



Bowls Development Alliance

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February 2011

Welcome to the third edition of the Bowls Development Alliance. The past four months have been very busy as I work to get the message out there about the BDA and how we can work to support clubs in the challenge of recruiting more people into the sport and especially those 65+.

This edition will include an update on what is happening in the Intervention areas and who the main people are that you need to contact if you want to get involved in the local alliance group itself or if your club would like to be included in the delivery plan and receive funding support.

We are fast approaching the new outdoor season and this gives us a great opportunity to encourage lots of new members to come along to the Club Open Days and join up.

The new BDA website should be launched over the coming months and this will allow us to communicate more effectively with club members and coaches.

I hope you enjoy this edition and find it useful and informative. Please feel free to print off a copy and put it up on the club notice board so those members with no access to a computer can get to read it.



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Intervention Areas

All six areas are currently pulling together their delivery plans which identifies clubs in that area that are keen to have new members, work towards Club Mark accreditation, identify new coaches and have support in raising the profile of the sport of bowls.

The Counties of Kent and Devon recently held very well attended club meetings which as a result, more clubs are coming forward to assist us in reaching our Grow target, by running Bowls 4 Free and taster sessions for newcomers to the sport.

3 Counties (NE Derbyshire/S Yorkshire/N Nottinghamshire) have held two meetings and hope to submit their plan within the next couple of months, with Hertfordshire, Cornwall and Northumberland plans all in and the funding agreed.

There has been a lot of interest from new counties wishing to engage with the BDA and become intervention areas.

The following meetings are planned:

- Hampshire – 16th March – Chawton Park IBC
- Surrey - TBC
- Shropshire – TBC

The following table gives details of who to contact with regards to each of the areas.

Intervention Area	Contact name	Telephone
Cornwall	David Parr	01637 875842
Devon	Bernard Blatchford	01752 339683
Hertfordshire	Graham Mariner	01923 463506
Northumberland	John Cleverley	0191 2574471
3 Counties	Alan Tizard	01909 771438
Surrey	Mike Lambert	01483 424167
Hampshire	Sheila Goodwin	01420 83822
Shropshire	Herbie Bowden	01952770218

Funding

Sport England has recently announced the new **Places People Play Strategy** and one of the major programmes within this strategy is **Sportivate**.

Sportivate will offer 14-25yr olds access to a 6 week high quality coaching course in a sport of their choice. At the end of the coaching sessions the participant will be supported into a local club or alternative sports provision to continue participation.

This is a great opportunity for clubs to receive funding which targets the younger age groups.

For more information about Sportivate, please contact your County Sports Partnership.



Coaching

The English Bowls Coaching Scheme (EBCS) and the BDA will be meeting in early March to discuss the way forward for coaching.

Thanks must go to over 500 coaches who completed the questionnaire which was circulated by the BDA. A summary has been put together from the information from 100 of these with the final document being available over the next few months when the other 400 have been examined.

The coaches steering group met for the first time on the 11th Feb to discuss the findings to date and along with Sports Coach UK look at how some of the issues could be addressed.

The role of the group is as follows:

- To be the voice of coaching, bringing knowledge and expertise to the table
- To review the data from the questionnaires
- To discuss the vision for coaching and where we would like to be in the next two years

From a coaches perspective there is no cause for any alarm as the administration will continue as before and there will be no changes until further meetings have been held between the EBCS and the BDA to agree a way forward.

Research

In Plymouth a number of bowlers have volunteered to act as volunteers for research which is being carried out by the University College Marjons on behalf of the BDA.

Students from the college are attending matches and monitoring players during the 2/3hrs of the match to see at what intensity they are playing the game.

These results will be available in a detailed report and should go a long way to proving that bowls is a medium intensity sport and not low intensity as it is rated at this moment in time.

Safeguarding

The Bowls Safeguarding panel will be moving under the umbrella of the Bowls Development Alliance and will continue to lead on all safeguarding issues.

The panel has worked tirelessly over a number of years for all the NGB's to ensure good practice around safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults. They will be better resourced through the BDA and will be the lead voice on all issues around this delicate subject.

For more information on any safeguarding issues or concern please contact the Chairman Pat Ostler. Email: pattrod19@aol.com or Tel: 01295 720531.

Other news

Have Mat Will Travel – a road show to raise the profile of the sport, will be launched in early March with a number of dates already pencilled in. The transit van will contain 2 short mats and all the equipment required to run a high profile road show where people of all ages can have a go and receive information on where their local club is.