



SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS - MEN'S SECTION

Member of Bowls England and affiliated to the Home Counties Bowling Association

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BOWLS ENGLAND MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

I previously reported that at Bowls England Regional Meeting in London, that the President, Chairman and I as Secretary, attended, along with this County's Women's Section Secretary and Treasurer and also representatives from seven other Counties, the new regulations on Data Protection were discussed (GDPR).

Apart from GDPR, there was another topic on the agenda which was the subject of discussion, which I report on below - the upcoming Bowls England Membership Register.

Whilst this has no immediate impact on this County, as it is being tried as a pilot scheme in five Counties around the Country – the southern area County being Surrey – it will ultimately impact on all counties.

Thank You.

Yours in Sport

Rod McBeth

Rod McBeth

Sussex County Bowls – Administrator 2018
Hon. Secretary - Sussex County Bowls - Men's Section

31st March, 2018

BOWLS ENGLAND MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

Bowls England are currently undertaking a consultation process as to the format of a membership Register and a pilot will be conducted in five Counties - Surrey in the South East area.

They have sought information from County representatives at the Regional Meetings in an attempt to establish – prior to setting up the database what information it is considered it is required to be held by:
a) - The Club; b) - The County and c) - Bowls England.

Whilst the information would be held on one database there would be three levels of access.

1. Access by a club to information - relevant to their club only;
2. Access by the County – only to **certtain information** from all clubs within their county;
3. Access by Bowls England – once again only to **certtain information** from all clubs in all counties.

I must emphasise that the system that they are looking at - is the same system as that used successfully by the National Governing bodies of many other sports in this Country.

I attach below notes from the Seminar:

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

ALISTAIR HOLLIS (OPERATIONAL SERVICES MANAGER)

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP REGISTER – YOU SAID

- **There should be a ‘Register’**
 - ·The Register would need to be centrally-led i.e. Bowls England
 - ·The Register would help us all to understand our members and tailor services more appropriately
 - ·The Register would improve communication and provide much-needed data in support of the sport’s future ✓ *Demographic data i.e. age/gender/ethnicity/disability*
- **Issues raised**
 - Additional resources might be required to develop and maintain a Register
 - All regions expressed concerns regarding protection of data
 - Workload for County and Club Officers *Board resolved ‘in principle’ to support the development of a Register*

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP REGISTER – WHAT IT **WOULDN'T** BE

- An income generation tool for Bowls England - **X**
- A lessening of importance of counties - **X**
- A “Snoopers Charter” - **X**
- A breach of data protection laws or privacy - **X**
- Unnecessary - **X**

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP REGISTER – WHAT IT WOULD PROVIDE

- A register of outdoor bowlers within Bowls England affiliated clubs - **Y**
- An opportunity to improve the service that Bowls England, County Associations and Clubs provide to their members - **Y**

- A proposal that will benefit individual members, - **Y**
Clubs, County Associations and Bowls England

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP REGISTER – WHO BENEFITS

County Associations

- Reduced workload for county administrators long-term
- Quick and easy reports available, by county, that summarise who is playing and where
- Greater awareness that clubs are declaring membership fairly

Clubs

- Reduced workload for club secretaries as individuals could enter information directly to the system
- Detailed reports available, by county, to support in funding applications and marketing campaigns

Individuals

- Direct communication from Bowls England, on topics of interest to them, is possible
- Opportunity to have a “louder voice”

THE SPORT OF BOWLS

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP REGISTER – YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- **How will it work?**
 - Data input at club level of current members/removal of former members
 - Data shared with County Association and Bowls England as relevant
- **Who can access?**
 - Club/County and Bowls England – Authorised Personnel Only
 - Authority levels set throughout system i.e. Club Personnel will have own club data only
- **How will this be funded?**
 - The proposed National Membership Register would be wholly funded by Bowls England
- **Where will data be stored?**
 - Stored centrally in accordance with data protection and IT security requirements.