



Competitions Review

Counties Update: 20 December 2023



Introduction

- Insight-led recommendations presented to Board and Counties in November
- Objective today to provide update and further detail following feedback received
- Will provide overview of recommendations during session for those who may not have been at Counties session
- No perfect solution



Objectives



- To have a competition structure that is valued by players and retains them in our sport
- To stimulate opportunities for participation among those who may not otherwise play
- To support international performance by providing an optimal environment to prepare players
- To support our performance pathway by stretching and inspiring our most talented players
- To elevate the Aviva National Finals in the minds of all bowlers



Strategic Direction





| Blue Riband | Performance |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singles • Pairs • Triples • Fours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balcomb Trophy • Walker Cup • White Rose Trophy • Amy Rose Bowl • Junior Singles (u17 and u24) • Junior Pairs (u24) |
| Participation | Team Spirit |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed Pairs • Mixed Fours • Family Pairs • Senior Singles and Pairs (o65) • Senior Fours (o55) • Novice Pairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middleton Cup • Johns Trophy • Mixed Inter-County (o65) • Club Two Fours (Open) • Top Club (New-format) • Tony Allcock Trophy • Champion of Champions |




Recommendations: Blue Riband with comment

1. To elevate Blue Riband events at the National Finals – **SUPPORTED**
2. To retain current formats in all rounds of Blue Riband events – **SUPPORTED**
3. To retain current National Finals qualifier numbers in Blue Riband events – **GENERALLY SUPPORTED**
4. To remove the Two-Bowl Singles Championship from the programme – **SOME COUNTIES WANTED TO RETAIN**

Two-Bowl Singles

1. Reason for recommendation
 - Least-valued of Championship events by players
 - 39% of Player Survey respondents = least valued; Women entries down 32% over past 10 years; No British Isles
 - Organisation of county rounds problematic
 - Last-minute withdrawals; Same audience as other Blue Riband events
 - National finals
 - Marker/umpire and schedule challenges; Significant potential for clashes and green space requirements; Long distance to travel for 45 minute game
2. Counties feedback
 - Concern re: loss of income for counties and BE
 - Finance not a principle for decision-making BUT entry/financial forecasts predict that lost income will be covered within the wider changes – national marketing; wider participation – as competitions grow
 - Performance/skill
 - Performance Team feedback is that other events will be used for Talent ID
3. Bowls England – position unchanged

DISCUSS



Recommendations: Performance with comment



1. To elevate top-level county competition consistent with world level - **SUPPORTED**
 - Balcomb Trophy/Walker Cup/White Rose Trophy/Amy Rose Bowls
 - World formats; Intensity of matches; Multiple matches
2. To create multi-county regional events – **SUPPORTED; DETAIL TO FOLLOW**
 - Weekend events
 - Performance Team/Selectors in attendance for Talent ID discussion – replace county nomination/trials
 - Broadcast and commercial opportunities regionally
 - Raises profile of host clubs and generates income
 - Creates additional capacity during season by focussing all events on singles weekend



Recommendations: Performance with comment



3. Players and Formats - **SUPPORTED**
 - Balcomb Trophy & Walker Cup – 10 players per county; playing four disciplines
 - White Rose Trophy & Amy Rose Bowl – 5 players per county playing four disciplines (maximum of two entries per county; 48 nationally)
 - × No Senior Internationals in White Rose Trophy and Amy Rose Bowl
4. To standardise the age in all junior events to under 24 for both genders – **SUPPORTED**
 - White Rose and Amy Rose
 - Junior Singles and Junior Pairs
5. To introduce an under 17 singles event for both genders in line with British Isles - **SUPPORTED**

WALKER CUP & BALCOMB TROPHY

| Group A | Group B |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Cornwall | Dorset |
| Devon | Gloucestershire |
| Herefordshire | Somerset |
| Warwickshire | Wiltshire |
| | Worcestershire |

| | | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|----------|----------|----------------|---------|-----------------|----------|---------|--------------|-----------------|---------|----------------|-------------|
| | | 930 | | | 1200 | | | 1430 | | | 1700 | | |
| Green A | 1 | Singles | Cornwall | Warwickshire | Pairs | Gloucestershire | Somerset | Triples | Warwickshire | Herefordshire | Fours | Devon | Cornwall |
| | 2 | Pairs | Cornwall | Warwickshire | Triples | Gloucestershire | Somerset | Fours | Warwickshire | Herefordshire | Singles | Devon | Cornwall |
| | 3 | Triples | Cornwall | Warwickshire | Fours | Gloucestershire | Somerset | Singles | Warwickshire | Herefordshire | Pairs | Devon | Cornwall |
| | 4 | Fours | Cornwall | Warwickshire | Singles | Gloucestershire | Somerset | Pairs | Warwickshire | Herefordshire | Triples | Devon | Cornwall |
| | 5 | Singles | Somerset | Worcestershire | Pairs | Worcestershire | Dorset | Triples | Oxfordshire | Gloucestershire | Fours | Dorset | Somerset |
| | 6 | Pairs | Somerset | Worcestershire | Triples | Worcestershire | Dorset | Fours | Oxfordshire | Gloucestershire | Singles | Dorset | Somerset |
| Green B | 1 | Triples | Somerset | Worcestershire | Fours | Worcestershire | Dorset | Singles | Oxfordshire | Gloucestershire | Pairs | Dorset | Somerset |
| | 2 | Fours | Somerset | Worcestershire | Singles | Worcestershire | Dorset | Pairs | Oxfordshire | Gloucestershire | Triples | Dorset | Somerset |
| | 3 | Singles | Dorset | Oxfordshire | Pairs | Herefordshire | Devon | Triples | | | Fours | Worcestershire | Oxfordshire |
| | 4 | Pairs | Dorset | Oxfordshire | Triples | Herefordshire | Devon | Fours | | | Singles | Worcestershire | Oxfordshire |
| | 5 | Triples | Dorset | Oxfordshire | Fours | Herefordshire | Devon | Singles | | | Pairs | Worcestershire | Oxfordshire |
| | 6 | Fours | Dorset | Oxfordshire | Singles | Herefordshire | Devon | Pairs | | | Triples | Worcestershire | Oxfordshire |

| | | Sunday | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|----------|-----------------|---------|----------------|-----------------|---------|----------------|----------------|--|--|--|
| | | 930 | | | 1200 | | | 1430 | | | | | |
| Green A | 1 | Singles | Cornwall | Herefordshire | Pairs | Devon | Warwickshire | Triples | Winner Group A | Winner Group B | | | |
| | 2 | Pairs | Cornwall | Herefordshire | Triples | Devon | Warwickshire | Fours | Winner Group A | Winner Group B | | | |
| | 3 | Triples | Cornwall | Herefordshire | Fours | Devon | Warwickshire | Singles | Winner Group A | Winner Group B | | | |
| | 4 | Fours | Cornwall | Herefordshire | Singles | Devon | Warwickshire | Pairs | Winner Group A | Winner Group B | | | |
| | 5 | Singles | Somerset | Oxfordshire | Pairs | Worcestershire | Gloucestershire | Triples | | | | | |
| | 6 | Pairs | Somerset | Oxfordshire | Triples | Worcestershire | Gloucestershire | Fours | | | | | |
| Green B | 1 | Triples | Somerset | Oxfordshire | Fours | Worcestershire | Gloucestershire | Singles | | | | | |
| | 2 | Fours | Somerset | Oxfordshire | Singles | Worcestershire | Gloucestershire | Pairs | | | | | |
| | 3 | Singles | Dorset | Gloucestershire | Pairs | Worcestershire | Gloucestershire | Triples | | | | | |
| | 4 | Pairs | Dorset | Gloucestershire | Triples | Worcestershire | Gloucestershire | Fours | | | | | |
| | 5 | Triples | Dorset | Gloucestershire | Fours | Worcestershire | Gloucestershire | Singles | | | | | |
| | 6 | Fours | Dorset | Gloucestershire | Singles | Worcestershire | Gloucestershire | Pairs | | | | | |

WALKER CUP & BALCOMB TROPHY - RESULTS SUMMARY

| Group A | Group B |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Cornwall | Dorset |
| Devon | Gloucestershire |
| Herefordshire | Somerset |
| Warwickshire | Wiltshire |
| | Worcestershire |

Example - Match result

| | | Points | Shots | Shots | Points | |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| Singles | Cornwall | 2 | 21 | 15 | 0 | Devon |
| Pairs | Cornwall | 0 | 6 | 23 | 2 | Devon |
| Triples | Cornwall | 1 | 20 | 20 | 1 | Devon |
| Fours | Cornwall | 2 | 15 | 12 | 0 | Devon |
| Match Score Aggregate | Cornwall | 0 | 62 | 70 | 2 | Devon |
| Total Points | Cornwall | 5 | -8 | 8 | 5 | Devon |

Example - Summary of Results

| | | Points | Shots | Shots | Points | |
|---------|---------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Match 1 | Cornwall | 8 | 80 | 55 | 2 | Warwickshire |
| Match 2 | Herefordshire | 6 | 75 | 65 | 4 | Devon |
| Match 3 | Warwickshire | 7 | 70 | 54 | 3 | Herefordshire |
| Match 4 | Cornwall | 5 | 62 | 70 | 5 | Devon |
| Match 5 | Cornwall | 9 | 93 | 65 | 1 | Herefordshire |
| Match 6 | Devon | 6 | 72 | 70 | 4 | Warwickshire |

