
Eidgâh Report

Musallâ of Eid al-AdhHâ 1436/2015



1. Importance of the Eidgâh

For the fourth time in the two years since its introduction, the Sunnah practice of performing Eid Salâh at the Musallâ was once again practised upon with the help and permission of Allâh.

The reason for performing Eid Salâh at a Musallâ, and not in the Masjid as is the case usually with other Salâh, is that Rasûlullâh SallAllâhu 'alayhi wasallam himself did this despite his Masjid being one of the most blessed places on Earth to perform Salâh. The evidence for this can be found in many narrations in Ahâdeeth, two of which are given below.

- *Sayyidunâ Abû Sa'îd al-Khudrî RadhiyAllâhu 'anh says: "The Messenger of Allâh SallAllâhu 'alayhi wasallam would go out on the Day of Fitr and Adh-Hâ to the Musallâ (Eidgâh)." [al-Bukhârî, Muslim, An-Nasâî]*
- *Sayyidunâ al-Barâ bin 'Âzib RadhiyAllâhu 'anh reports: "Rasûlullâh SallAllâhu 'alayhi wasallam went out on the Day of Adh-Hâ (Eid) to al-Baqî' [and in another narration: to the Musallâ] and performed two raka'ât. Then he turned and faced us..." [al-Bukhârî]*

2. Publicity and Preparation

As with the previous Eids, an effort was made during the weeks leading up to the Eid to raise awareness about the Eidgâh. Posters were printed to be placed in shop windows and the image and details were also spread via social media and Whatsapp.



Permission was sought from the Bolton Council and all necessary formalities were complied with. This included the informing of local residents on Chelsea Road and other nearby streets, which was done by printing and posting simple leaflets containing all the relevant information and contact details for further enquiries.

A meeting was held for volunteers during the week preceding Eid, in which the importance of the task was reiterated and responsibilities distributed.

3. Venue and Details

The venue, Deane and Derby Cricket Club, was the same as the previous three Eids and the marquee was set up on Wednesday 23rd September, the night before Eid. A group of volunteers assisted in the installation of the PA system and the systematic arrangement of cloths within the marquee. Some volunteers even sacrificed their rest to stay on night watch duty, which is highly commendable.

The volunteers at the Musallâ were divided into three groups; one on the grounds and at the entrances, one within the Eidgâh marquee itself, and the third on car parking duty. The official car parking space used was the Essa Academy school car park, with the permission of those in charge, and the volunteers positioned themselves in visible locations to guide motorists there. Arrangements were made within the marquee and on the grounds for the accommodation of the disabled and elderly.

As can be seen from the poster image above, the time of the Salâh was 7.45am. A short speech was given before the prayer while attendees were still making their way towards the Eidgâh. Despite the dreary and wet weather, there was a relatively large turnout for the Eid Salâh, with about three-quarters of the twin-marquee being filled with worshippers.

