

# Worcestershire Bowling Association

Affiliated to Bowls England: Midland Counties Bowls Association & Three Counties Bowling Association

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*Bowls: The Sport for a Lifetime*

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## Proposition for consideration at the Bowls England AGM

### Additional Comments

We wish to reaffirm our Proposition for all Counties to have reinstated 2 Qualifiers for all counties in the Singles, 2 Wood Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours with those with a larger level of entries having 3 Qualifiers as set out in our Proposition. We believe this a considered and responsible Proposition.

We are disappointed with the criticism from BE with the Proposition from our County colleague Dorset and believe that the National finals Programme would **only have to add 2 days** to the BE Programme that has been released to allow 2 Entrants from all counties and 3 from the larger Counties. We feel BE have been reactive and not proactive which is why the 2 Proposals have been put forward. We are pleased to note that BE from the original 48 Qualifiers, and then increased this to 60 and now 62. We appreciate the workload and welfare of the BE Staff at the National Championships but are also concerned with the welfare of the Bowlers in an 18 days Championships with also the array of clashes that will occur and would like the Championships to go back to a 30 day Programme but we would leave that recommendation, if there was any, to the Competitions Working Party due to be set up. We do not believe the Proposition would compromise the work of the Competitions Working party but believe they would take on board the wishes of the Counties who have the interest of the game at heart. We appreciate the inequality of Qualification to the National Championships but believe that 3 Qualifiers for the larger Counties and 2 for the other Counties was a platform that was popular previously for Bowlers, Officials and Spectators to enhance the Championships once more and to have a festival of Bowls.

John Weston  
Chairman Worcestershire Bowling Association

## **Background Information from the Worcestershire Bowling Association**

### **Proposition for consideration at the Bowls England AGM**

The Proposition has been submitted to allow counties the opportunity to decide whether to revert to two qualifiers at the National Championships with three qualifiers for the larger counties as was the case in 2019 and the years before.

Reasons:

That it has always been popular to have two qualifiers for all counties at the National Championships which was taken away in 2021 due to Covid and continued in 2022 for the Commonwealth Games but no vote with the counties or proper dialogue entered into on the merits or reasoning for this. We believe it is a prestigious honour to reach and attend the National Championships and that new players wishing to enter the National Championships have little or no chance of winning their county competitions. We appreciate those Counties with a higher entry level which is why we propose the third qualifier as happened before but also believe the smaller Counties must be encouraged to make Bowls as was before a "Sport for All". We believe with more participants at the National Championships, more supporters and spectators will attend which will add to the ticket sales, more business for the Catering Services and more atmosphere once again at the National Championships, producing a Festival of Bowls.

To accommodate the additional players eligible to participate under this proposition, would add only 2 days to the current Bowls England National Finals Programme, (18 days to 20 days) and would benefit the game of bowls undoubtably.

Mark Atkins  
Competition Secretary WBA