



## **Appendix A: COMPETITIONS WORKING PARTY (CWP)**

We received considerable interest from players and administrators who wished to join the CWP. The final group was formed of a cross section of our community – players/umpires and administrators – with representation across the regions, age groups and gender.

The group was chaired by Margaret Docherty, Director of Competitive Events, with officer support from Alistair Hollis (Head of Sport Development) and Lee Rowland (Sport Operations Officer).

The CWP consisted of:

- Rachel Cartwright (Northumberland)
- Rodney Clark (Kent)
- Ian Gauld (Gloucestershire)
- Bernie Hill (Yorkshire)
- Matt Hyde (Buckinghamshire)
- Mick Leafe (Nottinghamshire)
- Simon Lilley (Lincolnshire)
- Andrew Richardson (Surrey)
- Chris Rodgers (Leicestershire)

Each member of the CWP brought relevant experience, both through their involvement with the sport at various levels and their professional background. The CWP was accountable to the Bowls England Board.

## **Appendix B: SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS**

### **2020 Participant Survey**

- U45s and 45-54 years old play competitively to a much higher degree, while social bowls increases with age
- 57% are members of a club to enable them play in competitions, especially in the younger age group
- Overall feedback on the current competition structure is positive, with participants competing in multiple competitions and formats
- Attitudes to these elements should also be tested with those who do not currently compete, to ensure that they do not pose any barriers to those not currently involved, as overall 36% would welcome a more flexible approach to competitive bowls and 30% would welcome shorter formats
- Social bowlers are less satisfied that the playing options available to them are compatible with their lifestyles
- Pairs and Triples are the most popular National Championship events
- Mixed Pairs and Senior Pairs are the most popular National Competition events
- 35% of competition players have qualified for the National Finals during their career
- 43% are happy about the amount they play, however family commitments, time and work commitments are the biggest barrier to additional participation
- Work and family commitments are cited as the two reasons why people have elected to stop playing in competitions (or never to have entered)



### **Non-Participant Survey**

- Of those interested in taking up bowls, 67% wish to play once a week or less, 89% want to play for no more than two hours at a time and on average people would be willing to pay £5 per session
- The three biggest barriers to participation in sport are time, work commitments and family commitments
- Of those who considered playing, not having anyone to play with was the main reason for not taking it up

### **2020 Club Survey**

- 90% of our clubs class themselves as 'social and competitive'
- 77% are proud when competitive members achieve success
- 30% feel that competitions generate much-needed income
- 38% of clubs run competitions specifically for new players
- 70% of clubs and/or their members participate in Bowls England events
- Of those who do not participate, lack of interest amongst members was the single biggest reason for non-participation
- There is significant support for the wider use of technology to assist club management

### **2021 Competitions Player Survey**

- 50% of respondents were aged 65 and over
- 72% of respondents were male
- Of those who participated in four or less events, time was the single biggest reason for non-participation
- Local/regional events would encourage more 'non-entrants' to enter national events in the future
- 20% of competitive bowlers play more than 15 hours per week
- 2-3 hours was the optimal length of game (64%) and 3-4 hours including travel
- Weekday evenings are the preferred time to participate (48%)
- 75% of entrants supported the introduction of more events (county/regional) where several rounds could be played on a single day
- 33% of entrants felt that fewer national competitions should be concluded at the National Finals, whilst 30% felt that qualifiers at national Finals should be reduced
- 78% of respondents were interested in regional events that did not lead to national finals
- 43% of respondents were opposed to players changing position during a match
- 65% were opposed to international players being prevented from participating in some domestic events
- 52% supported the idea that some events could be played during weekdays (daytime)



## RESEARCH FROM OTHER NATIONAL BOWLS ASSOCIATIONS

### Bowls Australia

- Bowls Australia stage a number of coveted national events across the width and breadth of the country each year
- The Australian Open is a mass-participation event, featuring more than 2000 competitors vying for more than \$275,000 in prize-money, and is played across 14 days of action at 13 clubs across the Gold Coast region
- The Bowls Premier League is the sport's made-for-television product, which boasts 20 hours of live broadcast coverage on Fox Sports Australia and Sky Sport NZ with each edition, and sees eight teams compete for \$100,000 prize-money
- The BPL Cup provides an opportunity for Club-based teams to progress through various rounds to National Finals, to be played in parallel with the Bowls Premier League in November each year
- The Nationals is a collection of national events, played across a two week period. The included events are Under 18 Championships, Sides Championships, Para Championships, Champion of Champions and Australian Championships – detail below:
  - The Australian Sides Championships features 192 of the country's best bowlers all representing their respective States and Territories in the test to determine the winners of the coveted men's Alley Shield, women's Marj Morris Trophy and Overall State Champions Trophy.
  - The Australian Under-18 Championships is the sport's only junior national event, and comprises of five girls and five boys from every state and territory.
  - The Australian Senior Sides Championships is a state-based over-60s event, in a round robin format featuring three-rinks of four players in each gender to make up a master-scorecard.
  - The Australian Champion of Champions is a singles-only event, featuring each state and territory's reigning champion of champion winner in a test to determine the country's most consistent singles exponents, who are then afforded entry into the following year's World Champion of Champions event.
  - The Australian Championships pits the winners of every State/Territory Championships against each other, in an effort to find the sport's best singles, pairs, triples and fours combinations in both the men and women's events.
  - The Australian Para Championships pits the winners of State/Territory Para Championships against each other, in an effort to find the sport's best bowlers across various disciplines and classifications in both the men's and women's events.

### Bowls Canada

- Bowls Canada has announced a new-look competition schedule introduced for 2024 following review. Details at: <https://bowlscanada.com/en/2024-canadian-championships/>
- The national Championship format is moving from a series of individual championships spread out across several months and geographic regions to a single prestigious Canadian Lawn Bowling Championships hosted over six days.
- The following disciplines (events) will be played Canadian Championship:



- Men's Singles, Fours, Pairs, Triples in a five aside format
  - Women's Singles, Fours, Pairs, Triples in a five aside format
  - Youth U21 singles and pairs
  - Para Bowls events across B1 to B8 classifications for bowlers with disabilities
- For the five-a-side format, each team member plays two events: singles or fours and pairs or triples.
- The Mixed Pairs has been removed at the national level largely due to the need to keep the event contained. Bowls Canada recognises that this format is extremely popular with recreational bowlers and hopes there will be more events at regional level.

### **Bowls New Zealand**

- Events at the Nationals are:
  - Men's Singles
  - Men's Pairs
  - Men's Fours
  - Women's Singles
  - Women's Pairs
  - Women's Fours
  - Open Disability Singles
  - Open Disability Pairs
  - Mixed Pairs
- The National Inter-Club Sevens sees teams participate in Singles/Pairs and Fours
- Bowls3Five follows the format of two five end sets with a power play and potentially a tie-breaker

### **Bowls Scotland**

- National Championships
  - Club-based entry – organised in 32 districts
  - 32 qualifiers to National Finals
  - Knockout format
  - Participation in multiple events restricted to avoid clashes
- Additional events:
  - Ladies national top 10 (open to all affiliated/no club or district barriers)
  - Andrew Hamilton (district-based similar to Johns/Middleton)
  - Para Open and U25 Pairs

### **Bowls Wales**

- Traditional approach to events as shown below:
  - U18 Singles
  - U25 Singles
  - Singles
  - O60 Singles
  - Pairs
  - O60 Pairs
  - Triples
  - O60 Triples



- Fours
- O55 Fours
- Mixed Singles
- Mixed Pairs

### **PLAYER SURVEY 2023**

Finally, to assist with the final recommendations, a Player Survey was conducted following the 2023 National Finals. The survey was completed by a total of 2,096 respondents, with a very good spread of player types and statistically significant sample size:

- County level player or participating in inter-county events – 944
- Competition bowler (not current) – 546
- Social competition bowler – 426
- Did not say – 101
- Current England Player – 47
- U18/U25 International – 32

Key findings are shown within this section:

#### ***Competition Programme***

Results within these section only include those who participated in National Championships and National Competitions in 2023

- The Two-Bowl Singles Championship is the least valued of all events – with 39% rating it as 'least value'
- All other Championship events were very highly valued
  - Pairs 82%
  - Triples 78%
  - Fours 73%
  - Singles 68%
- The most highly valued National Competitions were
  - Top Club – 52%
  - Club Two Fours – 39%
- 47% of respondents agreed that there should be better definition of competitions in order for them to be more relevant by age and/or ability (only 22% disagreed)

#### ***Non-participants in any domestic Bowls England competitions in 2023***

A total of 653 respondents indicated that they had not participant in any national competitions in 2023.

- The three top reasons for not participating were:
  - I don't feel I'm good enough – 34%
  - Playing doesn't sound enjoyable or fun – 16%
  - I do not want to travel longer distances to play – 15%
- The top three motivations to participate in competitions in the future were:
  - Local and/or regional events on a single day/weekend – 38%
  - The opportunity to play against players of similar ability – 37%
  - The opportunity to play with more experienced players – 21%
- The top three types of competition that would attract non-participants were:

- Representing club – 42%
  - A more relaxed new format – 27%
  - Age group events – 23%
- The top three responses for who non-participants would most wish to play with were:
  - With club mate/s of same gender – 57%
  - With club mate/s of a different gender – 39%
  - On own – 30%
- The two most popular times for non-participants to play were:
  - Weekday afternoon – 35%
  - Weekday evening – 28%

### **Age Groups**

- 44% of all respondents agreed that grouping players of a similar age/ability will provide fair and healthy competition (35% disagreed)
  - Those in the younger age categories did not support but there was growing support from those aged 60 and over
- 35% of all respondents agreed that grouping players with similar age and ability will support players on the pathway to future success (29% disagreed)
  - Again those in the younger age groups were less likely to support this statement
- 35% of all respondents agreed that current age bands do not meet the objectives of age group competition (21% disagreed)
  - Those aged 70 and over were most likely to agree with this statement
- 34% of all respondents agreed that there is too much overlap between age group competition and open [open to any age] competition (23% disagreed)
  - Those aged over 60 were most likely to agree with this statement
- 77% of all respondents felt that age bands for men and women should be consistent (7% disagreed)
- 55% of respondents felt that under 25 was 'about right' for junior events
- 49% of respondents felt that over 55 was 'too low' for senior events, with 46% thinking it was 'about right'
- 81% of respondents felt that players should be permitted to enter open and junior events
- 85% of respondents felt that players should be permitted to enter open and senior events
- 42% of respondents supported the introduction of more age bands for junior competition to support their individual development and talent identification
- A majority (51%) were against the introduction of more age bands for senior events
- 63% of respondents felt that If the number of age group competitions were increased should people be able to play in multiple categories

### **National Finals**

- Greater visibility is needed to profile the best our sport can offer – 88% agree
- National finals are valued by all bowlers – not just those who qualify and their families – 66% agree

### **Qualification**

- Qualification for national finals motivates me to enter – 63% agree

- Whilst this pattern is similar across the regions and gender, significantly more of those aged over 70 years and 'social bowlers' are likely to not have an opinion either way
- Regional qualification would resolve the problem of national championships qualifiers playing a number of different rounds dependent on the size of their county – 44% agreed and a further 25% had no opinion either way
- Qualification places allocated as a percentage of the whole number of qualification places will resolve qualifiers playing a number of different rounds dependent on the size of the county – 42% agree and 34% neither agreed nor disagreed
- I would still enter national competitions even if there were fewer qualifiers for the national finals – 46% agreed with this statement and 22% neither agreed nor disagreed. Men were more likely to disagree, whilst social bowlers and those aged over 70 were more likely to have no opinion

