

## **Bowls Club Report For Council Meeting - Wednesday 7th May 2025**

Our last year has been dominated by the weather with rain being the prime culprit. Persistent winter flooding of the green means that our season is again delayed by 4 - 6 weeks. This means our playing season is shortened, because of this we have reduced our membership fee and plan to expand our "in-house" competitions. We hope that this will help to attract some new members who may want to learn how to bowl without the pressure of matches against other clubs and the extra travelling that can involve. The damage to the green and the length of time it has been under water means a lot of hard work and expense is required to get it back to a playable state. Our plans for this season are to hold a lot more "at home" matches and less league matches. As mentioned above, we are hoping to encourage locals to use the club facilities, We are very determined not to lose it. We also have a new dart board in place and are considering how to keep active throughout the Winter months outside of the usual bowls season. The dart board being a first step in this direction.

Once again, we are most grateful to the council for its assistance with annual funding. We have quite a few expenditures to face both currently and moving forward. These include:

- General maintenance of the green and the products involved in this such as moss killer etc.
- Repairs to the club buildings, replacing wooden cladding is a major project this year with the building dating back more than 70 years.
- Replacing ditch boards - With the flooding, these have rotted and no longer support the side walls of the ditch that surrounds the bowling green.
- Mower repairs, ongoing. We are also looking for an additional blade cassette to make cutting easier
- Plumbing repairs and improvements.
- Fencing repairs - The current fence is damaged in a number of places and while we can complete some basic repairs there is a danger that someone may be injured by a stray piece of fence or broken link for example.

Weekly "roll-ups" begin during April and we will use our Facebook page to advise of any other events. Roll ups usually occur on Sundays at approximately 10:00 - 12:00 and one day in the week, usually a Wednesday afternoon from 14:00. We can of course bowl at other times should the need be there. We continue to encourage anyone of any age to come and give bowls a try. We can supply all equipment and a friendly welcome at the club on the Recreation Ground in Willingham. Whether you want to play socially or play competitively, your first step is to just "give it a go".

The Club has been in existence since 1937 and visiting teams often comment on the lovely setting within the village. We are lucky to have a fantastic, if small, greens team that work wonders in getting the green in the best condition possible. If you want to give it a try just get in touch. It will be great to see you there.

## **WILLINGHAM BOWLS CLUB**

**Statement as of 8th September 2024 (AGM)**

### **Income**

Cash at bank and brought forward from 17th February 2024	2673.23
Membership Fees (20)	800.00
Parish Council	1400.00
Match Fees	499.00
Donation	3.68
	5375.91

### **Expenses**

Amazon - Handwash Water Heater	55.77
Green Maintenance (Oct 23 - Mar 24)	600.00
FECA Membership	15.00
Aspinalls - Plywood	155.16
Screwfix - Worktop Leg & White Spirit	18.48
Amazon - Carpet Trim Strip	7.99
Petrol	15.50
Aspinalls - Plywood	-51.72
Aspinalls - Plumbing connectors	15.26
Ely & District League	20.00
Amazon - Carpet Trim Strip	7.69
Screwfix - Door Rain Deflector	12.99
Amazon - Door Strip	6.09
Amazon - Weed Killer	30.62
Aspinalls - Plumbing connectors	19.79
Petrol	13.30
Amazon - Basin Mixer Tap	29.98
Garden & Hire Spares - Chain for mower	22.70
Pavilion Key & Back Shed Paint (MS)	43.40
Petrol	7.50
Oil	14.30
Screwfix - drill bit	4.99
	1064.79
<b>Willingham Bowls Club balance</b>	<b><u>4311.12</u></b>

Made up of: -

Community Account Bank Balance	4168.61
Cash held	142.51
	<b><u>4311.12</u></b>