



CHELTENHAM WHADDON BOWLING CLUB

WHADDON ROAD, CHELTENHAM, GL52 5NA

Telephone: 01242 570747 E-mail: cheltwhaddonbc@gmail.com

Affiliated to: Bowls England, Gloucestershire Bowling Association

12 November 2025

AGM 98: OPEN FORUM

Introduction

1. The Open Forum, which follows the AGM, is an opportunity for members to express views on the club, suggest improvements or raise matters they think the Committee should address. No votes are taken but the Secretary takes notes of discussions and publishes them with the minutes of the AGM. The incoming Management Committee will include issues raised at the forum on the agenda its next meeting in early December 2025.

Club Centenary

2. Andy Todd opened the topic, saying that in a newsletter earlier this year he had asked members to come up with ideas on how the club could celebrate its centenary year in 2027. The Committee had considered some suggestion but only one member had come forward with additional ones (see below) but I'm sure there must be other good ideas out there. Though it may seem a long way in the future, we do need to start planning very soon, so please put your thinking caps on and send in your ideas and preferences for what we might do.

3. The Management Committee would like to set up a sub-committee to choose the best and most viable ideas and then co-ordinate and manage the arrangements for them. Some members of the sub-committee may be drawn from the Management Committee, but we would very much like other members to come forward and help as well.

4. Here are some of the suggestions made so far to give you a flavour of what we might do:

- Special centenary event for club members/families
- Centenary Bowls Tournament (invite local clubs, cup and/or prize for winners)
- Gala Evening for all who use the club (perhaps dress as 100 years ago – optional!)
- Tea/coffee/cake sale
- Karaoke night/Quiz
- Flyer/Poster/Banner
- Celebration match v. GBA or BE team
- Centenary pens

Not an exhaustive list and we probably won't do all of these but would like feedback on which members would prefer and, very importantly, help to organise them.

5. John Petchey suggested that we might consider a trip to play the Royal Household at Windsor, which had welcomed other clubs celebrating events and would be a good replacement for the trip to Wotton Bassett, assuming Marchant's renew their sponsorship, offering a free coach. Derek Fry supported the idea: he knew that it was a very good day out. In answer to a question about whether we might be able to obtain a grant to support this and other centenary events, Dave Simmons said that Lottery/Sport England etc grants were usually targeted at specific projects, rather than ongoing expenditure or events for club members.

6. Debby Hooper had mentioned during her report on social events that we might go further afield, perhaps to Spain or Portugal next year for the **annual bowls trip**. Derek Fry believed that this was not practical: the cost would be in the order of £1,000, but he thought insurance would be prohibitive.

7. Finally, Julie Leake urged all members to be kind to each other, which would make the club work more effectively.