

EACF – AGM 2025 - Development Officer's Report, February 2025

I will have been in this post for twenty years at the beginning of next season. In some ways, not much has changed over that period. In others, a major shift. My main task remains helping new clubs to get established and supporting ongoing clubs and their members with development, whether that be lawn relaying, introducing irrigation or the building of a new hut.

More recently there have been quite a few Bowls Clubs who have wanted to diversify in order to survive. Mainly this is a successful exercise - as in Much Hadham and Great Gransden. It does rely, as ever, on a core group of people at the club who want it to happen.

At the request of David, the Chair, Ken Knock and I visited Clenchwarton Bowls Club, near King's Lynn this year with Quickset hoops and the rest of the gear for a come and try it session. Four members came along and enjoyed themselves but nothing more has been heard. Without that larger core group I don't think it will take off.

Other new clubs starting up - all in Essex coincidentally - are David and Alison Maugham's All Seasons CC, based at South Ockendon in the summer and indoors at Soham in the winter, West Mersea, based at the Tennis Club there and Old Brentwoods. Let's hope they all get through those tricky early days.

On the equipment side, we have a good supply of standard cast iron hoops, one set of the new Quickset hoops (for shared bowls or tennis lawns), a limited number of sets of balls and clips and some very battered centre pegs. The latter could do with repainting. We could do with some more mallets.

Equipment is currently on loan to Gransden, Much Hadham, Old Brentwoods and St Albans.

Jonathan Toye
February 2025