

EASTCOTE BOWLING CLUB

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4th February 2026

Dear Member

Annual General Meeting 2026

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will take place in the Edwards Pavilion, Eastcote Bowling Club, Cavendish Park, Field End Road, Eastcote, HA4 9PG at 7pm on Friday, 27th February 2026. Also attached with this notice are the Minutes of the last AGM (held on 28th February 2025), the Treasurer's Report & the 2025 Annual Accounts, and reports from the Secretary, Competition Secretary, Captain, Mid-week Captain and Match Secretary.

This Notice and attachments are being emailed to all members who have registered email addresses with the Club. Hard copies of all documents will be posted to those members for whom no email addresses are registered, or any members requesting hard copies. All the documents are displayed on the Pavilion noticeboard and are also available in the Member's Area on the Club's website at <http://eastcotebowling.clubbuzz.co.uk/>. Please let me know immediately if you have difficulty in accessing any of the attachments if receiving this notice by email, or any difficulty in accessing the website's Members Area.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the meeting, both players and social members, but under the Club's Constitution, only playing members may vote on the resolutions proposed. *Please make every effort to attend.* Membership Renewal & Subscription forms will be available for collection on conclusion of the meeting, following confirmation of the fees payable for 2026; renewal forms will be posted to any members not attending.

John Armstrong, *Honorary Secretary*

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AGENDA ITEM 3

EASTCOTE BOWLING CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.10 pm on Friday, 28th February 2025

Attendance: Present 36 playing members, 4 social members & two playing members by proxy

Apologies for absence were received from 10 other members.

1. President's Introduction - Mark Hallam opened the meeting by thanking members for attending and for their support given to the Club throughout the year, and also thanked individually by name all the members of the Committee and the other Officers of the Club for their work over the last 12 months, with particular reference to Graham Aylett who was standing down as Midweek Captain, and Phyllis Playfoot, who was standing down as Ladies' Representative after a number of years. Their efforts were appreciated by the meeting.

The President then asked all members to stand and maintain a minute's silence in memory of Jean Griffiths, Anne Sutherland and John Nott, all having sadly passed away since the last meeting, and all long-serving members who had made major contributions to Club life. They will be missed.

2. Minutes of the last AGM – The minutes of the 2024 AGM had been distributed by email or posted to all members prior to the meeting. They were agreed as a true record, and were duly signed by the President. There were no matters arising.

3. Election of the President – Mark Hallam was proposed by David Levy, seconded by John Jones and as elected unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report – Mike Milward referred members to his report and the 2024 accounts, which had been included with the Notice of AGM circulated previously. The accounts showed an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £8,848, which largely resulted from the London Borough of Hillingdon's ("LBH's") undertaking not to charge green maintenance fees for the year (in addition to those for 2022 & 2023) until the transfer to the Club of this responsibility could be completed. Also the Club's lease with LBH is late in having the rent reviewed and when it is finalised, a sizeable and back-dated increase is expected. Other expenses were also increasing. He thanked the members for their vital contribution to the Club's income, not just membership subscriptions but through social activities including raffles and the 100 Club, for which 96 numbers had been sold last year and hoped more would be purchased for 2025 – see the renewal forms for details.

The funding of the refurbishment of the gentlemen's toilet in the Changing rooms had been agreed by LBH some months ago, and action was now promised for before season start. Also you may have noticed signage for a defibrillator, now stationed in the office, which was considered as an important acquisition for the benefit of members. It is hoped it will not be required to be used, but a demonstration has been arranged, to which all members will be invited; details to be advised.

Membership fees had been discussed by the Committee and, due to inflation, rising costs, the uncertainty over green maintenance costs and the lease, and anticipated building maintenance, it was recommended that 2025 fees should be: **Player £130, Player - Senior Member (over 85 with 4 years membership) £65 (half of Player rate), Player – Honorary Member £Nil, Player - Junior Member (18 or less) £10 & Social Member £20.** Comments on the proposal were invited but none were made, and the proposal was approved unanimously by members on a show of hands.

5. Secretary's Report – John Armstrong referred members to his report which had been circulated previously, and highlighted some points mentioned. Membership is important and asked members to note and support the Open Day proposed for Sunday 11th May 2025. The Club needed markers & coaches, and members should consider obtaining formal qualifications – the Club has offered to underwrite the cost of a Coaches course – but experienced players would be more than welcome to assist the Coaches without qualifications, especially on the Open Day and subsequent training days. Please talk to Colin Williams if you would like to help.

Colin will be running a Markers Awareness session at the Club on Saturday, 12th April at 11.00am and all players should attend.

