

Tournament Review Submissions

The following are the tournament review submissions we have received. These have been placed in the categories that they relate to. Below them are the recommendations of the Tournament Review Committee that met to discuss the submissions that were received. The Recommendations are written in **RED**. Please discuss the submissions at your club Board/Executive meetings and be prepared to vote on these submissions at the next delegates meeting on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 7:30pm. The tournament review committee comprised of:

Blake Signal (Chair)

Mary Day, Richard Warwick, Stephen Leitch, Ray Martin, Simon Chrisp, Lisa White(absent).

Interclub:

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	Div 10: Khandallah Upper Hutt 4	Div 11: Johnsonville 6 Naenae 6

Silverstream 4
Petone Central 2
Plimmerton 3
Newtown

Plimmerton 4
Naenae 5
Titahi Bay 3
Stokes Valley 4

Women's 7's:

Div 1: Victoria
Naenae
Johnsonville
Silverstream
Plimmerton
Lyllall 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.

Submission from Nairn MacGibbon:

Interclub

I would prefer to see interclub run as single-headers (i.e. one game on a Saturday morning) rather than double-headers. The main reason for this is that it would enable clubs to schedule club championships for Saturday afternoons, meaning that teams that had an away game in the morning would then return to their clubs for lunch before playing their afternoon club champs. This will benefit club patronage and morale (as well as potentially bar turnover). Where interclub is run as a double-header, if a team/side is playing away in the afternoon, the players will in many cases go straight home rather than returning to the club. In addition, double-headers mean that the interclub season is very short. Interclub is the

competition that most club members participate in, and for the interclub season to be over so soon denies them that chance to participate.

I would also prefer to see the interclub competition run over a longer period of time (perhaps a league/round prior to Xmas and one run after Xmas. A common argument I have heard against running interclub after Xmas is that the programme is full because there are rep fixtures scheduled after Xmas. I would prefer to see some of the rep fixtures pulled to the start of the season... At present the "average" bowler is playing most of their interclub at the very start of the bowls season when the greens are not at their best and the weather is variable. It feels like priority is being given to the top 2%-3% of bowlers (the rep players) at the expense of the playing experience of the vast majority (who pay the lions share of the subscription revenue to the Centre), which doesn't seem right.

I would also bring the format of the 7-side games into line with what is going to be played at the national interclub playoffs:

- i. Singles: 21 Shots up or Time Limit 2¾ Hours – whichever comes first
- ii. Pairs: 18 Ends or Time Limit of 2 ¾ Hours – whichever comes first
- iii. Fours: 15 Ends or Time Limit of 2 ¾ Hours – whichever comes first

Submission from Plimmerton Bowling Club:

Restrict or severely limit the use of Double Headers for Interclub games

This 2022-23 season the number of double headers for interclub on Saturdays has had a detrimental effect on our club. Because Plimmerton only has one green whenever it is used for interclub for the whole of Saturday, it severely impacts our club programme. When postponements due to weather are also considered this has a cumulative and devastating effect.

We have a healthy club membership, the majority of whom enjoy playing during Club Days on Saturday afternoons. The numbers who play on Club Days far outnumber the number of players who play interclub. When the double headers were played this meant none of our non-interclub playing members could access the green.

Another impact was on our older players who still enjoy playing interclub. They found the double headers tiring and coupled with the travelling between venues - for example travelling from Plimmerton to play at Karori or Miramar in the morning followed by travelling to Wainuiomata for a game in the afternoon - made for an unpleasant experience. One of our teams playing in the Quads section had only 2 home games, the rest of the time was spent travelling.

The effect on our club championships was also quite marked. As we frequently play our club championship games on Sundays, we noticed a big drop off in entries from both working age and older members. This was put down mainly to the double headers of the previous day. If Bowls Wellington is wanting to encourage healthy participation for all ages, then we submit that double headers discriminate against older players who still want to compete in interclub

and play an active life in events at their own club. This also affects some younger players with families who cannot commit to playing bowls all weekend.

Conclusion:

We know that National/International events at Naenae will necessitate some interruptions to the interclub programme but for all the above reasons we would like to see a return to morning only interclub as much as possible. We understand that the season was compressed last year to allow those clubs with grass greens to have more time to prepare their greens for interclub. We also understand that some of those clubs had events playing on their greens in the week or two before interclub started. We suggest that the interclub season be extended to start **either earlier** before Christmas **and/or finish later** after Christmas. This will help ensure full participation for all ages and a happy bowling community.

