



Bowls Isle of Wight

Member of Bowls England

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Chairperson Norman Lockwood Esq.

Monday, 08 February 2010

To All Club Secretaries

Formation of a mixed League.

Dear Colleague,

Discussions have been taking place at the County Officers meetings with a view to exploring the possibility of forming a mixed league on the Island as a step further in the unification process, in particular in 2011 when we have only one County President.

It is recognised that the Island for some considerable years to come will need to have single gender leagues as National Championships and Competitions will remain as single gender events.

In order to prepare the way forward to arrive at a mixed league it is essential to know that a large majority of the members actually want to play mixed matches at the moment or in fact at all, to this end we would ask that you bring this letter to the notice of all your members and during the coming season discuss the following thoughts with your committees and at your Club meetings with all the members to ascertain their views.

It is not the intention of the officers to impose anything on the clubs that the majority of members do not want nor is it the intention of the officers to withhold something that the majority may want because of our own personal views.

A number of ideas have been discussed regarding the formation of a mixed league and the officers have asked that I put them to you together with the comments from their discussions.

Firstly it was thought to start the process that each mixed club would be asked to enter 1 team of 4 mixed rinks each club and the single gender clubs would join with a single opposite gender club to form a team for this league only. This would make 12 or 13 teams.

When to play these games was the major problem and originally the idea of ending the men's afternoon league and the women's third division in order to play on midweek afternoons and obtain green space was discounted as it was felt that not only would it bar a large number of members who



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work or are in education from playing, but also in reverse, a large amount of the members who play midweek afternoons would be woefully short of the opportunity to play at all.

We next discussed the possibility of playing during the evenings, the disadvantages of this are pretty evident, the latter part of the months of May and the whole of June are already full of County competitions not to mention early rounds of club two rink games, Top club, over 55's etc. Once we reach the 8th /10th August the nights are drawing in and light would be a problem unless games started early which again would bar the workers and students, this then leaves few available dates.

We finally discussed the possibility of playing these games on Sunday mornings and this seemed to be the favoured time scale, certainly with Tourist games and your own commitments on Sundays plus a league game in the morning could well mean having a full day's programme and playing more than once but it was felt that this would not happen too often and steps could always be taken to work around the problems.

If in fact each team played each other only once and taking out the weeks of both National finals and any clashes with established tournaments most weeks of the season would be required to complete this league. Together with the current league programmes it obviously makes for a full commitment, some members want more bowling, others less, so please ensure you have the views of all your members not just the club officers.

These are the ideas the officers have discussed and you may have some ideas of your own in complete contrast or themes on the ones mentioned. Such as rules, scoring, etc. Do we have a fixed number or a minimum number of each gender in the teams, what about it being a triples league would that help the smaller clubs? Please let me know or speak to the gender secretaries Tony and Val.

If in fact the establishment of a mixed league goes ahead, it would obviously not start until season 2011, but if in fact any club would like to have a friendly with another club to try it out, please do so. Myself, Tony or Val would all be pleased to help.

Having given you all something to think about, continue to winter well, don't forget the executive meeting on the 23rd February at Plessey 7.00pm. I look forward to seeing you all then.

With best wishes,

Jean
Administrator Bowls IOW.



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