

Bowls Devon

Affiliated to Bowls England



Competitions Committee meeting at Topsham B.C. on Tuesday 6th February, 2018

Present: David Butterworth, Edgar Melluish, Sue Trott, Charlotte Sliney, David Counter, Margaret Jones, Harry Riley, Kay Page.

1. Full attendance – no apologies.

2. Minutes of meeting 5th October 2017 with Section Competitions Secretaries.

The minutes had earlier been distributed and approved by the Executive Committee meeting of 25th October 2017.

3. Matters Arising from above minutes.

a. The schedule referred to in **Item 15** should have been Schedule 5 clause 10.1 (Penultimate sentence). This will be pointed out at the next Executive meeting in April.

b. **Item 8** Grace Mathews Top Club. As requested the feasibility of introducing a latest starting time for the Grace Mathews competition was discussed. It was the general feeling of the committee that any decision on a start time should be at the discretion of the club/section competitions secretary involved. Sportsmanship and common sense must prevail. If a start time cannot be mutually agreed the Ladies Administrator should be consulted.

4. Interclub.

There had been a request from Kings that the competitions committee look again at the calendar to see if the Interclub could be played at a weekend. It was unanimously agreed that the existing arrangement, whereby all Ladies Club Team events are played on a Wednesday, suited the majority of entrants and the committee would not be looking at any change in this procedure.

5. County Points – Schedule 7

It was agreed that a look at the existing arrangement for the awarding of the County Badge was long overdue.

One of the qualifications for the County Badge is through the Points system -

“Men and ladies shall operate to the same system, and the target shall be to achieve 30 points to qualify for a County Badge. In addition to achieving the 30 points the member must have reached and played in the Round of 16 of a Major Competition (or any Preliminary Round due to Proportional Representation), or the last eight of a Minor Competition.”

Section Competition Secretaries are asked to award points to winners of each round up to and including the Round of 16 (or any Preliminary Round due to Proportional Representation) in Major Competitions and last eight in Minor Competitions, ensuring that records are kept of points awarded to all members in their Section. Points once earned shall be retained in perpetuity. Each year up to date records are sent to the Ladies and Men's Administrator.

From the Round of 16 (Major Competitions) and last 8 (Minor Competitions) points are then awarded by the two administrators to winners of each further round.

Ladies:

Section 6 has the most clubs (16) and in 2017 had the largest number of bowlers. The Section also has more competitors than any other Section in 2018. **With more matches to be played, it is, therefore, easier for bowlers in the Section to accumulate County points than in any of the other Sections.**

Men:

Section 6 also had the largest number of bowlers in 2017. However, Section 1 has more competitors in 2018 from two less clubs. **Section 1 bowlers, therefore, have the advantage when accumulating County points.**

When it comes to the play offs (last 16/last 8), however, all Sections are able to put forward the same number of entries as a result of Section play. **This is to the disadvantage of the bowlers of Sections with the most entries and benefits the bowlers in the Sections with many less entries.**

It can be seen therefore, that the present criteria is not a fair one, yet it causes an enormous amount of work for Section Competition Secretaries and officers. Indeed there are two sections (2 & 7) who have not submitted the Section points gained by their male members in 2017.

Conclusion:

It is right that members should have to achieve their County badge. The points total can easily be reached in the larger Sections and it is an achievement for competitors to reach the playoffs, even in the smaller Sections, but the unfairness overall should not mean the award of a County Badge. The achievement is in reaching the playoffs, but perhaps the qualification for a County Badge should be to play in the playoffs and **win** their first match?

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Competitions Committee that from 2019 the system whereby points are accumulated through section play be discontinued. The one and only criteria (under Schedule 7), for the awarding of a County Badge is to win through from **section play to the last 16/8 and win the first round.**

The Executive Committee is, therefore, asked to consider replacing the present points system as follows:

"A member must reach the playoffs and win his/her first match in order to qualify for a County Badge".

We do realise that this will have an impact on members who under the existing rules have reached the qualification stage but have not gained the required 30 points to be awarded the County Badge. However if the new ruling is introduced in 2019 those members should not be disadvantaged as they will have the 2018 season to gain the required number of points.

We see this as an improvement on the present arrangements. The new ruling if introduced will be straight forward and easy to understand.

6. County Trophy – Schedule 5 Rule 9.1

At the Officers Meeting held on the 5th January 2018, the officers discussed the number of entries received for the County Trophy and, through the Men's Administrator, asked that the Competitions Committee consider whether it was appropriate for all Sections to be allocated two qualifiers.

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 have 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 have been allocated two qualifiers.

The Committee has been asked to consider this matter and make a recommendation in due course.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Competitions committee's recommendation is that the above 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.

7. County Trophy 2017 S/F & Final.

The S/F & Final of the 2017 County Trophy was unable to be completed during the 2017 season due to inclement weather. The four teams involved are Shaldon, Torbay Country, Kings & Newton Abbot with the matches due to be played on Sunday 29th April. A question of who was eligible to play had been raised. There is no ruling regarding this unfortunate

event and the Competitions Committee is unanimous in that they would not want to disadvantage any club who had won through thus far.

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 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 B was to contact all four clubs involved to let them know the findings of the Competitions Committee.

8. It was agreed that the meeting with the Section Competitions Secretaries in 2017 was a success and a similar meeting will be arranged for 2018.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 12.40pm.