



be-news

Your electronic update from Bowls England - February 2009

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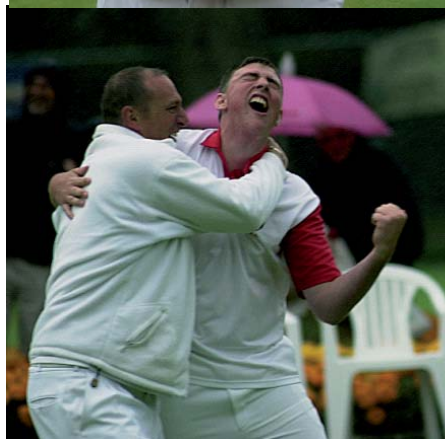
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For the latest news and updates from Bowls England, visit the website:

www.bowlsengland.com

Update on Water Charges and Music Licences for Clubs

IN THE last issue of be-news, we reported that Bowls England has been working with the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) to combat the the ever-increasing tide of regulatory burdens and costs facing our Member clubs, such as proposed changes to water charges. Please find below an update on the current situation and some key advice for clubs on handling these issues.

Water Charges

Media and political attention has been focussed on the devastating increases in drainage charges experienced by clubs - particularly in the North West of England. Key sporting personalities including ex-rugby and cricket internationals Brian Moore and Mike Gatting have thrown their weight into resolving this issue, and 166 MPs have also stated their support.

The present situation is that United Utilities have put a one year moratorium on the

charges, and most other companies have yet to move to the new regime. This buys the CCPR time to agree a long-term solution with the Government. However at present the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which is ultimately responsible for the legislation in this area, is placing the onus on water regulator OFWAT, which is currently unwilling to alter its stance. CCPR will maintain pressure on both parties until the issue is resolved.

Music

The Performing Right Society (PRS) and Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL) continue to target sports clubs for the purchase of music licences. Exemptions are available to clubs from PPL licences – although the CCPR understands PPL are refusing to accept this. CCPR has for three years sought to negotiate a more reasonable fee tariff from PRS, but the society has failed to enter fully into discussions.

The Government has recently

consulted on the current exemption regime, and is now considering its response to the views it received. CCPR will continue to work for a solution that recognises the voluntary nature of sports clubs, and the incidental use of music within these.

Next steps

In addition to drainage charges, clubs are also facing significant increases in installation and supply fees for water, gas and electricity. At the root of this problem is the fact that legislation currently distinguishes only between domestic and commercial premises – and as sports clubs are not domestic, they are by default treated as commercial entities.

The CCPR believes that legislation should recognise a new category of 'community building' including buildings such as sports clubs, village halls and churches, which would be subject to lower fees. It is now working with a number of partners to move this concept forward with policy makers and politicians.

Could your club save money through CASC status?

FIGURES from leading sports business advisers Deloitte show 5,078 sports clubs are now registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC). These clubs, partly through mandatory rate relief and the ability to claim Gift Aid on voluntary donations, have benefitted from an estimated £49.7 million in savings since 2002. Benefits of the scheme include 80% mandatory rate relief, Gift Aid on donations and exemption from some levels of Corporation Tax.

Is your club missing out?

Entering the CASC scheme is a decision that should not be taken lightly, and for some clubs, joining the scheme may not be the best option. However, many clubs do benefit from the financial advantages the scheme brings. To see if CASC could help you, go to: www.cascinfo.co.uk. This website will help you to make a decision on CASC registration for your club.

Bowls England Annual General Meeting

BOWLS England held its second Annual General Meeting at the New Connaught Rooms in London on Saturday 21st February.

During the meeting, the Presidential Team for 2009 was invested as follows:

Men's President: Dennis Cousins (Norfolk)
Men's Senior Vice-President: Chris Smith (Nottinghamshire)



Women's President: Diane Ingle (Bedfordshire)
Women's Senior Vice-President: Hazel Parnell (Durham)

Joan Balding of Lincolnshire (pictured) was appointed Junior Vice-President and will become Bowls England's first 'unified' President in 2011.

