

Membership figures up at Bristol St. Andrews

Almost 100 people took part in Bristol St. Andrews Bowls Club's Taster Session despite the August heat. As a result of the pandemic, a number of bowls clubs in the region have been unable to open to members at all, or are only playing internal matches.

However, thanks to the proactive arrangements taken with regards to COVID 19 safety, the Bristol club has been able to open up areas of the clubhouse and grounds, and following new guidance from Bowls England, were able to host the taster session.

Bristol St. Andrews Bowls

Bristol St Andrews Bowling Club was founded in 1924 and lies at the heart of the community on Derby Road in St Andrews, Bristol. Lawn bowling takes place on our immaculate bowling green between April and October each year and a full range of social events are open to members all year round.

For more information go to: www.bsabowls.co.uk

The afternoon was deemed a great success, with coaching spread-out safely across the green. Club members were on hand to help out and professional coaching and extra equipment was generously provided by members of Olveston Bowls Club and Bristol Arrow Bowls Club.

Secretary Spencer Wintle said: "It was especially welcome to see so many children of all ages coming along and enjoying the sport.

"There were lots of budding bowlers, and the club will be looking to set up juniors coaching as soon as we are able.

"The money made on the day from the popular prize raffle will buy a set of junior bowls, to be kept permanently at the club to support this.

"In these unusual times, the club has seen an increase in the playing membership.

"Not surprising, as bowling is easy to learn, suitable for all fitness levels, takes place outdoors and where it is easy to maintain social distancing.

"It's also sociable, good fun and, judging by the success of our taster session, is something the whole family can enjoy together."

The club's forward-thinking approach means that there are numerous events planned for the next couple of months, including a weekly pairs league on Thursday and Friday evenings, club competitions and friendly matches.

Membership for the rest of the season is at a reduced rate.

SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE

- NHS test and trace sign in on arrival.
- Hand sanitiser point per rink (to wipe bowls and equipment).
- Rink allocation to ensure not too many on green at any one time.
- Rinks 2/4/6 used with 1/3/5 overflow (spread out so starting at opposite end on adjacent rink).
- Closure of main upstairs clubroom, toilets and kitchen and use of plastic glasses only.
- Signage throughout clubhouse, toilets and grounds, one way system also outside.
- Coaching everyone in their support bubbles, groups/families, no splitting up.
- Changing room used as through-way for members only.
- All access doors left open.
- Limited number seated in skittle alley bar.
- Regular cleaning taking place during the event and after.

