



BOWLS WALES Newsletter

February 2018

New Year Celebrations

We welcomed the new year with the wonderful news that 15 athletes will be travelling to the Gold Coast in April to represent Bowls as part of Team Wales at the Commonwealth Games.

The selection for Team Wales took a new turn for 2018. A restricted number of places on offer resulted in not all sports guaranteed to be represented at the Games and, in turn, not all nominated athletes would gain a spot on the overall Team.

So, quite rightly Bowls should be proud of what has been achieved by the athletes and support staff, and they should be honoured to take their deserved place on Team Wales.

Keeping you up to date

BOWLS WALES Communication Group will be working closely with the athletes and the support team over the coming weeks, gaining an insight into their preparation and build up.

We will ensure that you'll get to know the athletes as individuals and in their playing combinations, as well as an insight into the hard work the support team put in to ensure everyone is ready for the Games.

Did you know?

The Commonwealth Games is the only international multi-sport event which features an integrated para-sport programme.

2018 will see the largest para-sport programme in the history of the Games and, given current form, we are sure that Welsh Bowls will be a key feature .

Date for your diary...

The Games runs from the 4 to the 15 of April, with the Preliminary rounds of the Bowls beginning on the 5th. All the scheduling information you need can be found at:

[Lawn Bowls | Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games](#)



Show your support

During the build up to the Games there will be many events and campaigns that you can get involved with to show your support for Team Wales.

We will of course provide you with all the information via BOWLSWales social media and the website.

Throughout the games up to the minute information will be provided on the BOWLSWales Facebook and Twitter pages, with the more in-depth articles being posted on the News section of the website.

www.bowls-wales.com

Meet the Team

The BOWLSWales team will be out on the road at the end of April and the beginning of May to meet those that have an interest in the sport.

The Roadshows will be taking place at 6 clubs throughout Wales allowing people the opportunity to come along and learn more about the organisation and to let us know what you would like to see happen in the future for your sport.

As well as meeting those behind the new organisation, there will be advice on hand to help with key areas including, running your club as a business, membership development, funding opportunities and general assistance.

Dates & venues will be announced soon.

BOWLSWales Membership

Membership has now been offered to all the National Governing Bodies of the sport, as well as the two Associations.

Whilst many organisations have taken up the membership, negotiations continue with others.

Over the coming weeks representatives of the BOWLSWales Board will offer to meet with those that remain undecided to discuss any concerns as well as the benefits, and of course the help the organisation can provide with development, Governance, funding, research and general advice.

If you have any queries about Membership of BOWLSWales please get in touch:

enquiries@bowls-wales.com

Research

As many of you will be aware, BowlsWales provided clubs with a questionnaire which will help us understand the current landscape of the game, and the concerns for the future.

The response has been overwhelming with over 400 returns.

The key headlines will be published on the website soon, along with information on how BowlsWales will address the immediate issues.

We will also be speaking to Sport Wales so they have a detailed understanding of the current club game, as well as utilising the data to see what areas need to be focused on by the BowlsWales Development and Communication Groups.

Finally, we will provide case studies on key areas of concern and invite guest authors to provide expert advice on a variety of topics over the coming months, so that you can pick and choose what will suit your club.

Thank you for completing the survey, it will go a long way to help shape the future of the game across Wales.

Current Funding Opportunities

As well as the usual information, BowlsWales will keep you up to speed with all the notifications we get for various funding opportunities that we come across – keep an eye out on our Facebook page for the most up to date information, but here are the most recent:

[Garfield Weston](#)

[Comic Relief](#)

[Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust](#)

STOP PRESS...

The overwhelming concern of all clubs that completed the survey is the lack of new players and the retention of those currently playing.

To achieve a clear picture of why people do or don't play, BowlsWales are working in partnership with Cardiff Met Uni to create a quick data capture survey for individuals to complete to tell us what would/does attract them to the sport.

This will be launched in late February

The work of the Board

Governance

Bowls is required by Sport Wales to achieve certain standards across set criteria which is measured through a system called 'Self Assurance'.

This system ensures that we are legal and have good practice in place across the sport which includes, but not restricted to Safeguarding, Equality, Risk Management, Insurance.

We are continually working on updating documents and ensuring we advise on good practice so that the sport is protected.

All approved documents can be found on the Governance section of the BowlsWales website.

Funding

There has been a lot of discussion and speculation around the sport regarding possible changes in funding from Sport Wales in recent times.

We do not know at the time of publishing what grant funding bowls will receive for 2018/19, but we understand that the Board of Sport Wales will be meeting on the 13 February to discuss recommendations put forward by our Senior Liaison Officer.

Once BowlsWales receive confirmed details of the funding, we will work with our members on the best way forward given the strict directive provided under the conditions of the offer.

Strategy

Over the coming months the Board will be working on the four-year strategy. They will work with representatives from the specialist Groups (Performance, Development and Communication), to put together a working document that will shape our focus for 2018-22.

We will of course welcome input from our members at planning stage.