

# Closure risk club blames council for pavilion crisis

## EALING: Bowls club may have to shut before end of season

### BOWLS

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**EALING Bowls Club, which has been in existence for 65 years, may have played its last end before the season is even over – and members are clear where to point the finger of blame for their imminent extinction.**

The leaky pavilion used by the club in Perivale Park is council-owned and has suffered years of neglect by the local authority, which is now closing it down.

The sense of injustice is strong as Ealing Council has chosen the mid-season to condemn the building as unsafe.

The club cannot even fulfil their last round of summer fixtures.

But the town hall says a leaking roof is so bad that the building is now hazardous and the electricity has had to be turned off. Not even a compromise of allowing part of the building to store the woods is being allowed.

The club, which was actually set up for council employees, has been advised that the toilet and changing

rooms at the nearby athletics track can be used instead.

But that idea will not wash with secretary Bryan Ogilvie, who says equipment has to be stored at the green.

He said: "This would mean a trek of 15 minutes in each direction, which is impossible for our members, who are all, apart from two, 60 to 80 years of age. It will also be impossible to transport equipment that distance.

"I am requesting that facilities are provided close to the green to enable us to complete the fixtures for this season which, because of the negligence and lack of maintenance, would seem to be our last season and the demise of another bowls club."

Parks area manager Ian Ross told the club: "This year the income received by the council from Ealing Bowls Club [in fees] was £769. The cost to the council of maintaining the bowls green annually is about £11,000.

"The council makes a significant contribution to keeping bowling alive in the park. Unfortunately, the building has had minimal maintenance over the years and is now beyond economic repair."



■ **FEARFUL:** Ealing Bowls Club's future is in serious doubt

Photo by Sam Mukadam. EA050809smebc02