



National Disability Survey Report

October 2014

Bowls Development Alliance

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Executive Summary

As part of the Bowls Development Alliance's [BDA] work to increase the number of disabled people playing bowls by 2,800 participants by March 2017, the National Disability Survey was launched on 12th August, 2014. The purpose of the survey was to develop a greater understanding of the current and future opportunities that exist for disabled bowlers and which clubs currently have disabled bowlers using their facilities. Furthermore, it was hoped that the survey would also identify a number of clubs who required external support to create new, or enhance existing, inclusive activity.

As of 24th September, 2014, 247 clubs have submitted complete survey responses of which 4 were spoilt and therefore removed from the final analysis, providing a final response rate of 8.8% across affiliated Bowls England and EIBA clubs. This in turn allows for a 7.5% acceptable error rate and this should be considered when viewing the key findings detailed later in this report.

A summary of the key findings shows that 62.2% of clubs have disabled bowlers using their facilities, however not necessarily as members. Of those disabled bowlers, the majority have a visual or hearing impairment though there was little evidence to suggest clubs had appropriate adaptive equipment to assist disabled bowlers with either of these impairments.

Of concern for the organisations working to increase participation is that only 33.8% of clubs indicated they were aware of the financial and non-financial support offered via the BDA despite over 80% of clubs indicating they would appreciate further information regarding this. As a result, a priority recommendation has been offered for consideration by the BDA, Bowls England and the EIBA to address this anomaly.

A major positive outcome from the survey was the identification of 59 clubs who wish to receive further support to develop inclusive opportunities for disabled bowlers within their facilities. Again, a recommendation related to this has been offered for consideration to ensure that this significant interest is capitalised on quickly and effectively to ensure that the appropriate support is afforded to each club who has requested it.

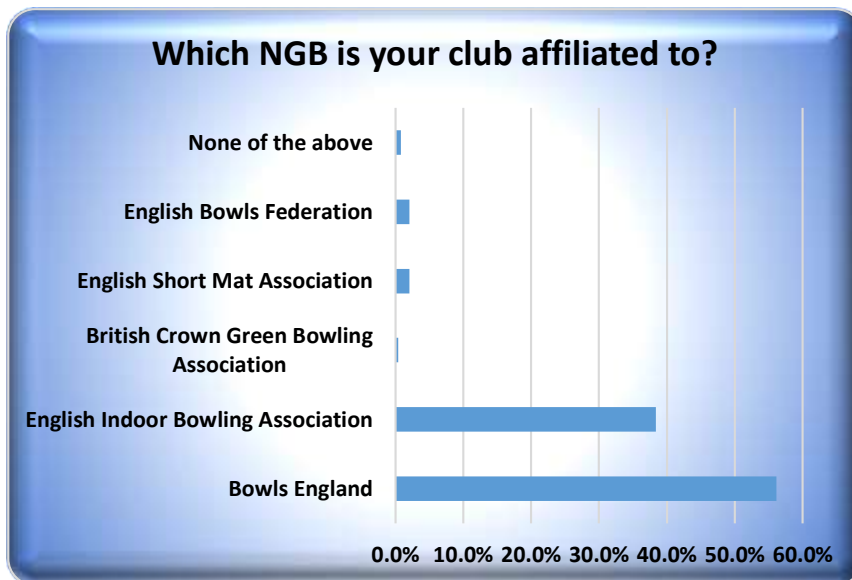
The BDA will publish a statement via their website (www.playbowls.org) on Friday, 30th January, 2015 regarding the five key recommendations made within this report and their progression status at that time.

Key Findings

This section of the report highlights key findings from the survey from which there were 247 responses, 4 of which were spoilt and therefore removed from the final analysis.