Submission from Simon Chrisp Karori:

Feedback is

- The lads really enjoyed interclub and is a good pathway to introduce people into bowls. It is the next step from our Weds club for our members and playing with other club members makes the transition to competitive bowls easier
- Really didn't enjoy the number of double headers and it's also hard to ask people to commit when it's irregular weekends and both mornings and afternoons
- Was surprised and disappointed that it was over so quickly (5 or 6 weeks)
- Only having one promotion and relegation is a barrier to enabling teams to move through the grades and would recommend a change to want to see more movements of teams up and down the competition.
- Movement between grades is good to ensure that competitions are even and that they do not become stagnant with playing the same teams each year.

Club preference would be:

- 8 teams per grade
- Played pre and post Xmas
- Top 2 teams are promoted, and bottom 2 teams are relegated (may want relegation and play-off for premier if 2 relegated teams are too much)
- One match scheduled per weekend (Sat AM) and that allows for catch ups in afternoon if there are cancellations etc. Makes it easier to be clear what the ask is when they sign up to play too

- Make other competitions work around the interclub e.g. Afternoon starts, Sundays.

Other feedback

There are a lot of competitions out there. Sometimes less is better.

Submission from Wilton Bowling Club Comments on Scheduling of Events:

It would appear that the Centre has failed to take changes in weather patterns over many seasons, and are continuing to run events at the same time each year. We would recommend that the scheduling of events needs to be revised to allow for events to be held when the weather is at its best, not when it is inclement.

Interclub

Concerns have been expressed over the number of double headers which prevents clubs from running their own events in the afternoon. As a result, there is a reluctance of members willing to take part. This can be seen as being both age related and having to travel long distances between matches. There are several members who do not want to play 2 games a day including travel. We recommend that the Centre in completing the draw for these events ensure that long journeys between morning and afternoon matches are avoided eg Upper Hutt to Island Bay (Miramar or Lyall Bay), or Porirua based clubs to Wainuiomata.

Has any thought been given to Sunday play instead of having double headers, eg Round X played on Saturday morning (as already happens) with Round Y being played on Sunday morning?

We recommend that the Centre reduces the number of double headers and extends the Interclub season into January/February, avoiding Nationals & other major tournaments to meet set deadlines.

Submission from Steve Leitch:

Interclub

Firstly, let me say I think our interclub programme has been great and always a great way to start the weekend off on a Saturday morning. But Clubs are becoming more and more frustrated with the number of Saturdays and Sundays which are required for the Centre events and the push forward of Champ of Champs, so we find we have a very congested programme. A way out of this may be to review the interclub competition.

There may not be an easy answer to this but I have one I think you should consider.

- Drop the sections back to 8 teams per grade.
- Team draw would look something like this.
- Teams A,B,C,D travel to one green and play 2 games there. (as do E,F,G,H)
- This could be a neutral game or best home green on merit.
- Next Week A,B,E,F travel as a group and play 2 more games. (as do C,D,G,H)
- Third Week A,B,G,H travel as a group and play 2 or 3 games in a day

- Change the conditions of play if needed. Shorten games and/or time limit.
- This gets the Interclub round robin over in 3 – 4 Days. Plus, playoffs.

Then determine the overall winner by a semi and final playoff (along with relegation playoffs) Keep four teams in for overall winner and the other 4 for relegation.

It's not the answer for next year, as you would need to get clubs on board with 8 teams in each.

But it helps when travelling to interclub that all four teams will stay at the one green.

And when it comes to inter-centre you need to be able to play 3 games a day.

As said, we don't have to change Interclub, but we need to change the congestion of an overfull schedule. The average Club bowlers get all the club champ bowls played by the end of February at the moment.

Submission from Island Bay:

Schedule Bowls Wellington Interclub series to have one game only per weekend

The Bowls Wellington Interclub series is unique and unlike any other interclub series in New Zealand it is run over 9 rounds. The 2022-2023 season saw 8 rounds played as double headers (2 rounds played in one day). The reasoning for the need to hold double headers was to accommodate Bowls New Zealand events in Wellington while still maintaining the full complement of Centre events as they are currently structured. This is not a new situation and has been raised since at least 2015.