Two more important dates to note: Subs Day on 4th April and renewal forms may be collected after the meeting; those not taken will be posted. The Treasurer will be in the Club from 2 to 4 pm and in the evening by appointment only. The pre-season working party will be on Saturday, 19th April (Easter Saturday), but it's only just for a couple of hours to set the Club up for the coming season so hopefully you'll manage to spare the time to help out.

The Club's WhatsApp Group has grown to 57 members (61% of membership), and anybody wishing to join should ask the Secretary. A member wondered if there could be an embargo on posting on the app before 9am and after 9pm, to avoid disturbing members at home; this cannot be enforced but members should consider this as a matter of courtesy.

6. Competition Secretary's Report – Diane Hallam referred members to her report which had been included with the Notice of AGM circulated previously. She would like to see as many members as possible enter the competitions (set out on the membership renewal forms) but it was important for all entrants to be free for Finals Day, 13th September, and hopefully also to be available for the Presentation Dinner on 22nd November. The first of the weekend competitions, the Ferry Walsh Memorial, would be on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May. As it is early in the year, the sign up sheet is now posted at the Club and members are asked to add their names as soon as possible.

7. Captain's Report – David Levy read from his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting, highlighting the success the Club had in winning the Coronation Shield. He also emphasised the importance of the involvement of members playing in matches, and the objective for 2025 is to grow the proportion of members participating. The plea is to look at the upcoming match sheets posted in the Geoff Millman Cabin and to add your name to those wishing to play.

8. Match Secretary's Report – Colin Williams referred to his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting, which highlighted changes to the teams against which we will be playing and also some principal dates to note. He advised that Colin Darnell will be organising the Bidgood League matches and hoped to attract new names to the existing squad so that the Club could enter an additional third team in the 2026 competition.

9. Election of Committee Members and Appointment of Officers & Club Representatives –

9.1 Election of Committee Members: The President reviewed each position in turn, asking if there were any additional nominations to those that had been made on the sign-up sheets prior to the meeting: none were made. Positions with one prior nomination were John Armstrong (Honorary Secretary), Mike Milward (Honorary Treasurer), David Levy (Club Captain), Colin Darnell (Mid-Week Captain), Colin Williams (Match Secretary), Diane Hallam (Competition Secretary), Jane Harris (Social Secretary), Robert Pearmain (Green Ranger), and Lisa Levy (Ladies' Representative), Len Rush (Men's Representative) and Debbie Williams (Communication Officer). All nominations were proposed, seconded and approved.

Colin Darnell as the Mid-week Captain may not be able to be available to organise all matches and additional assistance may be required from time to time.

It had been agreed at a recent Committee meeting that an assistant to Colin Wiliams, Match Secretary, would be sought to spread the workload and to pass on his experience in arranging matches. Alan Golding agreed to act as Colin's shadow.

Lisa Levy had stood down as Competition Secretary due to health issues soon after the 2024 AGM and the President thanked Diane Hallam for taking over the position for the 2024 season.

The President repeated his thanks to Phyllis Playfoot for her service as Ladies Representative and welcomed Lisa Levy back to the Committee in her place. He also welcomed to the Committee Debbie Williams as Communication Officer, and thanked her for taking on the role.

9.2 Appointment of Officers: The following positions received one nomination prior to the meeting: Peter Hawthorn (Auditor), Jane Harris (Midweek Ladies Captain), Gaye Armstrong (Welfare and Book Sales Officer), Tom Wallcraft (Safeguarding Officer), Kim Harper (Fire Officer), Frankie Milward (Birthday Card Secretary), Linda Clarke (Kitchen Quartermaster) and Chris Cole (Bar Quartermaster).

All nominations were proposed, seconded and approved.

The President welcomed Tom Wallcraft and Kim Harper to their new roles and thanked them for accepting nomination. He also noted that profit from the bar had amounted to some £2,700 in 2024, and there was general

appreciation expressed of the efforts of Chris Cole in managing drink stocks for the chiller cabinet; Chris asked members to let her know of any particular drinks they would like to be stocked.

9.3 Coaches: Coaches nominated previously and duly appointed were Colin Williams and Len Rush. The importance to the Club of having more coaches was repeated and assistance from experienced players, even without qualifications, would be greatly appreciated.

9.4 Appointment of League Representatives: Brian Bamford accepted nomination from the floor as Harrow & District Men's representative and was duly appointed. Diane Hallam (Middlesex Bowling Association County - previously *Ladies* - representative) and Colin Williams (Chiltern & Thames) had previously been nominated and were duly appointed.