#### ***Scheduling of Competitions - consistent***

- I believe the national finals should focus primarily on the national championship Blue Riband events – 40% agreed, with 37% disagreed
- I believe players should be permitted to participate in national finals in all rounds of the Blue Riband events for which they qualify – 80% agree
- I believe the national finals should celebrate the inclusivity of our sport with the appropriate representation of age, gender and ability – 80% agree
- I believe that duplications and clashes should be avoided by limiting qualification places – 51% disagreed
- I believe that duplication and clashes should be avoided by reducing the number of events that are open to all at the point of entry – 55% disagreed
- I would prefer not to play more than two matches per day in any single event – 57% agreed
- I would support the finals of some competitions being held outside the national finals to reduce duplications – 45% agreed/40% disagreed
- I believe qualification numbers should be maximised – 60% agreed
- I believe all competitions should conclude during the national finals – 73% agreed

#### ***Game formats***

- Formats in Blue Riband events should replicate those at international level to help provide a pathway, and make for consistency for fans – 53% agree
  - This response is not in line with previous feedback from players and counties over the last few years, which has strongly resisted format changes
  - Results skewed by a high number of social bowlers, who are not the target market for these events, being highly in favour of such a change
  - A majority of current international players did not support this
- Matches should be made shorter in some events to provide opportunities for people with less time to play in competitions – 59% disagreed
- All rounds of a single event (qualifying rounds and final stages) should follow the same format – 90% agree
- I would support the introduction of more events (County/Regional) where several rounds are played on a single day – 35% agreed and a further 21% had no opinion either way
- I would support the introduction of events that encourages new people to play in competitions – 82% agree
- I would participate in open events that do not lead to national finals – 51% agree

- I would support an event where substitutes can be introduced during the match – 50% disagree
  - The largest group objecting to this are current county bowlers – those classed as social bowlers, competition bowlers and junior bowlers were in support
- I would support an event where players can change position during the match – 48% agree
  - There were some stark regional differences in response to this question, with players in the East, Midlands and North where Federation Bowls permits the change of position all in favour of such a change
- I would support the introduction of set dates to play in some national competitions – 65% agree
- I would support the introduction of events that can be played during weekdays (daytime) – 48% agree
  - The introduction of daytime events were particularly supported by those aged 60 and over; those in the younger age categories not in support of daytime play
- I would support the introduction of a national league (played regionally in early stages) – 57% agree

#### ***Player Experience***

- I would support a single point of entry for the national championships and national competitions (for example via an on-line registration process) – 67% agree
- I would support the development of an on-line competitions management for all national championships (including county rounds) and national competitions – 69% agree
- I would support the development of a standardised calendar for SOME national competitions with set-dates rather than play-by dates – 61% agree
- I believe the national championships and national competitions programme should be promoted together – 78% agree
- I would like to see the use of more technology across the sport in the management of competitions – 77% agree

**Full results from the Player Survey follow:**



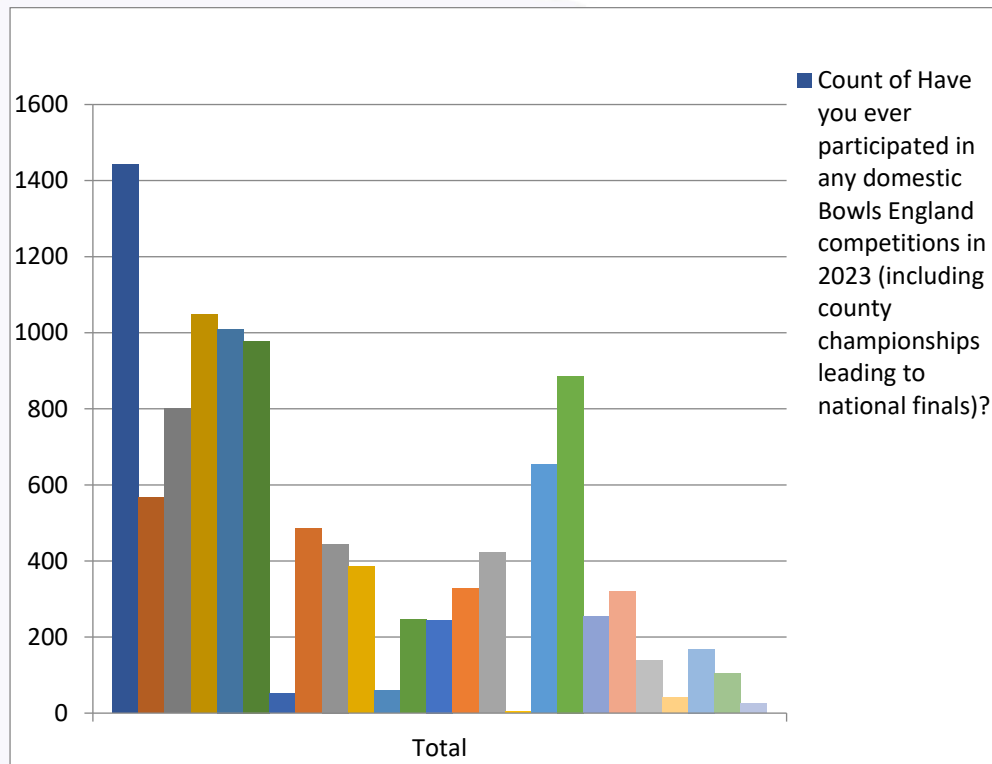
**SECTION 2: COMPETITION PROGRAMME  
(ASKED OF ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN 2023)**

**Q2(a) Which of the following Bowls England competitions did you participate in during 2023 (including county championships leading to national finals)?**

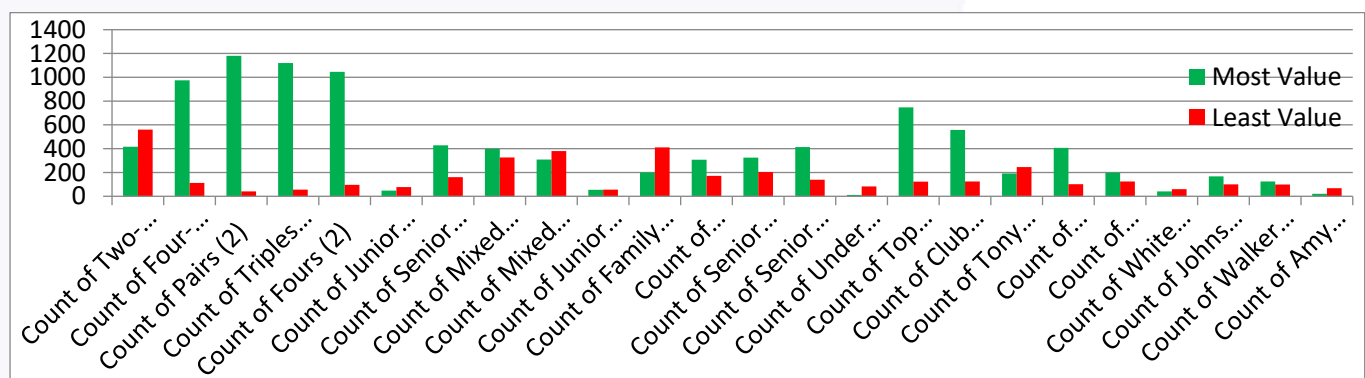
A total of 1442 respondents said they had participated.

	BASE %	MOST VALUE %	LEAST VALUE %
Two wood singles	39	29	39
Four wood singles	56	68	8
Pairs	73	82	3
Triples	70	78	4
Fours	68	73	7
Junior pairs	4	3	5
Senior fours	34	30	11
Mixed pairs	31	28	23
Mixed Fours	27	21	26
Family pairs	4	14	29
Champion of Champions	17	21	12
Senior singles	23	23	14
Senior pairs	29	29	10
Under 18 singles	-	1	6
Club two fours	45	39	9
Top Club	61	52	9
Tony Allcock Trophy	18	13	17
Middleton Cup	22	28	7
Balcomb Trophy	10	14	9
White Rose Trophy	3	3	4
Johns Trophy	12	12	7
Walker Cup	7	9	7
Amy Rose	2	1	5

## ALL RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN BE COMPS IN 2023 – BY COMP TYPE



Q3b Which of these events that you are eligible to participate in do you MOST VALUE and  
Q3c which do you LEAST VALUE ?



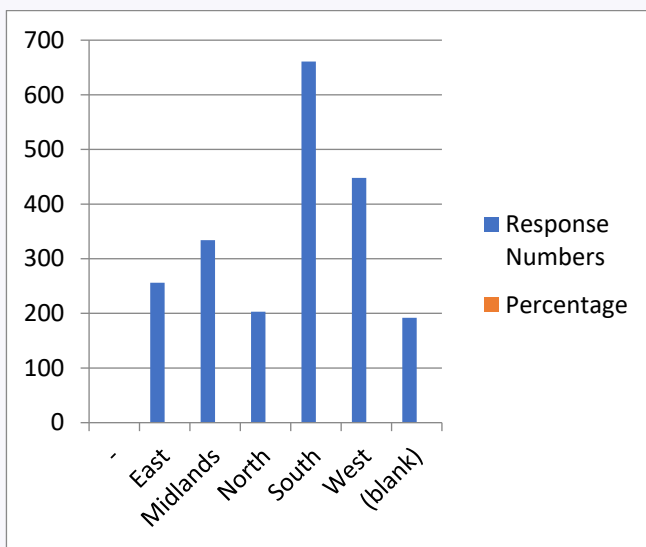
Q4 There is a need to create a better definition between different types of competitions in order to be more relevant to players by age and /ability. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

47% agreed with this statement (22% strongly 25% slightly) 30% had no opinion either way and 22% disagreed (13% strongly) No significant differences by region, gender, age groups or bowler types.

