

MINUTES

Allithwaite Bowling Club

Thursday 14th May 2026

Item		Action(s) required by	Date
Welcome	Tina welcomed everyone to the meeting		
Present	Tina, Julia, Brian, Margaret, Joyce, Colin Pauline, John		
Apologies	Gillian, Bob, Diane, Alan		
Correspondence/ communication	All had been circulated prior to the meeting.		
Minutes of committee meeting 19 th April 2026	Draft minutes were agreed and signed. Matters arising: The Post Office responded to us with the following: <i>Unfortunately, the kit in the picture isn't Post Office equipment, and as such isn't something we would remove. It may have been installed in order for the Portable Post Office kit to function with electrics and a phoneline, however the instillation of the electrical equipment should have been something that yourself and the Postmaster you had your rental agreement with should have discussed.</i> <i>Post Office itself doesn't hold any agreements with outreach locations, and your agreement around the usage of the building would have sat with an individual Postmaster.</i> Kind regards, Sam Williams		

Minutes of committee meeting 19 th April 2026	It was agreed that Diane should copy this response to Billy, however, as far as we were concerned, we would leave the fixtures in place and take no further action.	Diane to forward Post Office response	Next meeting
Finance	No comments made to the finance reports. Pauline reported that since her reports were prepared all sponsors have paid with the exception of Carcraft and Em.J's so the current balance is £10,319.83 with just £14 to come out for petrol.		
Membership	We had 2 new full members early May so figures read: Total members 86 Total playing members 79 Full members 70, > 18 1, Life 5, Hon 3 and Non - Player 7. The new members have paid and are due to receive handbook and welcome letter from me. Julia reported that we still had a few new member inductions to do and that she was giving a taster session on Sunday morning for another potential new member. It was agreed that Julia, Tina and Diane would discuss possible dates for the remaining inductions	Julia, Tina & Diane	Next meeting
Green update	The green has been very slow to produce consistent growth this season, due mostly to the varied and somewhat unseasonal weather conditions. It has had treatment of fertiliser, biology applications to help with expected insect issues and worm treatment. In addition, wetting agent has been applied to assist water dispersal into the profile. The drying easterly winds combined with occasional sunny periods have left the green in need of water despite the recent rainfalls. Application by the sprinklers we have is long		

Green update cont.	winded and requires supervision and the movement of the sprinkler heads to ensure even coverage. John is currently looking at an inexpensive alternative means of watering. John has recently stocked up on fertiliser, liquid seaweed and wetting agent in line with the expected usage over the summer months. Late April mowing was disappointing as there was inconsistent grass growth leaving unwanted lateral growth and some "tufting" in several areas. This was addressed by using the new "Verti Cutter" attachment to the new Cobra Mower. This produced just over a ONE Ton bag of "mulch" from the surface. An excellent and valuable bit of kit! This, together with a reduced cut height of cut saw a much-improved surface. Verti cutting will continue on a fortnightly basis but care is needed not to over stress the grass. There is an ongoing issue with compaction around the "crown" of the green which has left evidence of moss from over winter. Using the Hollow Tine attachments on the new aerator- John removed cores from one of these areas on the left of the green nearest the hall/toilets. This is the sandy area members may have noticed as top dressing and seed were applied and brushed in to improve things. Hopefully this will lead to improved growth and smooth out the areas disrupted by winter moss. A second area is evident on the opposite side off then green and John will consider similar treatment as and when appropriate. We now have several members who have expressed an interest in helping out with mowing. So far Paul Howarth, Colin Sinclair, and Phil Nicholson have all been down on mowing days and had first-hand experience with the mower. Hopefully their confidence will develop over the next few weeks. Once this is achieved, we may have other members willing to have a go. For now, though John would prefer to concentrate own bringing the initial volunteers up to speed before adding others to the development. John added to his report: Swishing was still not being done 100% of the time. It was agreed Julia would send a reminder email.	Julia to email members	Done
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Green update cont.	We still have some compaction issues and moss mainly at the corners. Unfortunately, due to time constraints the necessary hollow coring to rectify this was not done earlier. It was agreed that John should now proceed with the work. John requested that we purchase an automatic watering system that would remove the need for someone to be on site for 2 hours moving sprinklers. This system is successfully used by Netherfield and would cost £106.71. Julia said she had £85 to contribute to funds from Vinted sales which would cover a portion of the cost. It was agreed that John could purchase the device. John requested from Pauline details of his expenditure against budget. Tina raised the issue that John will be leaving the area and although he should be here for this season, we must now make significant preparations to cover his role and indeed future proof it for years to come. We had an in-depth discussion about green knowledge, who John speaks to – Netherfield, Sedburgh and David Orchard from Apple Amenity. What John does when. Do we have someone who would take the position – almost certainly not Could we use external help – at a cost. It was decided that if there was no individual willing to take the position the work would have to be managed via a team of people, Kirkby Lonsdale manage under this system. It was agreed Julia would email the membership asking for volunteers to join a working group and John would prepare a comprehensive folder of information that would allow for this system of management.	John to purchase Pauline to provide figure for John Julia to email members	Next meeting Next meeting Done
Maintenance	Tina has obtained quotes for new signage. To replace the sign on the fence it would be £45 to purchase a larger welcome sign that could be put on the end wall of the kitchen would be £150, however, Tina felt that this would need further discussion with Ron as it may have implications to the cladding. It was agreed we would proceed with the small fence sign once logos and fonts had been agreed.		