10. Green Ranger's Report: Robert Pearmain reported that installation of the fox fence in May had virtually eliminated fox damage to the Green. He then gave a potted history of the green maintenance saga, beginning in November 2022 when LBH decided they would no longer maintain the Green, which would become a Club responsibility. LBH proposed to waive the annual charge of circa £5,000pa until replacement arrangements were put in place, which included provision of a mower and shed. However they had continued green maintenance until now, when finally LBH had provided the mower & shed. Meanwhile discussions with possible providers had been held and the Committee agreed recently, and signed yesterday, a contract with Cranleigh Greenkeepers, based in Surrey, to run from 1st March 2025 to 30th September 2026 at a monthly cost of £915 (£10,980 pa). Robert felt that a true test of Cranleigh's performance will not be seen until the 2026 season as green preparation is a slow process. The Club still has maintenance responsibilities (swishing the Green, changing rinks, etc) and Robert is looking for a deputy to cover his absences and maintain liaison with Cranleigh. Members should note that mowing will now take place on Mondays & Thursdays during the season. By contracting with Cranleigh, our path has been different to other local clubs who put in place arrangements earlier with other providers, but the outcome will determine if we could have acted other than we have. Robert is looking forward, with the help of members, to working with Cranleigh and meeting the challenges of the change in arrangements.

The President thanked Robert for all his efforts in bringing this long drawn-out matter to a conclusion, which was echoed unanimously by the meeting.

11. Amendments to the Constitution – The Secretary referred to the paper included with the Notice of AGM circulated previously which set out the proposed change to the Club's Constitution. The Committee had felt more flexibility in agreeing what dress code is appropriate for the Club would benefit members and help make the Club more attractive to potential new members. Therefore it is proposed to delete the existing detailed wording (which is a little bit out of date regarding dress), and replace it with a general power for the Committee to agree a dress code from time to time, which makes it easier to respond to members' views.

The last Committee meeting minutes included an updated dress code which will apply to the 2025 season, a copy of which will be sent to members following approval of this change to the Constitution. At the President's request, a verbal summary of the new Code was given as follows:

Shoes: To avoid the risk of contamination or other damage to the grass, street shoes (i.e. shoes used to travel to/from the Club or to/from matches with other clubs) are not to be worn on the Green. Only flat-soled sports shoes may be worn. If in doubt as to the suitability of your shoes, please refer to the President, Captain or a Club Coach for guidance. The Club strongly recommends that members purchase shoes specifically described as bowling shoes. Members must undertake to restrict their use of any such shoes to playing bowls.

Mufti (*defined as plain or ordinary clothing of members own choice, including but not limited to existing grey/white bowlswear*), will apply to informal roll-ups between members & Club roll-ups (Tuesday evening/Wednesday afternoon).

White top & grey skirt/trousers/shorts will apply to Friday Night League & the early rounds of Club Knock-out competitions.

Club White top (EBC badged) & grey skirt/trousers/shorts will apply to friendly midweek matches against other clubs.

Club White top (EBC badged) & white skirt/trousers/shorts will apply to Finals Day of Club Knock-out competitions, Weekend/Bank Holiday Club tournaments (excluding 'Fun Day'), friendly weekend matches against other clubs and League/Cup matches against other clubs:

(NB. A white shirt & Club tie may be an alternative to a Club shirt. Blazers are not obligatory, but members may wear them on formal occasions (eg Finals Day, matches against other clubs) if they so wish.

The Secretary proposed that the Club's constitution be amended by deleting the existing paragraph 21 and replacing it with "Members are to abide by the code of dress as may be approved and amended by the Committee from time to time.". The Committee had agreed this change and now required the approval of members. The amendment was approved unanimously on a show of hands with more than the requisite two thirds majority of playing members present and no objections.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Friday Night League: David Levy announced that a sign-up sheet had now been posted for the 2025 Friday Night League, which would run from 23rd May to 29th August. Sufficient players (48) to form teams of 6 was this year's target, which would make it easier for teams to field a triple for each match, and all players were invited to register. Cost was £3 per entry and 50p per game, which would provide cash prizes and allow a contribution to be made to the Club.

Hot pies, slices or pizzas will be available to eat after the match on a pre-paid (circa £3) and pre-ordered basis, and profits will be added to the Club donation. More details will be emailed to members who have signed up to play.

12.2 'Out-Out' activities Lisa Levy thanked members for the support given to the 'non Club' outings she had arranged so far, and asked members to make suggestions for future destinations. The President thanked Lisa for adding another successful string to Club social activities.

12.3 Open Day promotion and Evening Dominoes/Crib sessions: Colin Williams underlined the importance of promoting the Club's Open Day anywhere members may have contacts – schools, local shops, doctors surgeries etc. A flyer would be prepared and emailed to members to print off copies for their own use, and a small quantity of hard copies could be provided on request. Given that a number of members were in work, he also mentioned the possibility of including evening sessions of crib & dominoes in the next season of winter activities, subject to demand.