## ALL RESPONDENTS

*In which region do you play bowls?*

East 12%  
Midlands 16%  
North 10%  
South 32%  
West 21%



*Please indicate your gender:*

- Female 27%
- Male 67%

*Which of the following descriptions best describes your bowls playing level?*

- "Social "competition bowler (enter competitions occassionally without high expectations of qualifying for national finals) - 20%
- Competition bowler (Not currently playing inter-county bowls but have either done so in the past or aspire to in the future - 26%
- County level player or participating in inter-county events - 45%
- Current England player (represented England in International play - 2%
- U18 and U25 international player, or U18 /U25 aspiring to participate internationally - 1%
- No Answer - 5%



### SECTION 3: NON PARTICIPANTS IN ANY DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS DURING 2023

(33% of total number taking part in survey – 653 respondents)

These 653 non-participants in any domestic BE comps during 2023 were asked:

*Q6 Have you ever participated in any national competitions?*

Total	Gender	
	Male	Female
Yes 33%	24%	7%
No 67%	47%	16%

*Q7 Which of the following statements best describes why you DID NOT participate in any national competitions in 2023?*

	%
I did not have time due to work	11
I do not have time due to family commitments	10
I have other sporting priorities	3
I do not want to travel longer distances to play	15
The formats don't suit me	6
It's too expensive	5
I don't have anyone to play with	6
I don't feel I'm good enough	34
I feel I will be beaten by better players in the area	13
I only play bowls socially	8
I was not aware of any events	3
Playing doesn't sound enjoyable or fun	16

*Q8 Which of the following would motivate you to enter Bowls England competitions in the future? TICK AS MANY AS MAY APPLY*

	%
Shorter Games	10
More interesting formats	9
The opportunity to play with more experienced players	21
The opportunity to play against players of similar ability	37
The opportunity to play against players of similar age	13
Local and/or regional events on a single day/weekend	38
Social activity interlinked with a competitive element	14
Easier entry process for competitions	18



*Q9 (a) If you were to enter a national competition for the first time WHAT TYPE of competition would be most appealing?*

	%
One of the Blue Riband events where you can challenge the best players	11
A more relaxed new format	27
Representing your club	42
Age group events	23
Para events	3
Open events	17

*Q9 (b) If you were to enter a national competition for the first time with WHO would you most like to play with?*

	%
By Myself	30
With club mate/s of same gender	57
With club mate/s of a different gender	39
Family	10
Friends	13

*Q10 Which of the following times is YOUR ideal to participate in bowls?*

	%
Weekday morning	13
Weekday afternoon	35
Weekday evening	28
Weekend morning	15
Weekend afternoon	21
Weekend evening	9

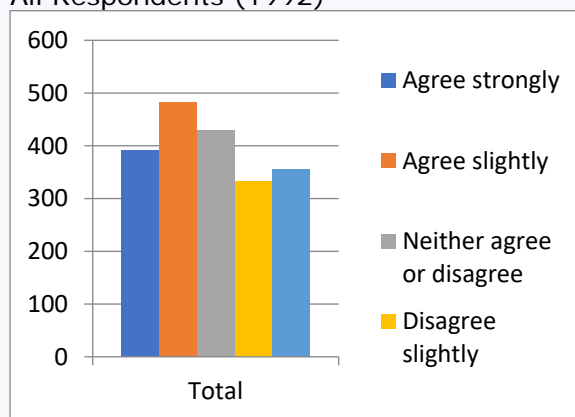
## SECTION 4: AGE GROUPS

Q11 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

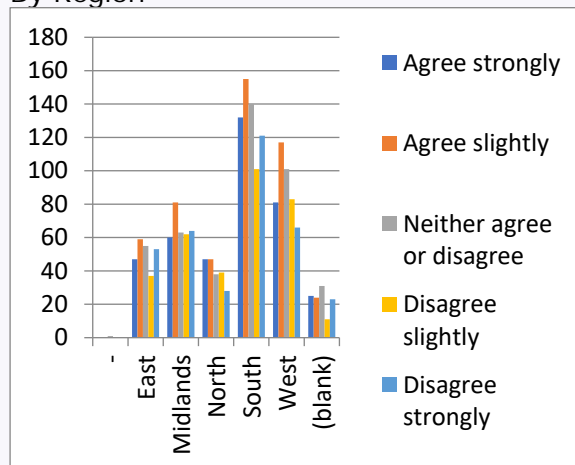
- (a) Grouping players with similar age and ability will provide fair and healthy competition

44% agree with this statement (20% strongly 24% slightly) 22% had no opinion either way 35% disagreed

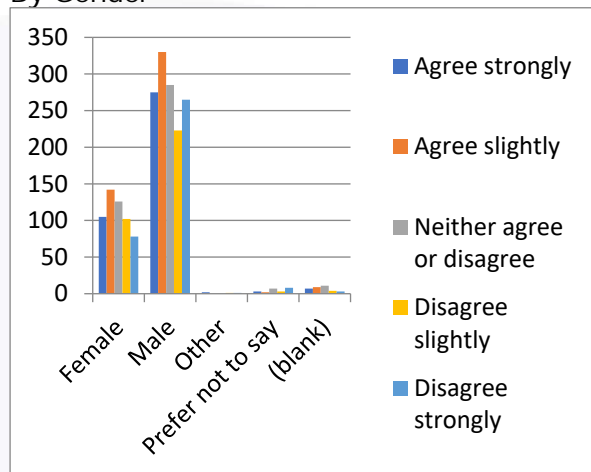
All Respondents (1992)



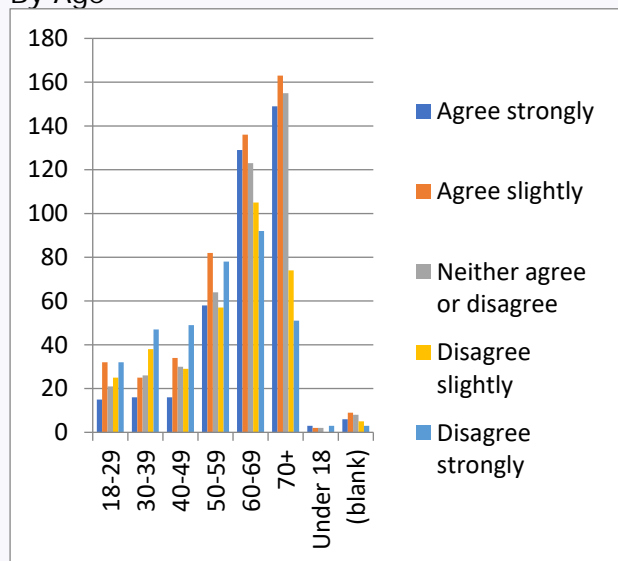
By Region



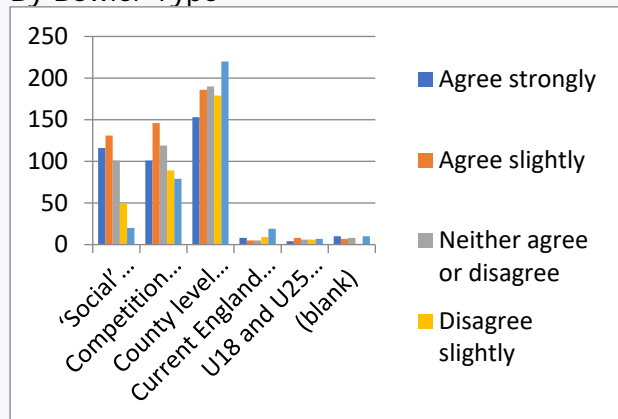
By Gender



By Age

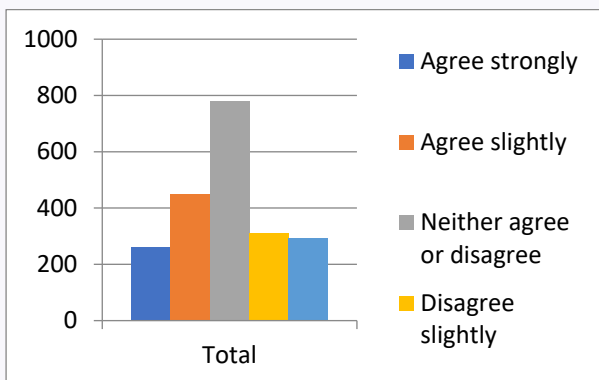


By Bowler Type

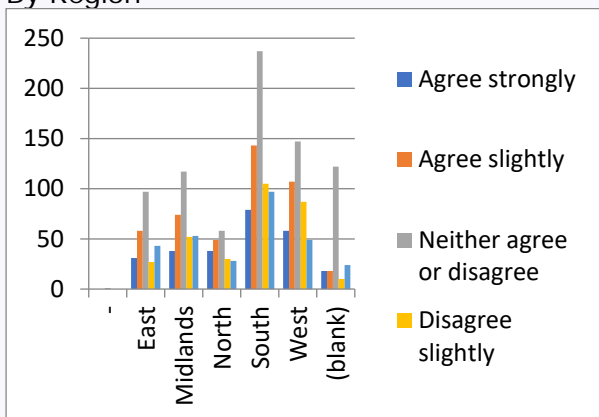


(b) *Grouping players with similar age and ability will support players on the pathway to future success*

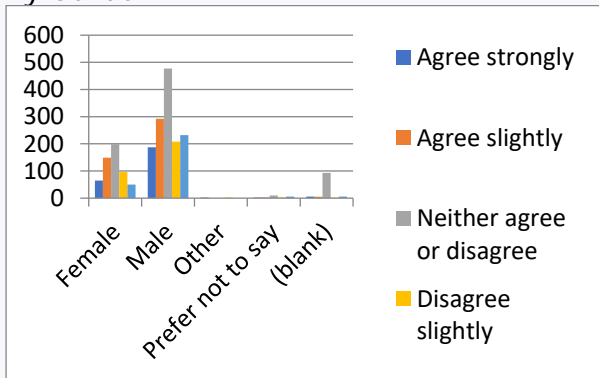
35% agreed with this statement (13% strongly 21% slightly) 37% had no opinion either way and 29% disagreed



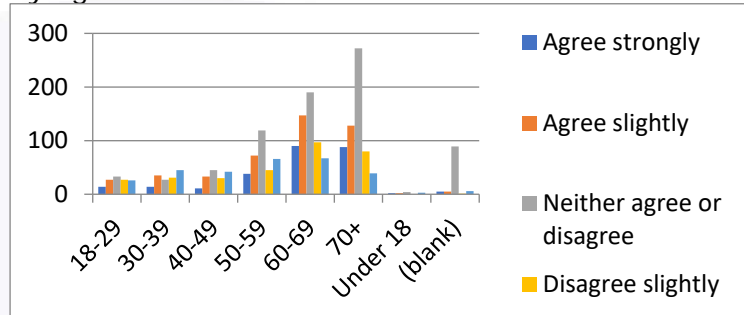
By Region



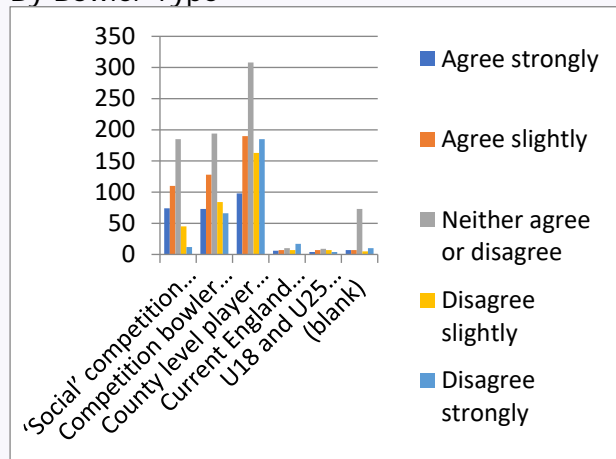
By Gender



#### By Age



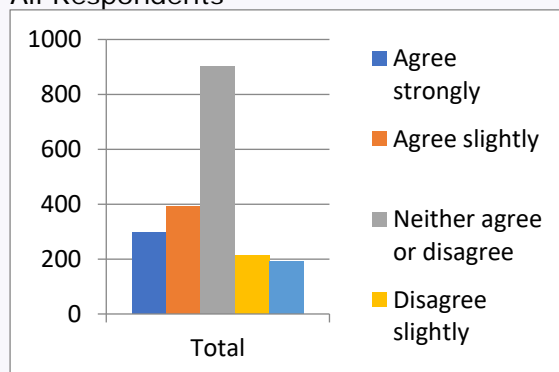
#### By Bowler Type



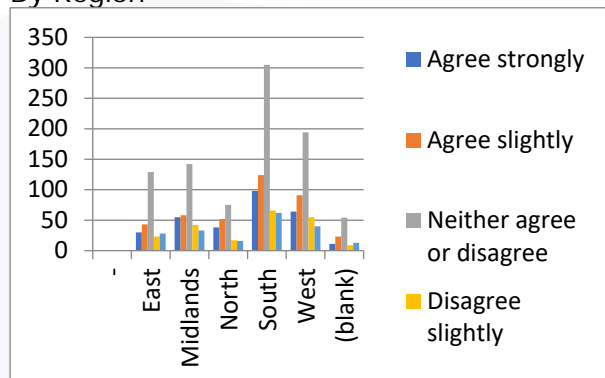
(c) Current age bands do not meet the objectives of age group competition