Participation

Question 2 – *Which National Governing Body is your club affiliated to?*

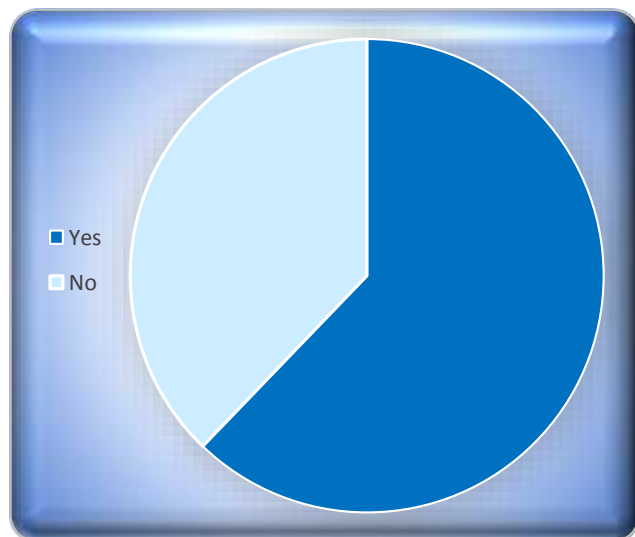


133 of 2,437 Bowls England clubs responded to the survey – a response rate of 5.45%

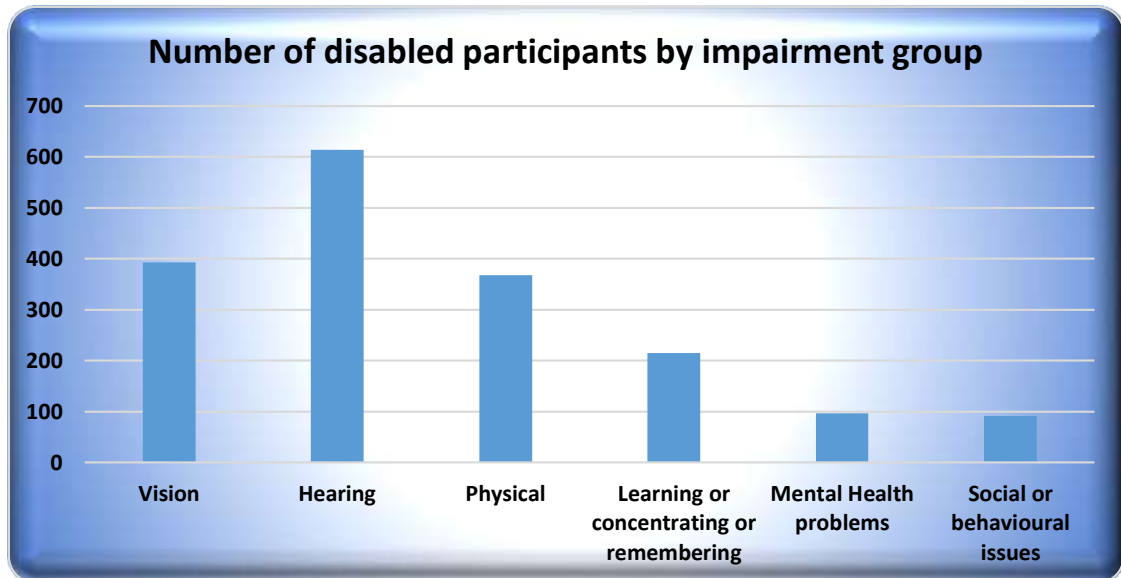
91 of 315 EIBA clubs responded to the survey – a response rate of 28.8%

Question 3 – *Do you have any disabled bowlers using the playing facilities at your club?*

62.2% (151 clubs) of respondents indicated that their club had disabled bowlers using their facilities.