Members backed proposals for the Affiliation Fee paid to Bowls England to rise by 50p per member in 2010. Members also voted in favour of an increase in the National Championship Fees to £2 per entrant in 2010. To support clubs, Members also voted to put an additional £150,000 into the Development Loans fund, bringing the total available to clubs from Bowls England for improvement projects over the next year to more than £500,000. *For details on Development Loans, please see right hand panel.*

Tony Allcock MBE, Chief Executive of Bowls England, said: "Bowls England is now just over one year old, and there have been many varied and interesting challenges during our first 12 months. In terms of day-to-day funding, Bowls England continues to receive no external funding and is reliant on Member Affiliation Fees and limited sources of other income. We are continuing to look at ways of generating additional income through new sponsorship arrangements and other external partnerships, and ask Members to support our sponsors and partners where possible.

"With regard to modernisation, delegates at the EGM in November agreed to move to a single Presidential Team from 2011, which is a simple and effective way of moving our sport forward and we look forward to Joan becoming the first 'unified' Bowls England President. We have also seen several men's and women's associations unifying at county level, and I understand all other counties are now making progress towards unification.

"We are also continuing to work to refresh the image of our sport, and to look at ways in which we can broaden its appeal to a wider audience."

A low cost loan for your club?

IS YOUR club considering improving its facilities?

Bowls England offers interest-free Development Loans of up to £15,000 to Affiliated Clubs, which enables you to improve and develop your facilities for the benefit of members and the sport as a whole.

Loans can be repaid over a maximum of eight years with the only additional charge being a one-off administration fee - there are no extra charges for the duration of the loan. This means your club can budget with the security of 'no added charges'.

In 2008 Bowls England provided loans worth more than £80,000 to clubs - money that was used to fund major projects such as clubhouse extensions and car park re-surfacing to smaller requirements such as new kitchens facilities and improved security systems.

For more information or to apply for a Development Loan contact Penny Maguire on 01903 820222 or e-mail: penny.maguire@bowlsengland.com

Alternatively write to:

Penny Maguire, Bowls England, Lyndhurst Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 2AZ

Unification for 'The Moonrakers'

BOWLS Wiltshire is the new unified body for outdoor bowls in Wiltshire.

The new body was formed on 1st January this year and Members unanimously agreed to retain the name and legend of 'The Moonrakers'.

Sad as it is to see the demise of the Wiltshire Bowls Association and the Wiltshire County Women's Bowls Association, it is only the name that changes.

It is hoped that unification in Wiltshire will be painless and seamless for the bowlers as we take the best from the past, leave the rest behind and take time to evolve into full unification.

Bowls in Wiltshire will be governed by a Policy and Executive Committee working with a Management Committee doing everything possible to support and assist its 54 clubs and continue to promote bowls for everyone.

Development of our sport for juniors and seniors is paramount, as is a drive for recruitment.

**Jean Collier - Administrator
Bowls Wiltshire**



Tolchard claims historic double at Men's Annual Dinner

DEVON'S Sam Tolchard (pictured) made history when he was named 'The Times/ Taylor Bowls' Bowler of the Year and 'Bowls International' Young Bowler of the Year at the Bowls England Men's Annual Dinner held in London.



Tolchard, who plays for Kings BC in Torquay, is the first to win the Senior and Junior awards in the same year. He had already won the Junior award 12 months earlier.

The recognition follows a memorable year for Tolchard, who became the first Bowls England Men's National Singles Champion last August, aged just 19, in addition to winning both the National Mixed Fours and the Middleton Cup with his county. He also narrowly missed out in his bid to retain the Champion of Champions Singles when he lost to Billy Jackson in the final.

David Rhys-Jones, who made the award on behalf of the bowls media, said: "This year, we had some outstanding performances from contenders for the senior and junior awards at the British Isles championships in Llandrindod Wells and the national championships at Worthing.

"However there could only be one winner, as Sam dominated at Worthing – winning three national titles and losing in the final of the Champion of Champions singles. Therefore we felt it was fitting that we should make him the first to receive the senior and junior awards in the same season.

"He has precocious talent and, having been named in England's Commonwealth Games initial squad, seems destined to make his first appearance for the senior team in 2009."

Tony Allcock MBE, Chief Executive of Bowls England, added: "Sam is already making his mark at the highest level of our sport, and I am delighted that he has become the first winner of both these prestigious awards under the Bowls England banner."

Bonmarché named official sponsor of the Bowls England Women's National Singles Championship

BOWLS England is delighted to announce leading women's clothes retailer Bonmarché as official sponsors of the Bowls England Women's National Singles Championship.