35% agreed with this statement (15% strongly 20% slightly) 45% had no opinion either way 21% disagreed with the statement

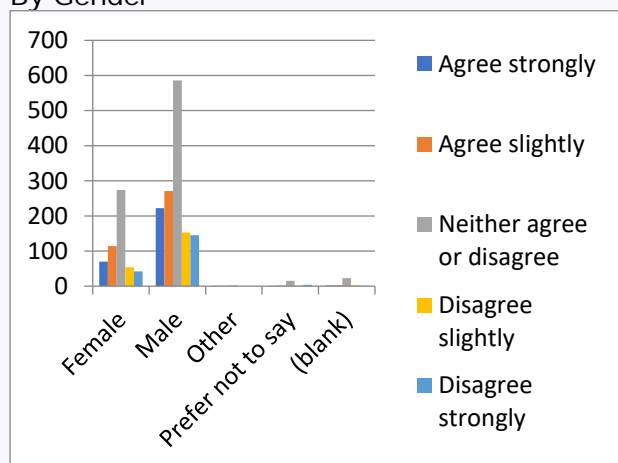
#### All Respondents



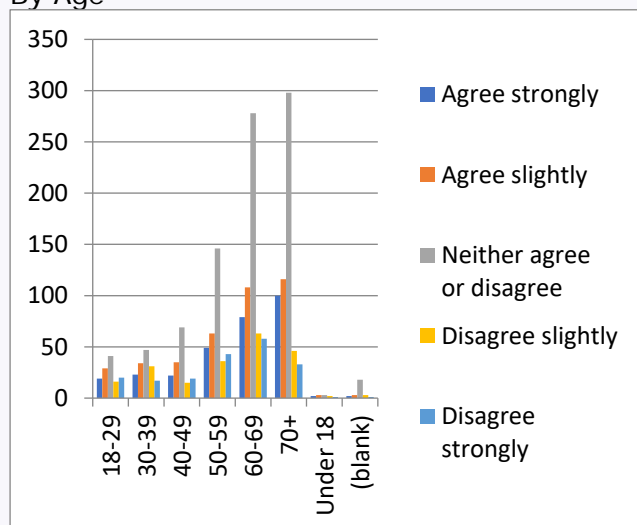
By Region



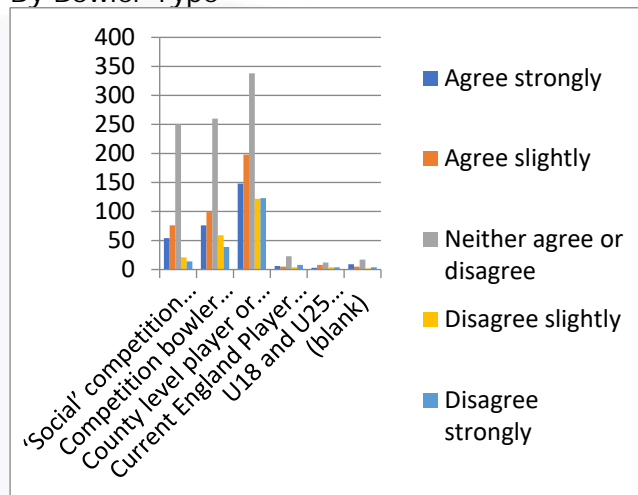
By Gender



By Age



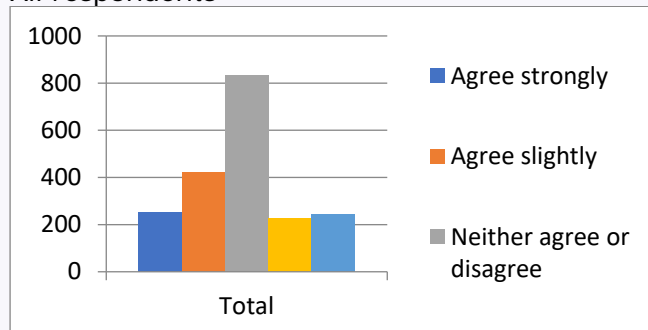
#### By Bowler Type



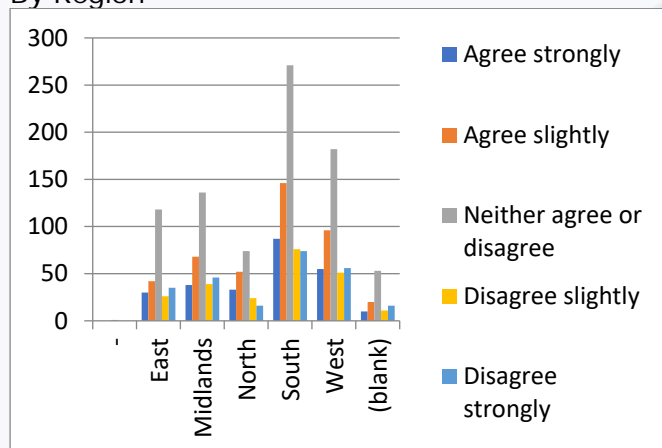
(d) *There is too much overlap between age group competition and "open" competition. Open to any age.*

34% agreed with the statement (13% strongly 21% slightly) 42% had no opinion either way and 23% disagrees.

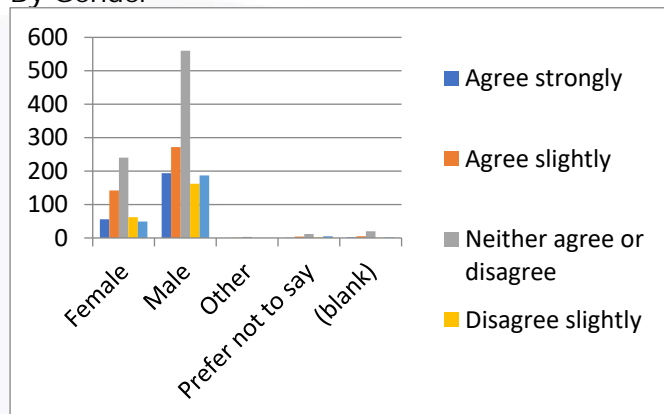
#### All respondents



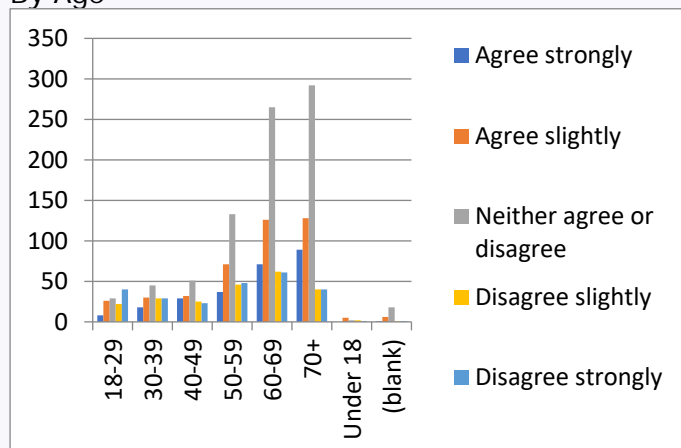
#### By Region



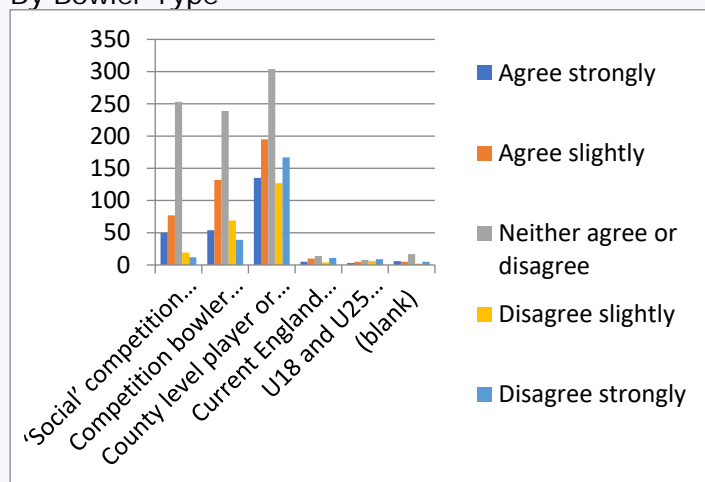
By Gender



By Age



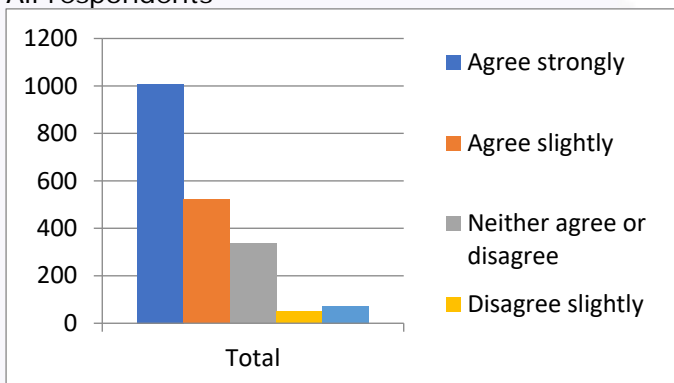
By Bowler Type



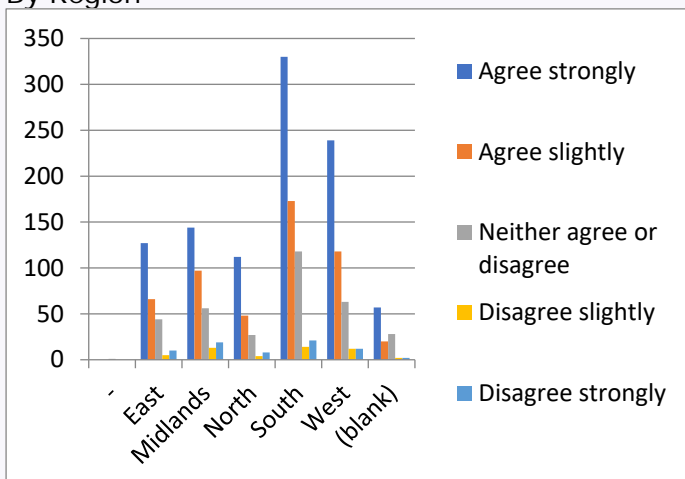
(e) Age bands for men and women (junior and senior) should be consistent.

77% agree with this statement ( 51% strongly 26% slightly) 17% had no opinion either way Only 7% disagreed.

