

# Youth Development Committee – Progress Report

23rd Feb 2015

Since the previous verbal report given at council meeting, the committee have met, discussed and been working on plans for the upcoming year.

There are 4 main areas identified as a priority for the committee:

## **1. Youth Development Events:**

- A) We held our first ever youth event on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan in Leinster BC. The day was very successful with 16 participants – 5 girls and 11 boys. We utilised some of the former under 25 players to facilitate having a senior bowler as skip on each rink to help and encourage those that had not played before. A two-bowl triples competition was played and the winning team was Shannon Keogh, Megan Northridge & Richie Leonard. We had sponsorship of some prizes for the day, so thank you to those sponsors and also to Richard Kelly for help with event posters and all coaches and volunteers on the day.
- B) Following on from this, the second event was held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb also in Leinster BC at 1.30pm. Once again the event was highly successful, there were 25 participants U25, of which 5 were repeat participants from the previous event, 16 were new bowlers and 4 were current BLI members. 4 girls and 21 boys. A two bowl triples competition was played first with 2 sections - Under 12's and Under 25's. Following on from this, a target game was played with target mats were players scored points individually. They really enjoyed this game and it was very competitive with a three way tie after 4 attempts each. The overall winner of this was Rebecca Heade. The winners of the U25 two bowl triples competition was Shane Leonard, Rebecca Heade & Kevin Daly and the winners of the U12 rink was James Ellis, Olan Kirwan & Conor Boyle. The support from coaches, volunteers and other members was fantastic on the day and is much appreciated. A big thanks also to Leinster BC for allowing us to use their green and facilities.

These events provide an opportunity for those players under the age of 25 to play together and see how the sport has potential in this area. We have received funding from both BLI and LBLI for these events combined with a donation from the All Weather Bowling Association and also an anonymous donor. The goal is to continue running these events as regularly as possible with a view to increasing participation through various avenues such as Facebook promotion, communication with clubs, word of mouth, schools promotion and newspaper article (we've had some interest from the Irish Times but this is TBC and the Herald had a small feature on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Feb on the youth event). We would hope culminate our efforts in this area into a large end of season tournament with several competitions. The BLI and LBLI The continued financial support from both the BLI and LBLI is paramount to continuing these events.

**2. Youth Development Newsletter:** We plan to co-ordinate and publish a quarterly newsletter reporting on all things bowls but specifically focused on youth. This is to include profiling of successful players, news stories from world bowls, photos of current events etc.