Bolton Flat Green Bowling Club

Agenda for the 45th Annual General Meeting

To be held at the Clubhouse on Sunday 15th November 2026 at 12:00.

Apologies for Absence

Opening of meeting and Welcome	President. M Parker
Obituaries Syd Oliver and Jack Glass, Dorothy Counsell and, past member, Joe Adamson.	
Adoption of the Minutes of the 44th AGM	
Attached Appendix A	
Matters arising from the Minutes of the 44th AGM	
Propositions	
The Management Committee propose that:	
6.1: That 2 new classes of Membership be created:	
A. Veterans:	
"Veterans" which will be open only to existing members over 80 years of age with 10 or more consecutive years as a full member. They cannot play in Competitions but may play social bowls.	S Hemsley
The membership fee is 50% of the fee for Full Membership.	S Hemsley
B. Associate Members	
The partner of any Full Member shall be granted Associate Membership free of charge.	
An Associate Member is a Non-Playing Member.	
6.2 That the Constitution be amended to incorporate these changes.	S Hemsley
Administration Report	S Hemsley
Treasurer's Report & Adoption of Accounts to the 30th Sept 2026	J Muldoon
Membership Subscription Rate2	J Muldoon

The Management Committee propose membership fees for 2026/2027

- Full Member: £140.00
- Full membership as a New Bowler: £90.00
- Under 18 years of age on 1st April: No Charge
- Over 17 and under 25 years of age on 1st April: £40
- Winter member (October -March): £70.00
- Non-Playing Member £10.00

Account Examiner's Report	J Benvie
Building Report (incl. Health and Safety Report)	P Willcocks
Green and Surrounds Report	D Travis
Membership Development Report	G Ellis
Membership Secretary's Report	J Hayes
Competitions Report	K Hayes
Club Captain's Report	D Crisp
Men's Captain Report	J Muldoon
Ladies Captain Report	M Ellis

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Bowls Lancashire Delegates Report G Ellis

Website and Publicity Report K Hayes

19. Election of Officers for 2026/27 S Hemsley

The following have been nominated, seconded and have agreed to stand. There was not more than one nomination for any position.

Office

Honorary President Mike Parker

President Helen Braddock

Vice President Blair Hamilton

Honorary Secretary Stephen Hemsley

Honorary Treasurer John Muldoon

Competitions Secretary Ken Hayes

Club Captain Duncan Crisp

Membership Dev team leader Graham Ellis

Membership Secretary Jenny Hayes

Building Team Leader Paul Willcocks

Green & Surrounds Team Leader David Travis

Social & Funding Team Leader John Muldoon

20. Key Dates for next Season

Opening Day: Sunday 11th April

Finals Day Saturday / Sunday 18/19 September

AGM Sunday 7th November 12:00 Noon in the Clubhouse

Presentation evening / Christmas Party Saturday 4TH December

21. Presidents Closing remarks H Braddock

After the close of the meeting there will be a short interval for members to visit the Bar or Kitchen to obtain refreshments, following which there will be a 30-minute open forum for members to raise and discuss any matters that they may wish the Management Committee to consider.

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Item 2. Presidents welcome and opening remarks

Mike Parker

ITEM: 7: Administration Report

It has, as usual, been a busy year for Club Officers.
We have met, as a Committee, 11 times this year and diligently attended to the management of the Club, looking, both to interests of the current membership, and with an eye to the future.
The increase in the number of members since last season was of great benefit to the club bringing with both increased revenue and essential“ new blood".
We hope that our new members have found a warm welcome and look forward to their company for many years to come.
The Club is blessed with a number of willing volunteers, serving on your Management Committee, maintaining the Club facilities and making sure that members and visitors are fed and watered, we thank them all.

If you would be willing to volunteer ,please speak to any member of the Management Committee who will happily try and match your skills and commitment to the appropriate team leader.

Several suggestions were made at the Open Forum following last years AGM, all for which were debated by the Management Committee.