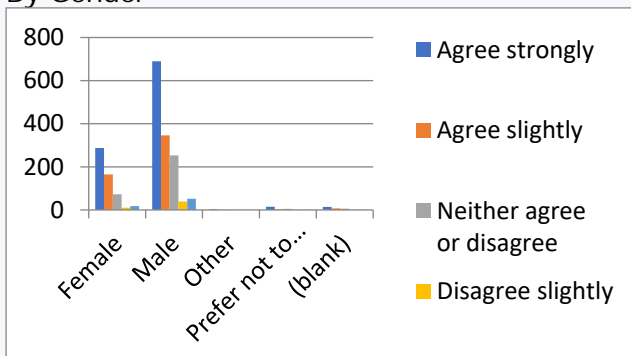
All respondents



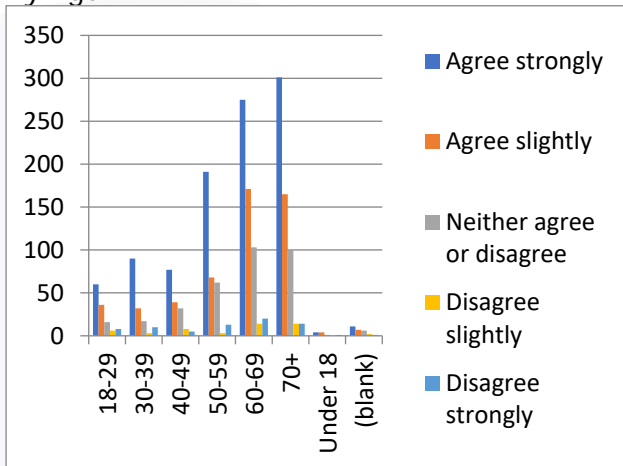
By Region



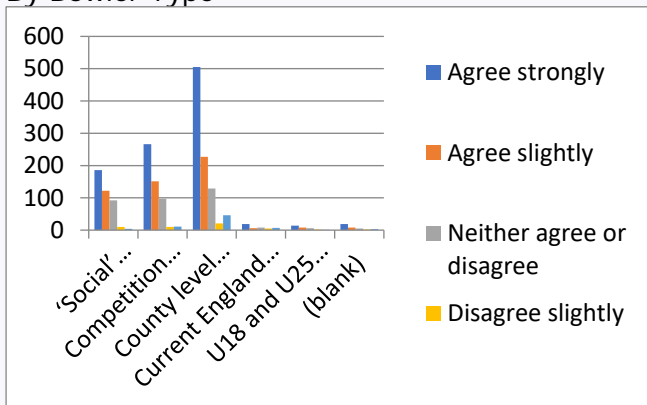
By Gender



By Age



By Bowler Type



Q12 Do you think the under 25 age group is:

- Too High 33%
- Too Low 12%
- About Right 55%

Q14 Do you feel the age category for senior events is:

- Too High 5%
- Too Low 49%
- About Right 46%

Q15 Do you feel players should be permitted to enter both "open" and junior age group competition?

- Yes 81%
- No 19%



*Q16 Do you feel players should be permitted to enter both "open" and senior age group competitions?*

- Yes 85%
- No 15%

*Q17 Would you like to see more age bands for junior competition to support their individual development and talent identification?*

- Yes 42%
- No 27%
- Unsure 31%

*Q18 Would you like to see more age bands for senior competitions?*

- Yes 33%
- No 51%
- Unsure 16%

*Q19. If the number of age group competitions were increased should people be able to play in multiple categories?*

- Yes 63%
- No 29%
- Unsure 17%

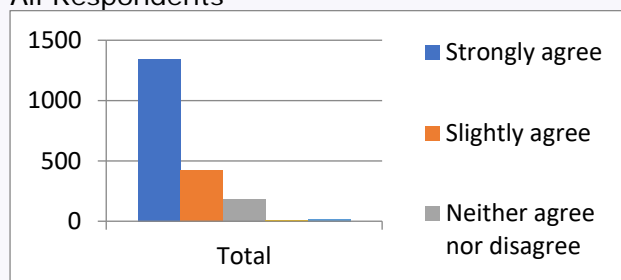
## SECTION 5: NATIONAL FINALS

Q20 To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

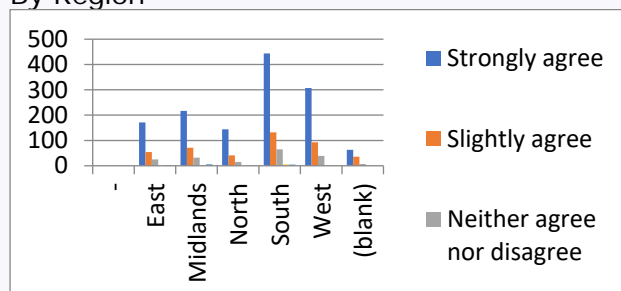
(a) Greater visibility is needed to profile the best our sport can offer

88% of all respondents agree with this statement (68% strongly 20% slightly) and the same pattern is true across regions, gender and age groups

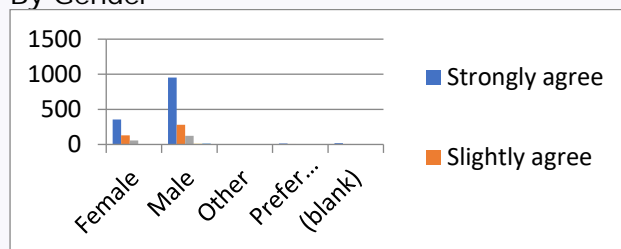
All Respondents



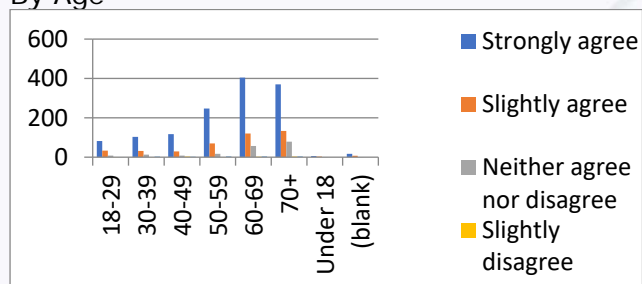
By Region



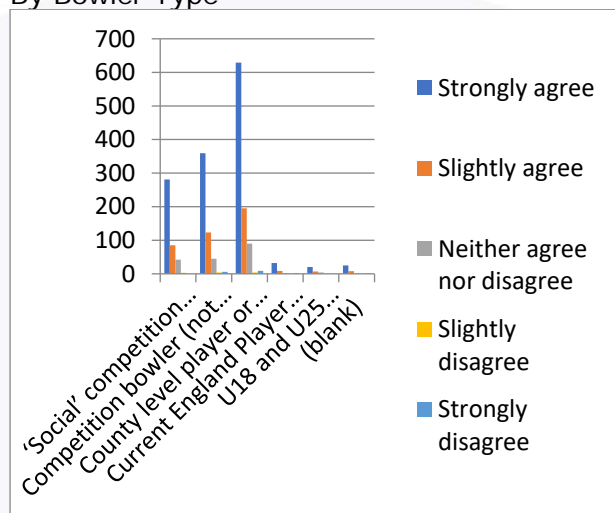
By Gender



By Age



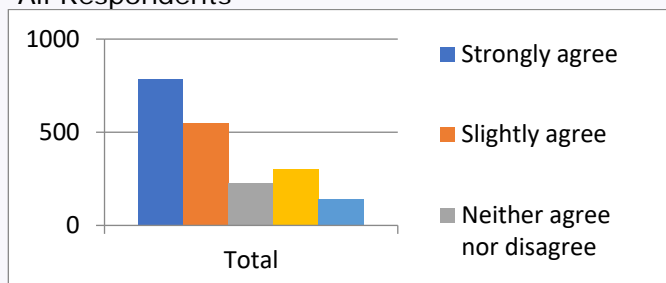
By Bowler Type



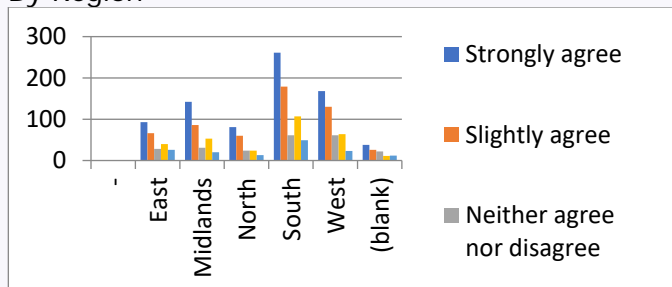
(b) *National finals are valued by all bowlers not just those who qualify and their families*

66% of all respondents agree (39% strongly; 27% slightly) with this statement and again similar pattern across regions gender and age groups

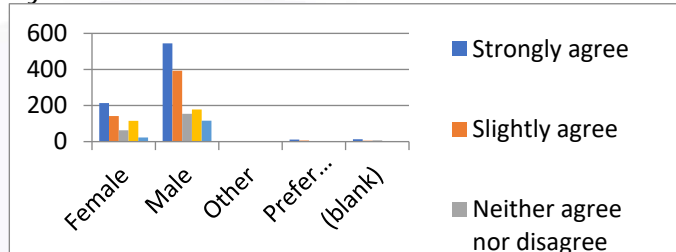
All Respondents



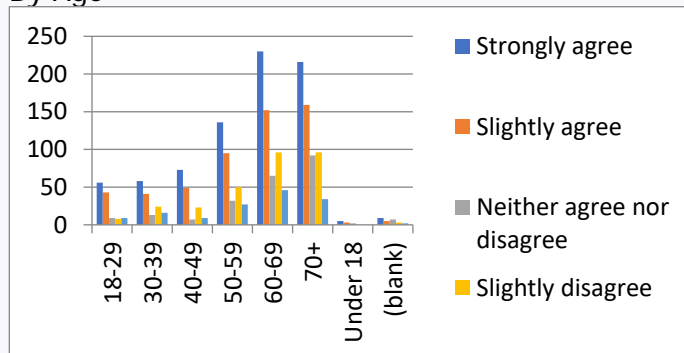
By Region



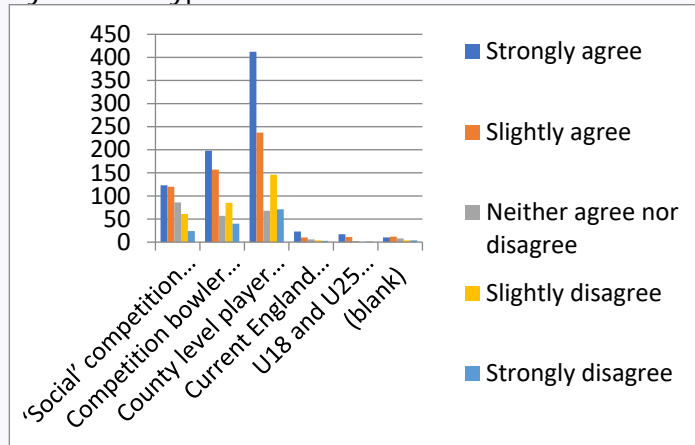
By Gender



By Age



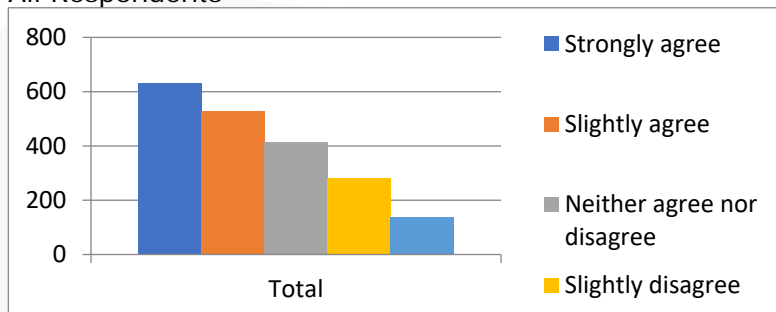
By Bowler Type



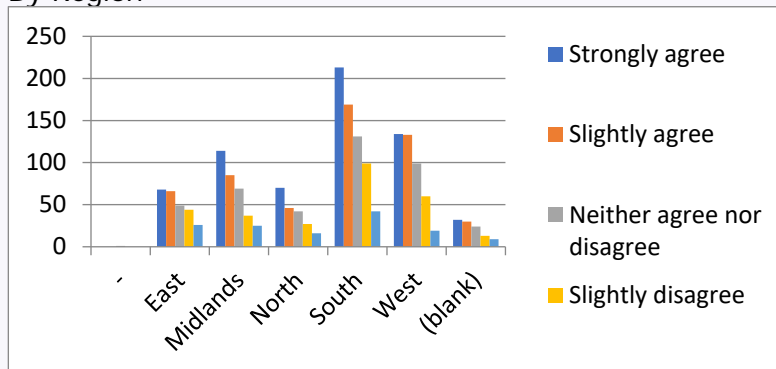
(c) National Finals inspire new entrants and growth in wider participation

