

Disability Bowls August 2016 Week Two!

With the first week on the Nationals already complete including a full weeks program of matches, plenty of coaching clinics, **“Working with disabled people in Bowls”** module being delivered and the yearly **Disability Awareness Day** having taken place on Friday 12th August there is plenty to look back at in our second newsletter of the month.

In this edition we will also be bringing you a snap shot of **Disability Bowls England** and everything they do to promote and drive disability bowls across the country.

Working with Disabled People in Bowls Module



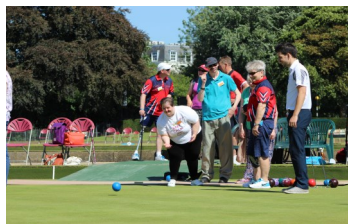
To support Disability awareness day at the National Championships the Bowls Development Alliance ran a **“Working with disabled people in Bowls”** module which saw 7 participants take the module on Friday 12th. August. It was a detailed and informative 4 hours which included theory and practical sessions.

The **“Working with disabled people in Bowls”** module is designed to cover the basics of working with a range of disabilities and allows a coach to create fully inclusive sessions on and off the greens.

For more information on the working with disabled people in bowls module please contact the Bowls Development Alliance via office@playbowls.org or call 01664 777001.

Disability Awareness Day 2016

On Friday 12th August, the BDA and Disability Bowls England ran the second Disability Awareness day at the National Championships in Leamington Spa.



A group from the **Heart of England Royal Mencap Society** were invited to come along and spend the afternoon watching the Ladies Singles as well as having the opportunity to get on the greens and give bowls a go.

The Bowls Development Alliance ran a series of sessions to allow the participants to try the various adaptive equipment including New Age Bowls, high score wedges, target mats and Just Bowl tape.



At the end of the sessions the group took on a Bowls Parc challenge which is a range of equipment including targets and obstacles which creates a highly visual learning environment for bowlers of all ages and abilities.



Once the group had completed the challenge the winning team were gifted a Bowls Parc set and a bag of New Age Bowls so that they could continue playing back at their centre. Peter Gray creator of Bowls Parc presented the prizes to the group.

A big thank you to Disability Bowls England members Paul, Mo, Bob, Cate and Craig as well as Coach Bowls tutors Denise and Gilly for supporting the BDA team on the day.



Snap Shot

In 2004 a 'bowls' specific umbrella organisation was formed and named 'Disability Bowls England', bringing together four organisations, primarily for communication and selection purposes, as a national organisation representing bowlers with physical and visual impairment.

Having been awarded charity status, a new board of directors has worked incredibly hard to increase awareness and opportunities for bowls players with a disability to participate, compete and enjoy playing bowls.

The events held are visible evidence of the time and effort put in by the directors, but many more hours has gone on behind the scenes to develop and maintain an organisation which is fit for purpose. Meetings, policy making and forging external links has been essential in creating a solid and proactive association.



Five Regional Training/Taster Sessions have been held throughout England to help raise awareness, provide training for members and encourage people with disabilities in those areas "to have a go". Venues included Taunton in the south west, Nottingham and Selby (*pictured, left*) in the north, Kettering in the midlands and Sutton in the south east.

New members have now exceed 130 and include players with a physical disability, visually impairment, cerebral palsy, hearing problems, learning difficulties and wheelchair players. Volunteers and coaches have come forward to help at events with many completing the BDA “Working with Disabled Bowlers” Module

DBE organised the first **Home Nations International** Challenge against Scotland indoor at Nottingham in November which led to the first outdoor Home Nations Championships which included teams from England, Scotland & Wales & played on the Commonwealth Games greens in Glasgow in June. This has become an annual event and includes players from the physical and visual impairment sections.

New Improved Website, John Rogers a volunteer from Tamworth BC has done a great job of revamping the web site which along with the Face Book page and Twitter account will help improve communications. The website is a great source of information and great place to keep up to date with events, news reports, competition results. Visit at www.disabilitybowlsengland.org.uk

Coming Up over the next year DBE has lots to get involved in including:

- Regional Training/Taster Sessions at various venues throughout England. International Trials and squad training day
- Indoor Open Pairs Competition.
- Masters Singles comp which includes champions for each of the disability sectors, A tour to Potters Bowls Resort
- Indoor Inter Region “Top Region” double rink challenge
- DBE AGM and “Celebration Evening