

Yorkshire Bowling Association



Well, in case you don't know, I was appointed YBA Chair last month after being in the wrong place at the wrong time. A habit that seems to haunt me!

But this appointment, with the support of those at the recent AGM, is a challenge and one I welcome. I hope I can make a difference with the help of other members of the Executive.

I have started by asking lots of questions and being immersed in Club Disciplinary Governance issues. The intricacies of Bowls England Regulation 9 are now much more familiar!

The coming year will be a challenging one and Lesley will say more about that elsewhere in this Newsletter.

But, for now, I want you to know that my door is open to hear from you about the positives and negatives of lawn bowling in Yorkshire. I will certainly listen to issues you have locally; and time permitting, I am happy to come to your Club, attend your AGMs, or whatever. The YBA is ready to listen and try to help you and your Club. Don't hesitate to contact us. We may be able to help.

I wish you all a great Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mal Britton

YBA Chair

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PS: Can you guess the background in my photo? The first correct answer wins a free day pass to the Aviva National Finals.



Upcoming Events

March 11

Roadshow

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Lots of news/updates for you in this issue, so get yourselves sat down with a large beverage of your choice - happy reading!

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County Development Programme

A Message from Bowls England

“Increasing participation and providing support for clubs and counties are two of the top priorities within our Fit for the Future strategy. We are working in partnership with Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) to help achieve those goals.

In 2025 we are launching a new County Development Programme with one county selected in each BDA geographic region.

Following consideration of several factors, including potential for growth; local support networks and knowledge across our teams we have identified your county to participate in the programme.

All participating counties and their respective affiliated clubs will receive dedicated support from the BDA’s Club and Community Development Team from January to December 2025 to include:

✚ Supporting clubs and volunteers with:

- Governance
- Safeguarding
- Recruitment
- Funding Promotional Activity

✚ Improving the connection between local and regional health and sports networks to improve the visibility of bowls as an accessible sport for all.

Creating connections with local and regional community organisations is a key part of the programme. The Active Partnership covering your county has engaged positively and other relationships are being built across the wider landscape. We are also discussing strategic funding opportunities where appropriate that your clubs would benefit directly from.”



Our Three Gifts to You

1. January Week of Learning, Monday 20th - Friday 24th

These free webinars are open to any member belonging to a club affiliated to Bowls England. Places for each webinar are limited and bookings will close three days prior to each event.



+ Creating a Marketing Strategy

- ❖ This course will help you to understand the key principles of a marketing strategy, how to develop one, establish marketing goals and identify different marketing channels to help you deliver your aspirations.

+ How to Complete the Club Health Checker

- ❖ This session will delve into the Club Health Checker, a free online self-assessment tool designed to uncover challenges your bowls club might face and pinpoint areas for targeted growth.

+ Safeguarding: Children and Young People

- ❖ Signs and indications of abuse and how to report concerns about children.

+ Funding: What funding do you need and why?

- ❖ This session will allow for discussion about what you are hoping to obtain funding for and why you need it.

+ Funding: How to put a funding bid together

- ❖ You will achieve a better understanding of whether your requirements will be considered by funding providers.

+ Engaging Your Communities

- ❖ This course will explore how to better connect, understand and engage with your local community.

Booking is open NOW - to book on any of the above courses, use the following link.

<https://bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com/education/>



2. Roadshow

The 2025 Roadshow is part of the County Development Programme. It is run by the Bowls Development Alliance together with Bowls England and is designed to help clubs and counties flourish. These events are packed with expert insights, practical tips, and tailored support to help your club thrive.



Tuesday 11th March. New Earswick Indoor BC. 11am - 4pm
Please arrive no later than 10:30 as we hope to get started before 11:00

Topics Covered:

Benefits of Affiliation

- ❖ Discover how affiliating with your National Governing Body can drive your club's growth and sustainability.

BDA Programmes and Products

- ❖ Club and Community Programme: Unlock opportunities through ongoing applications.
- ❖ Bowl for Health: Promote well-being through bowls.
- ❖ Weeks of Learning: Access training and resources.
- ❖ Club Health Checker: Evaluate and improve your club's performance.
- ❖ Youth Sport Trust – School Games: Engage the next generation of players.

Interactive Experiences

- ❖ Try out Bowls Bash - a casual version of bowls

The County Development Programme

- ❖ Learn about tailored initiatives and resources designed to support your club's development.

National Governing Body Initiatives

- ❖ Bowls' Big Weekend: Boost membership with this showcase event.
- ❖ Bowls Bash: Try an exciting, fast-paced format of bowls.
- ❖ Play Bowls: Support new player engagement.

