

KENT COUNTY BOWLING ASSOCIATION PLANS FOR 2020 SEASON IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Further to the announcement sent out by Bowls England.

A discussion/electronic meeting of the Unified Management Committee took place today to decide the actions we now need to implement to ensure the safety of our members under our duty of care. We would refer you to the response by Bowls England and agree with the measures they are taking.

We have made the following decisions:

1. All County matches are cancelled for the 2020 season. This decision has been made due to the amount of work involved by clubs to host these events; we cannot wait until the last minute as this would be unfair on both clubs and the players involved.
2. All County face to face meetings are postponed until further notice, we intend to use the technology available to remain in touch and keep things running as best we can.
3. All Executive Officers Presidents, Senior Vice, and Junior Vice Presidents elected for 2020 will, depending on their willingness and ability to do so, continue in office for 2021.
4. All County Competitions are cancelled as these are the preliminary rounds of the National Competition/Championships.
5. The return of all competition entry fees will be a heavy financial burden as the cost to our business account will incur charges both for payments made by Bacs and cheques. We, therefore, propose that this money will be held as payment for the 2021 competitions and only be repaid on request less the cost of bank charges. It should be noted that the cost of entries for 2021 will increase to £3.00 per player, this increase will not be incurred by those with money held from this year.
6. Bowls England are returning all affiliation fees, these will be held and paid to Bowls England at the end of this year for next years affiliation, clubs will not have to pay Bowls England affiliation fees for 2021.
7. Bowlers who in 2019 qualified for consideration for the award of a County badge will receive these by post in the near future. This is an action taken due to the exceptional circumstances and will not set a precedent. Players who qualified and wish to receive their badge in a customary way, at their first game for the County, may do so, please notify us as soon as possible if this is your wish.

We have received a number of inquiries as to whether or not clubs should open as usual in April, bearing in mind we all have a duty of care, rolling up or practicing on an outdoor green may not pose the same risks providing the green isn't crowded and a reasonable space is kept from others, it really should be reasonably safe especially for those deemed at low risk from the Covid 19 virus, those at higher risk should be able to make their own decisions.

We are all going to be seriously affected by this crisis, we are bowlers we can get through this, with common sense, a willingness help one another, and the spirit of camaraderie that makes our sport stand out from others we will prevail.

We ask you all to take the necessary precautions to remain safe, remember many of our members are unfortunately in the high-risk category, a phone call, an email, or a skype chat to keep them in contact will go a long way to helping them get through this especially to those that live alone.

I look forward to seeing you all once again in the not too distant future, meanwhile, we will try to keep you all updated with any developments that may affect us.