Bonmarché is the UK's largest value fashion retailer providing affordable fashion to the more mature lady. It has 382 stores nationwide including branches in Leamington and Worthing - meaning visitors to the men's and women's national finals can visit their stores for some retail therapy during the championships.

Tony Allcock MBE, Chief Executive of Bowls England, said: "I am delighted to welcome Bonmarché as official sponsors of the 2009 Women's National Singles Championship and to thank them for their support."



Richard Kirk CBE, Chief Executive of The Peacocks Group, added: "Bonmarché provides great value fashion designed with the more mature figure in mind. Our brand is a perfect match with Bowls England. We look forward to a successful partnership working with them to promote our brand with bowlers and the sport of bowls to our customers."

To find your nearest store, simply call 01924 700100 or visit www.bonmarche.co.uk.

Dorset Bowls Resort named official sponsor of the Bowls England Women's National Fours Championship

BOWLS England is delighted to announce Dorset Bowls Resort as official sponsors of the Bowls England Women's National Fours Championship.

The Dorset Bowls Resort, near Poole, will have a brand new bowling arena opening in September 2009 and is currently taking bookings for Bowling Holidays from November 2009.

Tony Allcock MBE, Chief Executive of Bowls England, said: "Last year more than 7,000 women took to the green across our 35 counties in their County Fours Championships, battling it out to reach the National Finals at Leamington. The Fours Championship then creates a real buzz around the greens during the first week of the finals, with 280 competitors in the Fours Championship alone plus many more friends, family and supporters coming to the event. I am delighted to welcome Dorset Bowls Resort as official sponsors and thank them for their support."



John Champion, Director of the Dorset Bowls Resort, added: "Our new arena will offer clubs and groups a new venue to visit for organised tours during the winter. Our five-star tourist board accommodation will delight visiting bowlers. Our visitors will also be able to enjoy many other on-site and local attractions. We can promise everyone a warm welcome and an enjoyable holiday, when you visit The Dorset Resort. We are delighted to be working with Bowls England to help publicise our new bowling facilities, and we look forward to growing our relationship with Bowls England, over many years to come."

To request a copy of Dorset Bowls Resort's new brochure or to book that special holiday telephone 01929 472244. Alternatively e-mail admin@dorsetgolfresort.com or go to www.dorsetresort.com and www.dorsetbowlsresort.com

Salford sports psychologist to toughen up bowls team

ENGLAND'S Commonwealth Games bowls team has recruited a top sports psychologist from the University of Salford to boost its medal hopes for the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Dr Tom Fawcett (pictured) is to provide the players and management team with help in developing a winning mentality in their bid to land gold medals in Delhi. His two-year contract will involve training and competition support sessions, and even travelling with the team to Delhi for the competition.

Bowls England successfully bid for more than £460,000 from Sport England to cover the costs of the Commonwealth Games project.



Dr Fawcett will be completing a variety of techniques to improve performance such as imagery, mental toughness training, relaxation and improving the players ability to cope under pressure. He also plans to include aspects of scientific research with projects such as 'eye tracking' which involves the use of headset to monitor how players focus on the ball.

He said: "Bowls is an ideal sport to benefit from psychological support. It is not as physically demanding as some others, but it requires intense concentration under pressure and mental resilience. And that's an area I can really help with."

Dr Fawcett, who has also worked with Olympic athletes and World Darts champion Phil Taylor, will be encouraging players to consider using self-hypnosis and relaxation techniques, within their preparation routines.

Commonwealth Games Performance Director John Bell, said: "We've never benefitted from psychological support before, so whilst the main aim of Tom's appointment is to win medals at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, it is also to prove that a psychological support programme can make a major contribution to bowls in this country."

Jamie-Lea & Danny fly English flag

BOWLS England has named two of the country's top young bowlers as its representatives at the World Junior Cup.

Bowls England has named two of the country's top young bowlers as its representatives at the World Junior Cup being held at Warilla Bowls & Recreation Club in Australia from Wednesday 25th March to Friday 3rd April.

Warwickshire's Jamie-Lea Winch, the current Women's National Junior Singles Champion, will be competing in the women's event with Danny May (Cumbria) in the men's.