Issue	**Response**
That a membership category for older members, no longer playing competitive bowls be created.	**For Discussion:** Proposition prepared for the AGM
A bolt on the inside of the Kitchen door for use when catering was being provided.	Completed
A Green replacement levy, perhaps £5.00 per	The Membership Fee includes an element to build reserves.
A Sunday once a month Open Crown Club Comp-to raise funds	D Travis and J Muldoon Explored this and found that there was insufficient interest.
The abolition of a maximum count and No Trial ends for comps	The system is used to ensure themaximum number of ends within a tight timescale for fixed day events.
A more heavily discounted fee (perhaps £20.00) for new members new to bowling in their first year.	The current system has proved effective to date.
Consider changing green direction – and green settings regularly to even out wear and provide a greater challenge.	Considered and resolved by the Management C’tee meeting not to proceed.
A monthly Sunday comp during the summer season with £5 entry winner takes 50% with 50% to the Club. Blair Hamilton has expressed a willingness to organise.	D Travis and J Muldoon Explored this and found that there was insufficient interest and few available dates.
Increase Committee by adding a couple of members without portfolio	The Management Committee already has 12 Members which is large enough for constructive meetings.

Stephen Hemsley

ITEM 8: Treasurer’s Report & Adoption of Accounts to the 30th Sept 2026

John Muldoon

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ITEM 9: Account Examiner's Report

John Benvie

ITEM 10: Building Report (incl. Health and Safety Report)

Paul Wilcocks

ITEM 11: Green and Surrounds Report

Maintenance takes place principally on each Friday morning throughout the year with regular volunteers being Moira and Graham Ellis, Tom and John Riley, and Phil Thorpe.

The green is regularly swept, the ditches cleaned, and the surface periodically rolled.

Jet washing of the green continues throughout the year.

The edges of the green have been attended to by Dales this year with levelling works completed.

The paving surrounding the green, clubhouse and entrance way have all been de-weeded and jet washed.

The gardens, hedges and tubs have been maintained and ingress of vegetation through the fences cut back. The pathway to the rear entrance was improved with bushes cut back, weeds removed and the pathway jet washed and brushed.

The benches at the end of the rinks, and bowls racks outside the clubhouse have been repaired and repainted.

The roof on the shipping container has been made more secure and water-tight by installing new roofing sheets.

Metal fencing has been installed to the steps and end of the patio by the container to make the area safer.

I would again like to place on record my grateful thanks to all those members who willingly give up their spare time and resources to help maintain the green and surrounds with a view to making the club as attractive as possible to existing and potential new members. Any and all new assistance will be readily welcomed.

David Travis
Team Manager

ITEM 12:Membership Development

Graham Ellis

ITEM 13 Membership Secretary's Report

Early renewal of membership was a great start to this seasons bowling.
Membership as at 30/9/26 was as follows:
Full members 52(men) & 26(Ladies)
Playing Life members 2
Non Playing Life Members 3
Non Playing Members 5
Junior Members (u19) 2
Junior Members (u25) 2
Winter Membership as at 10/10/26 is an additional 24 members.
Many thanks goes to all those who have helped and encouraged members, new and old, in various ways throughout the season.

Jenny Hayes. Membership Secretary

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ITEM 14: Competitions Report
Competition entries during the Summer season increased from around £1600 in 2025 to in excess of £1800 in 2026. The Club increased entry fees by an average of 25% this year. There was a reduction in entries from around 270 in 2025 to around 250 in 2026.

Rink Diary.

The Rink Diary time slots were adjusted to two hour sections, apart from an evening session of four hours. This also proved successful. The Rink Diary rules were revised and incorporated into the Competition Rules.

League Competitions.

Singles League.

Originally twenty-two players entered the Singles League in 2026, giving eleven in both divisions. However two players withdrew from Division Two after the first game. As a result there was a late revision of division two from a twelve team model to a ten team model.

The guidelines for promotion were also amended during the season from three up/three down to two up/two down.

Pairs League.

There were fifteen entries in both Pairs Leagues giving two divisions: seven in Division One and eight in Division Two. However, due to injury one team had to withdraw from Division One of the late season Australian Pairs League.

Winter Pairs League.

The Winter Pairs League continues to be popular with sixteen entries again this season, giving a further boost to the Competition entry fees of £192.

Fixed Day Competitions.

No Fixed Day competitions were postponed. The weather was kind to us this season.

Progressive Competitions.

