



IN THIS ISSUE: DISABILITY BOWLS - JUST BOWL - WOMEN CAN - COACH BOWLS - SAFEGUARDING

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Bowls Development Alliance newsletter. It has been a lovely summer and those clubs who ran BDA funded recruitment event have seen some large numbers of new members coming along to try the sport for the first time.

Over the summer, the Club Development team have been busy supporting clubs in the delivery of actions identified in their plans and we have seen the launch of the “Women Can” campaign which aims to encourage more women to play, coach and volunteer in bowls.

The new Disability Strategic Action Plan is now available and the Love Fisher Brown award has been launched which aims to recognise those clubs who are doing some great work to provide opportunities for those with a disability.

The Just Bowl team have commenced delivery of the two pilot projects that are funded by Sport England to encourage people to get active and we have continued to roll out a programme of both qualifications and modules across the whole country for both coaches and volunteers

The indoor season is now upon us and we look forward to engaging with indoor clubs over the coming months.

Kind regards

Susan Cooper
Development Director



A New National Strategic Disability Action Plan is Launched

The Disability Steering Group, of which the BDA is a key part, has published the new National Strategic Disability Action Plan 2018-2021. The aim of the Action Plan is to ensure the collaboration and integration of the work of all key partners (Activity Alliance, Bowls England, Disability Bowls England and English Indoor Bowling Association) towards developing bowls into a genuinely inclusive sport by 2021. The Disability Steering Group will oversee the successful implementation of the Action Plan in order to achieve its vision to promote inclusion, increase participation and develop performance within disability bowls.

Here is what George Babalev, BDA's disability lead, had to say about the publication of the strategic document:

“The Action Plan provides a co-ordinated approach between the organisations responsible for the development of disability bowls. It ensures strategic accountability and improved efficiency of the Disability Steering Group members. It is also important for the bowling community to be aware of the work undertaken by the Disability Steering Group and how one can benefit from it.”

There are 4 key strands the Action Plan focuses on, namely:

1. **Data Collection** – obtaining and sharing robust and reliable information about disability bowls participation levels in clubs and accessibility of clubs' facilities for disabled bowlers.
2. **Marketing and Communication** – producing an all-inclusive information pack that can be used as a guidebook by any clubs that are willing to become more inclusive.
3. **Support for Clubs, Coaches and Volunteers** – supporting more clubs to obtain a Disability Kitemark accreditation; helping train and upskill club volunteers and committees by running more Working with Disabled People in Bowls Modules and Disability Engagement Events; through the Love Fisher Brown Award, acknowledging and rewarding the work of those clubs that lead the way and showcasing them as a model for other clubs to strive towards.
4. **Elite Pathways and Competitive Structure** – making sure all regional and national competitions remain fully inclusive and cater for disabled participants, officials and spectators.

The National Strategic Disability Action Plan can be accessed from the disability section on the BDA's website:
<http://playbowls.org/disability-bowls/disability-bowls-overview>



Just Bowl Update

The Just Bowl team have recently been working with Brighterkind care homes across the country to provide their activity staff with training to deliver Just Bowl in their facilities. The training has thus far taken place in 5 care homes in Harrogate, Scarborough, Boroughbridge, Nottingham and Heckmondwike in Kirklees with the training in Sheffield taking place in November.

The training was a great success thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of the Brighterkind staff and this was identified in the feedback, where the vast majority of participants said that the training exceeded their expectations, and all of the attendees stated that the training gave them the confidence and skills to deliver Just Bowl. The Brighterkind staff also highlighted that they thought that Just Bowl was 'fun' and 'accessible for all abilities because it is so versatile'. The activity staff also had the opportunity to play Just Bowl and even make up their own games, which was a very popular element of the training.



2018 Love Fisher Brown Award

One of the first objectives from the National Strategic Disability Action Plan was the re-launch of the Love Fisher Brown Award.

The 2018 Love Fisher Brown Award, sponsored by Factory Eleven, recognises clubs that provide disabled participation opportunities for their bowlers. This award, named after the remarkable and inspiring Commonwealth Games achievements of Bob Love, David Fisher and Paul Brown, showcases the excellent work being undertaken by clubs with disabled bowlers around the country and provide a benchmark for other clubs to aspire to.



