

AFFILIATION CHANGES

Dear Secretary,

You will, we hope, have received the latest Bowls England (BE) statement issued August 6th "**Membership, National Championships and National Competitions 2021**" (See attached) about the changes regarding competition entries, affiliation and club officers. This followed concern that clubs would not be able to provide membership information by September 30th this year. As a result, they consulted with 12 counties and revised the affiliation date to May 1st annually. This, in itself is not a problem, however we must ensure that players who enter County competitions are affiliated by January 31st enabling the draw to take place in March and all arrangements in place by the start of the season.

The BE message appears somewhat confusing and indeed one or two clubs have already asked a number of questions. When looking at the instructions it seems that club secretaries have to put together three lots of data at different times which is not overly helpful to send to the County for onward transmission. This not only creates more work for clubs but also for the County.

Bowls Surrey have decided that the sensible way forward is to continue in the same way as we currently operate with clubs putting their own information onto the Affiliation system together with their officers and club contacts and all relevant competitions at one time as we have done in the past.

The benefit to the clubs following this change will be that the information will not be required by Surrey until 31 January annually. The Administrator will then be able to supply BE with all the club officers and contacts on 1 February. It will also give the County time to ensure that all entrants to competitions are affiliated to both the County and Bowls England.

The downside is that, in past, affiliations have been based on those who were members as at 30th September i.e. season just ended. Bowls England now require the names of those who are going to be members in the coming season. We understand that for some clubs it will mean bringing their registration day forward to meet the January 31st deadline and we are sorry we have had to place this burden upon you.

National competitions run by Bowls England e.g., Top Club, Tony Allcock Mixed Double Rink, Men's Double Rink, and National Champion of Champions, **are entered by the Clubs** and must now be registered with Bowls England by 1 March (instead of 1 February).

National Over 55 Singles and Pairs, Family Pairs, Mixed Pairs and Fours **are entered by individual competitors** and they must be registered with Bowls England by 1 March; it is therefore important that you make sure your club members are aware of this change of date for entries.

We have spoken to one or two counties who are not changing the way they operate except the final deadline will now be 31 January 2021. As this is a two-month extension it is extremely important that clubs do stick to this date. As a county we will not be able to guarantee anyone's affiliation after that date and certainly in the case of competitions if a person is not affiliated, they **will not be eligible** to enter any competitions.

We hope this clarifies the position for you. Should you have any further queries regarding the above, please contact any of the following: -

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Yours sincerely

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Bowls Surrey Administrator