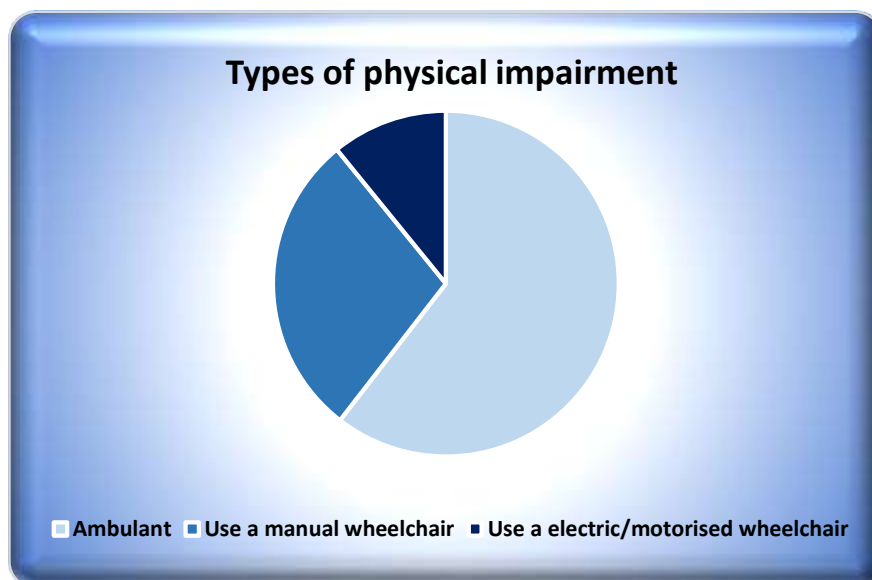


Question 4 – *Of those disabled bowlers, how many would you say have each of the following impairments?*



Within the 151 clubs who indicated they had disabled bowlers using their facilities, 614 bowlers were identified to have a hearing impairment which proved to be the most common of the impairment groups. 393 bowlers were identified to have a visual impairment and 368 a physical impairment.

Question 5 – *Thinking of the disabled bowlers with a physical impairment, how many of those have the following physical impairments?*



265 of the 368 bowlers are identified as having an ambulant physical impairment with only 54 requiring an electric or motorised wheelchair, which due to the significant cost of the latter should not be an unexpected level of response.

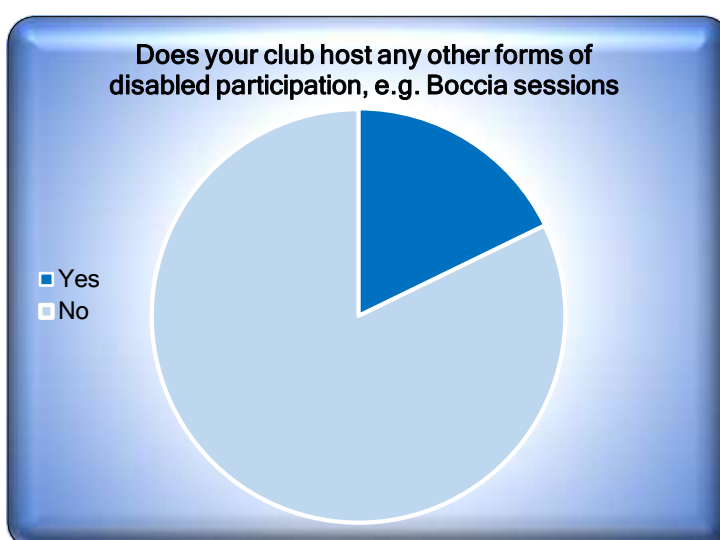
Equipment

Question 6 – *How many pieces of adaptive equipment are available for participants to use at your club?*



1,261 pieces of adaptive equipment were declared with the bowls gatherers, coloured bowls, folding walking sticks and non-motorised wheelchairs proving most common with clubs. When considered alongside the responses to Question 5, it is a concern that whilst 54 bowlers required the use of a motorised bowling wheelchair, only 9 were identified as available by clubs leaving private ownership the only viable option for bowlers with a physical impairment.

Question 7 – *Does your club host any other forms of disabled participation, e.g. Boccia sessions?*

