



## **Fit for the Future Awards of the Year**

### **Nominee**

Name of Nominee: Colin Hirons

County: Somerset

Club name: Minehead Bowling Club

**We would love to hear the fantastic work that is taking place at all levels of our sport. This award recognises the incredible achievements at club and county level that leads to a growth of participation and exposure in our sport. Please share with us your nominee`s stories, achievements and initiatives of the season 2022.**

Minehead Bowling Club has run for many years, and has never had a youth section. Colin has worked, initially with the social committee and the executive to introduce a youth Academy. The process, advantages to both young people and the club is explained below.

We started 9 months ago and have 3 indoor rinks and 6 outdoor rinks, we have three schools now as part of the project, St Michael's, Minehead Middle and Minehead First school, all who have young people attending on Wednesday evening vs, 4pm to 5pm, and some on a Sat morning 9am to 10am.

The sessions involve young people, with some having SEND, in which the behaviours have decreased greatly, one child who suffers from ticks, does not demonstrate this whilst bowling. The children have increased confidence, behaviours, resilience through this process.

The children are aged 6 to 14yrs, and we have approx 20 now involved in playing bowls. The Wed sessions have resulted in the introduction of a Youth Academy launching, with club coaches also taking part.

We have also now had new adult members as a result of this, with parents and grandparents joining as Adult members which has increased our membership by 10%

### **Tell us more about your nominee.**

Colin has been inspirational to the developmet of our clubm especially after such difficult times nationally. He has a great respect from the young people, and other members, his work has brought new life I to the club and has also brought a motivation from other members to assist in many new activities.

The introduction of the youth Academy has transformed our outlook as a club, with local businesses now involved with sponsorship deals.