

Minutes of a meeting of the Competition Committee with the Section Competitions Secretaries held at Exeter Golf Club on Thursday 5th October 2017.

In attendance:

Competitions Committee Members: David Butterworth, Kay Page, Sue Trott, Edgar Melliush, David Counter & Charlotte Sliney.

Section Competition Secretaries/Representatives: Ciss Jones (Section 1), Rosemarie Mayne & Richard Evans (Section 2), Liz Healy & Brian Baker (Section 3), Margaret Langlands & Joan Martin (Section 4), Margaret Jones & David Mercer (Section 5), Beryl Leach & Derek Griffin (Section 6), Sharon Parnell & Paul Chudley (Section 7), Vicky Hingston & Martin Hobbs (Section 8).

1. **Apologies were received from:** Maureen Robertson, Ron Cook, John Kelly & Richard Needham.
2. **From Competitions Committee meeting 2nd August.** Complaints received during the 2017 season that the last 16 rounds of competitions had not worked out as well as envisaged by the Competitions Committee.
 - i. The last 16 the distance between the clubs having to play out of section can be unacceptable.
 - ii. The competitors in example above find it difficult to arrive by the deadline of 6.15 pm.
 - iii. Not all competitors have abided by the rules regarding choosing rinks for play. Many players have arrived at a green where the challenger has chosen the rink in advance. This is in contradiction of the "Laws of the Sport of Bowls".
 - iv. There has been the usual difficulty in getting all players to agree dates – given the busy diaries we all have.

The meeting was informed that the Competitions Committee had **unanimously agreed that the last 16 of MAJOR play would revert** to being under their control and will be put in place for the 2018 season.

3. **From Competitions Committee meeting 2nd August - Ladies Competition Play 2018.**

Kay Page, as Administrator for the ladies had studied the Bowls England calendar for 2018 and taking into account the Bowls Devon date of Monday 18th June (Week 25), as being the last day Section play (for ladies) there was only one weekend (Week 26) free from Bowls England commitments. The weekends of 25, 27, 28, 29 had been allocated by Bowls England to the playing of Johns/Walker/Ladies Junior International Series/Junior International Squad Days. The names of the qualifiers to Leamington have to be received by Bowls England by Monday 23rd July at the latest. This therefore left no other alternative but to allocate evening play for the last 16 onwards in certain disciplines. It was stated that the ladies would not be in agreement and that entry numbers would probably decrease yet again. The suggestion was then made to arrange a meeting between the Competitions Committee and the Section Secretaries to seek their opinion, **hence this meeting.**
4. **Ladies Competition Play 2019.** A lengthy discussion took place as to how the situation could possibly be eased for the 2019 season. The method by which other large Counties deal with similar problems was voiced by some members but this usually involved the County being in control of all rounds of competitions. There was concern that this wouldn't suit all sections in our particular County as this would remove some of their autonomy. It was voiced that from a ladies point of view, it is a concern that many of our membership are not being acknowledged as being competitive just because they are not part of a "younger/working group". Some members see the Bowls England directive Rule No 50 clause 1.2., which refers to the weekend/evening play as being biased. It was pointed out that not everybody works 9.00 – 5.00 so evening play isn't suitable for all.
5. **Staggered Finishing Dates.** The removal of last day section play was discussed with the aim to introduce staggered finishing dates for each discipline. At this point it was acknowledged that the

Men are happy enough with the existing method of play but there was no objection to the ladies doing their own thing if it suited their diary better.

6. There was also a discussion on whether the sections were perhaps uneven in the number of entries received. This would impact on the time allowed for staggered finishing dates. **It was asked if this could be brought to the attention of the Executive Officers.**
7. A complication to the above discussion had come about because of a recent email from Bowls England Administrator, Tony Allcock, in which the following was stated:-

REMINDER: All County Championships leading to National Championships shall be played either on weekdays in the evenings with a start time no earlier than 6pm or at weekends. For weekday games an earlier start may be arranged by mutual agreement between competitors, but in the absence of mutual agreement the start time of no earlier than 6pm will be adhered to.

It is appreciated that many women bowlers prefer to play in the daytime but we all have a responsibility to demonstrate a duty of care to all of our members. Bowls England fully appreciates however, that common sense must prevail and that the wishes of the majority should also be taken into consideration.

