

## **Bowls Development Alliance Volunteer Award for Hampshire BDA**

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August, Sheila Goodwin, Chair of the Hampshire Bowls Development Alliance and a number of other members of the Hampshire BDA group travelled to Leamington Spa to receive their Volunteer Award from Adie Lloyd (President of Bowls England), Rosemary Ellman-Brown (Senior Vice President of Bowls England) and Tony Allcock (Chief Executive of Bowls England and Director of the Bowls Development Alliance). The Volunteer Award was given to Hampshire BDA group as recognition of the extraordinary contribution made by the group and its individual members to the sport of Bowls within Hampshire and beyond. Hampshire BDA were appointed as an Intervention Area during the BDA's 2009-2013 Whole Sport Plan and worked tirelessly to increase membership in Hampshire based clubs (securing over 250 new members aged 55+ between 2011 and March 2013), develop the coaching workforce and guide clubs through the Clubmark accreditation process. Since 2013, the Hampshire BDA's work has continued and numerous Packages have been successfully applied for and delivered across the county, again resulting in many new people entering our sport.

Paul Humphreys, Development Manager of the BDA who also attended the presentation said of the group's work, *"I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that without the work of Sheila and the Hampshire BDA group, the sport of Bowls would be in a far poorer state. The efforts and achievements of the group have been hugely impressive and whilst we probably don't say thank you enough, this award is richly deserved and is our way of recognising and thanking everyone who's contributed to the Hampshire BDA project. All those who have played a part in the success of this group should be justly proud."*

