

Norfolk Bowls Association

**League Secretary Report
to Men's & League Annual General Meeting on 9th December 2018**

The season got off to a bad start when Bradenham were forced to withdraw from the League after two weeks of the season starting. Unfortunately because the season had already commenced I was unable to alter the leagues and therefore Central two only had five teams in it last season. This situation has been addressed for next season with G W Staniforth B being moved from South 2 to Central 2 leaving 6 teams in both zones. I will say more regarding the League structure at the end of my report.

The first week also saw eleven postponements due to bad weather but all of these games were rearranged and played before the end of the season. After the first week as we all know we enjoyed a great summer weather wise and had no more problems in that respect.

However the World Cup did cause me a very busy Sunday after England's quarter final victory, with numerous teams requesting the game scheduled for Wednesday 11th July to be postponed as that was the day England were playing the semi-final. Despite my attempts to adhere to the rules and not allow teams to postpone, it soon became apparent that several teams were not going to be able to fulfil the fixture and therefore suffer a points deduction which would have affected the integrity of the league. Consequently myself and John Ottaway made an emergency decision to allow clubs a further period of time of 11 days to play the match as long as both clubs agreed to rearrange the game by the original fixture date of 11th July. All of the postponed games were rearranged and played so I think the decision delivered a good outcome. One fixture was unfortunately played outside of the deadline and the result of this game was decided by a League Management committee meeting to be treated as null and void.

The amendments to the league rules this season have worked well. There was only one team who were unable to fulfil a fixture as they were unable to call on at least 9 players so unfortunately had to suffer a 5 points deduction and their opponents awarded 5 points. All games were completed by the last week so this was a very good outcome.

Congratulations to all the Zone winners and to Caister A who won the Baker Cup and to Ashill for winning the Hansells Cup.

I would like to thank Alan Covell the Website Manager for his help in getting the results and the league tables updated on the website.

The League structure has been finalised for next season. North Walsham have moved greens to Aylsham and now have one team who will play in North One under the name of North Walsham Wanderers and unfortunately Downham Market C have withdrawn from the league. I have had to move some teams around to try and make the zones more balanced but have tried to do this fairly and with the minimum disruption.

Finally I would like to thank all of the Clubs for their cooperation in playing the games on time and getting the results in promptly via the website.

**Mark Elliott
Hon. League Secretary**