12.4 Votes of Thanks: The President proposed a special votes of thanks to Paul Hutchinson and Gill Murray who would not be renewing their membership as they were moving to Lincolnshire. Apart from their contribution to Club bowling, they had been a major factor in social activities, especially by providing film nights. They will be missed and it is hoped they will not lose touch with the club, sentiments echoed by the meeting.

The Secretary then asked for a vote of thanks for the President, who had for a number of years actively supported the Club in many ways, and was set to continue to do so, having been re-elected for a further term, to which members gave a rousing ovation.

12.5 Herga match: A plea was made for more members to add their names to the team sheet for the Herga indoor match on Saturday, 15th March at 2.30pm. A full complement of nine players was required.

12.6 Start of season: The 2025 playing season was officially scheduled to start with a roll up on Saturday, 26th April at 2.00pm, with normal club roll ups on Tuesday & Wednesday thereafter. Now that green maintenance was controlled by the Club, informal play may be possible earlier subject to the condition of the Green and the weather. Members would be advised if this was possible.

Meeting closed: 8.26pm

Signature (President) Dated

AGENDA ITEM 6

TREASURER'S REPORT & ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2025

2025 was a significant year for the Club and its finances as it was the first year that LBH discontinued their greenkeeping services and were formally replaced by commercial contractors. More of this later but, as usual members enjoyed a competitive season of bowling, both internally and in external leagues. The offseason activities also continued to be well supported and provided a continuing opportunity to socialise during the dark months of Winter as well as providing a welcome contribution to Club funds. In summary, the Accounts for the Club show a small surplus for the year with income exceeding expenditure by £351 but to put this into a wider context it compares with a surplus of £8,848 in 2024 when LBH were not charging for looking after the green. Nevertheless it is great result to achieve a surplus and, as ever, reflects admirably on the considerable contributions of those who help to run the Club and its activities for the benefit of all its members. The Income & Expenditure Report was circulated with the AGM agenda and a further explanation of the key numbers follows below.

Whilst the Club's finances remain healthy it is worth noting that the greenkeeping contract only took effect from April (meaning only 9 monthly payments of £915) against an anticipated full year in 2026. We are also aware, as has been mentioned previously that our property lease from LBH was due for rent review in 2023 and we still have had no contact from the Council. It is proposed that we will await the invoice for this year's charge in March and if it is not updated then we will contact the Council to clarify their intentions and remove the uncertainty over the liability that may be accruing.

The application for a Chrysalis Grant via LBH to renovate the gent's toilet facilities was agreed in 2024 but subsequent progress has been painfully slow. A programme of the works has been agreed and hopefully will be completed before the start of the bowling season – but note this is a repeat of the paragraph in the Treasurers Report at the 2025 AGM!!

As is customary, the Committee has discussed proposed subscriptions for the forthcoming year. Whilst the current bank balances are showing a healthy position the Club has now reached a position where we are responsible for the green maintenance and the forecasts for the current year (largely based on recent years experience) suggest a deficit in the region of £3,500. Whilst this will clearly be covered easily by existing bank balances we remain responsible for the longer term prosperity of your Club. It is therefore proposed that annual fees should be increased as follows (last year's rates shown in brackets): **Player £140 (£130)**, **Player - Senior Member £70 (£65)** (over 85 with 4 years membership, half of Player rate), **Player – Honorary Member £Nil (no change)**, **Player - Junior Member (18 or less) £10 (no change)** & **Social Member £22 (£20)**.

The Committee believe that the proposed subscription rates remain competitive with other clubs in the area, and continue to offer good value for money particularly as there is no "pay to play" surcharge which is often the case elsewhere.

Income

Membership subscriptions raised £8,434 largely reflecting the increase in last year's Subscription rate and a small, but welcome, number of new members.

Other income, as ever, comes largely from the generous efforts of organisers of the ancillary activities and participants who generated significant sums from the likes of short mat bowls, dominos*, cribbage and coffee mornings** – well done, as ever, to Jane (in Danny's absence) and Collins W and D and the "coffee ladies". Thanks also to David and Mark for the off season quiz and bingo on the cold winter evenings! Prior to their departure Paul and Jill kindly hosted a couple of film nights and these are sadly missed. If any member who has access to projector/screen (not to mention popcorn/ice cream!) would be in line for an EBC Oscar!