The message this sends to clubs is that Centre and Bowls NZ events have priority over club programmes. Many clubs are finding new ways to get their community and members involved in the game of lawn bowls. In order to be successful clubs are having to change how they provide a programme that meets the needs of the members and enables the club to grow.

New members are indicating that while they enjoy the sport and want to be involved in serious competition, they also do not wish their full weekend taken up with bowls. Talking to clubs in other parts of NZ this is not an unusual situation.

Bowls Wellington, like clubs, needs to be flexible with their programme. For the Centre to accommodate Bowls NZ events, selected local Centre events could be withheld for the season. An example is the October 2-4-2 event could be withheld and only the Easter 2-4-2 event held.

Therefore, this submission is requesting that the Bowls Wellington Interclub series be played as one round per Saturday morning, with no double headers. This allows clubs to schedule play on Saturday afternoon, to have flexibility for the club programme, to provide choice to members and grow the sport within the community.

As you can see, there were several submissions made about interclub which included length, scheduling, and structure. A discussion was had by the committee over all aspects of the submissions with a recommendation of the following.

It was decided by the committee that there was sufficient need to revamp the Interclub season as with the submissions received, there was a want for change. Although the current format has been successful in the past, the new culture in which we live in, time has become very precious. We need to cater for all participants and by making the following changes, the committee believes we will not

only keep the integrity of the current competition but also allow for more time to play the event as wanted by the vast majority. This will also allow for more competitiveness amongst clubs and more movement for teams between grades.

Committee Recommendations:

- We will be aiming to deliver interclub with less double headers for future seasons. We will aim to create a program that spreads interclub throughout the season and uses weekends on both sides of Christmas.
- Interclub structure to remain the same for the 2023-24 season (Transitional Year for new format) with a round robin format for all divisions. All divisions will be decided by the top team at the completion of the round robin format except in the Premier Division where there will be a top four play-off to decide the winner. Promotion and relegation will not take place for this season as a new structure to the divisions will take place at the completion of the season.
- Interclub for the 2024-25 season will be reduced to 8 teams per division. This will be decided by the results of the previous season's interclub season.
 - each team in the 2023-24 interclub competition will be listed from 1-100+ in the order they finished the season in eg. 1-10 premier, 11-20 div 1, 21-30 div2 etc...
 - They will then be placed in 8 team divisions for the following season to start the new format for interclub
 - There will only be 5 divisions for sevens in the men's competition (this helps alleviate the need for clubs to find markers) with the remainder of the grades being eights. The ladies will have all grades as sevens as numbers dictate they can accommodate it.
 - The 2024-25 seasons interclub will be a round robin (7rounds) with a top 2 playoff for each division to find the winner. The top 2 teams will be promoted to the above division while the bottom 2 teams will be relegated to the below division. There will be no more than one club in premier grade while other division's will be allowed multiple teams from one club.
 - If the top two teams from Division one has a club in premier, the top two clubs that are eligible from Division one will then be promoted automatically. (There will no longer be promotion relegation games, it will always be automatic)

Centre Events:

Submission from Nairn MacGibbon:

Centre Events

I would like to see Wellington Centre Events restricted to participants who are fully paid-up members of a club within the Wellington region. Similar to the way in which the Taranaki Centre have a two separate men's 4's tournaments: the Taranaki Open Men's 4's (which teams from other centres can enter) and the Taranaki Centre 4's (which only Taranaki teams can enter). My suggestion for events that would be open to teams from other centres would be the Mixed Pairs and the Easter 2-4-2 pairs since these do not go to national titles.

The review committee discussed the proposal for this but felt there was no real need to introduce this rule. We believe that our Centre has strong enough players to continue to perform well in our own events and that very few players have won events from outside our centre over the last 10 years.

Committee: Do not agree with Proposal and believe Centre Events remain "Open" for all.

Changing Junior Pairs and Easter 2-4-2 Events to be Open Gender Events (AnyCombo)

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.

The review committee could see the benefit in trying to introduce these two events as Open Gender (Any Combo) events as a way to test the waters.

Committee: They agree with the proposal and would like to see these events become "Open Gender" (Any Combo)

Hutt Valley Events become Wellington Events

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 these 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. 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.

