

BOWLS DURHAM
GENERAL CIRCULAR 3/2016

Dear Secretary,

(A) Membership Returns

You will recall that in accordance with the Rules of Bowls England and that of the Association it a requirement for all Club Secretaries to forward to their County Secretary, a list of the names of all affiliated members on 1st October each year.

As a result of the above the Executive Committee of the County requests that all clubs be asked to provide the Association with a list of affiliated members as at 30th September 2016.

Can you therefore supply a list of your membership by 31st October 2016.

This should be sent along with your affiliation and championship entries to the County Treasurer whose details are shown in paragraph (C) below.

Please note that we do not require addresses as the list will be used for no other purposes than to record membership numbers and compare it with the list of entries into County Championships each year, and nominations for the County Teams.

In this connection I also draw your attention to the Paragraph (C) below regarding the County Championships for 2017 and the Rules and Regulations governing the submission of entries and management of the Competitions.

(B) Club Subscriptions

As you are aware the Bowls England and Bowls Durham Membership Fees for 2016 were set at £5.00 and £3.00 per affiliated member, respectively.

Bowls England have undertaken a review of the financial position of the organisation including the payment of affiliation fees and have decided that the affiliation fee of £5.00 for both male and female members will remain the same for 2017.

The Executive Committee of Bowls Durham has undertaken a review of the proposed financial structure for both men and women of Bowls Durham for 2016/17 and have decided that it too will keep the subscription levels at the existing levels. The level of fees is as follows.

Membership Fee for Bowls England - £5.00 per member
County Membership Fee - £3.00 per member.

In addition the County Year Book will once again be produced for distribution free of charge to all Clubs in 2017, as well as being included in the County Website.

(C) County Championships 2017

So far as the Women's County Championships are concerned the Women's Assistant County Secretary will be contacting clubs regarding next year's competitions..

Regarding the Men's Competitions enclosed for your use, for those of you receiving this by hard copy, are two copies of the entry form and contact sheet for next year's County Championships. One copy of the form, bearing the entrants signature and a copy of the contact sheet should be kept by the Club Secretary for record purposes.

The second copy, together with a completed contact sheet, printed in **BLOCK** capitals and including post codes should be sent with the entry fees to reach the **County Treasurer, Mr S.Crowe, 3 Ridley Drive, Norton, Stockton on Tees TS20 1HE to reach him not later than 31st October 2016. (Tel: 01642 534139)**

So far as the operation of the First Stage of the County Championships are concerned the Management Committee has undertaken a review of the current areas in operation .

As you know this initial stage was run on the current 6 District Areas with each District being apportioned a number of entries into the Second Stage based upon their entries.

It has now been decided that whilst the current 6 Districts will remain for administrative purposes for the foreseeable future the County Championships will, with effect from 2017, operate on the basis of 4 County Championship Areas with the First Stage being run by District Secretaries leading as normal to the apportionment of entries into the Second Stage. It is felt that this will lead to a more balanced and equitable championship scenario and change the position whereby some competitors have an easier route to the Second Stage than others.

To achieve this it will mean clubs being re-allocated to new areas and details of such allocations are attached for your information.

As some current Districts also operate their First Stage on fixed dates the District Secretaries are also looking to do this in the new Areas to bring equality to the process.

To assist entrants in the County Championships I also attach a Calendar and Fixed Dates Schedule which details all the information competitors need on where and when the Second Stage of the County Championships will be held. and also the dates of the various National Championship Competitions at Leamington Spa.

Can you also note that entries received after the closing date may not be valid. An entry which does not comply will be returned to the Club(s) for alteration explanation and resubmission.

Players should be reminded that they should not let their names be submitted for more than one club in any one year and that the qualifying date for entrance into the Championships is that they are members of an entrant club as at 30th September 2016.

The level of fees for National Championship are £2.50 per player and with the County proportion set at 75p this makes all National Entry fees £3.25 per player.

It should be noted that the County's element is not used for the general running of the County Association or the Championships but is used solely towards supporting the expenses incurred by the County's representatives at the national championships along with grants received for the purpose by Bowls England.

In this connection you will note that in line with the information sent to Clubs earlier this year the format of the National Championships for both Men and Women have been amended to provide for the introduction of a Senior Men's Fours, Senior Women's Fours and Junior Men's Pairs Championships the County Winners of which will represent the County at the National Championships at Leamington Spa. The Entry Forms have been amended to reflect this change and the entry fees are the same as the other championship competitions

(D) Annual Luncheon and Presentation of Prizes

The Annual Luncheon will be held this year at the Whitworth Hall Hotel, on Sunday 13th November 2016 at 12 noon.

The County has moved to this new venue because it provides much better parking facilities and we are being offered a table de hote menu with six choices of each of the three courses available which can be chosen on the day

Tickets priced at £25.00 are available from District Secretaries in late September/early October. All members of the County Teams are urged to support this event, as well as Affiliated Clubs.

(E) Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Bowls Durham will be held at Houghton Dairy Lane Club on Tuesday 15th November 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

Notices of Motion for consideration by the Meeting should be received by me not later than 12th October 2016.

(F) Change of Club Secretaries

Where appropriate, outgoing and/or incoming club Secretaries, are reminded of the need to inform me of the change, in order that communications are addressed to the proper person. Addresses should include post codes and telephone numbers.

Yours sincerely

**F Johnson
Honorary Secretary**

1st August 2016