*Please note: *The dominos income is distorted in that £150 was paid by Colin D as an interim payment in late 2024, thereby overstating the income for that year and understating the 2025 number*

***Due to a communication mismatch the last two coffee mornings in 2025 are not included in the numbers but amount to an extra £116 split between entrance fees and raffles which will be included in the 2026 Accounts*

The drinks facility made a valuable and increased contribution on prices that were "out of date" (they will rise in 2026 in line with costs) and particular thanks to Chris who has worked tirelessly throughout the year to manage the stock and finances.

As Social Secretary, Jane has again overseen many of the events this year, a number involving food which continues to provide a healthy income. Needless to say this involves considerable effort to source and serve and thanks to Jane and all who have helped her at all the events. She also manages to organise numerous raffles to add some rewarding suspense to each occasion and well done also to those who have donated prizes and, of course, to those that have bought the tickets. Please note that raffle income is not allocated to individual events, except for the Presentation Dinner and Christmas Party which I have identified as bespoke events (and also gives me the opportunity to thank Mark and Diane for organising another terrific Presentation evening and Diane for the no mean feat of organising the competitions throughout the season).

Thanks also to Lisa and David Levy for organising a number of ex curricular activities/tours which have been hugely enjoyed by all the participants

Donation income has traditionally been largely represented by the sales of second hand clothing and equipment which has often been given by retiring members. Len Rush has also been active in marketing donated bowls/equipment and has raised £150. Thanks to Alan Golding for producing an EBC Calendar raising £80 which he kindly donated to the Club. Last, but not least David Levy kindly donated £240 to the Club from the highly successful Friday Night League – much of that sum coming from the sale of pizza/pies personally cooked by David and Lisa sometimes on the hottest nights of the year!

Interest Income was enhanced by a larger balance and higher rates although both balances and rates, in particular, are likely to be lower in 2026.

The 100 Club raised a net £530 whilst providing prizes for 20 lucky winners – thanks to Fiona Hawthorn for donating her prize to the Club. Hopefully that enthusiasm and generosity will be carried forward to the current year and we can raise the number of "tickets" bought from 103 in 2025 and create even more winners!

Expenditure

Green Maintenance fees were a major feature of the expenses for the year. A contract was agreed with Cranleigh Greenkeepers. To be effective from the 1st April 2025 until the end of the 2026 season at a cost of £915 per month (£10,980 pa). After some years of underinvestment from LBH the green has required some intensive care resulting in some comparatively modest additional cost to bring it up to speed. It is anticipated that this extra care will bear fruit in the coming season and create a green that is a credit to the Club. Many thanks to Robert for his unstinting efforts as Green Ranger. He has worked tirelessly in support of Cranleigh, in maintaining a good playing surface throughout the year.

The Rent payment of £1,100 is unchanged although the lease was subject to review in 2023. As mentioned in the introduction any outstanding balance will be resolved this year.

Insurance costs have risen with inflation and include an additional charge for the new mower and playing surface.

Catering, which includes match teas, is now separately identified from Cleaning Supplies. Continued thanks to Linda Clarke in her role as Quartermaster. This year's figure includes £64 supporting working parties and £40 for hosting the C&T Semi Finals.

Equipment/Maintenance included the usual general items as well as some notable items such as the Defibrillator, with spare pads £1,180, Air Fryer £75, and servicing for the mowers (the elder requiring substantial refurb) £1,416 and two new benches £358. Also notable is the £104 spent on plants and planters which produced a special show throughout the season – thanks to Diane and Chris Cole for arranging and to those that thought to water the pots as they dried out. Thanks also to Mark for carrying out a number of unpublicised maintenance tasks and, again, to Colin Williams for his ongoing work on the path next to the tennis courts

Thanks also to those members who volunteer on the occasional “maintenance” days, A few hours work makes a huge contribution to the wellbeing of the Club and enables it to prepare and close the season. All welcome!

The donation of £75 represented the “wrong bias” box, topped up by Club funds in support of the Visually Impaired Bowls England (VIBE) charity.

Summary and Outlook

In summary, your Club remains in a healthy financial position with a strong bank balance to meet the increased costs of running the Club, particularly in respect of the green. It is likely that there will be a shortfall in income set against the expenses in 2026 and it therefore important that the Club retains as many members as possible and, of course, encourages and welcomes new members, either from existing clubs or kindred spirits that are new to the sport. Perhaps friends/neighbours??

I am confident that we can look forward to a successful season in 2026 with the existing core of enthusiastic and talented bowlers at the Club's heart. With excellent facilities, in a prime location and with a much improved green your Club is well placed to build on that sound base to develop both internally and in the wider Bowls World.

