

HAMPDEN BOWLING CLUB SCIO

EST. 1905

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Hampden Bowling Club - We are celebrating our 120th year of operation.

About Our Charity

Hampden Bowling Club uses the power of accessible sport and the cultural heritage of being situated on the original Hampden Park to motivate, engage, and enrich the local community. Our organisation's core offering is the bowling club, which provides gentle recreation for all age groups throughout the summer months. During the winter months, this provides a social hub for members to congregate and enjoy social engagement.

Our club provides an all-year-round facility for the community to hold workshops, fundraisers, events, and social occasions. For the world, this club is a pilgrimage point to the roots of the modern passing and running game of football, which is now enjoyed by 4 billion people worldwide.

There is more to Hampden Bowling Club than meets the eye.

Who Does Our Charity Help?

Our pavilion and grounds provide an ideal space for local community groups to hold regular meetings, workshops, and fundraising events all year round. Furthermore, we have continued to broaden the club's sporting activities and appeal, which require a hub for other sporting pursuits, and acts as a focal point for the unique footballing heritage within the Southside of Glasgow.

What Was Done During The Year?

There are over 800 bowling clubs in Scotland, and as a sport, it continues to have its opportunities and challenges to manage. In the local area, the number of bowling clubs and memberships has reduced over the last decade, with the closures of Whitecraigs Bowling Club in 2017 and Mount Florida Bowling Club in 2019. Other local clubs, including Cathcart Bowling Club and Shawlands Bowling Club, have sold off their surplus greens for development to finance the refurbishment of their clubhouses and meet the ongoing financial requirements of their clubs.

This is a sad but real story reflected in the boardrooms of many clubs as they grapple with the post-COVID world and, for many, a declining ageing membership. Several clubs have the luxury of inheriting private ownership of their land and can sell this as a short-term measure to continue operations. Hampden Bowling Club leases the land from City Properties Group and, therefore, has to find a charitable path to fund its future.

The Bowls Scotland Report of 2024 provides insight into the wider state of bowling in Scotland. Our charity is committed to using every resource possible to continue providing recreational sport while also utilising its unique historical roots to attract new members and invest in the club to secure its future.

<https://www.bowlsscotland.com/media/5022/bowls-scotland-annual-report-1st-september-2023-31st-august-2024.pdf>

What was achieved throughout the year?

Hampden Bowling Club has provided an essential source of recreation for the local community; as well as continuing to explore its unique footballing heritage. Throughout 2024/25, the club offered a comprehensive fixture list and tournament schedule for members to enjoy both home and away.

Hampden Bowling Club hosted a variety of public social events, heritage functions and local recreational sessions. Key community events at the club's grounds during this time included:

Friday Night Quiz Evenings: These quiz nights took place inside the main pavilion and offered free entry to local residents. A fully licensed bar was also available.

Try Bowls and Games: Non-Members could try lawn bowling for free without any prior experience or specialised equipment.

Lawn Games and Social Events: These community gatherings complemented bowling sessions. They featured clubhouse quizzes and events, outdoor lawn games and encouraged neighbours to enjoy this shared space.

Football's Square Mile Walking Tours: Guided historical tours organised by heritage groups explored the bowling green and its famous mural. These tours served as a designated station to teach visitors about the site's history as First Hampden.

What difference was made?

For such a small club, Hampden Bowling Club has punched above its weight as an essential part of the community and in its mission to promote itself as one of the most important football heritage sites in the world.

The site's operation provides a safe place for members to congregate and enjoy light physical recreation, and its social engagement provides significant mental health benefits to its members. There were several initiatives to engage local community groups and like-minded not-for-profit businesses. For example, the partnership between the local community trusts in the Govanhill/Crosshill area and Hampden Bowling Club heavily focused on multicultural integration and using local sports heritage to welcome "New Glaswegians" (refugees, asylum seekers, and new migrants).

Overall, the club had over 20 private hires throughout the season, which shows the importance of providing a low-cost facility for the membership, local community groups, and wider national and international organisations to use our proud venue.

Hampden Bowling Club is a proud member of The Football's Square Mile Alliance, whose ambition is to pursue UNESCO World Heritage Status for 21 sites across Glasgow, and Hampden Bowling Club is one of those sites.

Our challenges?

