

NATIONAL LOTTERY DEDICATED TO...HAY ON WYE BOWLING CLUB



2020 has certainly been a tough year for our sport but Bowls Wales has never been prouder of its clubs, coaches and volunteers.

Raising morale, keeping us active and checking in on each other, clubs have shown how they are the beating heart of Wales' communities.

This week, we are highlighting Hay on Wye Bowls Club as part of the National Lottery *Dedicated To...* campaign which celebrates our grassroots sporting heroes.

The clubhouse may have been closed during lockdown but that has not stopped the committee and members of Hay planning for the club's return. And one thing has certainly helped keep them going – the building of a new clubhouse.

The Powys bowls club will use a £9,900 grant from The National Lottery Community Fund to complete the internal renovations of its new clubhouse, which will be used as a community facility, as well as for the club. For example, the local Mind – which provides mental health services – plan to use the building.

Club Secretary Nita Jones explains:

“We had to down tools when lockdown was announced but we started again once restrictions lifted. We all keep visiting to check on the progress. The building is up and the roof is now on.”

But the Hay on Wye bowling community has been doing much more than just monitoring the work:

“Our members have all pitched in. One is a builder and another is a project manager and surveyor. We have tradespeople and even a photographer who has been documenting the transformation. Our own members have been putting the cladding on and then we formed a painting crew. They finished a couple of weeks ago.

“It’s been a really exciting project to get behind and is great for the local community as a whole.”

The club also managed to play and even run some competitions this summer after it received almost £2500 of National Lottery funding from the Sport Wales Be Active Wales Fund which is designed to help clubs get back up and running community sport safely:

“We were able to invest in things like hand sanitisers and signage and also helped us care for the green. It helped us get our club started again safely. We held triples games on Tuesday and Thursday evenings which meant our members taking their first steps after shielding for several months.

“We’d like to thank all National Lottery players. Our club is a place to socialise and meet up, play bowls both competitively and socially. Meeting people through bowls eases loneliness. The sport can be played by all ages and capabilities, both young, old and in between! Playing is good for our physical and mental health by strengthening muscles and improving and wellbeing.”

With the help of National Lottery funding, thousands of grassroots sports workers and volunteers from local clubs and organisations across the UK, have been able to continue to help the nation to remain active, happy and motivated during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thanks to National Lottery players, £30 million is raised every week for good causes, many of which are supporting the most vulnerable in our communities across the UK during the Coronavirus crisis.