Example - Group Table

| Group A | Played | Points | Shots For | Shots Against | Difference |
|---------------|--------|--------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| Cornwall | 3 | 22 | 235 | 190 | 45 |
| Devon | 3 | 15 | 207 | 207 | 0 |
| Warwickshire | 3 | 13 | 195 | 206 | -11 |
| Herefordshire | 3 | 10 | 194 | 228 | -34 |

Qualifier to National Finals - Cornwall



Amy Rose/White Rose - Proposal

| |
|-------|
| Team |
| ONE |
| TWO |
| THREE |
| FOUR |
| FIVE |
| SIX |

| Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|-------|------|---------|-------|------|---------|-------|------|---------|-------|------|---------|-----|-------|---------|-----|-------|
| | 930 | | | 1100 | | | 1230 | | | 1400 | | | 1530 | | | 1700 | | |
| 1 | Pairs | ONE | TWO | Singles | ONE | TWO | Triples | THREE | FOUR | Fours | THREE | FOUR | Pairs | SIX | FOUR | Singles | SIX | FOUR |
| 2 | Pairs | THREE | SIX | Singles | THREE | SIX | Triples | SIX | ONE | Fours | SIX | ONE | Triples | TWO | THREE | Singles | TWO | THREE |
| 3 | Pairs | FOUR | FIVE | Singles | FOUR | FIVE | Triples | TWO | FIVE | Fours | TWO | FIVE | Pairs | ONE | FIVE | Singles | ONE | FIVE |
| 4 | Triples | ONE | TWO | Fours | ONE | TWO | Pairs | THREE | FOUR | Singles | THREE | FOUR | Triples | SIX | FOUR | Fours | SIX | FOUR |
| 5 | Triples | THREE | SIX | Fours | THREE | SIX | Pairs | SIX | ONE | Singles | SIX | ONE | Pairs | TWO | THREE | Fours | TWO | THREE |
| 6 | Triples | FOUR | FIVE | Fours | FOUR | FIVE | Pairs | TWO | FIVE | Singles | TWO | FIVE | Triples | ONE | FIVE | Fours | ONE | FIVE |

| Sunday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---------|------|-------|---------|------|-------|---------|------|-------|---------|------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 930 | | | 1100 | | | 1230 | | | 1400 | | | 1530 | | | 1700 | | |
| 1 | Pairs | FOUR | ONE | Singles | FOUR | ONE | Triples | FIVE | SIX | Fours | FIVE | SIX | Pairs | Group A | Group B | Singles | Group A | Group B |
| 2 | Pairs | FIVE | THREE | Singles | FIVE | THREE | Triples | ONE | THREE | Fours | ONE | THREE | Triples | Group A | Group B | Fours | Group A | Group B |
| 3 | Pairs | SIX | TWO | Singles | SIX | TWO | Triples | FOUR | TWO | Fours | FOUR | TWO | | | | | | |
| 4 | Triples | FOUR | ONE | Fours | FOUR | ONE | Pairs | FIVE | SIX | Singles | FIVE | SIX | | | | | | |
| 5 | Triples | FIVE | THREE | Fours | FIVE | THREE | Pairs | ONE | THREE | Singles | ONE | THREE | | | | | | |
| 6 | Triples | SIX | TWO | Fours | SIX | TWO | Pairs | FOUR | TWO | Singles | FOUR | TWO | | | | | | |

10 'games' per team minimum across two days - each 'match' circa one hour

Formats:

- Singles – Three sets of 5 ends (World Bowls CoC)
- Pairs – Two sets of 5 ends; three bowls
- Triples – Two sets of 5 ends; two bowls
- Fours – 8 ends

AMY ROSE & WHITE ROSE - RESULTS SUMMARY

Example - Match result

| | | Points | Sets | Total Shots | Total Shots | Sets | Points | |
|-----------------------|-----|--------|------|-------------|-------------|------|--------|-----|
| Singles | ONE | 2 | 2 | 15 | 7 | 1 | 0 | TWO |
| Pairs | ONE | 1 | 1 | 10 | 12 | 1 | 1 | TWO |
| Triples | ONE | 2 | 2 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 | TWO |
| Fours | ONE | 1 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 1 | TWO |
| Match Score Aggregate | ONE | 2 | N/A | 46 | 33 | N/A | 0 | TWO |
| Total Points | ONE | 8 | 6 | N/A | N/A | 3 | 2 | TWO |

Example - Summary of Results (for two rounds only)

| | | Points | Sets | Shots | Shots | Sets | Points | |
|---------|-------|--------|------|-------|-------|------|--------|------|
| Match 1 | ONE | 8 | 6 | 46 | 33 | 3 | 2 | TWO |
| Match 2 | THREE | 6 | 5 | 35 | 40 | 4 | 4 | SIX |
| Match 3 | FOUR | 7 | 2 | 25 | 45 | 7 | 3 | FIVE |
| Match 4 | THREE | 5 | 4 | 36 | 36 | 5 | 5 | FOUR |
| Match 5 | SIX | 9 | 8 | 65 | 14 | 1 | 1 | ONE |
| Match 6 | TWO | 6 | 3 | 34 | 40 | 6 | 4 | FIVE |