In 2021, the Clubhouse suffered a serious setback. A section of the pavilion's roof collapsed, forcing the club to close the ladies' changing room. The club has found a way to continue operating and is continuing its pursuit of renovation funding to restore the clubhouse. However in September 2025, a decision was put forward to the Club's membership that due to the uncertainty of the lease provisions, physical state of the clubhouse, and the challenging membership conditions that the club would require to decide on its future. This decision is outwith this reporting period and will be contained within the next annual report.

If you have any specific questions relating to the operation of the club, please contact our Club Secretary - secretary@hampdenbowlingclub.scot.

Thank you for reading our annual report.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Hampden Bowling Club SCIO,

Will Moffat

Will Moffat
Club President

Financial Accounts for October 2024 to September 2025

These accounts were prepared by David James, HBC Treasurer, and independently audited by Ian Dempster. Both David and Ian are qualified accountants.

Hampden BC Income & Expenditure	2025	2024		
from	01-Oct-24	01-Oct-23	Annual	Notes
to	30-Sep-25	30-Sep-24	movement	
Income				
Membership Fees	4,040	2,275	1,765	
Donations	1,250	880	370	
Covid Grant	0		0	
Bar Takings	15,553	6,267	9,286	2
Other Income	423	951	-528	
	21,266	10,373	10,893	
Expenditure				
Bar purchases	7,548	4,038	3,510	2
Utilities & Insurance	5,601	6,132	-531	1
Rent	1,685	1,685	0	
Green Maintenance & Wages	5,110	5,474	-364	
Garden/Surrounds maintenance	230	0	230	
Building maintenance	526	65	460	
Cleaning	894	1,187	-293	
Other Costs	5,244	3,888	1,355	4
Total Expenditure	26,837	22,469	4,368	
Profit/(Loss)	-5,571	-12,096	6,525	3
YTD Profit/(Loss)				
Notes	2025	2024		
1. Utilities & Insurance				
Electricity & Gas	3,339	4,028	-689	
Water	526	848	-322	
Insurance	1,736	1,256	480	
	5,601	6,132	-531	
2. Bar Profit & Loss				
Bar takings	15,553	6,267	9,286	
Bar purchases	-7,548	-4,038	-3,510	
	8,005	2,229	5,776	
% margin	51%	36%		
3. Adjusted Profit & Loss				
Profit/(Loss)	-5,571	-12,096	6,525	
VAT refunds	462	704	-242	
less exceptional Income			0	
adjusted profit/(loss)	-5,109	-11,392	6,283	
Bank Summary				
opening balance	19,466	30,858		
adjusted profit/(loss) per above	-5,109	-11,392		
closing balance	14,357	19,466		
4. Other Costs	2025	2024		
Bowls Scotland, Cathcart League Fees	328	384	-	56
Music Performing Licence	571			571
Television Licence	175	131		44
Signwriter - honours board	0			-
Licence costs	0	180	-	180
Electronic till/SumUp card machine	299			299
Portaloos hire	0			-
Barefoot bowls equip	0			-
Shed purchase and delivery	1,944	1,390		554
Broadband costs	650	678	-	28
Club crest design fees/polo shirts	28	704	-	676
Trophy repairs/engraving	268	190		78
My Clubhouse subscription	337			337
Miscellaneous	645	231		414
	5,244	3,888	1,355	

	Oct-24 to Sep-25
Bank summary	£
opening balance Oct-24	19,466
Profit/Loss	-5,571
VAT refunds	462
closing bank balance	14,357
Current A/c 62338025	10,948
Savings A/c 62338033	3,409
Total	14,357

2025 Summary to Sep-25

The club has made a loss of £5,109 to the end of Sep-25 compared to £11,392 in 2024. The bank balance as at 30-Sep-25 was £14,357 (£19,466 2024).

Income

Encouragingly total income in 2025 is double that of the 2024 level. Membership fees are up almost £2k on last year and bar takings more than doubled (2024 £6k, 2025 £15k) . Note profit margin on the bar has increased to 51% from 36%, a reflection of increased bar prices (see note 2).

Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2025 was up over £4k on 2024. Mosts costs are comparable to prior year - the bulk of the increase was in bar purchases, up £3,510 and Other Costs are inflated by almost £2k additional costs to assemble and make safe the new shed plus backdated payment of £571 for Music Performing Licence.

David James, Treasurer

Aug-26

Ian Dempster, Auditor
ACCA, PQ

Aug-26