damage. However a lot of work was needed to

improve the green, with this costing £3,200. This contributed to a loss from the bowling activities of £811. However in this period the Ken Swims / midsummer ball joint venture was finalized and the Club was able to recognize its share of the income (almost £7k) in the non bowling reserves accounts. The club also received a second £500 grant for a disabled wheel chair.

In this year, almost £9,000 was spent on fixed assets, almost £5,200 on the Irrigation shed and the water containers , just over £1k on bowling assistance equipment, £700 on the outside storage cabinet and £630 on the second wheelchair.

All of this resulted in the bank balance falling to £35k.

**The year ended 30 September 2025** – Income was steady at £15k, and with £2k savings on ground maintenance and the same on green maintenance, the £1k rise in rent and £800 rise in insurance and water the Club had a profit of £1,700 for the year. There were no fixed asset additions and no exceptional non bowling income.

So if you look at the balance sheet you will see the club has £14k of fixed assets (we do have a detailed list, with cost / depreciation/ net book value etc), £40k of cash in the bank and £1k in creditors for water / rent etc which gives the club total assets of £53,416.

Below you will see the club has raised accumulated profits from bowling activities of £40k, the £3,900 is the balance of the covid grants, which is exceptional income not arising from bowling activities. When we make a bowling loss we do a transfer from the reserves to the Bowling accumulated profit to “cover” the loss. The £6,845 is the balance of the Clubs share of Ken Swims / Midsummer ball joint venture , and the £3,076 is money that was bequeathed to the Club by Tony Ford to use to build a new clubhouse (so this is ringfenced for that specific purpose).

Going forward you will note that the clubs rent increased in May from £25 pa to £3,000, the BwD maintenance grant of £1,419 will be lost as 2025 was the last time it will be paid so the Club needs to find an extra £4,500 a year. So although we made a profit of £1,700, that will very quickly be turned into a loss. This will be made even worse if some of the advertising board holders decide they do not want to pay anymore.

So although the Club has £53k in assets, if the Club needs to pay for a new mower/ new Clubhouse roof the money will quickly disappear. So for the next couple of years the Club looks ok, and with signed accounts grants can be applied for.

I am satisfied that the accounts presented are an accurate state of the Clubs position. Going forward I have set up a cash book payments book and a cash book receipts book which needs to be updated regularly from the bank statements, which should mean there will be no more late accounts.

Does anyone have any questions?

## APPENDIX 2

### *Edgworth Bowling Club AGM 13/2/26 - Secretary's Report for the 2025 season*

#### **Summary:**

We opened the Green fully on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025, with limited access from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March as some of the league bowling started earlier than usual. The season ran through until Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September when we needed to carry out patch re-seeding of the Green and laying some turf to repair a couple of areas. This activity is ground temperature dependent as the overnight temperatures need to be high enough to allow the seed to germinate and the turf to put roots down.

We then moved to the MUGA pitch, for the first matches of the winter season which started on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **Membership:**

We had 82 members overall by the end of 2025, this included 3 members who joined very late in the season.

#### **Committee:**

Robert Downie agreed to be co-opted onto the committee again to look after finances in the absence of a full time Treasurer and continued to manage the Bank account.

Following his work earlier in 2025 on a sub-committee liaising with the Barlow Trustees, Brian Elwell agreed to be co-opted onto the committee.

In addition, whilst not a Committee member, Ian Price continued to act as a signatory for the Club Bank Account and provided support to the internet banking for us.

#### **Insurance:**

The club continued to have its Public Liability insurance and equipment & Clubhouse cover with Ansvar. This is the same insurer as The Barlow and is an annual policy running from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December. It also covers bowling on the MUGA.

We have seen a small increase in the premium again this year and a comparison with other companies has been made. Similar cover can be achieved for a slightly lower premium than Ansvar, however they have agreed to fix the rates for the next 3 years and allow interest free monthly payments over the year. It is still felt advantageous to remain with the same insurer as The Barlow, therefore we have renewed the annual policy running from January 2026.

#### **Social / Club competitions:**

We ran 11 competitions and various social bowling sessions. Thanks are due to the usual suspects of Ian Price, Kerry and Paul Booth who along with myself ran the majority of the competitions.

We introduced the Brenda Heathcote Memorial competition this year and held it as an Invitation Open charity fundraiser. In addition to all Club members, the teams who played on

the MUGA in the winter were invited to join in by providing one pair from their team. A total of £213.50 was raised for Ken Heathcote's 'Not out at 90' campaign for various charities. Thanks to all who took part and generously donated to Ken's campaign. It is intended to hold this competition annually but as a fundraiser for the Club. Ken has provided a winners' trophy.

The annual Club Picnic was held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, again at Rivington, as a limited ends random pairs / triples bowls Drive. Thanks to Margaret W for organising the day, Gail for driving the minibus and to Malcolm for collating the individual scores. There were 26 of us bowling this year and Catherine Oakes was the overall winner.

Congratulations to all competition winners throughout the season. We have chosen again not to get any trophies engraved as it is felt not to be the best use of club resources.

