

BOWLS DURHAM

CIRCULAR1/2014

Dear Secretary,

This Circular is being sent to all Men's, Women's and Mixed Clubs in the County as it contains information that is generic to all and some which are Gender specific and which requires attention.

Men's County Nominations

Nominations are invited to represent the Men's County in the 2014 season. On behalf of the County can I urge you to seek the nomination of players to represent the County?

Club Secretaries are asked to ensure the Nominee's names are listed on the enclosed nomination form stating preferred playing position. There is an obligation to all players to play in each game for which they are selected. If nominees are unavailable for any of the games, the dates of which are shown below, it is important that this is shown on the nomination form. Secretaries are asked to clarify this with the nominees before completion.

18th 24th and 31st May, 7th 14th 21st and 28th June, 5th and 19th July

Secretarial Changes

If you are no longer the Club Secretary please pass this Circular onto the new Secretary. The new Secretary should inform me immediately of name and address (including post code) and telephone number and where applicable e-mail address

Communication with Club Secretaries

As part of a move to improve communications between the County Association and Club Secretaries, as well assisting the finances of the Organisation it is proposed, wherever possible, to communicate with Clubs via e-mail.

There is an e-mail contact group of Secretaries and / or officials for the distribution of information to Club and County Officers. If you have these facilities can you please let me have your e-mail address for inclusion in my contact group. You can send it to me either by post or at f.johnson23@ntlworld.com

Tournament Licences

Since the establishment of Bowls England the Tournament Licence Forms have been updated.

Therefore can you please note that there is still a requirement under Bowls England Regulations to have a Tournament Licence and the following changes and requirements have to be met.

Although there will no longer be a requirement to return details of prize money and/or rewards, any Club applying for a Licence will be required to inform Bowls England at the time of application for a Licence of their Civil Liability Insurance Policy Number and Name of Insurer, and Policy expiry date.

There will also be information on the reverse of the Form about Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults. I must stress the importance of these requirements being met and in place in view of the risk that Club Officials and Committees put themselves at so far as any claims that are made are concerned, particularly if no insurance is in place. If you have any concerns in this area please contact me or the Civic and Public Liability Officer at Bowls England.

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Clubs are reminded of their duties and requirements in this connection as outlined in previous correspondence from Bowls England. Please ensure that you are aware of your duties and if in doubt contact me. I also wish to advise you that there is currently a vacancy for the post of County Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Officer. Anyone interested in carrying out the job can contact me for further details.

Bowls England and Bowls Durham Official Year Books

Clubs are reminded that the Bowls England Official Year Book 2014 will be available in April, and the County has placed its order with Bowls England. If you have not already ordered your club's copy (ies) please let me have your requirements as soon as possible. The Bowls Durham Year Books are currently being prepared and will also be sent to Clubs in April.

Club Development and Support

I draw your attention to the support that can be obtained from Bowls England to enable Clubs to benefit financially from various bodies in the County and also by becoming a Community Aided Sports Club (CASC). If you wish to look into this matter please visit the Bowls England Website or contact the Bowls England Development Officer Alistair Hollis at Bowls England Headquarters.

Bowls England News

You will have received information from Bowls England via their Newsletter but I set out below some relevant headlines for your information. Bowls England has moved Headquarters and the Men's Championships from Worthing to Leamington Spa. Competitors Travelling Expenses to the National Championships are to be revised with effect from 2014. Subject to approval by the Executive Committee and at the AGM there is to be no increase in affiliation fees for 2014/2015.

New Articles of Association and Rules and Regulations for Bowls England will come into force at the end of February and Bowls England will send copies to all Clubs. They can also be seen on the Bowls England Website.

It is imperative that you study the implications of them so far as your Club is concerned particularly those relating to (i) Safeguarding,

(ii) Membership, (iii) Affiliation Fees etc, (iv) Vulnerable Adults (v) Disciplinary Issues, (vi) Civil Liability Issues, and (vii) Performing Rights and the use of Music. Those relating to (ii) (v) and (vi) are particularly important. If you have any issues you wish to discuss so far as these matters are concerned please contact me

A new Model Constitution for Clubs is being prepared for distribution to Clubs.

Bowls Durham Website

May I remind you that should you wish to contact me or the Women's Secretary Gill Jones via e.mail please use our personal e.mail addresses and not that of the Website.

Finally may I on behalf of Bowls Durham wish you a successful season in 2014 and if I can help on any of the above issues please let me know.

Yours Faithfully

General Secretary - 6th January 2014