

## SUSSEX COUNTY BOWLS

### VICE PATRONS

#### WHO ARE THE VICE PATRONS?

### Sussex County Bowls - Vice Patrons

The Sussex County Bowls Vice Patrons (formerly known as Vice Presidents) are split into four areas across the County. Area One is in the East moving across and up the County, to Area Four in the West.

The VP teams, comprise of a mixture of players from any of the clubs in the relevant Area. Any member of a club in that Area, who wished to play for the VP's, should enter their name on a Form F9C which should be available on their club notice board, prior to 31 Jan in any year - and then pay their £2 joining fee to their Club Secretary to become a member of the Vice Patrons - for their Area.

As some players register with two clubs, a player shall be registered as a VP through the club where he pays his affiliation fee.

Any player who fails to register as a VP through his Club Secretary, prior to 31 Jan, is required to obtain and complete a Form F9D (obtainable on the county website) and forward to the County Secretary in order to be registered as a VP for the season.

When a Form F9D - which has been completed by the player - is received by the County Secretary, the VP Controller will be notified and the player added to the list of registered players for that area. The player will then pay his £2 to the VP Controller when he plays his first match.

These players from all different clubs in any one division, then 'band together', to play matches against any of the Clubs - in their Area - and some are fortunate enough to be selected to play in the Inter Area Billingham League and Pullen Cup.

Prior to the start of the season, the VP Controller for each Area, arranges matches against any club within his own Area, that wished to play a fixture against the VP's - and all players who register, are sent out availability forms so that they can indicate their available to play in any of these friendly matches. Every effort is made to ensure that all player that makes themselves available are selected for - a fair proportion - of these friendly matches that they make themselves available for.

In addition to matches against clubs in their own area, the four Areas also play both a League and a Cup Competition against the other Areas. The League Competition comprises of both home and away fixtures so during a season there are up to four/five matches, where players may be required to travel a greater distance outside of their own Area.

The VP's do not have a 'home' venue, so there is no reciprocal fixture, so it is accepted practice that the VP Controller - will make a donation to the host club to cover approximately 'half of the costs' of the match. This amount paid ranges considerably - dependant on the number of rinks played and the cost the club may have to pay to the local council. A sum is also included to cover part of the cost of any refreshments provided. The donations therefore vary in an attempt to be fair to all clubs.

The whole ethos of the VP's is that - when selecting teams for friendly matches - the controller is required to ensure that:

- a) all players who submit their return making themselves available - are selected to play - in a reasonable proportion of the friendly matches - dependant on the number that they make themselves available for.
- b) Players are selected - wherever possible - to play on rinks - with players from other club - and not with players from their own club.

Each controller is also responsible for selecting a team for each of the Inter Area Billingham League matches and the Pullen Cup. These are highly competitive matches for which each controller will attempt to select what he considers to be his best team - but any player who wishes to be selected for these matches - **must have** - played in a minimum of two friendly matches.

Please encourage your member to join the VP's it is great experience playing with players that you do not normally play with and against teams you might not normally play against. Fixtures are predominately on a Friday, with some on a Monday.

Any club within any Area that does not currently have a fixture arranged to play against the VP's who wishes their controller to bring a team along to play against their club, should contact the relevant VP Controller. Matches are Normally 4-6 rinks and although the Vice Patrons are a male team they sometimes play against teams that require to use lady members to make up the numbers and that is perfectly acceptable, as playing a mixed team, is what many clubs normally play.