Mike Milward, Hon Treasurer

EASTCOTE BOWLING CLUB					
<u>INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2025</u>					
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Subscriptions	8,434	7623	Green Expense	8932	0
Competitions	549	571	Insurance	1,307	1081
Raffles	1,094	1123	Lease	1,100	1100
Donations	623	890	Business Rates	0	0
100 Club	1030	910	100 Club	500	450
Coffee Mornings	47	100	Catering Inc Match Teas	457	284
Ploughmans	160	86	Presentation Dinner	1,440	1386
Presentation Dinner	1,685	1573	Affiliations	663	645
Crib	474	372	Trophies	582	657
Drinks Profit	2,959	2719	Honoraria	50	50
Food Provided	570	804	Fixture Crds/Stationery	298	602
Clothing (New)	70	1136	Equipment/Maintenance	3,704	1904
Quiz/Bingo Nights	187	261	Website Maintenance Fee	160	160
Key Deposits	115	135	Clothing (New)	0	1374
Short Mat Bowls	818	630	Premises	0	1,256
Dominos	419	679	Donations	75	100
Book Sales	61	69	Bank Charges	45	70
Xmas Party	191	258	Cleaner	630	575
Film Nights	150	338	Drinks Licence	180	180
Interest Earned	1,088	879	Cleaning Supps	201	186
Miscellaneous	16	36	90th Birthday	0	264
			Miscellaneous	65	20
			Excess of Inc over Exp	351	
	20,740			20,740	
Capital B/Forward	40,157		Bank Current A/C	317	
Plus Net "Profit"	351		Deposit A/Cs	40,115	
			Petty Cash	76	
	40,508			40,508	
<i>For Info: Stocks - Bar £434 Clothing (New) £520</i>					

SECRETARY'S REPORT ON 2025

As others have or will report on the more important stuff; i.e. the money, the bowling, and the social activities, I will focus on the membership, and what the Committee talked about at its meetings whilst remembering a few highlights,

Membership:

Current membership statistics are (*figures in brackets are as at AGM 2025, before renewal*):

	Players	Social	Total	% of Total
<i>Members</i>	65 (62)	24 (32)	89 (94)	100% 100%
WhatsApp Group	52 (47)	6 (10)	58 (57)	65% 61%
Members with Mobile phones	61 (57)	16 (22)	77 (79)	87% 84%
Members with Email Addresses registered	62 (59)	20 (28)	82 (87)	92% 93%

What's the best way of communicating with our players? Well, 95.4% of players had email addresses, 93.8% mobile phones and 80% are in the WhatsApp group, so email continues to be the winner. The WhatsApp Group continues to grow, with 65% of members now on it - *anybody wishing to join it, please let me know.*

Including the changes in membership at 2025 membership renewal in April, over the year we have:

- Said hello to 4 new Playing members and 1 Social member, whilst 3 former Social members (Lisa Levy, Natalie Ramsay & Karen Norman) have joined the Players.
- 7 Social members and 3 Players did not renew membership last April, including, with much regret, Gill Murray & Paul Hutchinson on their move to Lincolnshire.

You will be glad to know that all members will be getting membership renewal invitations - forms will be available at the AGM, but any not collected will be posted to members. *Please note that Subs Day (last day to rejoin) this year will be Thursday, 2nd April (as Good Friday is on the 3rd!).*

Committee Meetings and Highlights of 2025

The Committee has met four times since the last AGM, and has discussed a host of topics, including, amongst others:

- Purchase of an air fryer, put to good use, especially for the Friday Night League, which made a welcome return on 23rd May.

- Appointment of Cranleigh Greenkeepers, bringing to an end a long period of uncertainty since LBH announced cessation of green maintenance services. Robert Pearmain, our Green Ranger, gives a positive report of Cranleigh's performance to date with hope of a better Green in 2026.
- With Green Maintenance now under Club control, the 2025 Season started early on 23rd April, allowing some limited preparation for the Eastbourne Bowls Tour which commenced on the 27th.
- New dress code issued, giving greater flexibility for members.
- VE 80th Anniversary celebrated with an Afternoon Tea following the Ferry Walsh tournament.
- Club competition rules aligned with new BowlsEngland regulations to ensure compliance.
- Open Day held on 11th May with some success, but more timely promotion would be undertaken next year. Agreed to hold the 2026 Open Day earlier, on 26th April, with promotion starting end of March.
- Following a site inspection in July, LBH promised commencement of the long awaited toilet refurbishments in August. Despite progressing, the date slipped back to December, and, at time of writing(20th January), is now due to start on 29th January – fingers crossed!
- Colin Williams was congratulated for the work done to date on the bed adjacent to the tennis courts – volunteers still needed to complete prior to start of 2026 Season.
- Mid- Season Club performance was good in Friendly matches but external league and cup results, except for the Vets League Division 1, were not so good. Efforts would be made to broaden the base of regular contributors.
- July's heatwave had a impact on play, notably for the Cavendish Day competition.
- A new Step on to the Green was provided, courtesy of Colin Williams, and appreciated by a number of members.
- A Club wreath was laid at the Remembrance Day service in Eastcote.
- Long-term problems with drains servicing the Club were investigated by LBH and some local blockages dealt with. But it was found that extensive repairs to the run outside the premises are necessary; unfortunately, to date, funding has not yet been allocated.
- A new hosepipe was provided , courtesy of Kim Harper.
- The Club's annual charitable donation was made to VIBE (Visually Impaired Bowls England).
- Unanimously agreed that approval for Colin Williams to be granted Honorary Membership for services 'above and beyond' to the Club would be proposed at the next AGM.
- 'Shared bowling' measures to assist members with mobility issues would be investigated.
- We are still appealing for members to be Club Markers and Coaches, and the offer of subsidised Coaching courses still stands!
- Agreed to have a programme of rolling Working Party Days during the year to keep the premises up to scratch – look out for the next one!
- We purchased a defibrillator – hope we never have to use it!
- Lisa Levy has continued her 'Out Out' (not officially Club) events which have been enjoyed by many members and Jane Harris has been a leading light in provision of the social side to Club tournaments and other events.

