



Ringwood Bowling Club Welcomes Ringwood School

On Friday Ringwood Bowling Club welcomed our first students from Ringwood School. There were five students in total, two in wheelchairs and one partially sighted accompanied by three Teaching Assistants and Jonny Owen the P.E. Teacher. It felt like a crowd especially as there were plenty of willing helpers on hand from our club.

As the students arrived, they were welcomed into the clubhouse and given a bowl to handle and observe the different aspects. They were asked what would happen if they rolled it along the ground and were surprised to hear that they turned depending on how you held the bowl. Following a brief health and safety talk, they were excited to get started.

The wheelchairs were left on the side and a chair on a mat (with the Green Keepers approval) was used for one student as standing and bowling was too difficult. Four half rink challenges were set up with various exercises and bells were used for the partially sighted student, with success.

Three of the students showed promise. All were excited and enjoyed the brief visit. They will be returning next week with more students. I think maybe this week was a trial to see if everything worked and that the students enjoyed themselves.

All the coaches felt it was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed working with the students.

Thank you to all the coaches for helping. We need plenty of cover as the students need at least two helpers per exercise.

A few problems do need to be overcome. We need smaller woods or children's woods. The cheapest I can find are Taylor Ace Junior black bowls at £114.95, per set. If anyone knows any one willing to sponsor a set of bowls, please see if they can help and let me know. I think we may already have found a couple of sponsors willing to donate a set of bowls but others are needed.

The other problem was the chair used on the rink. It was too high, and the legs got in the way. A low stool would be better if anyone has something, they think might work please bring it along so we can try it. My daughter is an Occupational Therapist at Bournemouth Hospital and she is going to see if they are willing to lend any suitable equipment.

Debbie Senior