

Following the recent announcements from BE regarding Return to Play below are decisions from Eastern Counties and Hertfordshire Executive Committee:

Eastern Counties League Update (ECL)

The result from the questionnaire sent out was:

- 3 counties were in favour of option 2 - rearrange games that cannot be played in May,
- 2 counties were in favour of option 1 - play triples,
- 1 county was in favour of option 3 - no play this season, and
- 1 county didn't want to make a decision until further guidance from Bowls England.

Since then 5 counties have dropped out of the ECL for 2021 citing various reasons but the most prominent is finding alternative dates. This being the case there will not be an Eastern Counties League in 2021.

Exec Meeting Wednesday March 31st

It was decided that Hertfordshire will cancel all county friendlies up until the 21st of June 2021. We will also cancel all Presidents' games up until the 21st of June but will endeavour to rearrange some of the more significant games later in the season.

I will be sending an updated Presidents Match Nomination Form once some of the matches are re-arranged.

All County Club competitions ie; Men & Women's County League, Championship 3x4s and Men's Top Ten will continue to be played in the **NORMAL** format and not the **CommonWealth Games** format.

National Championship competitions ie; Singles, Pairs, Triples & Fours and Top Club for Women & Men will be played in the **CWG Format**:

- Singles - no change 21 shots 4 bowls
- 2 Wood singles - 21 ends
- Pairs - 3 bowls 18 ends
- Triples - 2 bowls 18 ends
- Fours/Snr Fours - 2 bowls 15 ends.

Middleton Cup & John's Trophy

The Middleton Cup or John's Trophy competition this year is planned to be 6 Rinks 21 Ends Knockout commencing on 3rd July and Finals on 11/12 September. The timetable can be downloaded from the website or was within the BE or my email on 25th March. We have received a questionnaire from Bowls England asking us if we wished to enter a team in the competitions and whether we wished to have an open England draw or a regional draw. Both managers voted to enter a team and went for a regional draw. The questionnaire has to be returned by the 6th of April in time to evaluate a competition draw for week commencing the 12th of April.

Phil Clewes-Garner states: as Middleton Cup manager it was always my intention for 2021 to try and follow last year's idea of picking 6 skips who will then pick their own rinks. As we now have no possibility of any Eastern County League games and have also lost our Middleton Cup trial against Essex I will endeavour to arrange two or three games to be played between the 6 rinks (24 players) making a competition out of it on either Saturdays or Sundays prior to our first game. As these games would be "organised games" they would fit in with Bowls England return to play guidance.

300 Club

Attached is a form from Mavis Hendry encouraging more participation in the 300 Club (*you have to be in it to win it!*) that will give support to our Junior programme - 50% of money raised supports the Juniors and 50% returned as prize money. Last year's numbered shares have been rolled over to this year.

Other:

I've received an email from Whitehead Bowls, a bowls company in Somerset offering various benefits from purchasing online or at their shop. If any Club or player is interested I'll forward the whole email.

I am receiving various questions from clubs and will try to answer as soon as I can. Where possible look at BE FAQs (sent on 25th March) as the answer may be within.

Finally - Please reply with "Received" to the individual email sent to each club secretary regarding Affiliation as at 1st May.

Thank you for your attention and Kind regards

Marcia Dunstone

Executive Secretary Hertfordshire Bowls

07957 637975

01442 462159 (new # from 18th Mar 21)