



IN THIS ISSUE: COACH BOWLS CONFERENCE - NEW TEAM MEMBERS - LOVE FISHER BROWN AWARD - SUPPORT FOR CLUBS

Welcome to the September edition of the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) newsletter. Sadly the weather has not been too kind over the past summer months with unsettling periods which have seen a lot of rain. The majority of clubs that held their Play Bowls Day in June went off without a hitch but some of those in July were less lucky. However 215 clubs completed their Play Bowls Packages which have introduced 1,838 new participants into the sport. This is not the final figure which we expect to be in excess of 2,000 by the time we get to October!

The Club Development Programme has got off to a good start and we will soon be moving into phase two of delivery. Further information can be found on this programme later in the newsletter. Work on the Level 3 qualification continues with submission to 1st4Sport, the awarding body due in October. This process takes between 8-12 weeks so we are looking at a pilot early in 2018.

There is a lot to look forward to next year with the first ever conference for coaches to be held on March 22nd at Woodland Grange Hotel in Leamington Spa along with plans to develop a programme that will aim to attract more women into the sport - watch this space!

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter and don't forget we are always happy to publish any good news stories from your clubs.

Kind regards

Susan Cooper
Development Director



Coach Bowls Conference - Coaching – Making a positive difference!



We are delighted to announce that on Thursday 22nd March, 2018 Coach Bowls will be hosting the first ever coaching conference for bowls coaches.

The event will take place at the Woodland Grange Hotel in Royal Leamington Spa and will run from 11am (10.30am registration) to 5pm (to include a 3 course lunch and refreshments all day).

The event aims to be inspiring and thought provoking as well as providing coaches with the opportunity to take away ideas that they can use in their own coaching plans.

More than 600 coaches recently replied to a survey asking for their thoughts and ideas and we are incorporating many of these in the day. It will include ideas on working with children and young people and looking into how the psychology of sport can improve performance.

The new coaching awards will also be launched and awarded at this event.

Places are limited so early booking is advised.

The price of the conference is:

- **£45** for non-Coach Bowls Members
- **£30** for Coach Bowls Members
- Early Bird offer - **£25** book your place by the 31st October, 2017 and Coach Bowls members can save a further £5!

Unique Opportunity

Coach Bowls are delighted to announce that Tony Allcock MBE will be tutoring the first Level 1 qualification to take place in Berkshire. The course starts on Monday 2nd October and will be held at Desborough Bowls Club in Maidenhead.

There are some spaces still available so please call Sport Structures on 0121 455 8270 to book your place - but be quick!

(Please note that this course is open to anyone, not just those living in Berkshire)



George and Kara join the team!

George is the latest addition to our Development team. He will focus in the delivery of the Club Development Programme working specifically in the South Midlands and South West of the country. He will be working in partnership with identified clubs to help both grow and retain their membership. George will be working alongside County Sports Partnerships, Local Authorities and a number of other key partners to provide the necessary support to clubs and achieve the outcomes of the Club Development Programme.

After graduating with a sports management degree, George has gained invaluable experience through his graduate role with Leicestershire & Rutland Sport and as a Sports Development Officer for Charnwood Borough Council.

George has also worked alongside other National Governing Bodies as well as schools and universities to help people get more active.

An ardent sports enthusiast since childhood, there is nothing George enjoys more than playing or watching sports. His main sport is volleyball, for which he is a level 2 qualified coach. However, George has taken part in football, basketball, volleyball, tennis and cycling at school and university, and he is always up for a challenge, regardless of the sport or activity. Outside of working hours, George can often be seen struggling in the local gym. He is also currently undergoing the Coach Bowls Level 1 Qualification!

Kara is the newest member of our team and has joined us to take over as the Administrative Officer, based in the office at Pera in Melton. If you are making a call or sending an email, there is a good chance you will get to speak to her, as some of you may already have, helping with the Coach Bowls membership renewal process.

Kara moved to Melton Mowbray from Buckinghamshire in 2007 and has been running her own business from home for the last 10 years in order to take care of her two young children. Now that they have grown a little she felt it was time to dedicate more time to herself and that meant getting back into the world of work and further education, returning back to college too.

