

**To keep members informed of what's happening in the bowls world, the JEC (on behalf of both divisions) will be publishing regular newsletters with information about forthcoming events, County Competitions, national moves that will affect everyone and any other hopefully interesting bits and pieces. Clubs and individuals are welcome to send contributions for the Newsletter on anything they wish to communicate to others – perhaps you have a tournament coming up that you wish to advertise or want to publicise a notable success of a member.**

**Let me have anything at [glosbowlssec@gmail.com](mailto:glosbowlssec@gmail.com) – David Skeats**

## SUMMER SEASON

Now the snow's gone (hopefully not to return), thoughts are turning to the outdoor season. Information on County Comps is being placed on the GBA websites.



### HAPPY BOWLING

The websites are now also being updated on Officers/Officials, club contacts, and, for the men, papers and draft minutes of the committee meetings. These will now appear in draft as soon as possible after the meetings to keep members informed rather than people having to wait for confirmation at the next meeting before publication which can be months in the future.

The JEC expect to review both websites during the year to look for improvements. Please use them, everything that's in the handbook should also be on the website.

## National Award

**David Rolls** (Gloucester Spa BC; Gloucester County Coaching Co-ordinator) received a trophy from the BDA at the 'Coach Bowls Conference' in Leamington, on 22nd March, as the **'2018 English Coach Educator of the Year'**.



Brilliantly done, David - very well deserved for your hard work all over the country !

## KEN GRIFFIN MIXED PAIRS

A reminder that the closing date for this competition is **Monday 23 April**. Details and an application form are available on the website.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

A debate has begun in the Men's Division about making some constitutional changes, mainly the creation of a Chairman to take over from the President the role of chairing committees. The President would still remain for all the other duties that the role carries. Having a committee chairman who has to change on an annual basis makes longer term planning and establishing priorities very difficult and is part of the reason why previous proposals for changes have failed. This would very much mirror things in clubs where the two posts are quite rightly separate.

A detailed paper will be going to all clubs for them to consider. The Men's Division Chairman would, as for any officer, be elected annually in October.

It is also being suggested that some steps are taken to slim down a very top-heavy committee structure. The Men's Delegates' Meeting, the central body for decision making, has over 190 post-holders entitled to attend for 59 voting club members !

It is of course for clubs to decide these matters and they should be discussed at club management committees who then inform the club delegate who can report back at the next delegates' meeting in July. The issues won't finally be resolved until October or later so we'll use the Newsletter to keep everyone informed.

## Johns Trophy (Ladies)

Gloucestershire ladies performed brilliantly last season to reach the semi-finals of the Johns Trophy and aim to do at least as well in 2018.

To do this the Women's Division have embarked on a player and team development programme with the help of some serious and very experienced national players. Bowls England Director of Coaching, John McGuinness, and England Men's Team Manager, John Rednall with over 30 Years as an England international, will be working with the squad as they prepare for the 2018 campaign.

Good luck to the Ladies. Updates in future editions of the Newsletter.

## GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

Sounds very boring, but one of those bits of Government legislation that no-one can ignore and which comes into force on **25 May 2018**. It replaces the Data Protection Act and deals with the use and security of any personal information held by an organisation. It's aimed really at large commercial organisations who hold huge amounts of your personal data, not just names and personal details but also information about your shopping, viewing and travelling habits to name but a few which they process in different ways. Much in the press at the moment and it explains why those annoying pop-ups and ads in the side bar of Goggle always seem to know what you looked at previously when shopping or holiday hunting. **The GDPR, however, covers all organisations including a small bowls club.**

As far as clubs (and the GBA) are concerned, there are **no major changes**; just an enhanced requirement that a **club keeps your data secure** and has your **specific permission to contact you** and **include your information in a club handbook**. This has always happened in the past quite happily and successfully. Expect to receive a request therefore from your club for confirmation that they can continue to publish information in a handbook and contact you by post, phone and e-mail separately identified. Nothing sinister about it, just formalising current practices that have been carried out for years. Clubs are preparing their GDPR Policy and should be able to let you have a copy if requested. If you don't agree to the contact details, then your club will not be able to send you anything or ring you. Expect to get similar requests from anything that you belong to in the next few weeks.

## DEFINITION OF BOWLS ?

**bowls:** Mysterious and ancient game played by people old enough to know better, using balls carefully designed to go in the wrong direction.



## BOWLS GREENS - A BIT OF HISTORY

We're quite used to the rectangular/square shape of the bowls' green but it hasn't always been like that. The Heythrop Park Resort in Oxfordshire, based around an early 18<sup>th</sup> century county mansion built for the Earl of Shrewsbury, has an example of a circular bowling green, said to be one of only two left in the country. Discovered during a stay, it's a fascinating, if slightly unnerving sight.

Google Earth users can spot it just to the north-east of the main building (try OX7 5UE and follow the line of the front light-coloured path upwards in a NE direction, it's the clearing nesting in the patch of trees which are at the end of the paths). The circular patch directly in front of the house is used as a helipad. How the green was used for play is still being researched, but as our cousins in crown green have no problem playing in all directions on their green, no reason for it not to work.



*As it used to be*

## Future Items

Remember if anyone wants to provide some material for this newsletter, please e-mail me at [glosbowlssec@gmail.com](mailto:glosbowlssec@gmail.com) - David Skeats