

Youth Development Committee – Progress Report

31st March 2015

The committee met Mon 30th March.

The newsletter is the focus in the coming weeks and this will be something will email to all those who have participated in our youth events and also to all clubs and officers. We hope to make this an on-going feature to include player profiles, current news, update on upcoming events. For this particular issue we hope to include a piece on Shane Leonard and his trip to World Junior Bowls in Broadbeach Australia.

We have been in touch with the Features editor in the Irish Times who are interested in doing a feature piece on bowls. We have yet to hear if they plan to focus on youth development within the sport of a simply doing a feature on bowls in general. Either way this will be very beneficial and we are working hard to bring this to fruition.

The date for the next youth event has been set as Sunday 2nd May 2015. We hope to host this in Leinster BC again but will look to run an event on a grass green further into the season and perhaps have a BBQ fun day. More funding will be needed to support these events and we will be in touch with Hon. Treasurer in relation to this. We hope to once again increase numbers for this event and we would urge clubs to promote this with their members and also within their wider sports complexes if applicable.

We were recently trying to get involved with the “Active Schools Week” programme run by Dept of Education and Federation of Irish Sport. Unfortunately we could not get this off the ground as we had no response from clubs in relation to supporting this campaign which is very disappointing. Granted, there was not much activity in clubs up to recently given it is the off season but we will never engage with schools if we can't do it in our "off" season as this is when schools are active. The youth committee simply can't function without the support of the clubs as we have no green or equipment of our own to use. I can't volunteer the services of a club without their permission or involvement. It is definitely something we will put on the agenda to canvas for next year and perhaps we can get one or two clubs on board. The time frame was probably a bit too short this time around.

As always, we are still looking for new members for the committee. If anyone is interested in getting involved please let us know and I would also urge the delegates to put out this notice in their club too.