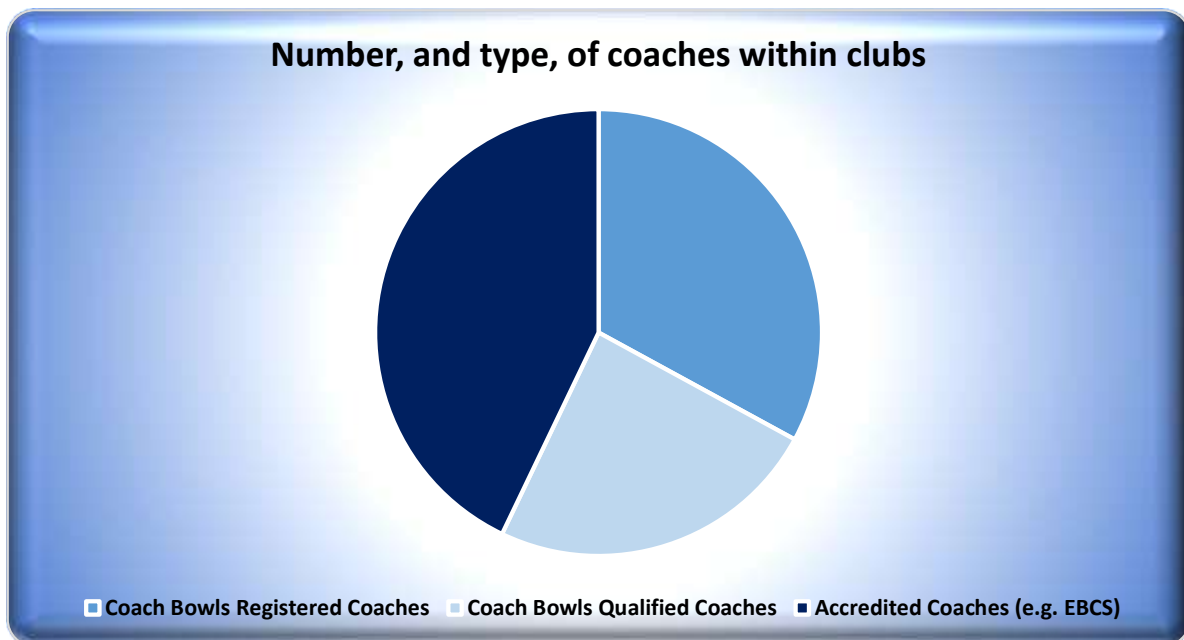


28 clubs are currently hosting disabled participation sessions other than bowls with Boccia being the dominant type of activity.

Local disability sports groups are also referred to within the responses in addition to work with visual impairment and hearing impairment groups.

Coaching

Question 8 – *How many coaches do you have within your club?*

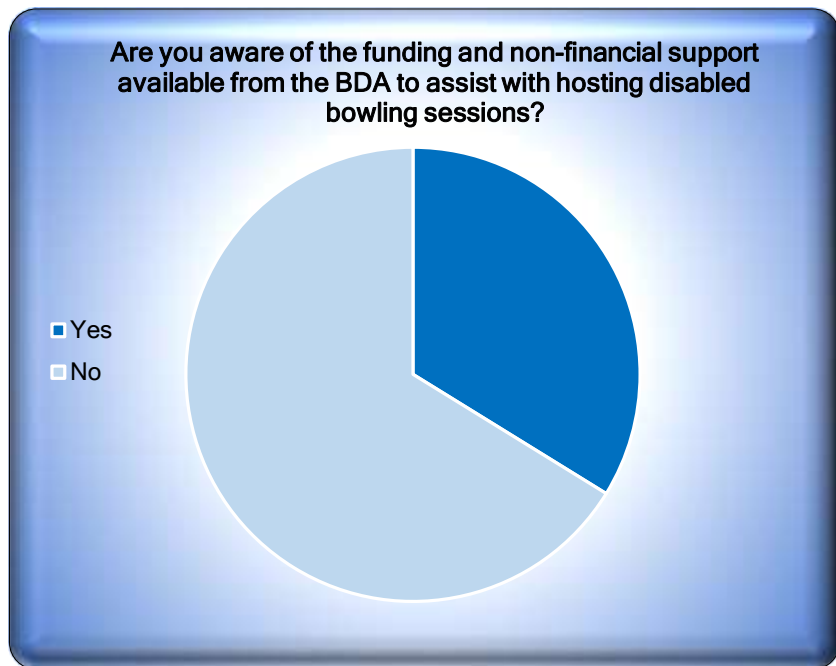


125 clubs responded that they had zero coaches within their club. Of those clubs who did indicate a coach within their membership, 293 of were members of the Coach Bowls scheme – 169 as registered coaches and 124 as qualified coaches.