59% of all respondents agree with this statement (32% strongly 27% slightly) A fifth of the sample 21% could decide whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement

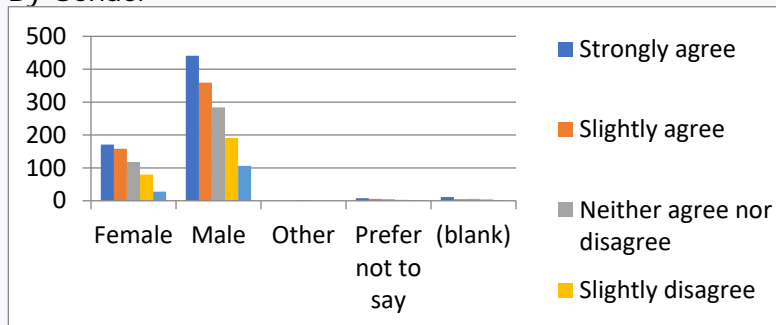
### All Respondents



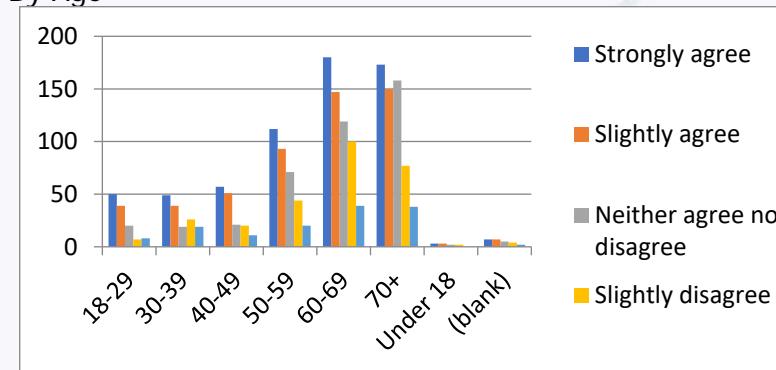
### By Region



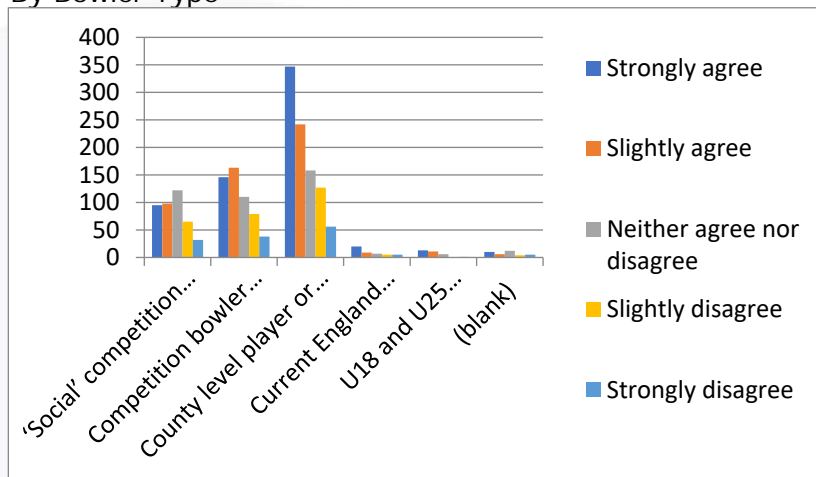
### By Gender



### By Age



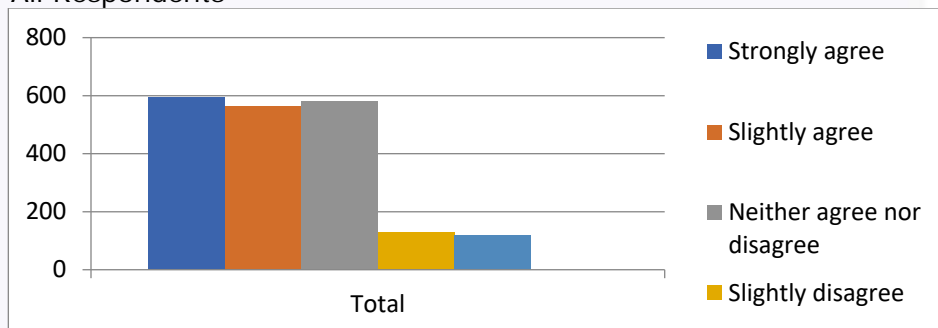
#### By Bowler Type



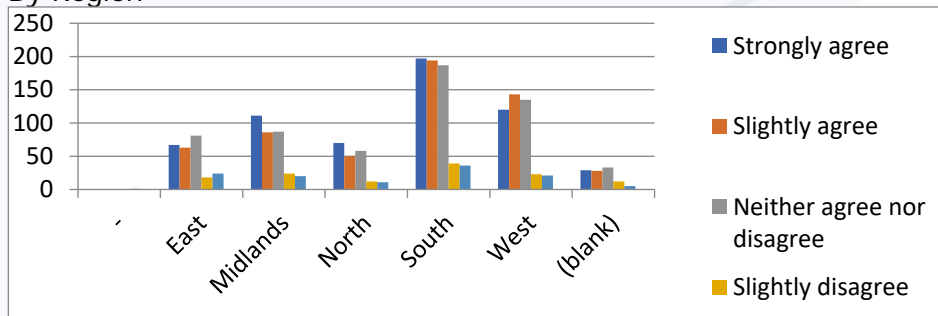
(d) *National Finals generate income from spectators which can be invested into the event*

58% agree with the statement (32% strongly 27% slightly) BUT a third of respondents were undecided and couldn't agree or disagree

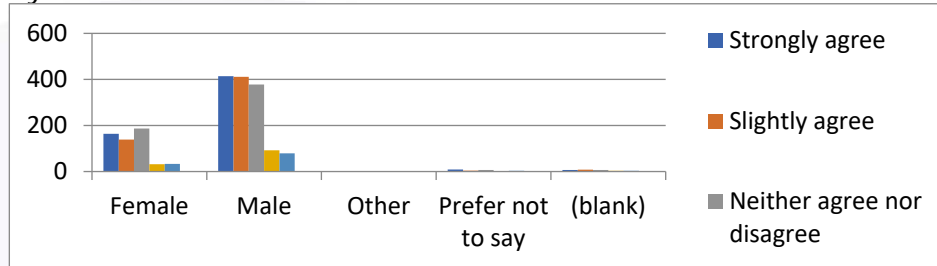
#### All Respondents



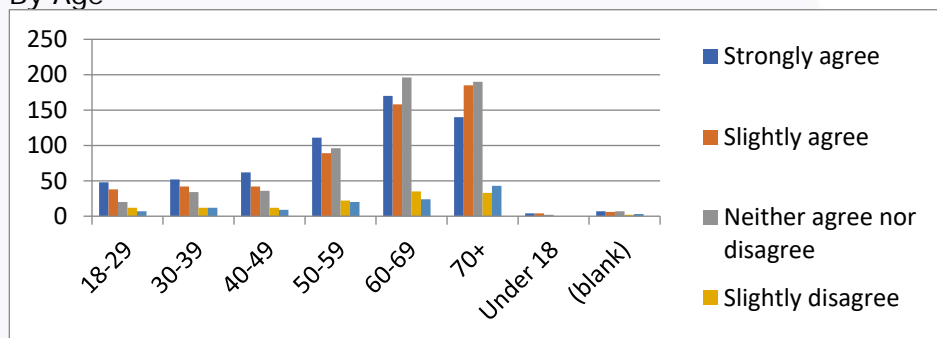
#### By Region



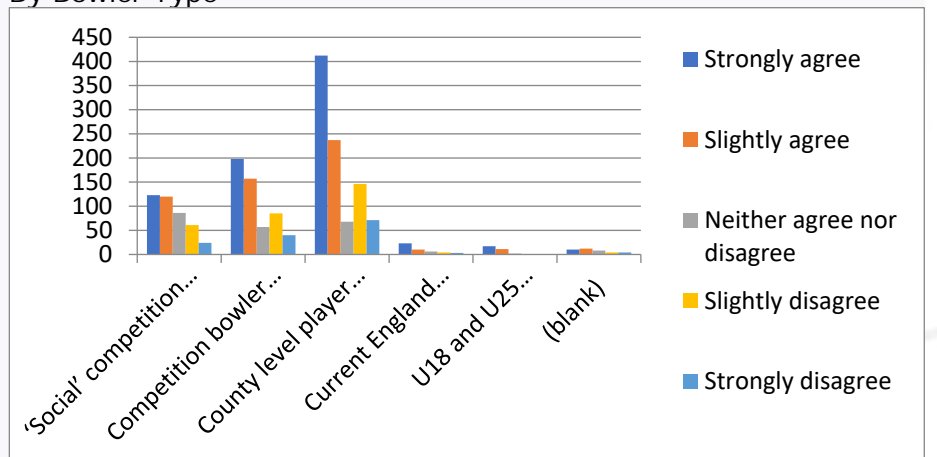
By Gender



By Age



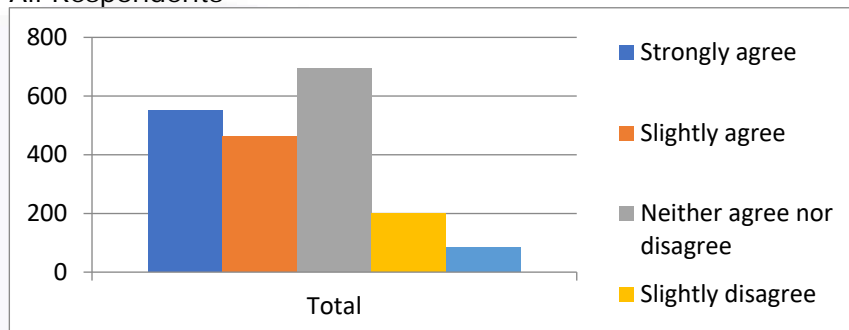
By Bowler Type



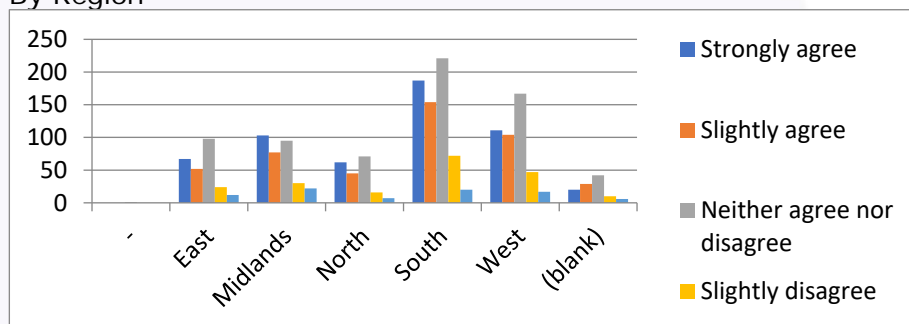
(e) *National Finals do not encroach on our priorities of increasing participation growth and providing services to our affiliated clubs*

Although 51% of respondents agree (28% strongly 23% slightly) with the statement a significant number 35% cannot agree nor disagree with it.