Having an aunt who has been involved in the world of bowls for years, Kara was very pleased to get this role and find out more about the sport. Her aunt is also excited for her and now trying to get her to start playing, so watch this space!



Blandford Bowls Club Lead the Way

A recent visit by Susan Cooper, BDA Development Director to Blandford Bowls Club on a lovely sunny Saturday morning, saw thirty eight young people engaged in fun drills and skills all helping them to improve their bowling but more importantly have **fun**.

The youngsters taking part were aged from 4 years to 16 years with two separate sessions running over the morning. Some of the older young people were helping the younger ones with scoring and volunteer coaches were on hand to run each station.

Susan was delighted to be asked to present certificates and medals and to meet with all the volunteers who give up their time every Saturday to run the activities for the youngsters.

The club have had a number of the young people representing them in League matches and all holding their own. With limited opportunities for their age group to play competitively it is fantastic that the club are happy to provide them with the chance to represent their club.

Joy and Sid Steele who work with the youngsters are keen to develop an Academy in Dorset that will allow for those with potential to begin on the path of playing bowls to a high level. These plans are in early stages of development and they are keen to hear from any other county who may be looking at doing something similar.

Keep up the good work Blandford!

STOP PRESS!

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Bowls Clubs at the time of going to press, had raised an impressive £2328 running events in support of our charity Macmillan Cancer Support - Thank You!



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Update on Coach Bowls Qualifications

Both the Level One and Level Two Coach Bowls qualifications have had their review and some significant amendments have been made. The new structure will be implemented next month and as soon as these go live the documents on the coaches portal will be changed. Don't forget, if you're a qualified coach and a member of Coach Bowls, you are able to keep up to date with all changes to documents by logging on to the portal <https://coachbowls.azolve.com>

As a result of direct feedback, Coach Bowls are now able to deliver Level 2 courses with reduced numbers of 8 rather than 11. This is already proving a success and the number of Level 2 courses being delivered this year has increased. If you would like a course close to you, let us know and we will support the delivery of this. If you need to attend a course, don't forget to keep an eye on the website for all new dates and venues!



Bowls England National Championships at Royal Leamington Spa

This year the Coach Bowls marquee proved as popular as ever. Sessions on the green were offered during the middle two weeks and the coaches were extremely busy. We also delivered a couple of training modules, as well as off course mentoring for a number of coaches who were going through their own qualification.

The coaching team were also there to support the Queen's Baton visit to Royal Leamington Spa, taking the delegation of officials and athlete ambassadors out on to the green to show them the basics of bowls.

We would like to thank all of our volunteer coaches and tutors who assisted during the championships.

Love Fisher Brown Award

This year's award is open for entries until 31st October 2017 and the BDA are keen for more clubs to come forward and apply. If your club is delivering some excellent work around disability then let us know by submitting an entry to the **Love Fisher Brown Award** and your club could be in with a chance of winning some great prizes!

The award, named after the remarkable and inspiring Commonwealth Games achievements of Bob Love, David Fisher and Paul Brown, is an opportunity to recognise and promote the excellent work of many clubs and organisations who already provide participation opportunities for disabled bowlers.

Ellen Falkner, CEO of AeroBowls UK, said of the Love Fisher Brown Award,

"AeroBowls is delighted to be working with the Bowls Development Alliance to try to help to grow the sport and encourage more disabled people to get involved. We are honoured to sponsor the Love Fisher Brown Award which aims to recognise and acknowledge the great work already being undertaken by clubs and other local organisations to make bowls more inclusive and accessible to all members of the community"

The winner of the Love Fisher Brown Award, sponsored by AeroBowls will receive:

- The Love Fisher Brown trophy
- A framed certificate
- Inclusion in the BDA Club Development Package programme
- 1 set of AeroBowls
- The offer of a celebration fixture versus a Disability Bowls England select side

The two runners up will each receive:

- A framed certificate
- 12 Aero Bowls delivery mats.

