



GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOWLS ASSOCIATION

WHAT DOES BOWLS ENGLAND DO FOR US ?

The question is sometimes asked 'What does Bowls England do for us ?' Sport England requires all organised sports in England to have fully-functioning governing bodies, including so that the sport can be in receipt of government-supplied financial support. As a sport involving over 100,000 participants, we quite clearly fall into the category of those that must be centrally recognised. In practice, most of the government-provided monies come in through the Bowls Development Alliance (the BDA), but some of this cascades down to Bowls England, who are required to work in consultation with Sports England's chosen vehicle for bowls promotion, support and development.

In practice, there are many ways in which Bowls England administer, organise and support our wonderful sport, including:

- Providing us with an integral structure, administration and the general regulations under which we must operate.
- Providing us with dedicated competition rules, for both the National Championships and the National Competitions.
- Organising the English National Teams to represent us in all levels of international competition, this also providing something aspirational for participants in our sport.
- Administering the National Competitions.
- Collaborating with the counties on the administration of the National Championship competitions.
- Organising and running the English National Championships, for both men and women, presently held at Royal Leamington Spa over an 18 day period in August each year. Including obtaining considerable commercial and other sponsorship to facilitate this wonderful event.
- Collaborating with World Bowls and the other Member National Authorities in the production of the 'Crystal Mark Laws of the Sport of Bowls', on which our whole sport is based. Including annually advising all BE members on any changes.
- Taking the lead on 'Coach Bowls' – the only nationally-recognised coaching qualifications for our sport. BE provides bursaries for individual members wishing to avail themselves of relevant courses and qualifications (subject to certain conditions).
- Liaising with the English Bowls Umpires Association [EBUA] over umpiring generally for our sport, including for the National Championships at Leamington.
- Offering general development loans for clubs (subject to certain conditions).
- Running a Greens Maintenance Advisory Service, Greens Maintenance Training and greens loans, to facilitate all aspects of greens maintenance.
- Maintaining a very comprehensive Bowls England Web site, full of information about all aspects of our sport, for counties, clubs and individuals. Up-to-date news included.
- BE staff respond routinely to all sorts of particular, one-off inquiries from counties, clubs and individuals.
- BE administer a legal help line, 'Lawline', which is supplied free through the BE Solicitors and has been increasingly used in recent years by clubs in particular.
- Taking complete responsibility for advising counties, clubs and individuals on disciplinary matters (the so-called 'Regulation 9'), with up-to-date legal guidance. An updated Regulation 9 has been recently released, in draft.
- Advising counties, clubs and individuals on all government legislation that has implications for our sport.
- Liaising with Sport England and the BDA on all aspects of 'Safeguarding' requirements in relation to young people and vulnerable adults within our sport. Involves the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
- Providing licenses for tournaments of all types.
- Arranging a good-value, dedicated Civil Liability Insurance service for counties and bowls clubs.
- Apart from the massive amounts of information on the Web site, providing regular mail-outs for counties and clubs on matters of importance and interest.
- Assisting clubs with promotion and recruitment, through the provision of advice, materials and resources, including the BDA 'Play Bowls, 'Just Bowl' and 'Women Can' initiatives. Also BDA 'Weeks of Learning'.
- Arranging celebration matches against counties and individual clubs.