The duo will face representatives from other World Bowls member countries including Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Tony Allcock MBE, Chief Executive of Bowls England, said: "The World Junior Cup will give Jamie-Lea and Danny the opportunity to test themselves against the best in their age group from across the world, and can only help to further their careers in the sport at the highest level."

Sport England awards £750,000 funding boost to bowls

BOWLS has been awarded 'in principle' funding of more than £750,000 by Sport England to help deliver grassroots opportunities.

The bowls funding bid was submitted by the 'Bowls Family', which consists of:

- Bowls England
- British Crown Green Bowls Association
- English Bowling Federation
- English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd
- English Short Mat Bowling Association

The funding will be used primarily to develop bowls and increase participation in the sport, in all its forms, through joint recruitment and retention projects. The National Governing Bodies (NGBs) will be working with clubs and counties in a bid to achieve the increase in participation, which will be measured by Sport England in the over 65 age group to meet Government targets. There will also be a focus on increasing satisfaction amongst current participants, which will be measured annually through a survey conducted by Ipsos MORI.

The award is subject to the development of Strategic Plans by each NGB (leading to one Strategic Plan for the sport in England) and the creation of a single organisation with representatives from each NGB to act as the lead body for the sport. The funding can not be used to cover day-to-day running costs of any of the NGBs or to offer as grants to individual clubs, and expenditure will be closely monitored by Sport England. Funding during the period will be subject to the 'Bowls Alliance' annually meeting targets on recruitment and retention to be agreed with Sport England.

Tony Allcock MBE, Chief Executive of Bowls England, said: "Bowls England is committed to increasing participation in our sport. We recognise this can be achieved more effectively by working in partnership with the other National Governing Bodies. Sport England's decision to support our work by giving us this substantial funding towards grass roots development over the next four years is a major boost for our sport."



New Small Grants Scheme to replace 'Awards for All'

SPORT England has published a new funding strategy, setting out the investment programmes available to organisations delivering grassroots sport from April 2009.

'Funding Sport in the Community' explains how investment will be focussed on organisations and projects that can deliver the key outcomes of Sport England's overall strategy.

A total of £7million will be available in small grants of between £300 and £10,000 to support projects across England. This funding stream will replace the 'Awards for All' programme, which will come to an end on 31st March 2009.

Another £3million will be distributed through Sportsmatch, enabling clubs to make the most of funding they receive from the private sector by matching that investment. Sport England will also invest in partner organisations such as NGBs, county sports partnerships and other national partners. For more information go to www.sportengland.org and click 'Get Funding'.

Updates on available funding for clubs will also be published on the Bowls England website - www.bowlsengland.com.

Bowls England website set for launch

THE new Bowls England website will 'go live' on Friday 20th March.

It will be packed full of information for bowlers of all ages and abilities - plus guidance for people new to the sport.

The new website will also give you the opportunity to purchase official Bowls England merchandise online 24 hours a day, or to view online then order and pay over the telephone.

And www.bowlsengland.com will be the first place to find out the latest news, fixtures and results throughout the season, with a comprehensive results service throughout the Men's and Women's National Championships.

Tony Allcock MBE, Chief Executive of Bowls England, said:

"The development of our new website has been a mammoth task for all concerned, but I am delighted that work is nearing completion and that we can go live well ahead of the 2009 season.

"Bowls England is committed to improving communication with Members, and an up to date and attractive website will be key to achieving this in a timely and cost effective manner."



Official merchandise

OUR new website will enable you to pay online safely and securely, or you can view online and then order and pay over the telephone.

There are a wide range of products available, from small gifts ideally suited to give as rink prizes, to bowls equipment including shirts, jackets and caps.

We also have a wide selection of bags, including the shopping bags that proved so popular during the Championships last year.



And finally...

CLEVEDON Bowls Club in Somerset had an unexpected visitor when the Great Western Air Ambulance had to make an emergency landing on the green earlier this year. A workman, who was working nearby, partially severed a leg and the helicopter was summoned to pick up a surgeon and take him to the site.

John Durston, Somerset Men's County Secretary, explained: "The only bit of green space anywhere near was the bowling green so he put it down there. I am told he must have been a bowler, or someone in his family was, as he took a lot of trouble to put it down gently and you would not have known that he had landed there."