The dates for the Progressive competitions were scheduled between late July and early September to create more space in the early part of the season for County and National competitions. This was very successful and will be repeated next season. There was an overall reduction in the entries in 2026. Last year's entries are shown in brackets.

McNair	15	(20)
LG Sets	17	(21)
Williamson	14	(14)
Hunt Cup	6	(8)
Challenge Pairs	9	(11)

Hunt Cup.

Because of the low entry in the Hunt Cup a survey was carried out amongst the Lady members, (twenty-six in total), to assess their view of retaining it as Progressive or changing it back to a Fixed Day competition. The results were as follows:

To retain as a Progressive:	1
To change to a fixed Day:	11
No preference:	2
Prefer not to enter competitions:	1
No reply:	11

The results are conclusive. The Hunt Cup will revert to a Fixed Day competition for 2027.

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ITEM 15: Club Captain's Report
The past 12 months has seen many successes for the club. A visit from Shottstown Miners was a great social bowling afternoon with 35+ visitors and an excellent atmosphere on and off the green.

We've hosted Middleton Cup matches against Cumbria and Northumberland with our excellent bowling surface helping Lancashire secure victories in both matches. Bolton ladies achieved a clean sweep in county competitions and represented the club with great aplomb at Leamington.

We convincingly won every Friday night league match against Heaton Hall and Southport, and followed this up by successfully retaining the Harding Trophy.

Over our finals weekend we had 25 different players competing in a club final, and 15 secured a trophy. Our players, both new and old, are benefiting from dedicated coaching to improve their skills. On and off the green we've seen improvements in the surrounds and the clubhouse to make it more welcoming and sociable. A huge amount of work has gone into maintenance, improvements, stocking and running the bar, and our food offerings are exceptional. This wouldn't be possible without a dedicated and talented group of volunteers to whom I am incredibly grateful and offer my personal thank you.

We have challenges, many of which are outside of our control such as cost-of-living pressures, the abundance of alternative sporting and social activities for people to participate in, and the proliferation of crown green clubs in the North West. We also have challenges that we can influence such as attracting new members, ongoing maintenance, and financial security.

Each of us can impact these whether it's by encouraging a friend to join, posting on social media about a club event, helping with green maintenance and set up, or stopping for a drink and spending money. There are rarely easy solutions, it's about doing 1 extra thing to help the club.

Looking to the future we need to embrace that we are a **Sports Club**. If we break that down into the 2 parts, we can identify opportunities in both areas. From a sporting perspective it would be great to see more members on the bowling green either playing friendly roll-ups or entering club and county competitions. This will lead to more members representing the club and county in matches, and even more players appearing on finals weekend. We have the talent across our membership to secure more trophies at a county level and represent us at the National Finals.

I would encourage all members to enter an additional club or county competition next year that they didn't enter in 2026. From a club perspective we have an opportunity for members to come together more and use the clubhouse facilities to socialise. We've had some great days and nights when members have got together to celebrate a victory, commiserate after a narrow defeat, or simply have a chat. These occasions are where we embrace that there is more to Bolton FGBC than a place where we simply play bowls. There is friendship. And laughter. And beer. And tea. And much more. Let's embrace the opportunity that being a member of Bolton FGBC brings and enjoy the bowls and the company.

Thank you to everyone that has supported the club this year, and an additional thanks to everyone that has helped me in my first year as club captain.

ITEM 17: Website and Publicity
Website.
The cost of the Website has marginally increased this year.

The Website plan: (basically the Website) - £230.40. Paid annually in October

The Domain name: (boltonflatgreenbowlingclub.org) - £59.41. Paid every 2 years in December, (due in Dec 2026).

Business e-mail: (admin@boltonflatgreenbowlingclub.org) - £80.64. Paid annually in December

Wix App: (used for online forms) - £30.00. Paid annually in February.

This still represents good value because the Website continues to be the source of many of our new members. The business e-mail means that we do not have to use a personal e-mail to disseminate information. The App provides the club with access to online forms such as Membership Applications and Competition Entry Forms and one off forms such as the Winter Membership Entry Form and the recent survey about the Hunt Cup.

Facebook.

Facebook continues to be a good source of information about the club. I concentrate largely on Competition information and Graham largely handles publicity.

Ken Hayes

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