The review committee like the idea of involving the Wellington Clubs to all these events. They felt the need was still great enough from clubs to participate in the Gough Banner Cup and Bowl and that Wellington clubs may wish to participate in them also. It makes great sense to include the Wellington Clubs into the Junior events and naming them the Wellington Junior Fours (still playing for the McArthur Henry Trophy) and the Wellington Junior Triples (still playing for the Gibbons Trophy). These would remain as open gender events as they have been since 2003.

Committee: That the Gough Banner Cup and Bowl will now include Wellington Clubs and played in the same format. The Hutt Valley Junior Trophies be played as Wellington Junior events and played under the conditions.

Bowls Wellington Champ of Champs:

Submission from Nairn MacGibbon:

Champion of Champions to Pathways

I would like to see the progression to national club finals be by way of Open Centre events rather than through Champ of Champs. Having the progression through club championships lessens the incentives for top bowlers in each club to take on newer players within their club teams (since there is potentially a national title on the line). It is through club championship play that newer bowlers are introduced to competitive competition, and the current structure doesn't provide much incentive for the top bowlers to take on the newer ones.

**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.

The review committee were quite split on this but can understand the reason why these submissions were brought up but also felt that the Champ of Champs allowed for opportunities for club players to make National finals. At present club's have not been seen to "Stack" teams and clubs had created good cultures of inclusivity that still showed a full array of club members coming through there championships. Many juniors were playing with senior players in events which is to be commended to those clubs.

Committee: That the current system stays in place where by the Champion of champions winners will go to the National Finals. It was also noted for future committees to keep an eye on this in the future.

Submission from Wilton Bowling Club

Champion of Champions

With the Champion of Champions being run in March, and the inclement weather in November pressure has been put on our club to complete our Championships over a 2-month period (January/February)

Do they need to be run during the season (March)?

With an indoor venue (Naenae) can they be run in May/June at that club or use other clubs with a turf or carpet green?

National Champion of Champions are run in July

The review committee had mixed opinions around this. They agreed that Champion of Champions might be better off being pushed back slightly but did not like the idea of playing on artificials in May June.

Committee: That the Centre look at pushing dates back of Champion of Champions a few weeks later than present but trying to limit the chance to play on artificials and indoor by still finishing events before May.

Midweek Pennants:

Submission from Steve Leitch:

Midweek Pennants

Last season the Pennants Tournament started in middle of October and ended beginning of February.

I would see this event being better if played at least a month later. So, start in the middle of November and end in the middle of March.

Better weather and better greens are usually available in this time.

If you wanted to extend play even more, have a one of final in each grade, where the top two teams play off rather than just a round robin winner.

But really my thoughts are that there is no need to start and finish a tournament so early in the season when it is not pushed for time.

Submission from Nairn MacGibbon:

Pennants (Wed afternoon for men)

Keep entirely as is... love the format

Submission from Wilton Bowling Club

Pennants – a personal observation

Why are there 2 separate competitions (Men's & Women's) with different playing conditions and structure for Pennants? Interclub has 2 competitions (M&W) but 1 set of playing conditions.

The competitions have been run differently due to historical reasons. The ladies are use to and enjoy their format and the men likewise enjoy their format. The season can start later and should be looked at by the Centre.

Committee: That the centre looks at scheduling the pennant season for a later start and be played in better weather conditions.

Rangatahi Bowlers:

Submission from Brady Amer:

Bowlers Rangatahi:

Previously in Bowls here in Wellington we had Jacgals. This was for players 18 and under who played for an affiliated club in Wellington. This allowed players who played at different clubs to enter Bowls Wellington Open Events together under the club name "Jacgals". Unfortunately, this was voted out last season by club delegates. The main reason being there was a perception there was not many young players around so why keep it. Currently we have 14 under 18 bowlers across Wellington and 140 players playing our weekly college competition. This number is only going to increase as in the first quarter of this year so far, we have engaged with 489 under bowlers in various ways e.g. college bowls, school sessions and our Rangatahi Rookies. Youth bowls is only going to grow here in Wellington. What I am proposing is to bring back Jacgals but change the name to "Rangatahi Bowlers." I am also proposing that the criteria age to change from 18 to 21.

