

Machen Bowling Club

Q1. Tell us about your club

Machen is a village between Bedwas/ Trethomas, we have a thriving Men and Women's Bowling Club.
The Club is relatively new - coming up to 30 years since it was first established - and teams play in The Monmouthshire BA and the South Wales & Mon Ladies BA.
The Ladies Team is one of only two teams in the County who play in the evenings.
The Pavilion is owned by Machen Welfare Association and shared with Machen Cricket Club. The Green is maintained in Partnership with Caerphilly CBC

Q2. What was the project/initiative your club run and why?

The initiative was to hold weekly 'Give Bowls a Go' sessions every Monday and Friday evening 6-8pm. throughout the season. These sessions were widely advertised through Facebook and Twitter. Coaching and equipment were available. The first six sessions were free, with participants who wanted to attend each week throughout the season asked to join for just £20.



Q3. What was the impact?



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6 Men and 5 ladies joined. Many members also attended these sessions, playing with the new members and creating a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

Q4. Was there any learning you took from the project?

To maintain the impetus we needed the support of all members and the Club coaches, which we had. All sessions were very well attended, usually with 25-30 bowlers at each session. The new ladies preferred to be coached by a lady and play in ladies only rinks until they became more experienced and joined in Mixed Rinks.

Q5. Any advice for other clubs?

Get on social media and keep it up to date! Our posts regularly reach 1000+ viewers through sharing on local community pages. Facebook is the most effective, though Twitter links you to other bowls clubs and national bodies.

Q6. Did you work with any partners/organisations on this project?

BowlsWales- have been very supportive and responsive.

Q7. Any other information you would like to share around this project?

Next season we want to link with the village primary school and Caerphilly CBC to hold children's/family sessions.



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