

Bowls Development Alliance
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6th June 2022

South Ribble BC

By email (via Fox Lane Sports & Social Club)

Dear Sir/Madam

Fox Lane Sports & Social Club

I refer to the recent applications for funding by Fox Lane Sports & Social Club to the Borough Council, and the consideration of funding for the Club by the Borough Council's Cabinet in the near future. I am writing on behalf of the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) to support the application.

The BDA is a national partnership organisation created by the national governing bodies of bowls to channel Sport England funding into the sport and deliver on the Sport England Strategy – Uniting the Movement.

Following discussions between the BDA, British Crown Green Bowling Assoc and the club itself, the Fox Lane Bowling Club has been selected to be a 'Community Club Hub' for the wider Lancashire area. This is part of our new place-based approach to supporting clubs and volunteers to develop, sustain and grow their presence in their local communities. As the North West Club & Community Development Officer I will be based at the Hub Club for a 8-month period, connecting with local clubs around the hub.

The hubs provide a supportive network for clubs in the area which can learn, develop, and grow in partnership. The Hub programme also allows our team to host face-to-face seminars, courses, and development sessions. Additionally, development officers give advice and guidance to clubs who have received the Club Health Checker report through an online diary booking system. This work will be a driving force in supporting Bowls to become more diverse and inclusive, thus promoting the sustainability of our clubs for the future.

The bid by Fox Lane Sports and Social Club will complement the future work that the BDA will carry out with the bowling club, given that support from the Council could improve the paving around the green, seating and toilet facilities, making the club more accessible to those with a physical disability and more inviting for the wider community. One of the key aspects of the hub club work will be to make the sport more inclusive and diverse and this will help us to reach out to a wider variety of community groups, schools and the health sector and engage them in bowling activity at Fox Lane.

As well as my time at roughly 2 days a week for an 8 month period, the BDA will be investing £500 to be spent at the Hub Club and £500 to support other local clubs. In addition the Hub Club will receive two 'Just Bowl' kits (worth £900) containing colourful bowls and targets to encourage engagement, both at the Hub and within the community. The BDA would very much like to work in partnership with the Council and the Club to develop bowls not just at the Hub Club itself but also within local



schools, community centres and sports halls, and I would welcome a further discussion about this in the near future with relevant officers to develop this engagement work.

I hope that our comments and support for the bid will be useful when you come to determine the application for support.

Yours faithfully

Ian Gill
Club & Community Development Officer (NW)