

Getting children more active - Harlequins Bowls Club

Harlequins Bowls Club wanted to increase their membership numbers, so they came to us for support. They were particularly keen on recruiting new junior members so we suggested engaging with local primary schools. Aberdare Park Primary School is very close to the school, so we contacted them to set up a school-club link. The school were keen to be involved so we arranged for Year 5 and 6 children to visit the club every Wednesday morning, for six weeks.

Club volunteers delivered fun bowls sessions which engaged the children and gave them an opportunity to try a new sport. The children really enjoyed learning new skills and techniques. They liked visiting the club each week to take part in the sessions. They particularly enjoyed the competitive element to the games and working together as a team.

Both the school and the club enjoyed the project and would like it to continue each year. They both hope that this long-term relationship will lead to children joining the club and playing competitively for them in the future.

The equipment for this project was sourced from Cynon Valley Indoor Bowls Centre, as the club did not have any junior equipment. With plans to work further with local schools we supported the club to apply to the Sport Wales Be Active Wales Fund. The club were successful in gaining **£6,589** funding, some of which will allow the club to purchase junior equipment.

"I found the sessions fun and going to the club was special. I looked forward to it each week"

Child "The sessions were very engaging. All pupils were involved and thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. Members of the club were extremely positive, complimentary, kind and patient towards the children."

Teacher

