Men's Section

Benevolent Fund
Charity Registration
215632

This years report is a summary of activity for the Benevolent Fund during 2025. Whilst general cost of living expenses seem to increase almost daily, the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund continue to keep the suggested level of club donations at the same rate, which, in line with The Charity Commission guidelines is £2 for each male bowler affiliated to Bowls Leicestershire. The Fund is administered by the Secretary and Trustees on a purely voluntary basis, keeping expenses to a minimum despite increases in postage etc.

Club donations are the main source of income for the Mens' Benevolent Fund. 2025 saw overall donations from clubs increase by around 15%. However, this included a one-off donation from Melton Town Outdoor Bowls Club of £500, at the closure of their club. Therefore in real terms club donations decreased by around 8%.

Special events and matches held throughout the County contribute a significant amount to the Benevolent Fund. 2025 was on a par with last year, being only £60 light of the previous total. Myself and the Trustees would like to thank those who organised these matches and those who participated. Your support for the Benevolent Fund is not underestimated.

Donations were received from 46 clubs, some 65% of the counties clubs and the same number as last year. 95% of donations came through the Bowls

Leicestershire M.A.T.C.H system, further affirming that this is a simple, easy way for clubs to donate.

As you know, the Benevolent Fund is a Registered Charity and we don't receive funding or donations from any other sources than the Counties bowls clubs and affiliated associations. Therefore, the support of all the bowls clubs within the Leicestershire County, who are affiliated to Bowls Leicestershire, is essential.

This year the Trustees have awarded 100% of the nominations received. However, the number of nomination requests, to date, has fallen by half to the lowest level in the history of the Fund. I find it hard to believe that there have not been deserving individuals who have warranted a sign of support or recognition, but for whatever reason have 'fallen through the net'.

So, please ensure that you forward nominations from your Club to the Fund Secretary at blbenevfundsec@yahoo.com

Please remember that nominations are NOT just at Christmas, we encourage you to submit nominations through the year, as events happen.

The clearer, simplified nomination criteria introduced in 2024, will remain unchanged for 2026.

Nominations are considered/reviewed against the following criteria:

1. Male bowlers who are currently incapacitated and to whom an award would be a sign of their Clubs' support.
   Individuals can be nominated for a maximum of two years in total, in this category.
2. Male bowlers who are no longer able to bowl due to sickness or long term ill health and to whom a cash grant would be helpful as opposed to a gift.
   Individuals can be nominated only once within this category.
3. Widows of full members who have passed away during the current calendar year.

Throughout this year, where possible, we have tried to make awards more personal. This has involved sending a gift rather than the One4All gift card. This has clearly been appreciated, as can be seen from the 'Thank You' cards I have received. So, when making your nominations please include any information about the nominees other interests or hobbies, so that we can select an appropriate gift.

Debra Hardwick
Men's Benevolent Fund Secretary
blbenevfundsec@yahoo.com
www.bowlsleicestershirebenevolentfund.co.uk

Report details correct as at 8th November 2025