May the good times continue in 2026!

John Armstrong, Secretary

COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT

Yet again another playing season came and went in the blink of an eye! Where did 2025 go??

Many thanks for all the help and support on weekend and Bank Holiday competition days, both in terms of bowlers signing up to play and to the many people who helped in some way or another- whether it being setting up the rinks, selling raffle tickets, catering, making teas and coffees and of course the clearing up afterwards. A special shout out must go to Chris Cole for all her hard work in ensuring the “bar” was always fully stocked – thank you.

The one-day tournaments were well attended, and it was especially good to see some of our new bowlers not only taking part but being highly successful. A huge bonus to the number of players attending was the provision of food after the games and my thanks go to Jane Harris for all her hard work in organising the catering, together with her catering crew, and thanks to Jane for running remarkably successful raffles.

The club knock out competitions in general were well supported, but it would be good to see more bowlers signing up for the 2026 season and we actively encourage our “2025 intake” to do so. All competitions successfully played through with no issues. However, for the one day competitions we were on occasion low on numbers. Twice the format had to change:

George Harrison – triples, not fours, and for Presidents Day – triples not fours, and some men’s pairs were fielded instead of mixed pairs.

Finals Day on 13th September 2025 was a successful day with all matches being played in good spirit and in pleasant weather – players only got caught in one short sharp outburst of rain in the afternoon on the Saturday. The day was well supported with spectators – but dare I say it not to the same extent as in previous years. Well done to all winners and runner ups and many thanks to all those individuals who marked matches. The day got off to a good start with bacon rolls for breakfast, followed by filled baguettes and cakes for lunch – all much appreciated by those who partook. A massive thank you must go to Jane Harris for organising all the food and especially to all the ladies in the kitchen who worked extremely hard preparing the food. The ladies’ pairs match on the Sunday was well supported and the sun shone!

Looking at the results for the one-day competitions and knockout competitions, it is good to see that some different names will be going on trophies and especially those of our newer bowlers. In fact, 4 bowlers from the class of 2024 featured on finals day – 3 of them being victorious. The aim for next year is to get many more bowlers entering – especially ladies please.

Mementos for all winners and runners up were presented at our Presentation Dinner on Saturday 22nd November and all the trophies will be engraved ready for the 2026 season.

Regular reminders:

Please don’t enter knock out competitions if you know you will not be available to play on Finals Day - Saturday 12th September 2026. Equally, if you have entered competitions, please keep Finals Day free – even if you don’t think you will reach a final – you never know!!

The first competition of the season will be the Ferry Walsh Memorial on Sunday 10th May. Please sign up on the sheet which will be available on Subs Day and then displayed on the board in the Geoff Millman Cabin.

I wish you all the best of luck in the 2026 competitions and look forward to seeing you on the bowling green.

Diane Hallam, Competition Secretary

Below is a list of all winners and runners up for one day and knock out competitions:

EASTCOTE BOWLS CLUB 2025
Club One Day Competitions 2025

Competition	Runners Up	Winners
George Harrison Trophy	PAM WALSH BRIAN BAMFORD COLIN WILLIAMS	HILARY GATE MIKE JONES JOHN JONES
Godfrey Memorial Trophy	LES BENNETT	DAVID LEVY
Godfrey Memorial Plate	BRIAN BAMFORD	GRAHAM AYLETT
Ferry Walsh Memorial	ALAN GOLDING JAN METCALF BRIAN BAMFORD	MIKE MILWARD LINDA CLARKE DAVID SEPTON
Mixed Drawn Pairs	NATALIE RAMSEY MIKE JONES	LINDA SMITH MARK HALLAM
Will Morton Trophy	JANET BROOKS BRIAN BAMFORD	JOHN POWELL DIANE HALLAM
Cavendish Day	ROBERT PEARMAIN	COLIN WILLIAMS
Presidents Day Cup	HILARY GATE LES BENNETT ROB PEARMAIN	JITESH SHAH LINDA CLARKE BRIAN BAMFORD