Maintenance cont.	John reported that Syd's shed was in need of repair, the Perspex side panel was broken and overall, it required some attention. Paul Howarth had offered to do this work at no cost. We agreed this refurbishment should go ahead with thanks to Paul.		
Events update	With the absence of Gillian there was no events update. Julia reported that the next events were a Sunday Social on the 17th May followed by the Jack & Eileen competition on the 7th June. Julia has contacted the family of Jack & Eileen who attended last year to let them know the date.		
Club Development	Tina reported that on the 25th April 9 new members attended a free coaching course run by three coaches. The course was very positively received by all those attending. Tina and Diane have attended Allithwaite school with the Bowls Buddy package – not with the aim to get children as members but for them to enthusiastically talk about bowling to their parents, grandparents which may spark their interest. In June Tina and Diane are returning to the school to do 4 fun lessons using the Bowling Buddies equipment. Margaret has organized the fizzy drinks and a few cans have already been sold. Subs for the Internal Doubles has now been introduced. Tina reported on the Level 1 coaching course currently being undertaken. (see attached full report) and the progress being made towards the agreed club targets for the year.		
Open Day	The Open Day last Saturday gained a reasonable level of interest with around ten potential new members. At the end of the day there was a quick review of the afternoon to determine what went well and what didn't. It was agreed that the fun games weren't that well received, people wanted to bowl and wanted to get bowling quickly.		

Open Day cont.	It was also evident that as a team not everyone helping knew the details of our membership so more knowledge would be an advantage. It was agreed that we would not have a further open day this season. Thanks was expressed for all those helpers who had volunteered and given their time, and cakes, so cheerfully. The volunteers had come from those people who had offered to help the club back in February on the club questionnaire.		
Club Logos	Julia raised the issue that we aren't consistent with our club logos and font colouring across things within the club, this became apparent when looking at the graphics for a new sign – we have two logos, we use yellow words on clothing but green on letterhead. This may not be that important but it was agreed Julia could investigate the potential of some consistency going forward.	Julia to investigate	Next meeting
Health and Safety Documents	During the course of the Level 1 coaching two documents have been highlighted by the instructors that we should have in place, an emergency evacuation procedure and Health and Safety Risk Assessment. Julia has prepared both of these for committee approval. As a minimum the evacuation procedure will be on our notice board and the risk assessment will be completed when we are coaching or offering taster sessions. Documents approved.		
AOB	Pauline raised a concern that the banner for UK Slate was not in a very prominent position and covered by the hosepipe. John agreed to move the hosepipe. It would appear that we are a set of bowls missing, a set of the coloured 2.0's or 2.2's and that perhaps the signing in and out of bowls is not being done. Julia to send an email to members re missing bowls and signing in and out	John to move hosepipe Julia to send email	Done Done

AOB cont.	John requested that the NUF insurance now be passed over. Julia agreed to take it. John suggested the committee consider purchasing a set of four portable, battery operated flood lights at an estimated £2,500 to alleviate the problem of bowling in the dark. The committee will consider. John reported that the cat has been found locked in the clubhouse 3 times recently. Julia to send email reminding people to check for her before they lock up.	Julia to email members	Done
Date of next meeting	Thursday 25 th June		