

Hertfordshire Bowls Development Officer

3rd April 2022

1. The past year has seen the most of my working associated with Coach Bowls Ltd. Re-write the Resources Pack for the coaching courses, was to produce a [76 page] document that Crown-Green, Short-Mat, Flat-Green [indoor/outdoor] can use to deliver the Level 1&2 qualification. In this four-person team, representing all forms of the Game, my role was to represent the Flat-Green game and took five months to complete and have approved by 1st4Sport.
2. The past year has also seen a new way of coaching courses, driven by the Covid guidance/rules, Courses are now run as a hybrid of Zoom, for tutoring Theory and Practical session run at a Centres of Excellence that includes the final Assessment of a candidate.
3. Hertfordshire does not have a Centre of Excellence and this has meant that any Hertfordshire bowler wishing to get their coaching qualification has had to travel to one of follow CoE; Avon Valley IBC, Warwickshire; Desborough BC, Berkshire; Falcon BC, Essex; Heaton Park, Manchester; Ilminster BC, Somerset, Preston BC, Sussex, Royal Leamington Spa Bowling Club, Warwickshire or Selby BC, Yorkshire.
4. By May 2021 over 150 bowlers had completed their Theory on-line and were waiting for a change in the Covid rules to allow them to attend the two days of Practical session at one of the Centres of Excellence.
5. By mid-year fifteen Hertfordshire bowlers were ready to take their Practical sessions and this threw-up a challenge; their need to do significant travelling to a CoE. Several starters on the Level 1 course failed to complete, sighting excessive travel as their reason.
6. As an immediate response, I took several bowlers for their Practical session/Assessment at Harpenden IBC. and delighted to report, they were successful in securing their coaching qualification.
However, there is a need and a challenge to secure a Centre of Excellence in Hertfordshire. I will be delighted to discuss the requirement with clubs in Hertfordshire that have both indoor/outdoor facilities.
7. In responding to requests from Hertfordshire bowlers, I have agreed with Coach Bowls that I will run a [non-Zoom] Level 1 course at the Harpenden IBC on the 9th April and 7th May 2022. The Course was fully booked within 5 days of appearing on www.coachbowls.org For the sixteen booked on the Course, the original start-date of the 19th March had to be moved to the 9th April due to oner sick Tutor [me] suffering with Covid!
8. **Aberford Park Community Centre bowls facility**
This is a project started back 2019 following the demise of Boreham Wood B.C. The all-weather 4 rink green is in Hertsmere and is attempting to be run by 'Community First'. Their first attempt to launch the Site was hit by Covid restriction and resulted in a poor uptake of bookings. It is now proposed to have an Open Day in April 2022 and I will be working with Stuart Stamp and John Loudon to offer our support on their Open Day; they have given clear advice/guidance on the need to maintain the facility that is currently in a poor state of maintenance.
9. **Club Membership [Recorded Affiliations]**
After a drop [25%+] in people playing bowls in 2020 the past year has been a recovery in club membership. I will be giving the details of recovery once I have the Clubs returns for 2021, expected in the next few weeks.
10. Remembers the Bowls' Big Weekend returns on **Friday 27 May to Sunday 29 May 2022.**
All the details on www.bowlsengland.com and there is still time to register your Event.
11. *Wishing you all good bowling in 2022 and the long awaiting return to the opportunity to fully supporting your club and County.*

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