EASTCOTE BOWLS CLUB 2025
Club Knock-out Competitions 2025

Winners	Runners Up	Winners
Ladies' Pairs Handicap	GAYE ARMSTRONG & PAM WALSH	DEBBIE WILLIAMS & DIANE HALLAM
Men's Pairs Handicap	ALAN GOLDING & MARK HALLAM	MIKE JONES & GEOFF SMITH
Mixed Pairs (The Allan Edwards Mixed Pairs)	CAROL BROTHERS & DAVID LEVY	GRAHAM AYLETT & JANE HARRIS
Ladies' Handicap	PAM WALSH	JANE HARRIS
Men's Handicap (Taylor Cup)	STEVE MOSS	COLIN WILLIAMS
Ladies' Junior	GAYE ARMSTRONG	STEPHANIE BROWN
Men's Junior	GEOFF SMITH	STEVE MOSS
Ladies' Two Woods	DIANE HALLAM	LINDA SMITH
Men's 2 Woods (Telling Cup)	DAVID LEVY	GRAHAM AYLETT
Ladies' Three Woods	DIANE HALLAM	LINDA CLARKE
Men's 3 Woods (Founders Cup)	DAVID LEVY	JOHN JONES
Ladies' Championship	LINDA SMITH	DIANE HALLAM
Men's Championship (Robarts Cup)	GRAHAM AYLETT	COLIN WILLIAMS

CAPTAIN, MID-WEEK CAPTAIN & MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORTS

CAPTAIN:

To recap the 2025 season I think it is fair to say that we did not, in bowling terms, reach the dizzy heights of the 2024 season (remember winning the Coronation Shield?) but kept our tradition of being a club that always has a warm welcome, plays with a smile on its face and that is why a large number of clubs stay and socialise after matches.

I would like to thank all the players who did put their names forward for matches, whether coerced or not, and can only reiterate that players of all standards are welcome to put their names forward for friendly and competitive matches and I can guarantee that in respect of Friendly matches if you are not chosen one week, due to over-subscription, if your name appears the following week on the sign-up sheet then you will get a game.

For the coming season, I would like to see an increase in the overall number and % (currently 76% of playing members have played at least once) in Friendly and competitive matches on weekends. With a slight increase in the number of Friendly matches (18 over 17 in 2025) I am hoping that more of the playing membership would wish to be involved in these matches.

David Levy, Club Captain

MIDWEEK CAPTAIN:

Friendly Matches: EBC played a total of ten Midweek Friendly matches during the 2025 Season, winning six of them. The total points scored were 638 for Eastcote, 564 against.

Veterans League A Matches: EBC played thirteen matches, winning six. The total points scored were 539 for Eastcote, 551 against. (NB. I don't have the results of the match against century played on the 24th July 2025).

Chiltern & Thames Matches: EBC played a total of four matches, winning one. The total points scored were 205 for Eastcote, 221 against.

Bidgood League: Both Eastcote and Cavendish teams completed all of their matches. Cavendish finished mid-table in Division 2. Eastcote finished in the bottom two in Division 1, and will next season rejoin Cavendish in Division 2.

Overall, an average season for 2025. Let's all look forward to a more successful 2026.

Colin Darnell, Midweek Captain

MATCH SECRETARY:

In the 2025 season Eastcote played 61 games, of which we won 28, lost 43. One was cancelled by Eastcote, two were cancelled by the opposition. We scored 3261 shots and conceded 3364.

Our biggest losses occur in the Chiltern & Thames league where we are in a group along with very strong clubs. The Committee consider that whilst we do suffer heavy defeats, it provides us with fixtures rather than have a blank day or weekend.

The 2026 season sees a few changes: principal dates to note are: First match Wednesday 22nd April, Open Day Sunday 26th April, Presidents Day Saturday 18th July, and Finals Day Saturday 12th September/Sunday 13th September.

There is no fixture Saturday 1 August or Sunday 2 August. So all those who wish to take a weekend away from bowling, this is the weekend to do it.

I would like to thank Alan Golding for sharing some of my work load by putting up sheets in the Geoffrey Millman cabin and recording all the results.

Colin Williams, Match Secretary

RJA 26/01/26