

News release – Tuesday 5th December 2017

Note to County Administrators: Please circulate widely

NEW FORMAT ANNOUNCED FOR 2018 SUTTON WINSON TOURNAMENT

Bowls England is delighted to announce an exciting new format for the 2018 Sutton Winson Tournament.

The event is open to members of affiliated Bowls England clubs who have not attained their 18th birthday by April 1st 2018 and will take place in its entirety over the weekend of Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th August 2018.

Launched in 2014, the Sutton Winson Tournament is a development initiative that offers youngsters the opportunity to gain experience by competing on the Championship greens at Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa, during the Bowls England National Championships.

Players will now be split into groups of three and play each other in that group on a round-robin basis.

The group winner will proceed through to the knockout stages of the Sutton Winson Trophy, whilst those finishing second and third in their group will team-up as a pair to compete in the Sutton Winson Plate.

The new format means that all players will now be guaranteed to play at least three matches.

Bowls England Chief Executive Tony Allcock MBE said: “The Sutton Winson Tournament has grown from strength to strength since its inaugural event in 2014 and is now one of the key dates on our Youth Development calendar. We are delighted that Sutton Winson Insurance Brokers and Risk Managers has continued to support the event and we thank them for this. Several players who have participated in previous years have now gone on to attain international honours at various age group levels, and we are delighted that Kieran Rollings, who won the Sutton Winson Plate in 2015, has been selected to represent England at next year’s Commonwealth Games.”

Rollings, from Kettering Lodge BC, Northamptonshire, said: “The Sutton Winson Tournament is a fantastic opportunity for the younger players within our sport to gain experience of playing on the greens at Victoria Park with and against new people. I really enjoyed the opportunity to be paired up with someone that you might not know and they may be from a completely different area of the country. From playing in the Sutton Winson Tournament I have built up new friendships with people from other counties, feel that I have gained lots of experience and developed many new skills. I see my victory in the Sutton Winson Plate in 2015 with Anna Hall (Kent) as the turning point in my career because I was then selected to play in my first international match for Disability Bowls England.”

Neil Hobbs, Account Manager at Sutton Winson Insurance Brokers and Risk Managers, said: “We are delighted and honoured to support the Sutton Winson Tournament. For bowls to continue and prosper we recognise the importance that youth development brings and is a big factor in encouraging the next generation of bowlers. To see previous participants of the tournament come through the ranks and attain international honours really is an excellent achievement. We are

immensely proud to be associated with this great competition and wish all youth bowlers the very best in achieving their full potential”.

Entry into the 2018 Sutton Winson Tournament is just £5 and is limited to 96 places on a first come first served basis. It is a condition of entry that each player must either mark or supply a marker for one round-robin match. To enter, visit <https://bowlsengland.247.tv>