



*Just a very quick update to introduce 'Bowls Yorkshire' which is the new name for the Yorkshire Bowling Association.

I've taken over as County Administrator from Lesley Dearlove which, as you can imagine, is a very big pair of bowling shoes to fill. A very big Thank You from me to Lesley for spending time helping me get to grips with what's what.

As not much bowling has happened since September, there is not a lot of news but in this newsletter, we'll give you updates on the following:

- *Who's who in Bowls Yorkshire.
- *New Constitution.
- *Focus group.
- *Vacancies.
- *Regulation 9.
- *Benevolent fund.
- *The Jack.
- *Bowls England awards.

I hope you find the attached information useful and interesting. Please let me know what you would like to see in future newsletters.

Warmest regards.

Caroline

Caroline Harris, County Administrator
bowlsyorkad@gmail.com



Do you have energy, enthusiasm and time to be part of our board or contribute to our focus group?

See details in the newsletter of how you can help us shape Bowls Yorkshire for the future.



Who's who at Bowls Yorkshire

We have updated our name to Bowls Yorkshire. We also have a new board – please see below:

Chair	Mal Britton	(York Railway B&SC)
County Administrator	Caroline Harris	(Boroughbridge)
County Treasurer	Gayle Hartley	(Thirsk Athletic)
County Disciplinary Officer	Anna Naughton	(Northallerton)
County Safeguarding Officer	Mick O'Donnell	(York Railway B&SC)
Ladies' Secretary	Liz Pollard	(Drifffield Rec)
Men's Secretary	Vacant	
Patrons' Secretary	Stewart Clark	(Drifffield Rec)
Ladies' Team Manager	Jane Simpson	(Selby)
Men's Team Manager	Sam Winter	(West Park YPI)
Youth Manager (both)	Cressida Fordy	(Northallerton)
County Coach	Lee Coutts	(Harrogate)
Ladies' Competition Secretary	Helen Walker	(Thirsk Athletic)
Men's Competition Secretary	Mike Bruce	(York Railway B&SC)
Ladies' President	Wendy Pickard	(Guisborough KGV)

Our first board meeting took place in November and we are working hard to make sure the ambitious action plan is taken forward for the benefit of all bowlers in Yorkshire.

New Constitution

We are in the process of modernizing and updating the Bowls Yorkshire website but the new Constitution has been added [here](#). Its not the most exciting of reads but you will see that we are working hard to update bowling in Yorkshire. Please take a minute to look at this document as we are entering into the new season.

Focus group

As we were working towards our new Constitution and Business Plan, the Board were very grateful for the contributions made by our Focus Group. This is a self-nominated group of bowlers who very generously give their time to give us their honest views on these new documents. These comments were reviewed by the Board and significantly contributed to both of the new versions.

We are looking for as many contributors as possible so that we can reflect the views and opinions of the full range of bowlers in the county. Would you be interested in contributing? Contributions will be mostly by email but may involve an in-person meeting where a face-to-face discussion might be the best way to move an issue forward. We would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved. Please email me if you would like to understand more or would like to be involved bowlsyorkad@gmail.com.



Vacancies

We have some additional posts to fill to ensure the smooth running of Bowls Yorkshire. Do you the skillset, time and energy to help with one of these? Do you know someone even outside the bowls community that might be willing to help?

These are new roles and the posts will develop over time with help and support from other board members and the wider bowls community in Yorkshire.

