

OCTOBER 2023

The Extra End

The Newsletter of the ESMBA



Welcome to the new Season

The Association continues its focus on development this year with Brian, James and Barry working on the Schools Initiative in conjunction with the Bowls Development Alliance.

We also have the launch of 2 new competitions with a brief summary later on in the newsletter.

England Ladies will participate in the Inaugural Ladies British Isles Championships over the weekend of 7th and 8th October, held in Melton Mowbray. We wish them every success as they face the Welsh, Scottish, and Irish Ladies Teams.

Brab Hallows the Umpires Director will launch the new Markers Course with the potential that this could be the first step on members becoming Umpires.

I wish you all a successful season on the mat and look forward to seeing you at our events.

Best Wishes

Brandon Whittaker

ESMBA President.

ESMBA Grant Scheme

The ESMBA launched a new Development Grant Scheme this year for Members, Clubs and Counties that are registered with the Association. Through the Grant Scheme. The Association aims to match fund successful applications with help on offer for Promotion, Equipment and Officials. Full details can be found at [The English Short Mat Bowling Association \(ESMBA\) - Grants](https://www.esmba.co.uk/grants)



ENGLISH SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The ESMBA is offering a range of financial opportunities to promote and develop short mat bowls in England. It has developed a suite of grants and enhanced its well-established loan scheme.

A fund of £10,000 will be set aside for the promotion and development of short mat bowls in England. The fund will be agreed each year by the ESMBA Management Committee, normally at its February seminar. The fund will run from 1st May to 30th April each year and will be topped up each year to at least the original agreed amount.

Grants on offer will be available to associations, leagues, clubs, and individuals whether new or established.

The loan scheme will be widened and made more accessible to eligible parties.

Application rounds will be announced each year and advertised in the appropriate manner to ensure widespread coverage.




ESMBA
ESMBA DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
GRANTS@ESMBA.CO.UK



ENGLISH SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CLUBS

Start Ups – Aimed at clubs where most club members have never registered with the ESMBA. To be considered for a grant clubs will have to provide evidence of:

- When the club became established
- They have adequate insurance to cover players and equipment
- Safe and secure premises
- Ensure all club members register with the ESMBA for at least 3 years

Capital – Maximum grant available £3,000 for the purchase of short mat bowling equipment (Items considered to have a life span of at least 12 months). Matched funding at least 25% from club i.e., for every £1 the club includes the ESMBA will contribute £4.

Revenue – Maximum grant available £250 per year to help towards the running costs of the club for the first 2 years of being part of the ESMBA. Matched funding at least 50% from club i.e., for every £1 the club includes the ESMBA will contribute £2.

The ESMBA has first call on it for 3 years from the date the equipment was purchased on any equipment purchased through the grant scheme.

No retrospective purchases will be allowed i.e., purchases made before the grant was approved.




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Club Health Checker

The ESMBA and BDA have collaborated on an online Club Health Checker, which provides an insight and report into the health of your Club.

Testing will begin shortly, and we invite clubs to be part of the beta testing for this new system.

Please email

James Scoins: james@esmba.co.uk or
Brian Baker: brian@esmba.co.uk

if your club wishes to be considered for the beta testing.

What is the Club Health Checker?

The Club Health Checker is a free, online self-assessment tool that will identify the challenges faced by your bowls club and highlights areas for targeted growth.

Through the completion of a 30-minute questionnaire a customised report is created which offers resources and suggestions on how to improve the clubs' areas of development. It is recommended that clubs use this resource at least once a year to help measure their baseline participation, growth, and impact. The Club Health Checker is available to all clubs affiliated to BDA partnership NGBs which include Bowls England, English Indoor Bowling Association, British Crown Green Bowling Association and English Short Mat Bowling Association.

The Club Health Checker is not a 'Pass or Fail' assessment but rather a tool to help committees assess the current condition of the club and identify areas for development. The report is as accurate as the information you input, and to ensure that the report reflects your club's position, it is important to answer the assessment honestly.



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Safeguarding Bulletin

Safeguarding Bulletin

October 2023

This Month's Focus

Our October Bulletin focuses on keeping children safe in sport. We are proud to be supporting "Keep Your Child Safe" Sport Week from 27th - 31st October. The CPSU has lots of resources and information on their website. That cover a wide range of topics: <https://cpsu.org.uk/resources> <https://cpsu.org.uk> During this awareness week keep an eye out on our social media pages for more information and useful links or resources!

