

Ynysybwl Community Welfare Bowls club

Q1. Tell us about your club

Ynysybwl Community Welfare Bowls club is a village club founded in 1925. We consist solely of players from our village, we currently have 2 teams in the Cardiff leagues plus a newly formed ladies team which will be playing competitively next year. We use a council Green and currently share changing facilities with the rugby/football teams.

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

We held open days for ladies, juniors and the general public the aim was to improve the accessibility of the bowls club and green to everyone and raise awareness of the bowls club in the community. We run taster sessions for juniors (6-12 year olds) coinciding with the coalfield's regeneration Trust, they were holding sports days every Wednesday throughout the summer holidays. We used street bowls kindly supplied by RCT council and BowlsWales for the younger element and then junior woods for the older children. We also have run a ladies evening every Wednesday which has proved very successful. My aim is to make the club inclusive to all people regardless of gender, age and Ethnicity. Ultimately, we are hoping to offer the game of bowls to disabled players in the future but we will first require the facilities. I accept that may be a while down the line. We are hoping next year to hold a couple of diversity days which will hopefully encourage a wider audience to participate in the game of bowls.





Q3. What was the impact?

The impact was far more than we could have hoped for, the interest shown by the junior players and indeed the parents was phenomenal. After the first couple of sessions, we had enough juniors interested to probably create more than 1 team. We actually played a number of juniors this year in our division 5 team which is the first time ever. In total we have had 8 juniors all between 10 and 13 play for us this year. The outdoor season has now finished so we are going to run street bowls from our local Rugby club for 5–10-year-olds on Monday evenings between 5-6pm. We also want to introduce short mat for the older children in the coming months, hopefully this will keep them interested ready for next year.

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

The learning I took from this was once you take the step to improve the profile of your club in the community speak to as many people as possible who are willing to offer advice.
The more people that buy into it the more chance you have of succeeding.

Q5. Any advice for other clubs?

As stated above once you take the step to increase your presence in the community seek advice, you will be amazed how many people will raise their hand in order to help you.

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

Yes, we were fortunate to welcome a new member this year Dai Prosser who has worked with me side by side and helped take a lead on this from day 1. He introduced me to Lee Davies from RCT who a great help has been, the local regeneration Partnership have also been a big help plus the coalfield regeneration trust which BowlsWales put us in contact with. The local community council have offered funding in order for us to purchase a couple of sets of junior woods next year. Welsh Women's Bowling Association and BowlsWales have offered unwavering support and advice.
Thank you all.

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

The only other thing I would like to mention (apologies it does not relate directly to this project) is this year on the green we have managed to win.
The Cynon valley Div 1 Championship...first time ever
The Colin Vater shield ...first time in 31 years
The Cardiff Municipal Bowls league Div 1....first time ever
We also made it to the last 8 in Wales in the Carruthers cup.
This was obviously a great achievement for the whole club hopefully with the foundations being put in place the future of Ynysybwl Bowls club will be a healthy one.



Welsh Bowling Association

