



Medals, Major Events and More: Board Reflect on Positive Year and Set Course for Exciting 2027

The Bowls England Board met in Royal Leamington Spa on 26 August, with the backdrop of the National Bowls Finals, to review progress across a number of strategic priorities, including preparations for the 2027 World Bowls Championship, the proposed amalgamation with the English Indoor Bowling Association, participation growth and the organisation's financial outlook.

National Finals and Major Events

The Board received updates on the successful delivery of the National Bowls Finals, recognising the continued efforts of volunteers and staff. Attendance and revenues continued to be positive year on year, despite the sports wider funding pressures and increased costs, which reaffirmed the importance of ticket sales.

Feedback was also reviewed from this year's event and opportunities were discussed to further enhance future championships.

Preparations for the 2027 World Bowls Championship continue at pace, with ticket sales, commercial discussions and event planning all progressing positively. Work is continuing to broaden the event's appeal beyond the existing bowls audience as planning intensifies ahead of the Championships. Tickets are available to purchase [here](#).

Celebrating International Success

Congratulations were expressed to Team England on an outstanding performance at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, where the squad secured six medals, including three golds, exceeding performance targets. The Board noted the opportunity to build on this success through promotional activity that showcases the achievements of England's athletes and inspires greater participation in the sport.

Growing Participation and Supporting Clubs

An update on participation activities highlighted that the Bowls' Big Summer campaign did not appear to generate the desired level of club activity compared to historic Bowls' Big Weekends. Whilst there was good engagement on the Play Bowls platform during the Commonwealth Games period, the lack of terrestrial coverage significantly compromised the wider impact of the summer's campaign. Discussions took place regarding future approaches to participation campaigns and how best to support clubs in attracting new players.

The Board also discussed the importance of continuing to communicate the value of affiliation and ensuring clubs have access to practical resources, guidance and support to help them thrive.

Safeguarding and Governance



The positive progress in safeguarding, observing encouraging feedback from the latest assessment process and the significant improvements made across policies, procedures and governance arrangements, was highlighted. Members welcomed the progress made and reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to achieving the highest possible standards in safeguarding.

Alongside this, the Board considered governance matters, including ongoing work to review rules, regulations and organisational risk management as part of its commitment to continuous improvement.

Investing in Future Talent

A detailed presentation on the Athlete Pathway Programme was provided by Pathway and Talent Development Manager, Mark Hoile, outlining plans to strengthen talent development through enhanced links between clubs, counties and regional programmes. The Board welcomed the continued growth of the Club Partnership Programme and the focus on creating clearer pathways and coaching opportunities for the next generation of players, utilising Sport England funding.

Planning for the Year Ahead

The Board approved the 2026/27 Operational Plan and Budget, which sets out key priorities for the year ahead. These include delivering a successful World Bowls Championship, progressing the proposed amalgamation with the EIBA, enhancing services for clubs and continuing to strengthen the organisation's commercial and participation activity.

Progress Towards England Bowls

Members also received an update on the proposed creation of England Bowls. Following discussion on governance, transition planning and future structures, the Board approved the proposed England Bowls Board Designate arrangements, representing another important milestone in the journey towards a unified national governing body for the flat green bowls.

The Board also discussed the importance of continued engagement with clubs, counties and wider stakeholders as plans progress, ensuring the sport remains well-positioned for future growth and long-term success.

More information on the latest updates can be found [here](#).

For the full board minutes, click [here](#).