

# Tournament Review 2023

## Items For Review

### Interclub Change of Format Edition 1

**Proposer:** Blake Signal

**Why:**

Bowls Wellington Interclub has been run on the same format for over 30 years and is in need of a change due to declining numbers in competitors and the change in lifestyle for Bowls Wellingtons membership. It has long been said that Bowls Wellington has the best interclub competition and although that may be true in some people's minds there are definite flaws in the structure and delivery of the event that can be improved upon. For too long the lack of movement between divisions has allowed the competition to stagnate and can be very hard to see clubs progress up the divisional ladder as they lose players to clubs with higher rankings. Some games in divisions towards the end of the season are pointless and hard to attract players to keep playing in these matches. Meaningful games are needed throughout the season. Double headers are needed for a few rounds, but there seem to be more than ever these days, we need to spread the Interclub throughout the season. Interclub should be the pinnacle event for the club much like it is in Football, Tennis and Rugby, lets make that happen in bowls also. Here are some ideas I feel might help.

**How:**

1. Changing the division names is a must. We are the only centre in the country that uses Premier to describe the National Division 1 competition and this can lead to confusion to some players. Premier will revert to Division 1 and the divisions will follow in order from there.
2. Changing the current 10 team division structure to a more condensed 6 team division structure will make competition stronger in each division. It will still lead to a more fairer 10 round competition, with home and away games for each team being played.
3. No more "Playoff" day as with a double round robin, the winner should be decided from the table alone. This is a fair way of rewarding the Teams that have performed well over the course of the season.
4. Automatic promotion and relegation for the top 2 teams and bottom 2 teams in each division. This allows for more movement through the divisions and makes all games throughout the season very important.
5. A club can have more than 1 team in a division. This is important and will negate clubs losing players to other clubs because of the "division" status of their clubs' team.

6. There would be 5 Divisions in the men's "7s" competition with the remainder moving to "8s" competition, this is to relieve clubs of having to find markers for the singles games. You would gain promotion from the "8s" grades to the "7s" grades. This would be automatic as it is for other grades.
7. The ladies would have no limit to the teams wanting to participate in the "7s" competition at this stage as they do not have an "8s" Competition.
8. Quads would run as a Stand-alone Interclub competition but would be totally gender-neutral meaning there is no separate competition for men or ladies. They would need to run according to the same rules of Divisions of 6 teams and automatic promotion and relegation between divisions.

Example of what Divisions would look like at current time of writing this proposal:

Men's 7's:

Div 1: Stokes Valley Naenae Johnsonville Victoria Miramar Silverstream	Div 2: Plimmerton Upper Hutt Wilton Island Bay Lyll Bay Victoria 2	Div 3: Titahi Bay Petone Central Hutt Naenae 2 Johnsonville 2 Tawa
Div 4: Stokes Valley 2 Silverstream 2 Tawa 2 Johnsonville 3 Naenae 3 Whitby	Div 5: Upper Hutt 2 Stokes Valley 3 Hutt 2 Tawa Services Eastbourne Wainuiomata	

Men's 8's:

Div 6: Island Bay 2 Plimmerton 2 Petone Central 2 Lyll Bay 2 Miramar 2 Karori	Div 7: Wainuiomata 2 Titahi Bay 2 Johnsonville 4 Silverstream 3 Hutt 3 Victoria 3	Div 8: Naenae 4 Upper Hutt 3 Wainuiomata 3 Tawa 3 Massey Avenue Wilton 2
Div 9: Whitby 2 Johnsonville 5 Silverstream 4 Petone Central 2 Plimmerton 3 Newtown	Div 10: Khandallah Upper Hutt 4 Plimmerton 4 Naenae 5 Titahi Bay 3 Stokes Valley 4	Div 11: Johnsonville 6 Naenae 6

Women's 7's:

Div 1: Victoria  
Naenae  
Johnsonville  
Silverstream  
Plimmerton  
Lyll Bay

Div 2: Petone Central  
Tawa  
Hutt  
Island Bay  
Stokes Valley  
Johnsonville 2

Div 3: Upper Hutt  
Petone Central  
Naenae 2  
Massey Avenue  
Miramar  
Wainuiomata

Div 4: Naenae 3  
Titahi Bay  
Tawa 2  
Wilton

## **Interclub Change of Format Edition 2**

### **If Edition 1 not taken:**

1. Changing interclub to a shorter competition format that reduces the time to play seems to be another often heard call amongst players. Perhaps a similar format as Edition 1 could be adopted without the double round robin option. With playing a single round robin only 5 rounds would be needed with a top 2 playoff in each division giving the winner. I still believe 2 teams up and down would make for a more exciting competition overall.

