

## Middleton Cup Message 2024

It is that time of year when we start thinking about the planning for the forthcoming outdoor season and the 2024 campaign for the Middleton Cup and other Senior Men's Team competitions. We go again this year with the goal of winning the Middleton Cup, with great ' Team Spirit ', 'Enjoyment ' on the green, a little bit of luck I am sure we will be successful, but whatever the outcome keeping the above philosophy will stand us in good stead.

The year will follow the same path as last; the Middleton Cup is the same group with reverse fixtures of Cambs, Northants, Hunts & Beds. So, 4 group games and a qualifier. Whilst it would be beneficial to nominate for all games, I will **not** insist on it as a criteria for selection.

The Eastern Counties remains the same despite many rumours of Cambs dropping out. We will use the 4 ECL games prior to the Middleton cup as trials, these games are competitive and played under the same format as the Middleton Cup. Please nominate for a minimum of **2** [preferably 1 home, 1 away] of these games to be considered for the Middleton Cup. There will be no post-game food at any matches bar the ECL Suffolk game.

Home games at Royston, the bar is now cashless, but tea/coffee & bacon rolls will still take cash.

One change for this year is the introduction of **Maroon** below the waist, having seen many Hertfordshire Bowlers in Maroon at Leamington it was proposed and agreed at the recent AGM to adopt this colour below the waist for MC/BT & ECL.

It was also asked if we could change the start time of the Middleton Cup matches to free up the evening for social time or more bowls. We have managed to secure three 11am starts, against Hunts, Beds and Northants, Cambs will remain 2pm.

As such I invite anybody and everybody to put their names forward for Middleton Cup, Balcomb Trophy and Eastern Counties League. If you are a competitive bowler and relish the challenge of intense Team bowls at the highest level the County has to offer then please fill out the nomination form and return to the email below, closing date for nominations **31st March.**

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If you have any questions or just want a chat, feel free to ring or WhatsApp me  
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