Peter Gray from Factory Eleven said of the Love Fisher Brown Award: "Factory Eleven are delighted to be sponsoring the Love Fisher Brown Award 2018. To be associated with an award which seeks to identify, recognise and reward clubs, providing participation opportunities for disabled young people and adults, sits perfectly alongside our own company values of inclusivity and sport for all. BowlsParc has proven to be a very popular resource for bowls clubs and coaches to date and we hope that this year's award recipients enjoy using the BowlsParc equipment we are providing, unlocking further opportunities for social, fun and inclusive participation."

All clubs affiliated to either Bowls England or English Indoor Bowling Association that offer opportunities for disabled bowlers are encouraged to apply. Clubs can be nominated by completing the 2018 Love Fisher Brown nomination form, accessible from Bowls Development Alliance's website: <http://playbowls.org/disability-bowls/love-fisher-brown-award>. The form can either be emailed to disability@playbowls.org, or posted to our head office in Melton Mowbray.

The award winner will receive: a winner's trophy and framed certificate; a full Bowlsparc set and a celebration event with Disability Bowls England. The two runners-up will each receive a framed certificate and half a Bowlsparc set.

Entries for the award open on Monday 1st October at 9am and close on Friday 14th December at 5pm. The winner and the two runners-up will be announced on 4th February 2019.

Club Development Programme Update

The programme continues to go from strength to strength, with 55 clubs engaged with the three development team members.

To date the work has resulted in 568 new members, 72 new coaches, 36 new volunteers joining club committees and 344 club volunteers attending the Club Helpers Workshop which supports recruitment.

Club engagement has been strong in the midlands and south but poor in the north. If you are a club in the north of the country and your club is losing members and would welcome support then please get in touch. The case study on the next page shows what is possible.



GET ACTIVE, HAVE FUN, PLAY BOWLS

WWW.PLAYBOWLS.ORG



CLUB DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

BY GEORGE BABALEV

HUNSTANTON OASIS IBC

Hunstanton Oasis IBC, part of the Club Development Programme's phase 2, started working with BDA's officer George Babalev in October 2017. Back then, the club was seeing a gradual decline in membership, struggling to convert new members through their open coaching session, and unable to find enough volunteers to help run the club.

However, after starting work on a development plan created by the BDA officer to address the above challenges, the club were able to: appoint a new club marketing officer working on the club's new website and Facebook page; appoint a new press release officer; add regular roll-ups to their activity programme for the first time; open a second weekly coaching session; and train 9 more club helpers. The club's successful year culminated with the recruitment of 42 new members for the 2018/2019 season through their October open day and weekly open coaching sessions.



THE CLUB SAYS...

"We thank the BDA for all their support over the past year. Working with George Babalev has been wonderful and very educational for our club. We made a big leap in our development as a club this year and a lot of it is due to the BDA's positive influence."

Richard Bridges, club chairman and coach.

"It has been a pleasure to work with Hunstanton Oasis IBC. The club committee's hard work and dedication to complete their development plan are a clear evidence of how much a club can get out of being part of the Club Development Programme if they are committed to it."
George Babalev, BDA Club Development Officer.



EVENTS

Open coaching sessions:

Mondays 10:00 - 12:00

Wednesdays 14:30 - 16:30

Contact Richard Bridges for information about open roll-ups.

CONTACT INFO

For more information on the club contact:

Richard Bridges
richardpt.bridges@gmail.com

Or on Facebook at: 'Hunstanton Oasis Indoor Bowls Club'

DISABILITY BOWLS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

A 4-hour workshop on how to become a more inclusive club & how to attract and integrate disabled bowlers.

Where: Oxford City & County Indoor Bowls Club.
When: Saturday 1st Dec 2018
 10am - 2pm.
How much: £35 per person.

Suitable for clubs experienced in catering for disabled bowlers, as well as clubs taking first steps towards becoming inclusive.

Schedule of the day:
 10am-11am: Becoming a more inclusive club. (Presentation)
 11am-1.30pm: Working with Disabled People in Bowls.
 1.30pm-2pm: Q&A session and event round-up.

Book your place on www.coachbowls.org or for more information email disability@playbowls.org

Disability Bowls Development Workshop

The Disability Bowls Steering Group is offering clubs a 4-hour Disability Bowls Development Workshop that focuses on gaining a better understanding of disability bowls and how it affects all clubs.

