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Dear all,

BRITISH ISLES WOMEN'S BOWLS COUNCIL – INTERNATIONAL SERIES

We wished to inform you that the British Isles Women's Bowls Council made a decision to change the format for the Women's Senior International Series for 2021 at its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 30th July. The announcement was delayed in order to collectively agree the format for the Junior Series following the vote at the AGM. For your information, please find the full statement, which will be issued today by the BIWBC.

For background and in the interests of transparency, there has been discussion amongst the five nations that form the BIWBC about the Women's Senior and Junior International Series, following a proposal by Bowls Scotland for a 'Top 10' style event. Following internal consultation, Bowls England developed a revised proposal, which took on much of the positive elements of the Bowls Scotland proposal but better met our core principles of gender equality, providing an optimal platform to test and develop our best players and a desire to present our sport in a modern way.

We believe our proposal, mirroring the format played at the Commonwealth Games and avoiding a scenario where a nation plays itself, would have better prepared our elite players for success at the highest level and would have been more understandable to the viewing public. Furthermore, we felt there was a great opportunity to align the men's and women's competitions when the BIBC and BIWBC are due to merge in 2022.

At the AGM, the Bowls Scotland proposal was supported by Wales and Jersey, therefore following a formal vote it was agreed to take this proposal forward, by 5 votes to 4. Ireland supported our proposal. Whilst we did not vote in favour of the Bowls Scotland proposal, we respect the decision which was made democratically. We have no desire to look back and we will now work collaboratively to help make the new event a success on and off the green for players and spectators alike.

Finally, thank you to all those that have provided feedback to us over recent weeks and we look forward to further involving you in discussions on the future of our sport.

Yours sincerely

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