Reasons are as followed:

- Our Rangatahi Rookies squad is 21 and under
- Young people with intellectual disabilities can attend school until the age of 21

- This also allows players who leave college who are still new to the sport, support to still play with their friends from other clubs
- Young people tend to want to play with people their age
- Some clubs have sometimes struggles filling up their centre teams and young people can miss out. This stops this.

This was a great initiative when it was part of sport here in Wellington. The only negative of this was that players who won open events could not play in the pathways as the Jacgals club was not an affiliated club. This occurred in 2013 with Seamus Curtain and Lachlan Gordon who won the Mens Open Pairs. In conclusion we are promoting our sport as an inclusive sport that is for all people. Bringing this back will allow young people to enter our open events together. It is hard being a young person in bowls. Sometimes it can be hard getting into teams. This stops this and we get to see young bowlers playing together and thriving.

It is great that we now have some new young people playing our sport. The Committee could see benefits in having this in place and like the concept of it. Some on the committee would rather see the younger players play with older club members to gain more experience but sometimes that was not always possible. There were concerns raised over the age of this group as we need to make sure we are safeguarding our young people. By having 21-year-olds potentially playing and socialising with 14 year olds the committee felt we were not keeping all safe.

Committee: That the Rangatahi Bowlers be allowed to play with each other in centre events under that banner. That we limit the age group to under 18 or secondary students. Dispensation can be made for those with intellectual disabilities who are under 21 on a case-by-case basis.

Junior Bowls:

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.

The committee were in agreeance that setting the one playing group category would benefit the Centre more than having 2 or 3 different groups. It was acknowledged that there was only a preference to go back to 1-5 years as this was a traditional playing group category that supported the submission. It was also talked about that we may not win as many rep games (short term) as other centres would continue with their program, but in the long-term Bowls Wellington would become stronger and the 1–5-year players would benefit greatly. Clubs and Other centres may well still run "Development" 1-10 events that would cater to those players.

Committee: That Bowls Wellington change back to 1-5 Juniors for all Junior events including Representative play and Junior events that are run by Bowls Wellington in the region.

Bambery and Lynch Teams:

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.

There was good discussion on this with the committee looking at the social aspect of the event and selection process. It was talked about how the event was more social and by reducing we were limiting participation. It was also talked about how this event had become harder to fill and the number of pull-outs had become greater recently.

Committee: The committee were split for this submission and will recommend that clubs discuss this more.

Club of the year award:

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.

It was generally agreed by the committee that there seemed to be some inconsistencies with this award and that these needed to be a looked at.

Committee: That the board look at revamping this award and look at potentially changing the point system that is currently used.

Representative Selection:

Submission from Upper Hutt Bowling Club

Our club submits that there should be defined criteria, set by the Bowls Wellington board, for selection to Representative teams.

These criteria would obviously involve aspects such as good performances in National and Centre events, but there may well be other standards which prospective representative players should attain.

One issue particularly concerns the eligibility of players from "outside our Centre" to play in our rep teams. Currently players that "fly in" and play a few games of Interclub are eligible to represent Wellington. We believe that such players are not showing a commitment to Bowls Wellington, or potentially even the Club they supposedly represent. In addition, they are depriving a Wellington based player a chance to make our rep teams. We would submit that the criteria for these "fly-ins" to be eligible for Wellington are, as an example, that they play at least 50% of Interclub games, plus 2 Club championships, plus potentially a residential clause could be included.

Please note that this submission is not intended to circumvent the wishes of the selectors – what we are submitting is that the Board of Bowls Wellington, in conjunction with the clubs,

set some board-based parameters around eligibility for selection and the selectors can select within those parameters. These criteria would also be known to all clubs within the region so that prospective or hopeful representative players know the criteria. This system is common amongst most sports – there are very few sports who allow selectors to set eligibility criteria.

This was talked about by the committee with several points considered by the group. What is the current criteria, what can be put as criteria, what are other sports doing. There was no agreement to any criteria by the committee. It was discussed that a player needed to show full commitment to the Centre to be a Bowls Wellington player, but what that meant was not agreed upon. We needed to remember what Bowls Wellington's Vision was which states: The most successful Centre determined by participation, sustainability, and representative performance.

Committee: That the Board look at what should be considered as an eligibility criterion for the selectors to be guided by.