**New Forest Bowling Association**

**AGM Safeguarding Report**

**January 2024.**

**Dear Members**

As the appointed Safeguarding Officer for the Association my report is often very brief with very little to report? Often I usually reiterate to Clubs that I am here for all clubs of The Association on help and advice in these areas when needed!

Well during the last year that help came into focus after receiving a request from one of our Clubs on a Safeguarding matter. Owing to the sensitivity of the matter I liaised closely with the Club President only and with The Bowls England Safeguarding Team who were there to help and advise. After a tricky few months several important meetings, emails and phone calls, the situation was resolved as to the best way forward? Of course due to confidentiality I am not able to go into details, but suffice to say the matter was kept extremely tight with those involved thus avoiding possible rumours, gossip and the grapevine. We often wonder when we pay our Annual Bowls England fees where does our money go? In this example the Safeguarding Team at Bowls England were excellent both for the Club President concerned and myself with their support and decisions. Their help, professional advice and attention to detail really got us through when trying to find the correct way forward on this particular Case!

To that end it has now become mandatory from January 2025, for all Clubs registered with Bowls England to have an appointed Club Safeguarding Officer within their Club. I am delighted to say that in the NFBA we now have this in place with 8 men and 6 ladies acting in this role at our Clubs? To all Clubs therefore, please be assured if there are any doubts or help needed on Safeguarding Policies (full policies listed below,) then please in the first instance refer to your own nominated Safeguarding Officer? That person will always have help and advice from me within our Association if needed, as well as full back up from Bowls England should that be necessary?

**Safeguarding Policies April 2023 from Bowls England.**

**Child Safeguarding Policy.**

**Adult Safeguarding Policy.**

**Anti-Bullying Policy.**

**Discipline and Misconduct Regulations.**

**Whistle Blowing Policy.**

**My full contact details are within the NFBA Directory and happy to help!**

**John Howell**