Safeguarding and Governance

- ❖ Ensure your club is safe, inclusive, and compliant.

Q&A Session

- ❖ Get answers to your pressing questions from the experts.

Take the next step towards growing your club and making a lasting impact in your community. Click [here](#) to register today and ensure your club doesn't miss out!



3. Constitution Support



A constitution is simply the aims and rules that your club will use. It's a statement of what your club is going to do and how it is going to do it. It is important because it will serve as a reference and help to resolve problems in times of controversy.

The YBA are proud to have a close working relationship with North Yorkshire Sport and, through this relationship, we are now able to offer some help and support in writing and/or amending your constitutions. All details will be sent to your club secretary before Christmas.



Tickets for the Aviva National Bowls Finals 2025 are available now. The event will take place between **Wednesday 13th August – Sunday 31st August** at Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa. Daily ticket prices will remain the same as in 2024, meaning online advanced prices start from £5.50 for standard adult tickets and £2 for under 18. A new 5-day event pass for 2025 which will offer a discounted ticket price when attending any five days of the Finals. Tickets are available here: www.bowlsengland.com/aviva-national-bowls-finals

Bowls England News

Bowls England announces review of bursaries

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our sport. In support of this we offer a range of bursaries to help club volunteers looking to develop their skills in coaching, greens maintenance, safeguarding and umpiring.

We are undertaking a review of all bursaries to ensure that this funding has the maximum impact on our sport in future. We advise that no applications will be supported until the review has been completed.

Warm Welcome Spaces is an initiative dedicated to supporting those impacted by rising heating costs. Together with the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) we're encouraging clubs to open their doors as Warm Welcome Spaces – providing a safe, heated environment for vulnerable community members facing fuel poverty.

Clubs who sign up as a Warm Welcome Space will be supporting their community, bringing new people into the club environment and will also receive resources to assist them.







Click [here](#) for more information.



And finally...

Wow! Lots of information in this winter issue. The outdoor season doesn't stop just because it's winter! The Executive Committee have been working hard on your behalf planning for 2025 and beyond. At the recent AGM we announced that we had set up some working groups to support the reform that we need to enable us to be a more progressive County.



-  Constitution
-  Business Plan and Finance
-  Competitions Review
-  Greens Advisory Team
-  Coaching
-  Safeguarding and Disciplinary Team

These groups have already started on their plans. If anyone would like to be involved, please get in touch. Thank you to those who have already come forward with offers of help.

We will also be looking at improving our website and our social media platforms to enable better communication.

I would just like to say a big, HUGE thank you to you all for all the incredible support that you have given me during my first year in office.

May your bells jingle, your lights twinkle and your baubles shine

Warm regards
Lesley Dearlove
County Administrator

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Bowls Tour to South Africa 2026

Graham Starkey from David Bryant Bowls Tours has forwarded an itinerary for a proposed tour to Steve Atkinson, **at this point we must stress that this tour has nothing to do with YBA**. Although we can point out that several bowlers from Yorkshire have travelled with Graham before.

The tour will be from 19th March to 11th April with an optional 5 days added on to visit Victoria Falls. It is not all bowls, bowls, bowls there are 8 games – as Graham describes it ‘It is South Africa’s Hidden Gems with a touch of Luxury’.

Here are some titbits to whet your appetite:

Sail on Lake St. Lucia with hippos and Crocodiles – remember Michael Caine in ‘Zulu’. The very buildings are still there. A guide will take you minute by minute through that action.

Your stay will be at Isandlwana Lodge – 5 star – Google it.

Through the spectacular Golden Gate National Park.

The four-night stay at Bloemfontein makes a great base to bowl and fit in a trip to the ‘Big Hole at Kimberley, apparently this can be seen from space.

Stay at The Drostdy in Graaff-Reinet – 5 star – Google it.

Option of overnight, including two Game Drives at Pumba 5-star Game Lodge. Game Lodges don’t come cheap, you will be looking at something like £500 per person

In total contrast, three nights of relaxation in the small Dorp (village) of Prince Albert in the heart of the Karoo.

Finally, to George it has a botanical garden, we also take in a game of bowls.

And then the option of an ‘add on’ 4 nights at Victoria Falls staying at the 5-star colonial Victoria Falls Hotel – again Google it.

For more information, please contact Steve Atkinson on 07743 791010 or Graham Starkey on 01706 651212 Mob 07773 347543 - info@bryantbowls.co.uk

