

# English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd



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## COACHING STATEMENT THE FUTURE OF COACHING IN BOWLS

Following the formation of the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA), the National Governing Bodies who have entered into this partnership fully appreciate the importance of coaching. As you are aware, some of the partners currently contribute substantially to the English Bowls Coaching Scheme (EBCS) by offering financial support to assist in the organisation of coaching within the Sport of Bowls. Whilst this is carried out through the EBCS, it has always been stressed by the BDA that at an appropriate time the development and administration of coaching in Bowls would come under their control.

At a meeting with the key officers of the EBCS at Leamington in September, both Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd, with the support of British Crown Green Bowling Association, were able to express their deep concern that funding was largely being spent on administration and not the education and development of the current 2,800 coaches. As a result they concluded that they are not prepared to support any future contributions without projections of how the money would be spent.

Following the EBCS's meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, a receipt of request for funding was received by the NGBs void of the requested information. Therefore, at a meeting of the BDA on 7<sup>th</sup> October, a unanimous decision was made by all present that the control of coaching should now be transferred to the BDA with immediate effect.

To commence the transition, the BDA will seek to employ expertise to consult with the sport and to recommend a unified and structured coaching programme. In consequence, the grant funding which has traditionally been paid to the EBCS will now be utilised to enable this objective to be achieved.

The BDA, however, are keen to stress that the excellent work of coaches at Club, County and Regional level is highly valued and needs to continue and be supported. Therefore we will be implementing the appropriate measures to provide continuity for all concerned.

Whilst it is appreciated that this decision to re-direct funds will not be popular with some, it is important to record that this funding is being allocated within the area of coaching thereby ensuring the continuance and development of coaching in Bowls.

The BDA wishes to utilise the knowledge and continued support of coaches in achieving this and as a matter of high importance will be arranging a meeting with key personnel over the next few weeks to advise and to discuss in detail the proposed future strategy.

Once again, we reiterate that coaching is greatly valued and will continue to be recognised as an essential tool in the future development of the Sport.

Yours sincerely

Tony Allcock MBE  
Chief Executive  
Bowls England

Peter Thompson  
Chief Operating Executive  
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