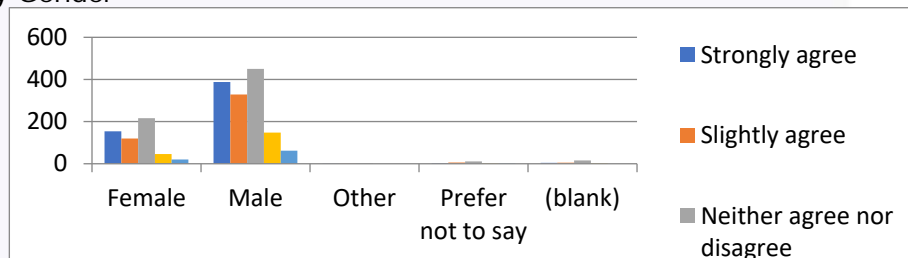
### All Respondents



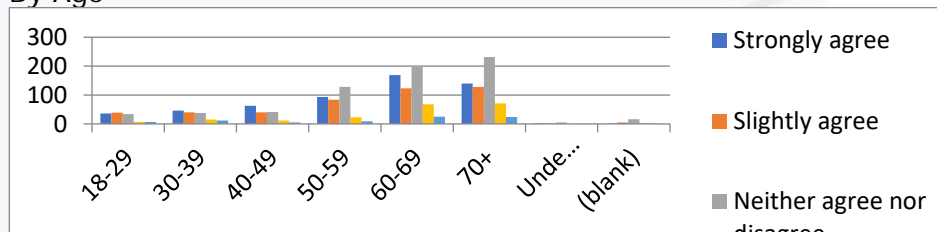
### By Region



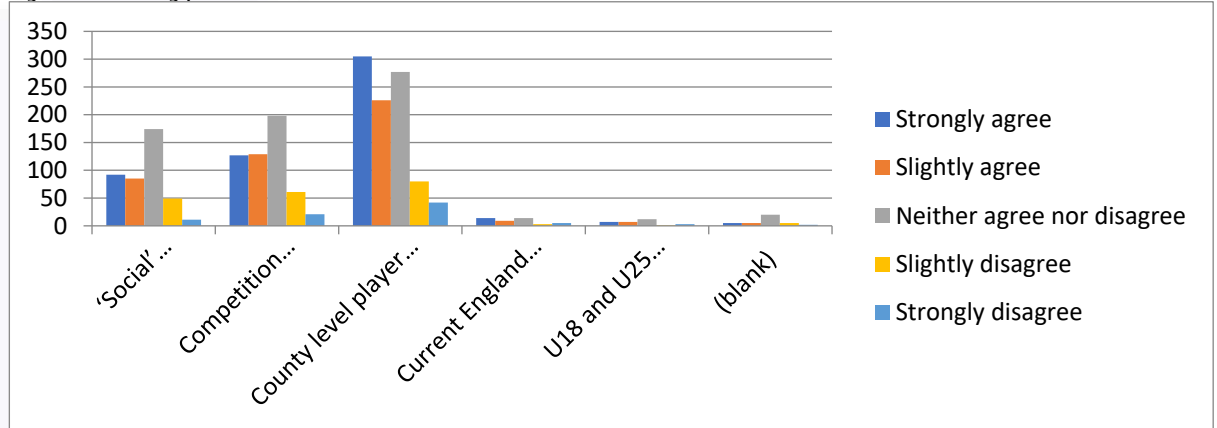
### By Gender



### By Age



By Bowler Type



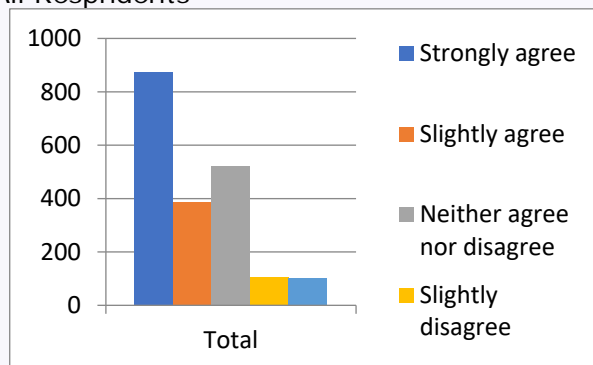
## SECTION 6: QUALIFICATION

*Q21 Thinking about the qualifications for national finals, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:*

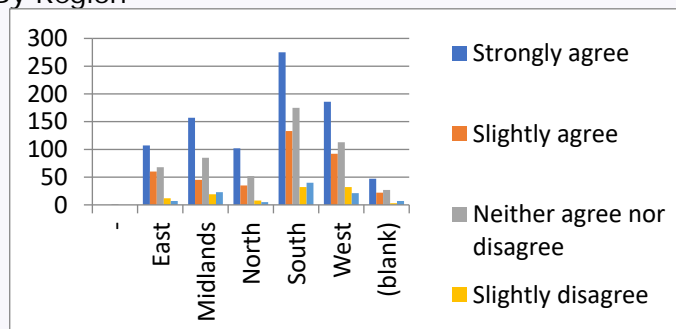
- (a) Having a qualification for national finals motivates me to enter. 63% agree with this statement (44% strongly 19% slightly) 26% neither agree nor disagree.

Whilst this pattern is similar across the regions and gender, significantly more of those aged over 70 years and "social bowlers " are likely to not have an opinion either way neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the statement.

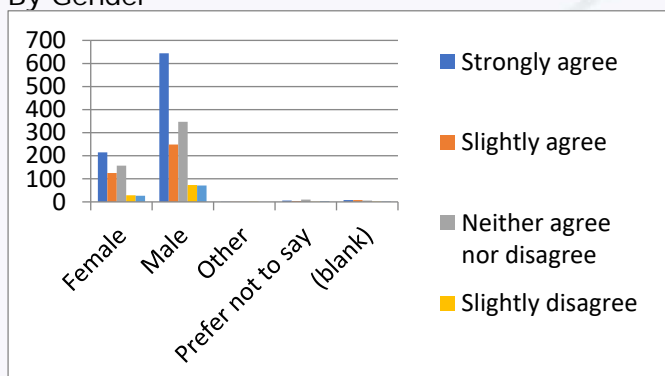
All Respondents



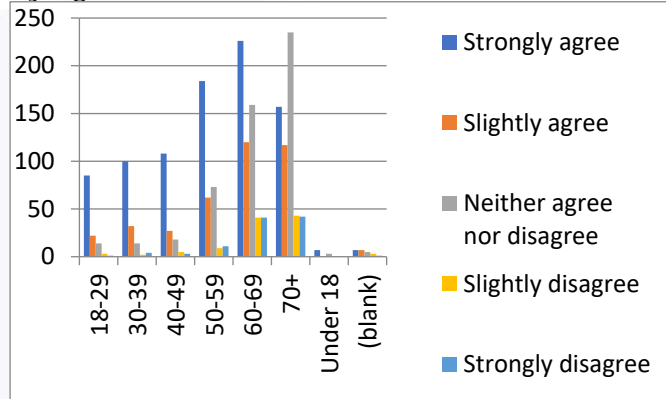
By Region



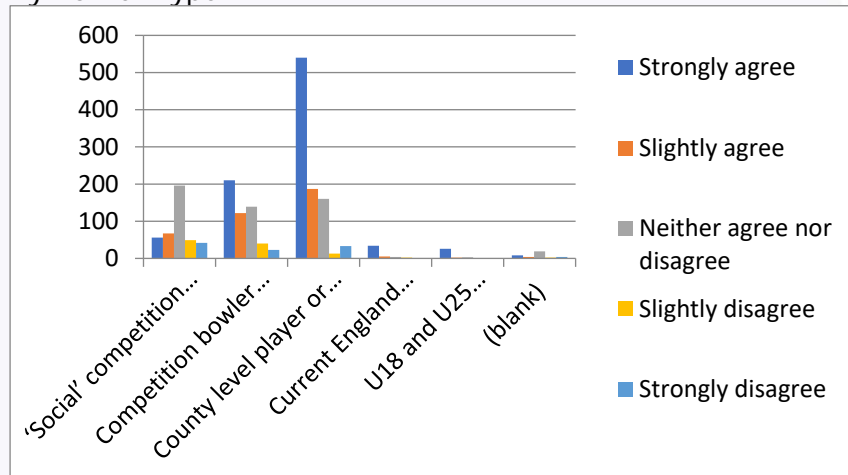
By Gender



By Age



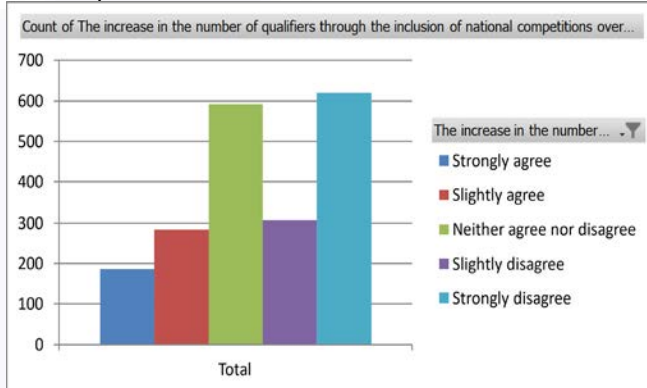
By Bowler Type



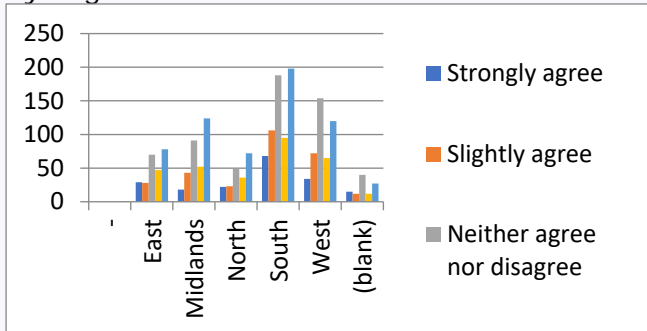
*(b) The increase in the number of qualifiers through inclusion of national competitions over the year has diluted the achievement of reaching the national finals.*

46% disagreed with this statement; Only 23% of all respondents agreed strongly or slightly and almost a third had no opinion either way. Women were more inclined to have no opinion either way whilst more men tended to disagree. Social bowlers were also more likely to have no opinion either way whilst County bowlers tended more to disagree with the statement.