### ***League Bowling (summer season):***

We had 10 teams competing across 6 local leagues. A comprehensive report of the various team's performance was put on the website a few weeks ago for all who are interested to read at their leisure.

We also hosted a number of League cup matches towards the end of the season, as a neutral Green that has floodlights.

### ***Winter Bowling:***

Club members enjoyed bowling outside at East Lancs and indoors at Darwen, Bury and Audley.

**MUGA** - We have nearly completed the current winter season of bowling on the MUGA, the 5th year of activity. We welcomed Alan from Dunscar and to Andy B from Elton Libs who stepped in to provide teams for us, bringing some new players as well as a 'home' to some existing members.

Thanks are due to the team captains, to Margaret T and Margaret W for keeping us fed and to those others, in particular Ian, Ronnie, Malcolm and Neil for their help in setting up and clearing away.

### ***Support to the Community:***

Diverse Ability Taster Days – These continued with another 4 of these events, open to all but mainly attended by the Bolton 'Sport For All' group, supported by our usual volunteers. It is planned to advertise these sessions more widely so that others can use the specialist equipment (Bowling wheelchairs, lifters and walkers).

### ***Looking forward to 2026 Green opening:***

We are intending to open the Green on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. If at all possible, we will aim to open it a week or so earlier as it is understood that some League matches start during the first week of April. The Greenkeeping team are creating a plan of action and are looking for some extra help to carry out all the necessary activities in time so please let me know if you are able to help either to get us initially prepared for the new season or as a regular volunteer. David G and Julian B have already put their heads above the parapet during the winter so we welcome them to the team but would appreciate two or three more volunteers – men or ladies – to help out.

### **Competitions for 2026:**

The 2026 season competitions calendar has been drafted in the main by Paul Booth, to fit around the Diverse Ability Tasters and already agreed Green Hires. Paul is looking for additional volunteers to run some competitions; training can be provided and there are cheat sheets available in the Clubhouse.

The Calendar will be on the Website and individual competition details on the Clubhouse noticeboards progressively through the course of the season.

A 'Club Noticeboard' What's App Group will be set up for outgoing notifications only and reminders of Club events. This will not be a chat forum and messages will be short and point to the website for reminders of competitions etc. This approach works well at other Clubs.

The dates for 4 more Diverse Ability Taster Days are also available.

### **50 Club:**

Due to extremely poor take up last year plus other known pressures on people's outgoings we will pause the 50 Club until further notice.

### **Team Sign Up:**

Please advise me or the relevant team captains of any changes to your preferred team choices for the forthcoming season, in good time to allow league registrations to take place. If there is no change then please let your Captain know that you are available again this year.

Tuesday Afternoons - Blackburn Senior Citizens League: the Committee were approached by a couple of members who recommended we join another afternoon league, giving us more new bowling greens to play on and a further option for those wanting to play in the afternoon, which is becoming an ever increasing number. Consequently, the Committee approved approaching the Blackburn Seniors league committee to enter two teams, playing at 1:15pm on a Tuesday. Stuart Duncan has agreed to captain the Edgworth Eagles and Pauline Booth will captain the Edgworth Greens team.

The impact of these new teams will mean that the Social Bowling afternoons will now be Monday and Friday. It was also suggested and agreed that there is no longer the need to prioritise the green for our lady members and the Friday session can therefore revert to being open to all.

### **Membership Forms:**

A small number of you have not filled in the latest membership form to sign up to the club constitution, code of practice and use of personal data. You will find the latest forms on the website.

## **.APPENDIX 3**

### **Edgworth Bowling Club AGM 13/2/26 Greenkeeping Report:**

The Green keeping team took over the maintenance of the green in 2024. At that time the green was not in the best of condition with many bare patches and severe drainage problems resulting in a lot of postponed matches.

2024 was a year of transition and our priorities were to identify the problems and implement strategies to address them. As well as drainage problems the green has suffered from an overuse of top dressing ( sand ) over a long period of time which has consolidated, resulting in low growth and contributing to the drainage problems and black layer disease.

The following strategies to overcome these problems were implemented being:-

1. Take external consultant advice
2. Discontinue the use of top dressing and replace with Humigranule and top soil.
3. Implement a regular regime of aerating the green both in and out of season.
4. Mow the green three times per week
5. Verticut the green fortnightly during the season.
6. Overseed the green .
7. Investigate the feasibility of an irrigation scheme.

The implementation of the above strategies improved the green for the 2025 season and we invested in an irrigation scheme in the summer of 2024 which has proved successful.

The above strategies have continued during 2025 resulting in an improvement in the condition and running of the green. We received many compliments from visiting teams on the condition of the green. We must be getting something right.

We will continue with the above strategies for 2026 . The weather has not been kind to us this year and Increased rain has hindered any preseason work.

We need help if improvements are to continue. We need more volunteers to assist with all tasks especially clearing the green of leaves and debris throughout the winter months. Leaves are a major problem and will kill the grass if not removed as soon as they fall. Please let me know if you can spare some time no matter how little.