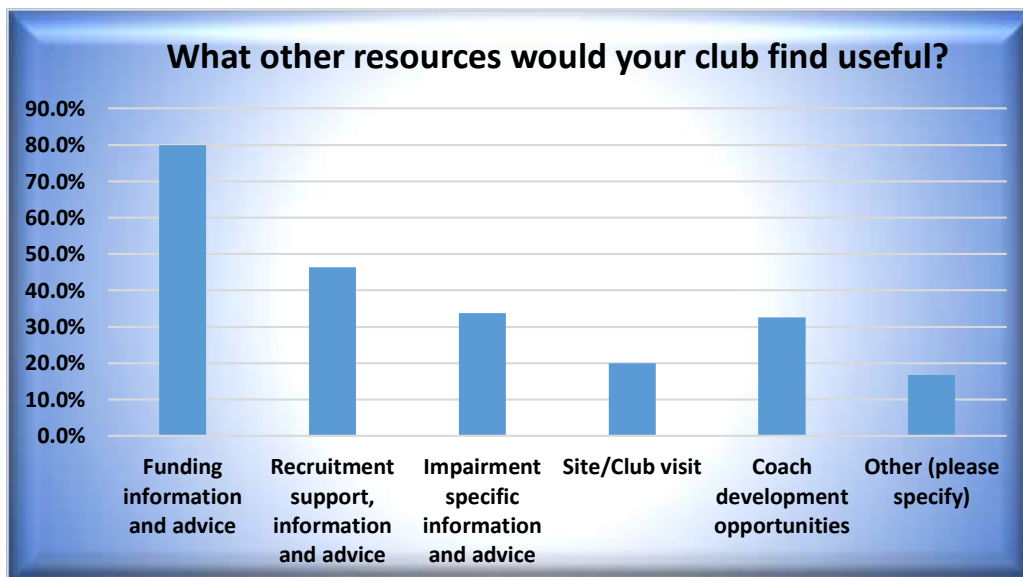
Further Support

Question 9 – *Are you aware of the funding and non-financial support available from the BDA to assist with hosting disabled bowling sessions?*

33.8% (53) of clubs indicated that they were aware of the BDA's support and funding opportunities related to the creation and enhancement of disabled activity.



Question 10 – *What other resources would your club find useful?*



Funding information and advice was requested by 80% of the respondent clubs with recruitment support and impairment specific advice ahead of coach development opportunities in the priorities of clubs looking for further support.

Question 11 – *Would you like to be contacted in order to receive support with providing more opportunities for disabled people looking to play bowls?*



Encouragingly, 59 clubs have requested further support to develop opportunities within their club for disabled bowlers. All 59 clubs were contacted within three working days of submitting their survey responses to begin this process.

Recommendations

Having analysed the quantitative and qualitative responses of 243 clubs, the following five key recommendations are made and listed in priority order for the consideration of the BDA and its delivery partners:

Recommendation No.	Related Question No.	Recommendation	Effected Organisations
1	9	Due to an apparent lack of awareness of the financial and non-financial support available through the BDA a review of communication methods should be undertaken with the findings incorporated into the BDA Communication Strategy. In addition to this, Bowls England and EIBA should consider creating a specific disability section of their websites in order to give equal profile alongside non-disabled participation.	BDA Bowls England EIBA
2	11	A strategic group consisting of representatives of each National Disability Sport Organisation, Disability Bowls Associations such as Disability Bowls England, VIBE, BWBA etc, Bowls England, EIBA and BDA is created to develop a whole sport disability strategy that focuses initially in ensuring that those clubs who have requested further support receive this from the organisation best placed to provide the requested advice or information.	BDA Bowls England EIBA NDSO's Disability Bowls Associations
3	8	All clubs who have Coach Bowls registered or qualified coaches should be provided with details of the forthcoming Coaching Disabled Bowlers module and encouraged to undertake this to enhance further their skills and understanding within this area. Priority should be given to those 59 clubs who have expressed a desire for further support.	BDA
4	3 & 7	A nationally recognised award scheme should be developed to recognise the excellent work being undertaken by clubs with disabled bowlers and to showcase these clubs for others to aspire towards.	BDA Bowls England EIBA
5	2 & 3	Bowls England and EIBA to review their affiliation process to ensure disabled participation information can be collected in order to monitor progress and future trends. This will also assist the BDA in identifying clubs who may benefit from further financial and non-financial support.	Bowls England EIBA