The roles are:

***Support officer** – to promote and protect the future of bowls in Yorkshire. At the heart of the Bowls Yorkshire's purpose is encouraging people to participate in the sport of bowls. This activity includes retaining those within the sport as well as seeing more people discovering the joy of bowls;

***Development officer** – to support clubs to develop, grow and be sustainable. Bowls Yorkshire looks to assist clubs with challenges they may face, including greenkeeping, managing finance, safeguarding and disciplinary matters with support from Bowls England, the Bowls Development Alliance and Bowls Yorkshire;

***Bowls officer** – To manage County and inter-club competitions, representative teams and other County bowling events. Each year Bowls Yorkshire manages several team events which are organised through Bowls England or the Northern Counties Bowling Association. Managing these teams and the administration that enables the games to take part is a key function of the Bowls Yorkshire. Investing in these teams is good for the benefit of bowling at all levels in Yorkshire – the publicity, exposure, the inspiration and retention of young bowlers; and for opening doors for funding/sponsorship opportunities. It also provides an opportunity for those involved to give back something to their fellow Club members in terms of the learning experience and skills developed.; and

***Media and Communications officer** – to manage and promote the public image of Bowls Yorkshire by creating and distributing content through the Bowls Yorkshire website, Facebook and other social media platforms; acting as a media contact point; planning events (conferences, etc); and ensuring there is consistent messaging internally and externally to build the Bowls Yorkshire brand.

Full descriptions of what's required are available and will shortly be added to the website. Or if you would like an informal chat about the roles, please reach out to Mal (mbritton@yorkrailwaybsc.org.uk) or myself (bowlsyorkad@gmail.com).



Regulation 9

All club secretaries were sent the update from Bowls England on 2 December. In a nutshell, the updated Regulation 9 is applying a proportionate approach to addressing misconduct:

- *Informal process for minor misconduct
- *Mediation for moderate misconduct or repeated minor issues
- *Formal hearing for serious misconduct or failed mediation

These improvements ensure consistency, transparency, and support for everyone involved.

The information from Bowls England, as you might expect, is long and detailed. Our disciplinary Officer, Anna Naughton, has sent guidance to all club secretaries. Anna is available for support and advice (anyba834@gmail.com).

Benevolent Fund

The Trustees of the YBA Benevolent Fund would like to make all clubs aware of the above funds existence.

The Benevolent Fund is run as a charity and defined as:-

“To assist Yorkshire Bowlers of affiliated clubs and/or their dependants who are in financial need. These may be elderly/old, may be bowlers with disabilities, or bowlers of any age who require financial assistance in the development of the sport.”

Yorkshire Benevolent Fund is here to help, if you fit the criteria above and would like support, in the first instance, please contact Gayle Hartley, Benevolent Fund treasurer, with any enquiries by email on treasurer.yba@outlook.com . All enquires are kept confidential.

The Trustees will consider each application on its own merits before making their decision to support or not. The Trustees’ decision is final.

The Jack

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Bowls England has a newsletter 'The Jack' which contains lots of useful information on what's going on the world of bowls. It is sent by email and you can subscribe to this [here](#).

And finally, Bowls England Awards

Our very own Lesley Dearlove has been nominated of Umpire of the Year!. The citation is given below. Very well deserved and we wish you every success at the Awards Dinner.

Lesley Dearlove is an outstanding ambassador for umpiring and for the sport of bowls across Yorkshire and beyond. She regularly takes on club and regional officiating duties requiring extensive travel and long days, yet always delivers her role to the highest standard.

Lesley is committed to supporting the development of others. She actively assists at workshops and examinations, sharing her knowledge with aspiring markers, umpires and bowlers. This year, she played a key role in helping deliver the Marker Course at the Aviva National Bowls Finals Clubzone and spent much of the Championships volunteering on the officiating team. Her positive, helpful attitude and dedication to improving others' skills make her a hugely valued member of every team she joins.

Her umpiring journey demonstrates both commitment and progression. Having first engaged with the English Bowls Umpires Association in 2015 after attending a marker course, she achieved Club Marker status and steadily advanced: becoming a Regional Umpire in 2020, reaching Regional Marker in 2019, and achieving National-level qualification in 2024. She is now poised to join the EBUA development team, using her specialism in marking to help shape future training delivery and ongoing assessments.

Lesley's contribution extends far beyond officiating appointments. She is a tireless promoter of the sport, always ready to step in and support her club, county and fellow officials. Her passion, expertise and commitment to growing and improving officiating standards make her an exceptional candidate for Umpire of the Year.