### **If Edition 1&2 not taken:**

A weekend competition for the Interclub

## **Changing 1-10 and 1-8 to 1-5**

**Proposer:** Blake Signal

### **Why:**

Bowls New Zealand went to a 1-8 years' experience for the John Flett Trophy when they attempted to bring it back a few years ago. Bowls Wellington went to a 1-10 Year "Development" Model in the early 2000's. I feel that we need to focus our attention on 1-5-year players. The other playing experience in years, are taking focus and opportunities off our players in the traditional "Junior" 1-5-year bracket. The players from 6-10 years' experience will have had their time to learn the game and can move on to the senior ranks without needing competitions to beat up on lesser experienced players. We have Wellington Open Representatives in this 6-10-year bracket which shows the development of these players should be complete by year 6, and if not, they can still develop in other squads and competitions.

### **How:**

I feel that all "Junior" Representative teams from Wellington be selected from 1-5-year players only. I also suggest that the Development Pairs competition go back to the original 1-5-year competition that it was originally.

### **Alternative:**

If there is not an agreement on the above, I would suggest that we still look at deciding on one year bracket. 1-5, 1-8, 1-10. Having three different criteria is not an ideal way to promote the game.

## **Hutt Valley Events become Wellington Events or cease to exist**

**Proposer:** Blake Signal

### **Why:**

1. Hutt Valley Events – Bowls Wellington have been running these events for a number of years and once again when the numbers of players supported the need for these events to be separated by Hutt Valley and Wellington it could make sense. With the numbers we currently have, there is no need to make these Hutt Valley Events just for Hutt Valley Clubs. By introducing two events to allow Wellington Clubs to participate we will allow for greater competition in these events and allow the whole of Wellington to see the benefit of these events. My understanding is the Gough, Banner, Cup and Shield were important when there was no winter bowls and clubs wanted competition to prepare teams for interclub? With so much winter bowls being played now, players don't really need the early season competition provided by the Gough, Banner, Cup and Shield.

**How:**

1. Hutt Valley Gough, Banner, Cup and Shield will cease to exist as these events have passed their time. The McArthur Henry Shield will be played as the Bowls Wellington Junior Fours, and under a format similar to what it is currently played. The Gibbons Trophy will be played as the Bowls Wellington Junior Triples, and under a format similar to what it is currently played.

**Changing the Pathway to Bowls New Zealand's Champ of Champ Entry to Bowls Wellington Open Events**

**Proposer:** Blake Signal

**Why:**

This should be done to help clubs. The current format of Wellington Champ of Champ players going to qualify for the national event can lead to a stacking of top players for club events limiting new and inexperienced players the opportunity to play with their clubs' better players and learning from them. By having Bowls Wellington Open events as the qualifier, it will allow the senior players and clubs help their new and inexperienced players develop at the club level. Generally top players already play together in Open events so this will not affect these events.

**How:**

The winners of Bowls Wellington Open events will qualify to go to the National Champ of Champs and no longer will the Bowls Wellington Champ of Champs winners go.

**Reducing Bambery and Lynch Teams to 4 teams per side**

**Proposer:** Blake Signal

**Why:**

The Bambery and Lynch events currently require 64 players per event to compete and with dwindling numbers in Pennants play we should look at making these teams something special to make and reduce the size. Over the last few years, it has been more about who is available to play rather than selecting sides to win. By reducing these events to 4 teams per side we can play the event on one green as well as making this an elite event.

**How:**

Reduce the size of both Bambery and Lynch Sides to 4 teams for Wellington and 4 Teams for Hutt Valley.

## **Changing Development/Junior Pairs and Easter 2-4-2 Events to be Open Gender Events**

**Proposer:** Blake Signal

### **Why:**

These events are currently played as separate Men and Ladies events. After a number of enquiries this year during the entry period for the Development and Easter Pairs requesting to play with members of the opposite sex, I think time has come to encourage Open Gender events for Bowls Wellington. Open Gender events are now played throughout the world including some of the biggest bowls events on the planet including: UBC, Bowls Premier League, NSW Pennants and Open Championships, Queensland Premier League and PBA World Bowls Tour Events. Wellington can lead the way in New Zealand by integrating Open Gender events in their minor competitions, still leaving Open Championships as separate events for the time being. We currently run our Youth and Rangatahi events as Open Gender events and have some of our players identify as non-binary. By having Open Gender events players will also help improve their game by playing against members of the opposite sex and developing game plans to negate their strengths.

### **How:**

By Introducing these two high profile, but non-Championship events, as Open Gender or Gender-Neutral events we can see how our bowling community take to this new idea. It is inevitable that our sport will become more and more open to Open Gender events around the world and this is a great way to introduce our players to it.

## **Club of the year award**

**Proposer:** Blake Signal

### **Why:**

At present the Mens and Ladies awards differ with different events counting towards point for the club of the year award. This is probably a historical anomaly from before amalgamation occurred and has never really been looked at. Pennants is counted towards the ladies' award and not in the men's. Also, the number of teams that get awarded points for these trophies differ and haven't changed in a number of years.

### **How:**

Taking ladies pennants out of the Club of the Year points system in the ladies award. This is heavily weighted to clubs with large numbers of midweek ladies bowlers. In the men's award we should look at reducing the teams from 3 to 2 for points awarded for Interclub.