



Bowls Development Alliance – Coaching Update

The Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) met with the English Bowls Coaching Scheme (EBCS) on 24th November. Since that meeting, the EBCS has been holding County meetings in order to inform Coaches of the current situation and to gain feedback.

This update aims to clarify a number of issues that have been raised by Coaches at these recent meetings.

During this same period the BDA has been looking at the process and how a seamless change can be brought about. It is hoped to arrange a meeting between the BDA and the EBCS in February to ascertain the views of Coaches on their future involvement in a revised coaching structure. The aim is to get a new coaching structure up and running by 1st April 2011.

Separately the BDA is very keen to consult directly with all Coaches for their views. A questionnaire has been developed to ask Coaches for their suggestions on the future of the Coaching Scheme. This questionnaire will be distributed to all Coaches shortly. Responses will be required by 31st January 2011.

The BDA has also invited any experienced coaches to get in touch if they wish to be part of a steering group that would work with the BDA and Sports Coach UK to assess the results of the questionnaires. This steering group, with the assistance of Sports Coach UK, will then look at the various options available.

At this stage, the BDA wishes to assure Coaches that no decisions have been taken and that no management group has been set up.

As part of this process, there will be a review of the current coaching qualifications. A review does not mean that changes have to be made, but it is an opportunity for Coaches to give their views. Bowls coaching qualifications are not presently accredited by Sports Coach UK and this issue will also be considered during the said review.

This is a great opportunity for Bowls to look at its coaching framework and see if the needs of Coaches and Bowlers are being met - and if they are not what changes can be made. A lot of questions need to be answered, including why we need coaches, where are they needed and how are they supported and recognised for the work they do?

Coaching forms a key part of delivery for the BDA as it aims to increase participation within the sport of Bowls. Already each of the intervention areas are putting delivery plans together and these will include funding to assist Coaches and Coach Development in those areas.

It is a challenging time but together we can develop a Bowls Coaching Scheme that meets the needs of both Coaches and Bowlers.

I look forward to working with you all over the next 3years.

Susan Cooper

Bowls Development Alliance Manager

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR