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**W**elcome to the final edition of this newsletter for 2016. I am delighted that we have finished the year with the news that we have been successful with our funding application to Sport England and have secured £1,628,512 for the next four years to help us to keep more people playing the sport well into later life.

In the new Play Bowls Strategy 2017 - 2021 strategy, delivery of which will commence in April, there will be a real focus on supporting clubs to not only recruit more members but to help them to sustain membership and to make bowls clubs somewhere people want to spend their leisure time.

There is more good news below on where we are with our present targets with three months still to go!

It just leaves me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to working with you all in 2017 and beyond to 2021!

**Susan Cooper**  
Development Director

## Meeting Targets

Following on from the fantastic news that the BDA have secured a further four years of funding we can report that over the past few weeks we have seen the BDA pass multiple numerical milestones as the 2013-2017 funding period draws towards its conclusion.

We are delighted to report that there are now more than 12,402 people aged 55 and over regularly participating in the sport and more than 3,339 disabled people aged 16 and over.

Further to this, the BDA's community product "Just Bowl" passed a milestone of its own this week with over 3,000 people having regularly attended a Just Bowl project since its launch in November 2014. Just Bowl has proved to have been a successful way to introduce people into bowls via community settings such as village halls, leisure centres, retirement villages and via local organisations such as Age UK.

Coach Bowls can also celebrate surpassing targets with more than 1,277 Coach Bowls Members recently renewing their membership of which 805 of these hold a Level 1 or Level 2 Coach Bowls Qualification, well ahead of the 565 target set.

While the BDA are proud of all of these successes, like everything we do, it wouldn't have been possible without the support of clubs, coaches and volunteers all of whom have contributed to a joint effort resulting in over 18,000 people playing bowls regularly since 2013 in a club or community setting.



Did you know the BDA now has its own twitter account? Follow [@BowlsDA](https://twitter.com/BowlsDA) for regular updates on BDA funded activities, Play Bowls Road Show locations and much more.



## Love Fisher Brown Award

Following the announcement in August of the Love Fisher Brown Award winners for 2016, sponsored by AeroBowls UK, two celebration events have been held at the successful clubs.

In November, Ellen Falkner (CEO of AeroBowls UK) and Paul Brown (Chair of Disability Bowls England) joined Paul Humphreys (Development Manager) at 2016 award winners, Scarborough IBC.

Ellen and Paul joined the regular disability sessions and passed on their tips gained from years of elite level experience. Later club members were entered into a draw to partner Paul and Ellen in exhibition pairs matches before Ellen and Paul delighted the crowd with a quick fire singles match. As part of the presentation ceremony, Ellen and Paul also took part in a 45 minute question and answer session with those in attendance.



Later in the same month, Paul Humphreys attended 2016 award runners up, Gateshead IBC, to present their certificate. With over 60 people in attendance, a thoroughly warm welcome led into a memorable presentation ceremony with a range of club members, community organisations and new disabled bowlers taking their turn to have their photo taken with the certificate, which is now proudly being displayed within the club.

Information regarding the Love Fisher Brown Award 2017 will be circulated early in the New Year

## Just Bowl Update

2016 has been a huge year for Just Bowl, with significant growth in delivery, achieving 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the National Lottery Awards for sport and promotional development through our website and video.

This year has been the first time Just Bowl has been included within our work in the Hot Spot areas. To date this has engaged:

- 636 new regular participants aged 55+
- 607 new regular participants with a disability

In November we were delighted to announce that Just Bowl reached the 3,000 participant mark! This figure is still climbing and currently sits at 3,125 new regular participants.

Whilst we look ahead to 2017 and to new ways of enabling more people to access our sport within their communities, we would like to thank all 210 projects to date, with 109 different organisations and the 262 Just Bowl leaders who make the sessions happen.



**Helping people to live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives**  
[www.playbowls.org](http://www.playbowls.org)

## Tutors leading the way

The development of the Coach Education Team has been a main focus this year with two standardisation days running. The first was at Melton Indoor Bowls Club in April and the second at Chawton Park Indoor Bowls Club in November. A great deal of time has been spent on ensuring the best quality of tutoring and assessment practice so that all candidates, regardless of location, have the best possible experience.



A one to one training process has also been established with every tutor across the country with each tutor receiving individual actions to improve their personal development. This will add a great deal of focus towards ensuring that bowls tutors are identified as some of the best tutors in sport in England and is already being heralded as ground breaking by many other sports.

Coach Bowls has recently identified the need for more tutors, and advertisements have been placed in specific areas across England in order to ensure a more even spread of tutors across the whole country. There have already been some great applicants who will be welcomed to the team in 2017.

The Coach Education Advisory Group has also reviewed the content and delivery of the Level 1 and Level 2 Qualifications. The new content at Level 1 was rolled out from July 2016 and Level 2 will be rolled out from January 2017. The Level Three Development Group have been extremely busy mapping out the content of the qualification due to be piloted in 2017. The technical content has been written by Andy Thomson MBE, Ellen Falkner, John McGuinness, John Rednall and Paul Brown, who are all world class players and medallists. The Sport Science content has been prepared by Hedley Bowen and Rex Hazeldine and the whole content is being edited by Sian Honnor. An inspirational group of people who have really pushed boundaries to develop what will be an exciting qualification. Look out for further details in 2017.

2016 has seen the delivery of 20 Level 1 Qualifications and 4 Level 2 Qualifications, with over 180 coaches qualified this year alone, including the first ever bespoke course for Short Mat Bowls. The English Short Mat Bowling Association continue to work closely with Coach Bowls to increase the number of courses available to their clubs and coaches. We look forward to continuing the hard work in 2017 alongside our dedicated teams of volunteers, without whom Coach Bowls would not be able to deliver.