Safeguarding Advice for Parents & Carers of Club Members (CBM)

Everyone has the right to have fun and be safe and free from harm when participating in sport and physical activity. Parents or carers should be able to check how well a lower club is run, for the sake of their child's safety and their peace of mind. Bowls clubs have responsibilities to ensure that their coaches and other staff are safe to work with children. Clubs should be able to provide confirmation that staff and volunteers are suitable and have undergone the right checks. At organisations providing sports for children should answer questions about how they will keep children safe. Parents/carers should ask to see:

- The club safeguarding policy
- The name and contact details of their Safeguarding Officer (this be called a Welfare Officer)
- The Code of Conduct for members - does this include sections for parents/carers and CBM bowlers?
- Consent forms for Parents/Carers regarding filming / photography, travel, medical issues
- Emergency contact forms for their organisation
- Expectations regarding supervision of CBMs
- Drop off and collection arrangements (if not needed for supervision)

Do you know who to contact?

Local Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Bowls England: safeguarding@bowlsengland.com

ESBA: esba@esba.org.uk

ESMBA: esmba@esmba.org.uk

ESCU: escu@esmba.org.uk

ESF: esf@esmba.org.uk

ESMA: esma@esmba.org.uk

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Greater Manchester Association help breath new life into a historic venue.

Greater Manchester SMBA, have worked closely with the Etherow Indoor Bowling Centre committee and their sponsor, TPS, to secure this superb venue for their bowlers and they are excited to see the benefits this will bring for all our competition entrants this year who can spend less time worrying about the peculiarities of the floor and more time focusing on their game!

Nestled in the lovely village of Broadbottom in Greater Manchester, the venue was a former railway warehouse. Brought from British Rail in 1985 and repurposed, the Etherow Indoor Bowling Centre has a perfectly level floor, and lots of natural light. The Centre has Wygreen carpet and mats and offers long mat and short mat bowling opportunities alike to people of all ages and abilities.

This venue was facing imminent closure when the local bowling community stepped in to save the facility. Etherow Centre has been used as an Indoor Bowling Centre for 10 years, the Etherow Charitable Trust has now signed an agreement to initially keep the facility open until March 2024

Greater Manchester SMBA now use this centre as their County Base and in 2024/25 season are pleased to be hosting the England Ladies Short Mat Bowls Squad.



Directors Insurance Offer

Sutton Winson, at the ESMBA's request are now offering Directors Cover, this cover is great value offering cover of £250,000

Directors and Officers Insurance – This Covers the Officers / Directors of your Club or County for legal liability for damages and costs awarded for a wrongful act committed in their capacity of Director or Officer. The Cost for this Insurance is £45.00.





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ESMBA Equipment Loan

Did you know that the ESMBA have Equipment available on a permanent loan basis? This is for new clubs that are looking to set up and may not be able to support the cost of buying new. The ESMBA has a range of different mats available and they can arrange delivery around the country.

Many new clubs have benefitted from the Equipment Loan including the Schools Initiative in North Somerset.

If you, or your new club are in need of a Mat please do get in contact with Brian Baker – brian@esmba.co.uk

Camelot SMBC – A Journey fit for a Fairytale

Camelot Short Mat Bowls Club is 35 years old this year and as with life they have had their ups and downs. They were re a founder member of the Blackmore Vale League (BVL) which crosses borders between Somerset and Dorset.

Originally in a hall in Queen Camel, Somerset we started strongly managing to attract 60 members and that was despite an undulating wooden floor which incorporated an orchestra pit.

These were less than ideal conditions for short mat bowls, but we did have some sort of home advantage!! However, a similar story to most, by the time of the pandemic, the club's membership was

dwindling and it was struggling to remain viable or attract new members.



If Camelot was to survive changes were needed. A new village hall, with a flat floor, had been built at Galhampton, a village 2 miles away. Camelot SMBC was relocated and promoted to the local community. As a result of the club's positive, friendly, and supportive atmosphere during club nights the membership doubled.

Camelot and its new players entered the post covid BMV League in Winter 22 and for many this was their first experience of playing matches. The League was a good learning opportunity. The club provided a friendly welcome to visiting teams but gained few points. Players were however developing their skills and adapting to the different atmosphere that exists in competitive matches and identifying their preferred roles.

To continue the rapid development of players the club entered the newly established BVL Summer League. This was a big step-up, and overall, a very positive experience. The team has performed well against teams that have experienced players and has gained a good number of impressive wins. The most pleasing aspect of this improvement is that 17 new members are involved in league matches. Thanks to the dedication and commitment of a few, the club is now well re-established and has a promising future.

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Coaching Corner



Introducing Coaching Corner, in each issue we will include a task for players to try.

In this issue the task is: Draw to beat both Bowls on both hands

1 point for each bowl that becomes shot (maximum of 4 points available)

