

## Discussion Paper on Coaching Bowls

Bowls England and English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd are driving the development of a new coaching structure for the sport of bowls which includes the development of recognised qualifications for the sport and a clear pathway for coaches to develop from beginners and grassroots coaching to the coaching of elite performers and specialist coaching areas.

This is a fantastic opportunity to be involved in a new era of coaching for bowls and by working together we can ensure that a scheme is in place that satisfies the needs of both the coaches and the bowlers themselves.

In the envisaged future of coaching, employees are responsible for the development of all qualifications allowing volunteers to focus on the reason they are involved in the sport, on coaching and Continual Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for coaches.

This new structure is the only structure supported by Sport England and sports coach UK and as such means that funding can be unlocked in the form of bursaries for all coaches involved in the system to access.

### **The Way Forward:**

The BDA would like to reiterate the offer which would benefit coaches at all levels, freeing up volunteers to concentrate on coaches and coaching, whilst eliminating the immense confusion within the sport on the ground.

- Current coaching certificates will be accepted enabling coaches to continue their valuable work and at the same time allowing them to put in place their own time frame for moving on to the new nationally recognised Qualifications as they come on stream.
- County Sports Partnerships are already granting bursaries towards the cost of qualifications. Bowls England and EIBA Ltd are proposing to put in place funding to top up bursaries to defray costs to individual coaches.
- EBCS to have a representation on the BDA Coaching Steering group in order to contribute to the development of the future coaching structure (including strategy, qualifications and CPD) and to ensure that coaches have a voice in those future developments.
- EBCS County coaches to be invited to join the County Co-ordinators group if there is not a coordinator already in post, thus representing the voice of coaches at this group
- Formation of a sub-group that includes EBCS representation, that focuses on CPD opportunities for coaches, encompassing the expertise of both the Steering Group and the Coordinators Group and the EBCS Committee.
- All appointments will be made in line with current established policies and procedures.

### **Operating arrangements and proposals:**

The operating arrangements for developing coaching in Bowls need to take account of the fact that:

- There is one insurance scheme. Thus removing confusion for coaches on the ground and adhering to NGB recommendations.
- There is only one National Qualification for the sport of Bowls, as recognised by Ofqual, Sport England and Sports Coach UK. We have to remove confusion for coaches allowing them to do what they do best, coach.

### **Benefits:**

- Coaches have a clear pathway for development
- Confusion within the sport is removed
- All expertise is harnessed for the benefit of coaches and coaching
- Employees look after the day to day administration, leaving volunteers to concentrate on technical / sport specific issues
- Coaches have a clear voice in the development of coaching
- Coaching is consistent across the country
- Clubs and County Bowling Associations have clear guidelines for coaches – one insurance scheme, one suite of qualifications, one body
- Coaches are working within NGB guidelines
- Full support from Sport England, Sports Coach UK and all other government funded Bodies.

### **The Next Steps:**

- Acceptance by affiliated Indoor Clubs, outdoor County Bowling Associations and the EBCS of the proposed Way Forward by March 18<sup>th</sup> 2013.
- Meeting with representatives of EBCS 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 11.30am at Royal Leamington Spa