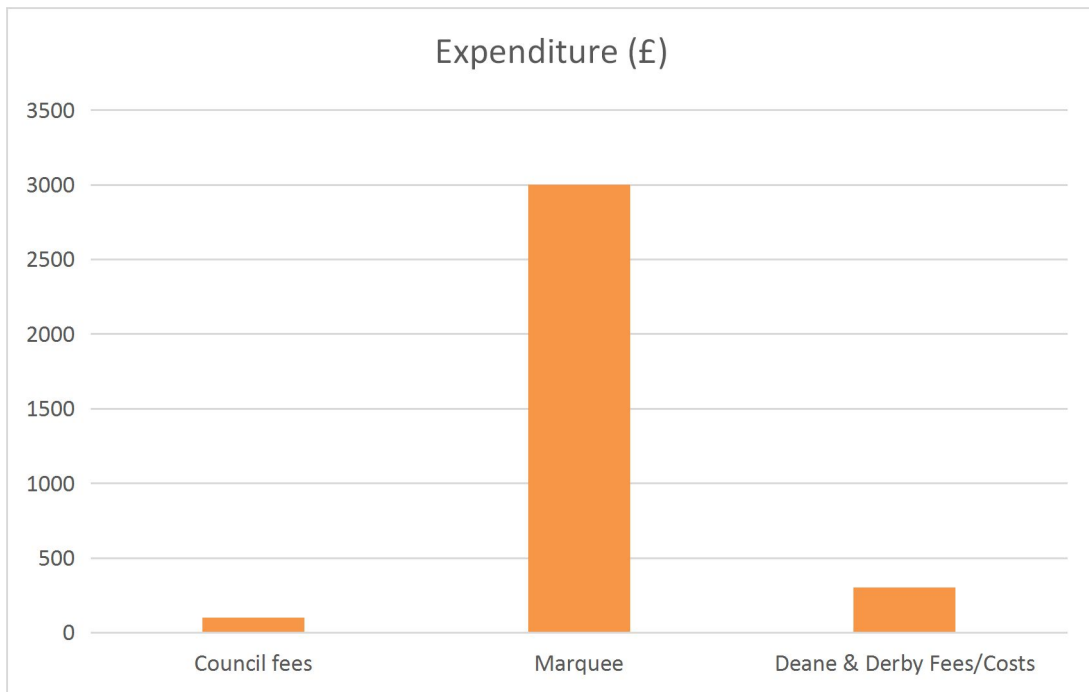
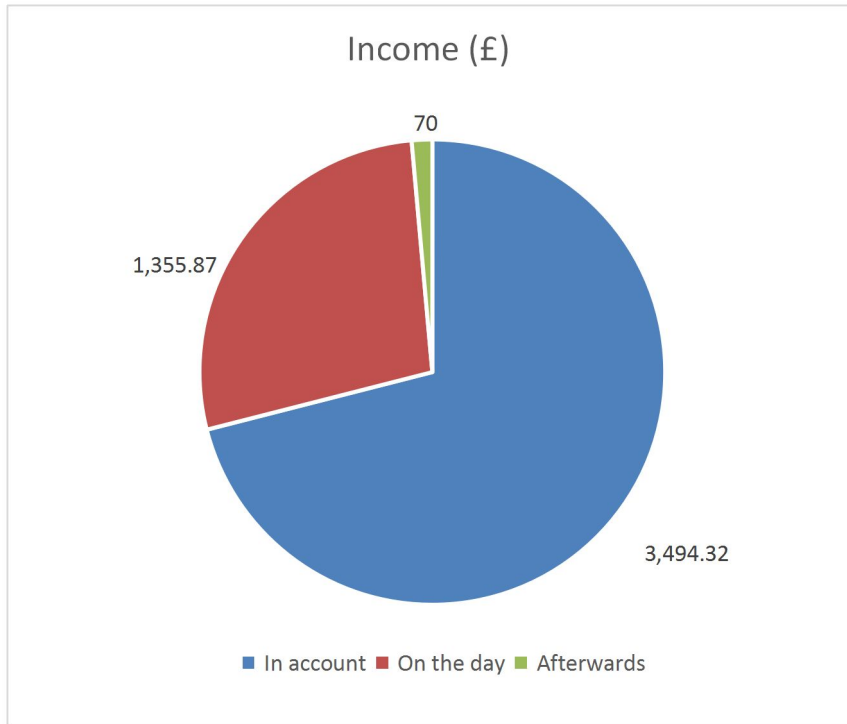


Figure: The cricket field with the marquee, part way through assembly

4. Income and Expenditure

A large portion of the costs of the Eidgâh were covered by the amount present in the account from the previous Eid. Collections were still made on the day and many of those who attended made generous donations. Contrary to previous Eidgâhs, the PA system on this occasion was borrowed rather than hired. A full account of income and expenditure can be seen in the table below. The additional leftover amount of £1520.19 will be put towards the cost of the next Eidgâh. This system ensures that there will hopefully never be an outstanding cost to be covered after any Eid Salâh.

Income	Amount (£)	Expenditure	Amount (£)
In account	3,494.32	Council fees	100
On the day	1,355.87	Marquee	3,000.00
Afterwards	70	Deane & Derby Fees/Costs	300
Online*	0	PA System Hire**	0
Gift aid	0	Plastic Bags**	0
		Black Bin Bags**	0
		Soil**	0
		Cones**	0
		Chairs**	0
		Poster printing/distribution**	0
		Hi-vis jackets**	0
		Cloth Rolls**	0
TOTALS	4,920.19		3,400.00
		Outstanding	-1,520.19
* 15p credit/debit card charge per donation		** Free/donated/borrowed	



5. Closing note

Many thanks are due to all the volunteers who each played their vital part in ensuring all aspects of the Eidgâh, from organisation to cleaning up, went as planned. We would like to show appreciation to all those who attended as that is the purpose of having Eid Salâh at the Musallâ; to show the strength of the Muslims by having the largest possible gathering at one place. It is therefore essential that we keep this Sunnah alive in Bolton, by continuing to attend and donate, and by encouraging others to do the same. Furthermore, by spreading the word to family and friends in other towns and countries we can be a part of this once forgotten Sunnah being revived throughout the world.

