

Heritage Coast Carpet Bowls League Committee Meeting Minutes, 25th August 2023

Clubs present: Kelsale, Knodishall, Leiston St Margarets FC, Middleton, Riverside, Sizewell, Wenhaston.

The League

The meeting was called to establish if there was enough interest for a return to competitive bowls, after the hiatus caused by the outbreak of Covid in March 2020.

Since that time we have sadly lost Orford and Wissett, who have had to close down, and Yoxford have confirmed that they will only be meeting for roll-ups.

The Clubs

It was clear from the comments from the clubs, that everyone has experienced a drop in membership, for obvious reasons, but that for those that remain there is a definite desire to get the league back up and running again, and that by doing so we are giving ourselves the best chance to encourage players to return to the game.

It was agreed that we should be as accommodating as possible, in order to allow as many teams as possible to compete, and to that end it was agreed to alter the playing format.

The New Playing Format

It was agreed that the League would adopt a triples format, with a match consisting of four games, each of 10 ends. The minimum number of players will be 6, with a maximum of 12 (see attached scoresheet). This means that we will be playing for a total of 10 points each match (4 games + 2 bonus points for shots).

As before, if a team has less than 12 players available, a draw will be made from those playing in the first half of the game. The only stipulations are that players may not play on the same mat twice, and that if a Skip is drawn out to play again, they must play as either Lead or No.2, in their second game.

It is hope that by moving to a format which allows teams to field a team of only 6 will help provide a safety net for teams who are low on numbers, but obviously we would not expect that any team would try to take advantage of the rule to field a stronger team by deliberately excluding some of their players.

It was also agreed that matches can be played in the afternoon, but **only** if that is agreeable to both teams, otherwise matches will be played in the evening, as usual.

The Next Step

While Knodishall, Middleton, and Wenhaston were all able to confirm at the meeting that they were committed to entering the League, all other clubs stated that they needed to go back to their members to discuss the proposal.

We are therefore asking to hear back from all clubs, to confirm whether they will be entering the League, and to provide us with the usual details (contact name, email address, phone number, match night, and venue), hopefully within the next couple of weeks, but in any case as soon as possible.

If your club is not able to enter, but there are some who still want to play competitively, we would urge those players to get in touch with clubs who are taking part in the League, to help them out. Most clubs are short of numbers, and we are sure they will be happy to welcome you.

Affiliation Fees

There will be no affiliation fee for this season, any team which was a member for the 2019/20 season are invited to play in 2022/23.

Knockout Cup

At this stage there are no firm plans for the Cup, we will make a further decision on that once we know how many teams have entered the League.