



Hertfordshire Bowls

A Member of Bowls England

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Middleton Cup and Eastern Counties Update.

It may seem, as though, not much is going on behind the scenes but I can assure we have had more exec meetings than normal over the last couple of months and the 2021 Match programme has had more versions than usual and I am sure it is not finished yet.

The Middleton Cup is in the hands of Bowls England who will be making an announcement on March 22nd regarding the competitions. They, and Sport England have been in discussions with DCMS (Digital, Culture, Media & Sport) and will announce on March 29th guidelines for the return to play after the government announcement. The feeling is that the Middleton Cup will go ahead but the start will be delayed and it may become a knockout competition.

I have written to the Eastern Counties suggesting a few options for a way forward. Given that Hertfordshire have 4 games in May it is important we have a final solution sooner rather than later. The letter has been converted into a voting form (with only 3 of the options) and sent to all Eastern Counties representatives.

- 1.** For games already scheduled in May, play 3 triples home and away starting at 10.30 am. For the remainder of the season play as normal providing covid-19 restrictions have ended. If not continue with triples home and away.
 - This would mean the away county having to find a venue at short notice prepared to host the 3 triples.
 - No food before or after the game unless Covid-19 restrictions are eased later in the season
 - No speeches after the game unless Covid-19 restrictions are eased later in the season
 - Players attend ready to play in greys so changing facilities are eliminated (whilst restrictions exist then revert to whites as normal)
- 2.** Rearrange all the games due to be played in May so that they are played between July and the end of the season. This would allow the usual format to be played but would mean finding additional venues.
- 3.** Not to play any Eastern County League fixtures this season (not recommended)

All Eastern Counties representatives have been requested to vote for one of the options and respond by the 20th of March.

Hertfordshire have voted for option 2

I will post the final results on the website and then, if the answer is positive, send out nomination forms to all interested parties including everyone from last year.

Best regards,

Phil Clewes-Garner.



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