

BURTON AND PUDDINGTON BOWLS CLUB

Minutes of A.G.M. held on the 13th February 2026 @ 15:00 in the Gladstone Village Hall

1. **Chair's Opening Remarks.** Sue welcomed the 50 members present. Sue thanked Laura for compiling the handout containing information on our friends who have passed away in 2025 – Norma Riley, Rod Adams, Anne Tilley, Kevin Holt and Joan Jones. There followed a minute's silence to remember those friends.
2. **Apologies for absence.** Eddie Townsend, Keith Moores, Dee Butler, David and Leif Prior, Dave Tilley, Jackie and Dave Hill, Rita Lloyd, Thora McAteer, Liz Doyle, Howard Buckler.
3. **Minutes of 2025 A.G.M.** The Minutes were accepted. Proposed by Sheila Jones, seconded by Bob Cant.
4. **Chair's Report.** Sue said that it had been a great year for the Club. We hosted the Cheshire Senior Merit Final, the Eldridge Cup Final and the Ladies Novice Cup. At the County A.G.M. we were thanked for hosting the Senior Merit and also for our participation in the County Open Pairs Competition.

We introduced a new format for indoor bowls which has presented some problems with member integration, a different format will be introduced for next year.

There were several issues with the green last year, the biggest problem being watering, however the green surrounds were looking good and Sue thanked Laura, Alan B, Geoff, Ian S, John, Brian for their contribution.

There were some great social events last year including American Bingo, another visit to Arnside, Casino Afternoon. There were also visits to Bradley all weather green thanks to Chris Whooley.

A new website was launched during the year a new website and a new way to send weekly updates.

The club has a healthy membership which now stands at the constitutional limit of 100 with 6 people on the waiting list.

Sandra Hughes is stepping down from the Committee and Sue thanked Sandra for her contributions.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered this year.

5. **Treasurer's Report.** Geoff said there was a loss of £547 last year but he is happy with the state of the accounts especially as there was an increase in turnover of 28% indicating a healthy and thriving club. Landscape Maintenance has been added an additional accounts category to add clarity. Geoff explained the small increase in subscriptions for 2026 and also highlighted the financial implications if we don't have enough members to mow the green. Now that we have 100 members and 6 on the waiting list it is important that subscriptions are paid by 31st March to avoid a lapse in membership. There was a question on green maintenance costs from Alan Bragg, Geoff explained that these have been higher this year due to the purchase of seed and top dressing plus we had to pay an additional fee to GVH for water usage because of the hot dry weather, these costs will be closely monitored this year. There followed a vote on the Subscription Fees for 2026 proposed by Bob Cant, seconded by Pat Holt and approved by the members.
6. **Captains' reports.** For the Chester League Brian thanked Pat King for being the Vice Captain and standing in on 2 occasions. Brian said that he was still enjoying being Captain and thanked team members for their attitude and playing together as a team and also thanked Sheila for her support collecting match money, measuring and marking. The team won Division C playing 16 matches and winning 12. Reaching the Eldridge Cup Semi-Final was another highlight of the season.

For the Ellesmere Port Vets Division 3 Ian explained that this was a new team formed with Burton players who had previously played in Division 4 and Ex Neston players. Some of the greens were challenging due to the hot and dry weather, another challenge was opposing teams only having 7 or 8 players which gave them an advantage in the pairs having previously played in the singles. That said we had a successful season where we played 18 matches winning 11 and finishing in 4th place. Ian thanked all the players for their effort and cooperation.

For the Ellesmere Port Vets Division 4 team Sandra thanked Pat Holt for her assistance as the Vice Captain. Sandra said that a lot of players were still relatively new but they have had some good results, we played 18 matches winning 8 and finishing in 6th place. Although there was a large squad there were sometimes only just enough players. Most of the players will be playing next year and the squad is expected to be the same size.

For the Ladies team Laura said they had a very enjoyable season with 3 heatwaves unlike previous years when it had been freezing and wet at the start. After being top of the league for the first part of the season we finished second with 43 points 3 behind the winners and 10 points ahead of third place. It is a positive encouraging team who always try their very best. There are 19 experienced players for next year but additional players would be very welcome. Laura thanked Thora for her constant support as Vice Captain and Sheila for representing the club at League meetings.

7. **Events Committee Report.** There were many events organised last year however attendance had dropped year on year, for example there were 43 attendees at this year's Christmas Party as opposed to 52 in 2024. A questionnaire had been handed out asking members for their views on a list of events and any suggestions for additional events. Sue thanked Pat, Liz, Lindy, Kath and Karen for their hard work and support. Bob Cant also offered his thanks to the Events Committee.
8. **Election of Officers, Committee and appointment of Auditor.** As there had been no alternative nominations it was agreed that there would be a blanket vote to re-elect the current officers and committee. This was proposed by Margi and seconded by Wendy, the vote was passed by a show of hands. Geoff thanked Len for being the auditor and Len was re-appointed by a show of hands.
9. **Discussion Point : Membership.** Bob Cant explained his reasons for asking members their view on whether the current level of membership was too high. Opinions were invited from the floor and several differing points were made by a number of members. No one had been badly impacted by having 100 members and there were no strong views on reducing the numbers, so at the end of the discussion it was decided that there was no need to amend the constitutional limit.
10. **A.O.B.** Janice asked if there would be any additional teams this year. Sue explained that additional options had been explored but there would be no new teams for the upcoming season.

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Meeting closed 16:20