Example - Group Table (after two rounds)

| Group A | Played | Points | Sets | Shots For | Shots Against | Difference |
|---------|--------|--------|------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| ONE | 2 | 9 | 7 | 60 | 98 | -38 |
| TWO | 2 | 8 | 6 | 67 | 86 | -19 |
| THREE | 2 | 11 | 9 | 71 | 76 | -5 |
| FOUR | 2 | 12 | 7 | 61 | 81 | -20 |
| FIVE | 2 | 7 | 13 | 85 | 59 | 26 |
| SIX | 2 | 13 | 12 | 105 | 49 | 56 |

DISCUSS




Recommendations: Team Spirit with comment

- To retain Middleton Cup and Johns Trophy - **SUPPORTED**
 - Counties preference was for Round Robin or KO with plate to guarantee two games minimum; sample draw produced
- To introduce a Mixed Over 65 Inter-County event – **GENERALLY SUPPORTED**
 - Counties concerned re: midweek friendlies
- To revamp the Top Club event – **MIXED**
 - MIX OF opinion
- To amend the Club Two Fours to an 'Open' event – **MILDLY SUPPORTED**
- To restrict entry in the Champion of Champions to 'Club Champions ONLY' – **WIDELY SUPPORTED**




Top Club

- Reason for recommendation
 - Increasing dominance of 'super-clubs'
 - Entry levels in women's event down 26% in last 10 years - 3 counties with no entries in 2023
 - Lack of engagement not healthy for grassroots/clubs
- Counties feedback
 - Mix of opinion
 - More opportunity for smaller clubs
 - Women in particular not keen on current singles discipline
 - Proposed format potentially more difficult to integrate new players
 - Set dates don't work
- Bowls England – Position unchanged but with removal of set dates in early rounds based on feedback

DISCUSS



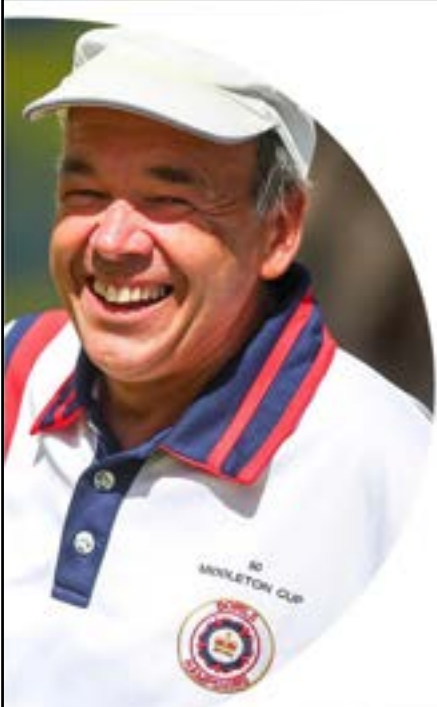


Recommendations: Participation

- To increase the age limit for all senior events (excluding Senior Fours) to Over 65 and permit daytime play in all these events – **MILDLY SUPPORTED**
 - Counties worried about losing players 55-65 age group
 - Further consideration of naming (masters/seniors)
- To introduce 'Novice Pairs' for new/less experienced players – **SUPPORTED**
 - Proposed – One player 'not badged' i.e. not played at national finals; one player no more than three years' playing experience (both could be less than three year's experience)
- To restrict international players from participating in the Family Pairs – **MIXED**
 - Counties marginally in favour of removal in entirety; Bowls England agrees given range of other options in programme




Recommendations: Competition Management

- To consolidate administration for the benefit of players and administrators – **PRINCIPLE SUPPORTED; DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION WORK GIVEN COMPLEX COUNTY SYSTEMS**
 - Single point of entry; National sales window to facilitate integrated marketing at national and local level
 - Consistent Bowls England entry fee for all players – consistent county top-up not currently workable
 - Maximise use of technology in managing competitions – either through central system or linking existing systems
 - National programme of events
- Counties to continue to manage current Championship events - **SUPPORTED**
- To introduce set dates in some national events - **MIXED**

Implementation

| DATE | ACTION |
|-------------------|--|
| January 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bowls England Board |
| February 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGM Assemble implementation group including county representatives |
| March 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to wider membership |
| April-August 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 National finals schedule finalised 2025 Programme of Events finalised Competition Regulations revised Brand and marketing campaign developed |
| August 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entries open – All counties |
| Spring 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entries close – All counties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeline to be agreed in consultation with counties |
| Summer 2025? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single point of entry for National Championships |