The event begins with a 1-hour presentation on how clubs can become more inclusive for disabled bowlers. The opening presentation will be followed by a Working with Disabled People in Bowls Module before the day is concluded with a 30-minute Q&A session.

The event is suitable both for clubs that have a lot of experience working with disabled bowlers as well as for clubs that are taking their first steps towards becoming more inclusive.

To book your place and find out more information about the event please visit www.coachbowls.org



Safeguarding

The "Safeguarding Bowls - Time to Listen" course has been available to clubs for the past four years. It's focus is on safeguarding children although the content provides a real insight into safeguarding generally. It was recommended that all Club Safeguarding volunteers did attend this course regardless that they had no children in their club as it also provided a basic introduction to what safeguarding was all about.

A new course has now been developed – Safeguarding Adults in Bowls which will focus on vulnerable adults. This course was recently piloted and should be available from January 2019. Keep an eye on the website for the launch date



Coach Bowls Update

The summer was very busy for Coach Bowls, with the annual presence of some of the tutors at the Bowls England National Championships. The take up of sessions continues to be well received. In addition to the normal coaching options on offer, a number of coaches completed their assessments for Level 2 qualifications. There was also a masterclass delivered by Tony Allcock MBE on 'So You Think You Can Skip'. 'A' Green was packed for this fun and informative session.

This was followed throughout the championships with a clinic on leading, led by John Rednall, a session on Skipping led by Ellen Falkner and a session on Back End bowls led by Andy Thomson MBE. It is hoped to offer these exciting sessions out to counties on request.

September also saw the launch of the pilot of the new Level 3 Qualification in Coaching Sport (Bowls). City of Birmingham Indoor Bowls Club hosted the first 2 days of the course with 10 candidates. The candidates included many Commonwealth and World medallists.

In October the tutor workforce had an excellent opportunity to complete UK Coaching-led training 'Coaching the person in front of you'. This is a new workshop that has been developed by the organisation, who were pleased to work with bowls around a new demographic for the content. We look forward to the tutors using some of the learning in their future course delivery.

Finally we are delighted to announce that the following people have been achieved their points through the Coach Bowls Recognition Scheme to be recognised at Bronze, Silver or Gold level. Well done to them all, and keep those log book sheets coming in!

Bronze Level (35 points)

Margaret Armstrong	David Rowan	Paul Ritchie
Don Willcox	Colin Adkins	Valerie Botting
Keith Atkinson	Terence Carson	Melvyn Bowen
Keith Brudenell	Sue Evans	James Hale
Janet Kentish	Geoffrey Bostock	Stewart Upton
Diann Newman	David King	Glenda Shave
Eric Moore	Stephen Stokes	Richard Whiting
Susan Hunt	Andy Bradfield	John Thompson
Tony Bromilow	Ken Tudor	Sandie Cox
Rick Purnell	Jenny Emms	David Smith
Stewart Wilson	Rosemary Rose	Elizabeth Kemp
Robert Harris	Peter Atter	

Silver Level (75 points)

Jill Bamford
David Bamford
Allan Thompson
Danny Russell
Elaine Sadler
Stephen Derby

Gold Level (120 points)

Catherine Hunter
Peter Hunter

Women Can is on TV! Check out the great coverage we received from BBC Spotlight
<http://playbowls.org/women-can/women-can-on-tv>



GET ACTIVE, HAVE FUN, PLAY BOWLS

WWW.PLAYBOWLS.ORG

KINGS BOWLING CLUB TORQUAY

"Having a Women Can Event at Kings gave us the opportunity to promote something a little different for our club this season. We have run many open days in the past, but this was definitely a fun & friendly format we could use again. All the women that visited on the evening had a fantastic time and said they would love to come back again next year. We already have plans to hold a similar event at the start of the season in 2019 and hope to gain a lot of new members.

At our club, we are lucky enough to have multiple International players which allowed us to get enough interest from Southwest regional BBC news & radio. However, even for clubs without the same profile as Kings, I believe this format will be easy to adapt for everyone".
Natalie Chestney, Commonwealth Champion



THE CLUB SAYS...

"The Women Can event is a great idea to provide a safe environment for women to try something new with like minded people. More of the same with even more publicity is the way to go."

Sue Bywaters



WWW.PLAYBOWLS.ORG/WOMENCAN

