

## Inter-Area Competition – Walter Cross Memorial Trophy

(with effect from 2018 season)

### County Aims

- to promote keen and competitive TEAM matches between Areas.
- to provide a window of opportunity for players of immediate and potential promise.
- to bring such players to the attention of the Middleton Cup Team Manager.

### Areas' Aims

- to provide a higher standard of bowling within each Area.
- to encourage, through competition, individual club bowlers towards a higher level of individual and TEAM achievement.

### Rules

1. The competition shall be called the *Walter Cross Memorial Trophy*, and will be carried out in accordance with the Laws of the Sports of Bowls.
2. The competition will be contested by teams of six rinks from each of the four Surrey Areas, all of whose players shall be members of affiliated clubs in those areas. Each Area team will contain
  - a. no more than six current Middleton Cup players, but only **ONE** such player may play in each rink. ('current' means *the last Surrey County Middleton Cup game played*)
  - b. at least six **UNBADGED** bowlers. Bowlers who have qualified for their Surrey County Badges in a previous season but have not yet been presented with them will be considered **BADGED** bowlers
3. A player may only play for the Area out of which he plays his Surrey Competitions.
4. All matches will be played on the Sundays mornings of fixed BE Week Numbers **27, 29 and 33** (9.30 am start), and will aim to avoid Senior and Junior Representative matches.
5. The Combined Areas will conduct the Draw bi-annually at their Autumn meeting. The Draw will ensure corresponding Home fixtures are played Away, and Away fixtures are played at Home, over the two-year period.
6. An Umpire – preferably a qualified Umpire – will be appointed by the Home Area Committee.
7. In the event of adverse weather conditions, the Umpire, in consultation with the Host Club Officials, may decide the green is not playable. If the game has not started, the points will be divided equally and 50 shots awarded to each Area. If a total of 60 ends or more have been played, the actual score at the time of the termination will be taken as the result.
8. If one or two players are absent from an Area Team, one or two rinks will play three players with eight bowls (Lead and Two to play with 3 Bowls) and concede 25% of the relevant rink(s) score(s).
9. If more than two players are absent from an Area Team, the defaulting Area will be deemed to have failed to fulfil the match and para 10 will be brought into effect.
10. In the event of a team failing to fulfil any match in a season, it will be disqualified from the competition for that year. ALL of its points will be expunged from the record and the Area will be placed last in the competition, which will then be competed for by the remaining three Areas.
  - a. if one match in the series has already been played, the result of the fixture involving the defaulting Area will be annulled.
  - b. if two matches have been played and an Area defaults for the final game in the series, its scheduled opponents will receive the average points and shots gained by the other Areas in matches against the defaulting Area
11. An extra end must be played whatever the result (see 13(b) below). The Home side will nominate a Four to play the extra end **BEFORE** the rinks are drawn. Should the game be abandoned and it is not possible to play the extra end, the result of the extra end will be determined by the toss of coin.
12. The method of scoring will follow that for the Middleton Cup; **TEN** points for a Team win; **FIVE** for a Team draw; **TWO** points for each winning rink; **ONE** point for each drawn rink.
13. The Area gaining the greatest number of points will be awarded the *Walter Cross Memorial Trophy*.
  - a. in the event that two or more Areas are equal in points, the one having the best aggregate (shots up) will decide the winner.
  - b. should two Areas be equal in points and "shots up", the winner will be determined by the result of the match between them. If that match had ended in a tie, the result of the extra end will decide the winner.
14. Within 48 hours, both Areas will send a copy of the County result sheet to the Assistant County Secretary who is in charge of the competition. The Home Area will also notify the County Webmaster with a breakdown of the result for inclusion in the County website.
15. The County Assistant Secretary, being Chairman of the Combined Areas, will have the final decision in any matter arising from these rules and his decision will be final and binding.