



PRESS RELEASE
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LOCAL BOWLS CLUB GAINS NATIONAL QUALITY MARK ACCREDITATION

Volunteers at a local bowls club in Northumberland are celebrating after successfully gaining their Club Mark accreditation, a national quality standard for community sports clubs.

The award is all down to the excellent work done by volunteers to make their club more welcoming to new members and to improve how the club is run for its existing members. This accreditation will help to improve coaching and competition opportunities for members, provide better safety and welfare arrangements as well as better advertising and promotion within the local community to attract new members.

The club provides social bowling as well as competing in Bowls Northumberland Leagues, The Northern Leagues, Blyth Valley Vets Leagues, North East Ladies Leagues and English Bowling Federation Leagues. The club currently has over 60 members from the Blyth area and has its home base at the bowling green on Renwick Road, Blyth.

Kevin Wylie from the club's volunteer working group said:

'This club is well known for its friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Gaining Club Mark accreditation will help this club build for the future and ensure the club represents the community in a fair and equitable manner. Anyone wishing to take part in the game of bowls will be made most welcome.

The Management Committee of the club would like to thank all its members for having the courage and foresight to commence the Club Mark process and for having the patience during the process to achieve accreditation, it has been a long journey but now hopefully we will see the fruits of our endeavors.

The club would also like to thank Northumberland Sport for their help and advice as well as David Kirk from Ponteland Bowling Club, Trevor Field from Hexham Elvaston Bowling Club and Mr and Mrs Ging from Cramlington Bowling Club for their advice during the accreditation process.'

The club now has plans to use its hard work in becoming Club Mark accredited to apply for funds to develop its club house facilities.

Lawrie Wise Club Secretary said:

'It's good to have a home venue in such a central location. However, our club house facilities are in dire need of improvements to provide more space and up to date changing facilities for people of all abilities.

Our ideal would be to have a pavilion which would be available to users throughout the year, rather than solely during the six months of the outdoor bowls season.

We aim to build on this success by applying to the Sport Lottery fund and other grant providers for help with our facilities.

Hopefully Club Mark accreditation will demonstrate that we are a hard-working, friendly club with a record of attracting members of the public to lead an active lifestyle through the sport of bowls – the "Sport for All".

Malcolm Moore from Northumberland Sport said:

'Congratulations to Cowpen & Crofton Welfare Bowling Club on gaining Club Mark. Volunteers at the club have done a tremendous job to secure this recognition which is part of a concerted effort by members to sustain and improve their club as part of the local community.

Club Mark is an endorsement of community sports clubs which are friendly, safe and well run. Anyone thinking of visiting or joining an accredited club should be assured of a warm welcome as well as quality playing and coaching opportunities to suit their own level and ability.'

For further information about Club Mark and other support opportunities for local sports clubs in Northumberland, please visit www.northumberlandsport.co.uk or contact Malcolm Moore, Senior Development Manager at Northumberland Sport on 01670 623515.

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