For more information on the award or to submit an entry please visit our website: www.playbowls.org or contact Jon Hart, Club Development Manager on 07795 555907 or jon@playbowls.org





Support available for bowls clubs across England

A new initiative that aims to help bowls clubs across England to develop, better sustain their current membership numbers and recruit new members in the sport has been launched.

The Club Development Programme has been created by the Bowls Development Alliance as part of its four-year Delivery Plan funded by Sport England.

Every club that signs up to the programme will receive direct support from the BDA to create a Club Development Plan that will help the club not only to provide the best experience for its present members but support new recruitment initiatives to increase their current membership.

Susan Cooper, BDA Development Director, said: *“The BDA was delighted to secure a further four years of funding from Sport England that will help to both sustain and grow the sport of bowls through to the 31st March 2021.*

The Club Development Programme forms a key part of our overall Delivery Plan for this period. It is an invite only programme that has been created to directly support those clubs who are most in need of external support and have found it especially hard to maintain their membership levels and to recruit new members. We will continue to review the programme and more clubs will be invited to take part as we move forward.”

The BDA is working closely with Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd to identify those clubs for whom participation in the programme will be of greatest benefit.

Tony Allcock MBE, Bowls England Chief Executive, said: *“We are delighted that our clubs will benefit from this initiative. I am sure those clubs who do sign up to the programme will benefit from the specialist advice and support that will be available. We would encourage any clubs who are invited in future to take up this opportunity.”*

Peter Thompson, EIBA Ltd Chief Executive, added: *“The English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd is pleased that there is funding and support available to our Clubs who are wanting to maintain and ultimately increase their membership. The opportunity to utilise the services and experience of dedicated development staff is a huge boost for the growth of the sport.”*

Clubs that have been selected to participate in Phase One of the programme are:

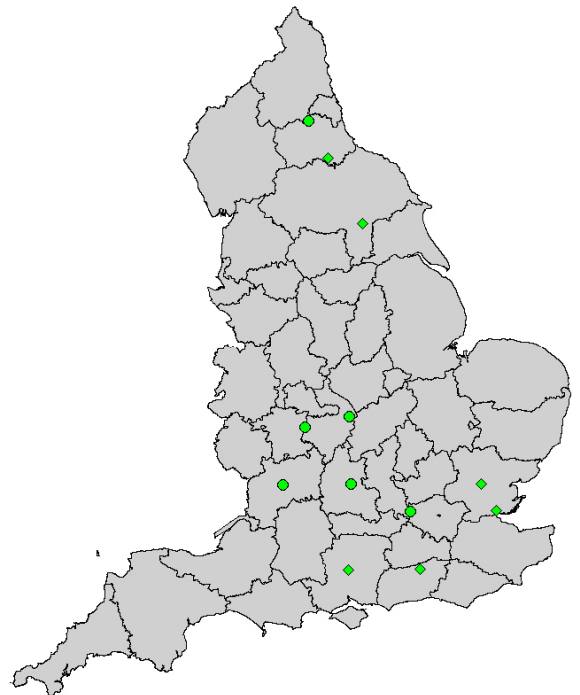
- Bilton Bowls Club (Warwickshire)
- Consett Park Bowls Club (Durham)
- Darlington and District Indoor Bowls Club (Durham)
- Entaco Bowls Club (Warwickshire)
- Horsham and District Indoor Bowls Club (Sussex)
- New Earswick and District Indoor Bowls Club (Yorkshire)
- Oxford University Press Bowls Club (Oxfordshire)
- Painswick Bowls Club (Gloucestershire)
- Riverside Indoor Bowls Club (Hampshire)
- Uxbridge Bowls Club (Middlesex)

Clubs for Phase One were identified using the following criteria:

- Clubs must be affiliated to either Bowls England or the English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd
- Clubs must not reside in a 2016 BDA Hotspot area
- Clubs must have the capacity for membership growth

Clubs must have had significant membership percentage decline or gross membership loss over recent years

Clubs who take part in the programme will meet with a BDA Club Development Officer and agree as a partnership a Club Development Plan that will focus on the needs of the club. They will work to complete the actions within the Development Plan across an agreed time frame. Clubs will be supported throughout by the BDA and they will receive £500 to support actions identified within their Development Plan.



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



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