



A very warm welcome to the Christmas edition of the Bowls Development Alliance newsletter. It has been another very busy year for the team and I am pleased to say that we remain on target to hit our internal measures by March 2017.

This year was the first time that "Coach Bowls" had such a big presence at the Bowls England National Championships in Royal Leamington Spa with a marquee right alongside the main green throughout the competition. It really brought coaching to the fore and we hope to build on this next year.

2015 has seen a lot of steps taken to encourage more clubs to welcome disabled players into their clubs and provide opportunities for both social and competitive play. We are hoping that next year more clubs and organisations will apply for the Love Fisher Brown Award which showcases some of the great work that is going on across the country.

There have also been some changes in the team with both Jamie Chestney (Development Officer) and Kate Smith (Business Support Officer) moving on to new roles. We wish them both the very best for the future. Joining the team is Casey Robson who will take over the Business Support Officer role and starting in January, Jon Hart will bring a number of years sports development experience to the role of Development Officer. We welcome them both and look forward to seeing their contribution over the next twelve months.

That just leaves me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and we look forward to working with you all in 2016

Susan Cooper
Development Director

New Hot Spots Announced

The Bowls Development Alliance recently announced that eight County Sport Partnerships have been appointed as Hot Spot Areas with effect of 1st January, 2016, namely Active Cumbria, Active Devon, Lincolnshire Sport, Sport Partnership Herefordshire & Worcestershire, Kent Sport, Sport Nottinghamshire, Sport Across Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent and Wiltshire and Swindon Sport.

Appointed for an initial 12 month period, affiliated clubs within these areas will be able to enjoy the financial and non-financial support benefits associated with becoming a Hot Spot. To find out more about the project, please contact the relevant Lead Officer listed above.

For those clubs currently in one of the 2015 BDA Hot Spots not listed above as a 2016 area the BDA are continuing to support clubs and other organisations within these areas despite the formal Hot Spot agreement coming to an end on 31st December, 2015 through the Package funding scheme.

For more information on Hot Spots contact Paul Humphreys (Development Manager) via paul@playbowls.org



Did you know the BDA now has its own twitter account? Follow **@BowlsDA** for regular updates on BDA funded activities, Play Bowls Road Show locations and much more.



A Successful Year in Coaching



This year has been very busy in Coaching. We now have over 500 coaches who have successfully completed their Level One and Two Qualifications in Coaching Bowls. A great number of coaches which is steadily increasing as we roll the qualifications out across the country. We have also had nearly 100 coaches complete the 'Working with Disabled Bowlers' module launched earlier this year. The module is proving very popular and we have had some excellent feedback from it.

The Level One Award in Coaching Bowls recently completed its Annual Review. The updated material has been based on direct feedback from coaches who have completed the course and the Tutor workforce, and will be used on courses commencing in 2016. The Level Two Certificate in Coaching Bowls is just commencing its Annual Review. Again, coaches who have completed the course will be sampled for their feedback, as well as the Tutor workforce.

2016 will see the technical content of the Level Three Certificate in Coaching Bowls developed. There is an excellent group of people working on this qualification, and I am sure you will all agree they have a wealth of experience and knowledge to offer the process!

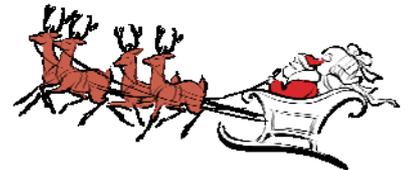
They are Paul Brown (*Chair Disability Bowls England & Commonwealth Medallist*); Ellen Falkner (*England Ladies Captain, Triple Commonwealth Medallist*); Rex Hazeldine (*Chair of the group, BDA Tutor and Assessor, Bowls England Team Physiologist, Lecturer Loughborough University*); Sian Honnor (*Editor Bowls International, Double Commonwealth Medallist*); John McGuinness (*England Men's Captain, Commonwealth Medallist*); Frank Muston (*Leicestershire County Coaching Coordinator, BDA Tutor and Assessor*); John Rednall (*England Team member, Commonwealth competitor, experienced coach and teacher*); Peter Sherlock (*Dorset County Coaching Coordinator, BDA Tutor and Assessor*); Andy Thomson MBE (*Commonwealth Medallist, three times World Indoor Singles Champion*)

Amanda Scriven-Purcell
Coaching Manager

Just Bowl update

Just Bowl, the BDA's community engagement initiative continues to go from strength to strength with new partners on board for 2016. Including "Out There" – a charity which provide sports opportunities for adults with learning difficulties. They are based in Crawley, West Sussex and can't wait to get playing bowls in the centre!

This quarter has also seen us break the 1,000 regular participant mark since the launch of Just Bowl. We are delighted with its progress and engagement and look forward to a bigger 2016, with extended delivery through our new HotSpot areas.



Brett Crowhurst
Development Officer

Love Fisher Brown Award 2016

The Love Fisher Brown Award 2016 was launched in August and continues to attract a entries from across the country. The 2016 Award is again generously sponsored by AeroBowls with the winning entrant receiving a free set of AeroBowls in addition to a club visit from CEO Ellen Falkner (three times Commonwealth Games gold medallist) and £550 from the BDA.

For more information on the Love Fisher Brown Award including the terms and conditions and entry form, visit www.playbowls.org/disabilitybowls/lfb

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from all the BDA Team*



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