Whilst the above Regulation is the one approved by County Associations and must be adhered to for the 2018 season, this is a subject that will be tabled on the agenda for discussion at the forthcoming Counties Meeting to enable open dialogue to take place among attendees.

It was agreed to leave any further discussion regarding competition play until the outcome of the above was known. In the meantime the Section Competition Secretaries were asked to think about play for 2019 should the status quo prevail.

8. **Grace Mathews Top Club.** It was asked if a latest start time could be introduced into the Grace Mathews Top Club. At the Q/F stage of the Grace Mathews the date allocated is during late August each year and it is impossible to complete a Fours match in daylight if the time to play was agreed as 6.00pm. The Competitions Committee agreed to look into the query before the beginning of the 2018 season.
9. **More information on website.** David Butterworth would like to see more information available to competitors on the website with the view to reduce the need for the Ladies and Men's Administrators to constantly be contacting players in the last 8 round of Minors to advise them of their next opponent. It was suggested that after the competitors name being entered on the website as the winner of that section the telephone number is included. The consent of competitors would need to be obtained. It was hoped that in the very near future the Bowls Devon website would be sufficiently updated to allow this action to be taken.

10. Bowls England Rule Regulation No.50 clause 1.9:

"Each entry shall be made by one named person only, and that player shall be excluded from being a substitute in the same discipline. Should the named entrant in a County Championship event be unable to participate from the outset in the Championship due to exceptional circumstances, the team may request the use of an additional player if required (in addition to the original players that formed the team in the first match). Such a request must be made in writing to Bowls England via the County Association for consideration"

The meeting discussed the implications the above would have for the Competitions Secretaries together with the difficulties within the clubs of collecting the monies. A lengthy discussion took place and although both sides of the argument was appreciated the meeting was not in agreement in changing the Counties standard procedure BUT they were sympathetic to the needs of smaller clubs, particularly when no other replacement/substitute could be found. It was however stated that in a few instances the above clause could be subject to abuse. It was generally agreed that there could be room for an amendment to our Rules and the Competitions Committee agreed to look into the matter for the 2019 season at the same time being

aware of not causing difficulty to either the Competitions Secretaries or the clubs in keeping track of competitors/entries.

11. Walkovers. From Competitions Committee meeting 2nd August. A query regarding walkovers and points had been received and the meeting was advised that this had been discussed at the meeting of 2nd August and there was no intention of amending the ruling regarding walkovers. Schedule 7 clause 1.8.2 paragraph 3 & 1.8.3 paragraph 3 to remain. The meeting was advised of this decision.

12. Coronation Cup. From Competitions Committee meeting 2nd August. A request that the Coronation Cup be played between sections on a play by date was agreed with the proviso that the **Men's match secretary** allocate a date on which it **must** be played if no earlier date is agreed.

13. Amendment to Schedules 5. From Competitions Committee meeting 2nd August.

Amendment to Schedule 5

Clause 1.4 - Over 55 Fours to be referred to as *Senior Fours* in line with Bowls England.

Clause 2.5b Over 55 Fours, wording to be amended to read:-

2.5b *Senior Fours* (Four players from the same club)

Each game shall consist of 21 ends – two bowls each player. The Championship shall be open to all Members of Clubs affiliated to Bowls England who have attained their **55th Birthday** on 1st April in the year of the Championship.

14. Amendment to Schedule 6. From Competitions Committee meeting 2nd August.

Clause 1.2a The following

Amend to read *Senior Fours*

Amend Appendix to read *Senior Fours* (Both Men & Ladies)

15. Amendment to Schedule 7 clause 10.2: (Penultimate sentence)

“One and the same male and/or one and the same female player may be used as a substitute at any time, providing that they have not already played or entered the Competition”.

For clarification purposes to be amended to read: “A Maximum of one male and one female player may be used as a substitute providing that he/she has not already entered the competition”.

16. Any Other Business. It was a concern that Section Secretaries were receiving unsolicited emails from various organisations. The probability was that this occurrence was as a result of email addresses being printed in the Bowls England diary and therefore open to the advertisers within that publication. It was asked if this problem could be addressed to Bowls England.

In closing the meeting it was suggested that this forum could be used in future years as a way of consolidating ideas.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.