**COMPETITIONS 2025**

Dear Club Secretaries,

We would like to let you know of our thoughts for next year and ask for your **feedback by the** **end of July, please.**

1. We are being promised Bowls England dates by August, which will smooth out many problems. The fine details of the new competition formats are not known at this stage.
2. Finals date is likely to be moved back a week to the week-end of 2nd or 3rd of August, allowing competitions to start later. I would apologise for the early start with the Bowls England competitions this year, perhaps we took the wrong decision taken in December, although nobody mentioned it then.
3. Bishop Stortford provide excellent facilities and we hope that this probable change of date isn't a problem for them. We do want to hear from any other club that feels it can host this and any other events. Requirements are a good green, ample parking and comprehensive catering throughout the day.
4. The County will not be entering a team in the new mixed over 60's County competition, which is in line with the majority of those replying to the questionnaire sent out before the Bowls England AGM.
5. The 2025 Women's tour date is likely to be from Sunday 22nd June for 5 nights.
6. We would like to make the Club Championship an open event. Some clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to field 12 men and this would also allow our women to enter another competition. They have far fewer opportunities than the men to play in competitive team matches and this can only enhance the County's chances in qualifying for Leamington.
7. Due to the ever decreasing number of entries from the North in this competition it is proposed that changes will be made and that a North/East and South/West draw would replace the current draw.
8. We intend to stick to a similar format for 2025, with competitions being played in turn, but with a later start.

I am hopeful of completing an early **competitions schedule**, which will help clubs and other organisations plan their season. Arrangements for the County matches and friendlies takes much longer and will not be produced at the same time.

Thank you for your time

Martin Duke