

Bowls Devon

Affiliated to Bowls England



Notes from Sections Competitions Secretaries meeting Thursday 4th October 2018 7.00pm at Exeter Golf and Country Club. To be read in conjunction with Minutes from the Competitions meeting of 3rd September 2018.

Present: Competitions Committee members: David Butterworth (Men's Administrator, Kay Page (Ladies Administrator), Edgar Melliush (Match Secretary (Men)), Charlotte Sliney, David Counter, Margaret Jones, Harry Riley (All members of the Competitions Committee).

Section Competitions Secretaries: Leonie and Martin Rowe (Section 1), Liz Healy and Ron Cook (Section 3), Margaret Langlands (Section 4), David Mercer (Section 5), Beryl Leach and Derek Griffin (Section 6), Gill Lawson and John Kelly (Section 7), Vicky Hingston and Richard Needham (section 8). Also in attendance as an observer was Anita Lamey (Section 4 Secretary).

- 1. Apologies:** Sue Trott (Match Secretary (Ladies)), Maureen Robertson (Section 2 Ladies Competitions Secretary)
- 2. Championship Competitions:**
The Sections confirmed they run their Major and Minor competitions in tandem and that priority is given to Major competitions to ensure they are completed by the deadline set.
- 3. RECOMMENDATION: Proposed by David Butterworth – Seconded by David Counter County Trophy/Foxlands/Men's Top Club:**
Rounds 16/8 to be allocated play-on dates. The competitions can be played before the date but if no agreement is reached the play-on date will be the date of play.
- 4. County Trophy: Schedule 5 Rule 9.1**
The Competitions rules are set out in Schedule 5 Rule 9.1. It is open to one entry of 16 players from each affiliated club and Sections put forward two qualifiers.

All Sections have a minimum of 10 clubs that have the required number of players varying from 10 clubs in Section 3 to 16 clubs in Section 6.

Of the 101 clubs with the required number, only 67 had entered the 2018 competition as follows:-

Section 1 (14 clubs, 13 of which have 16 or more members) - 11 entries
Section 2 (11 clubs, 10 of which have 16 or more members) - 7 entries
Section 3 (10 clubs, all of which have 16 or more members) - 7 entries
Section 4 (12 clubs, 10 of which have 16 or more members) - 7 entries
Section 5 (14 clubs, 13 of which have 16 or more members) - 4 entries

Section 6 (16 clubs, all of which have 16 or more members) - 11 entries
Section 7 (13 clubs, 12 of which have 16 or more members) - 12 entries
Section 8 (11 clubs, all of which have 16 or more members) - 8 entries

Is it unreasonable to expect 75% of a Sections clubs to enter the competition?

If this had been applied in 2018 only Sections 1 & 7 would have met the criteria and been allocated two qualifiers.

The Competitions committee's recommendation is that the **above proportional representation criteria is used from 2019** and those sections having less than 75% of their member clubs entering the County Trophy be restricted to one qualifier winning through to the final stages. Those with 75% & above will continue to be entitled to two qualifiers. If the recommendation is accepted by the Executive Committee the rewording of Schedule 5 Rule 9.1 paragraph 2 will be required.

RECOMMENDATION: Proposed by Harry Riley – seconded by Martin Rowe

That the criteria as set out above be accepted for implementation in the 2019 competition.

5. Unfinished competitions:

David Butterworth as the Men's Administrator explained how the weather had adversely affected the completion of some of the Minor competitions not only last year but this season also. It was explained to the meeting how the complications had arisen this season and were asked if they would support the Men's Administrator in his recommendation that unfinished competitions should be played the following season.

(Extract from Competitions minutes 6th February 2018) Some players from the clubs involved had changed clubs during the closed season and it was asked if those players could still play for their old club (if selected). After deliberation it was agreed that a player who had been an affiliated member of a club involved in the S/F or Final during the 2017 season could still play for that club, as it was deemed to be an unfinished 2017 competition. It was also agreed that any player who had now joined one of the four clubs involved BUT had played for another club in a County Trophy match in 2017 could not play for their new club.

David Mercer (Section 5) proposed that the ruling made to cover the unfinished 2016 County Trophy be adopted and that play in the outstanding competitions in 2018 be arranged for early in the 2019 season. This was duly seconded and the **RECOMMENDATION** approved.

Every effort will be made to re-schedule any unfinished competition within the same season.

If items 3 and 4 are approved by the Executive Committee it is felt this will ease the problems surrounding adverse weather conditions/limited time to complete Minor competitions.

6. Competitions entries:

It was emphasised to the Section Competitions Secretaries/Treasurers that competition entry forms should be scrutinised to ensure that the entrants are affiliated to the club from which they are intending to play their competitions. It was noted that Bowls England Regulation Appendix A – *Affiliation fees – Note c) states Bowlers need to be affiliated to Bowls England (via their Clubs/Counties) during the closed season to be eligible to enter National Championships/Competitions. As the entries are required before 31st January*

annually by Bowls England, they need to be members of a Club – who have paid County and Bowls England Affiliation Fees on their behalf for that Bowls England Members Year.

After discussion the Section Competitions Secretaries agreed to check their entries to ensure the above is adhered to.

It was also agreed that the section draw should not take place until confirmation of affiliation had been received.

7. Interclub:

A request that the Interclub be amended to be played as a 1 rink home and 1 rink away competition. This is to be taken back to the clubs for discussion. If any change in the present conditions of play is called for this will not come into effect until 2020.

8. Draw for Rinks:

It was RECOMMENDED that the following Bowls England recommendation be added to Bowls Devon Schedule 5 Rule 6

In a match requiring one rink then a minimum of two rinks shall be offered to the opponent, for a match requiring more than one rink the minimum of rinks offered should be at least equal to the number of rinks required.

If approved this will apply to all competitions. If only one rink available then the challenger should explain the situation to their opponent in order for them to select another date if desired.

9. Withdrawal from Major/Minor Competitions at last 16/8:

Entrants who fail to complete the competition entered under Schedule 5 Rules 1.5 and 6.2. If the reason given for non-appearance was not acceptable the Ladies/Men's Administrator the member/s would advise the defaulters of their exclusion from the same competition in the following season with notification being sent to the Section Competitions Secretary.

10. County Points:

It was asked if an amendment to the present system of County Points was desired. The Sections Competitions Secretaries having spoken to many of their section members were happy about the present arrangement and do not want the system to be amended. **The recommendation to amend the County Points system was therefore withdrawn.**

11. County Trophies:

It was often the case that the winners/runners-up did not want to take the Trophies away with them and the subject of storage is an ongoing problem.

- (i) The Competitions Committee had suggested that the existing "metal" Trophies be replaced over a period of 3 years with glass Trophies. This would need the approval of the Finance Committee.
- (ii) Is just being presented with the metal badge enough?
- (iii) There was also a recommendation that the Ladies Trophies be reduced to one per competition to fall in line with the Men's Trophies. This would make it easier should the decision be to present the Trophy on the day the final is played.
- (iv) The question then arose about the County Luncheon? If no Trophies, what then?

It was suggested that these questions should be referred to the clubs to get a feel of what they would like and the results would be relayed to the incoming Competitions Committee.

12. Jubilee Trophy:

Concerns were raised that only one Q/F was played in 2018. The Ladies Administrator confirmed that she had spoken to the offending Sections and suggested a way forward for them to ensure they are able to field 4 rinks for the 2019 season.

13. Minor Competitions last 8:

A suggestion from Section 6 that the Q/F if ladies minor competitions be played on a neutral green is to be referred to the incoming Competitions Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.