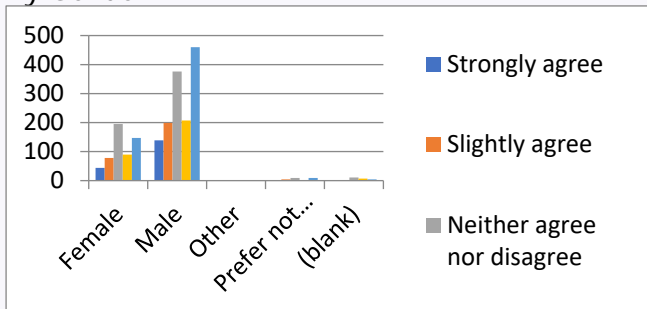
## All Respondents



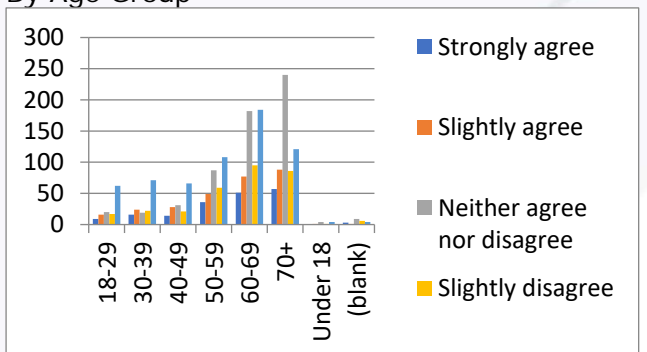
## By Region



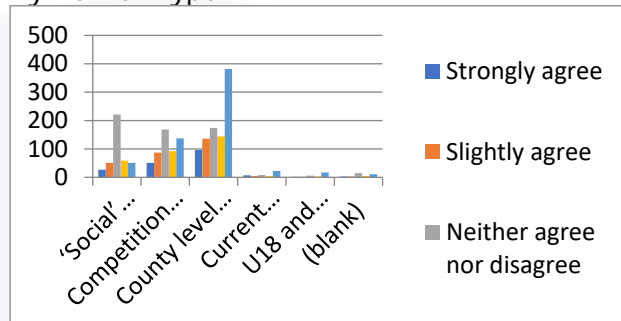
## By Gender



## By Age Group



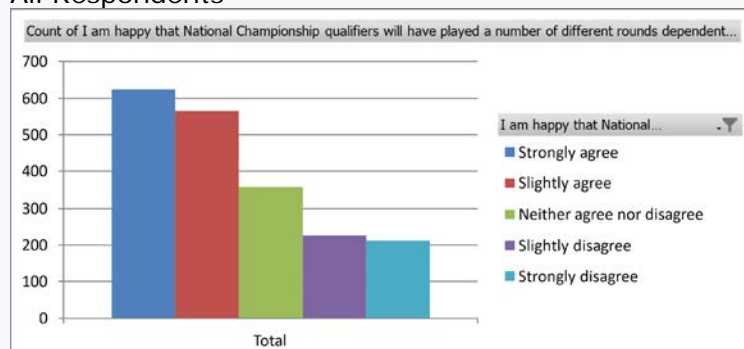
#### By Bowler Type



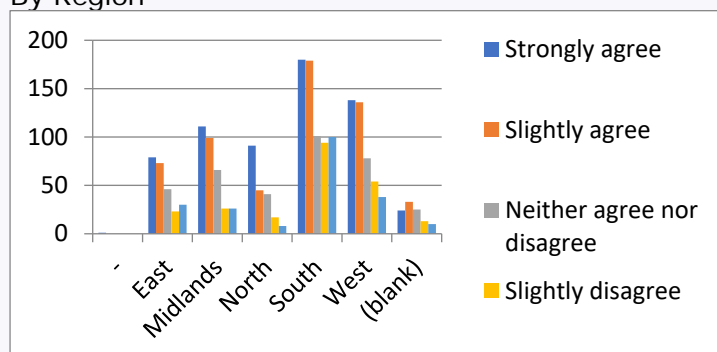
(c) I am happy that National Championship qualifiers will have played a number of different rounds independent of the size of their county.

60% agreed (32% strongly 28% slightly) with this statement. Only 22% disagreed. There was a similar pattern across regions ,gender and age, but social bowlers felt less strongly and were more likely to opt for a neither agree nor disagree answer.

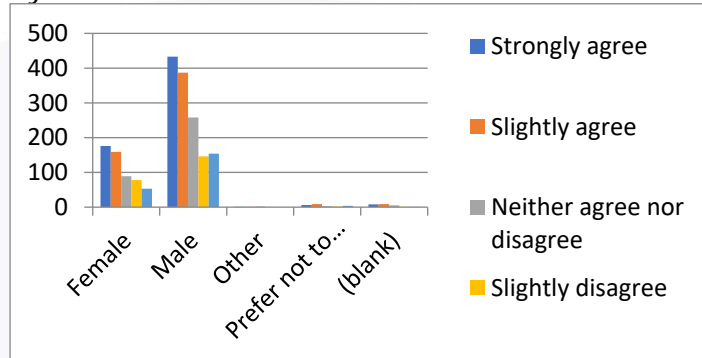
#### All Respondents



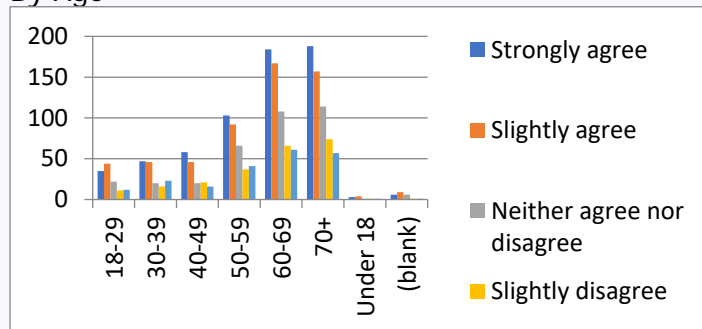
#### By Region



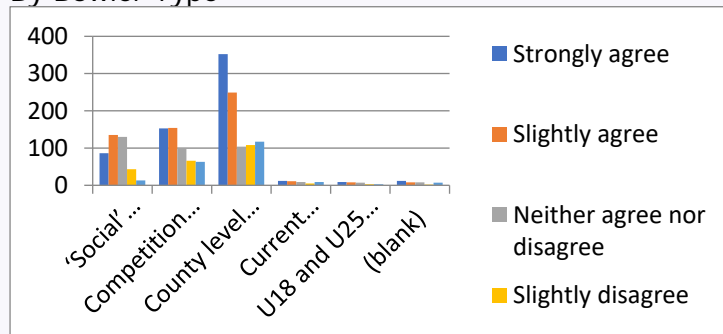
By Gender



By Age



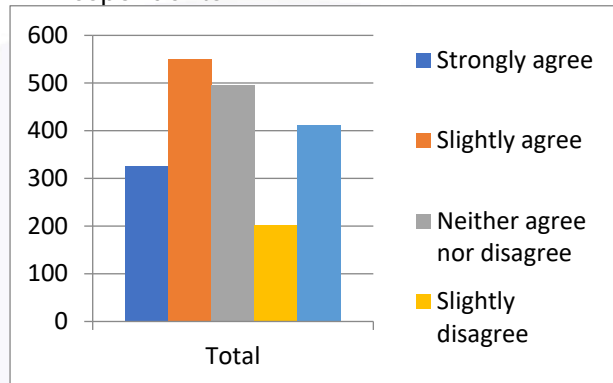
By Bowler Type



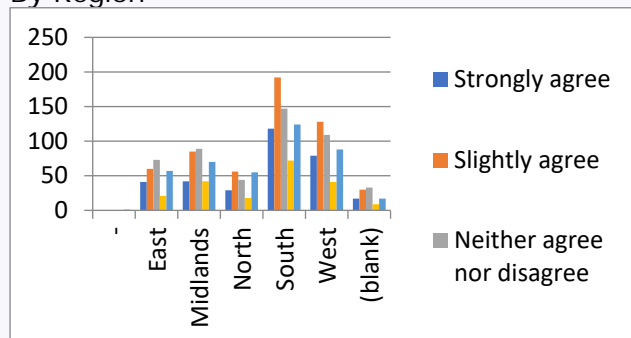
*(d) Regional qualification would resolve the problem of national championships qualifiers playing a number of different rounds dependent on the size of their county.*

44% agreed (16% strongly; 28% slightly) with this statement. 25% had no opinion either way. And 31% disagreed. There were some regional differences. Those in the East and Midlands were more inclined to neither agree nor disagree with the statement. Younger bowlers under 49 years were more inclined to disagree as were County level bowlers.

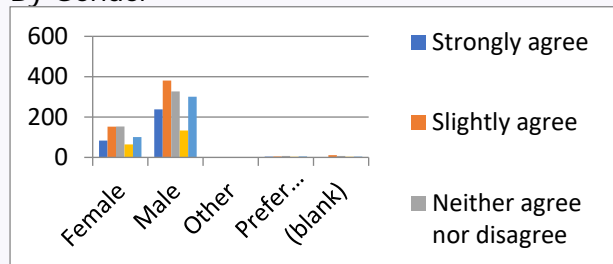
All Respondents



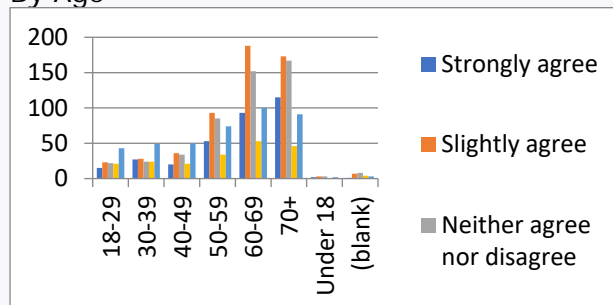
By Region



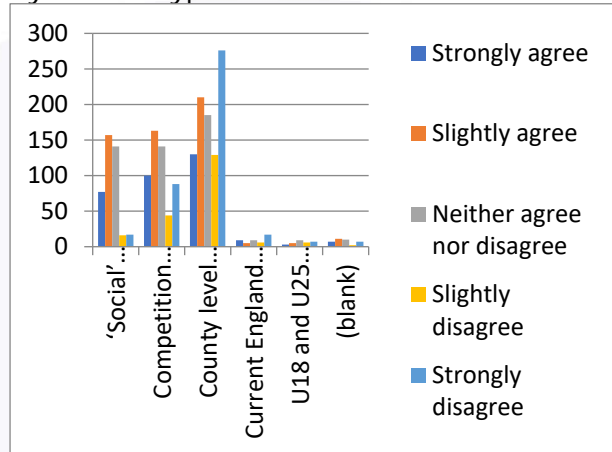
By Gender



By Age



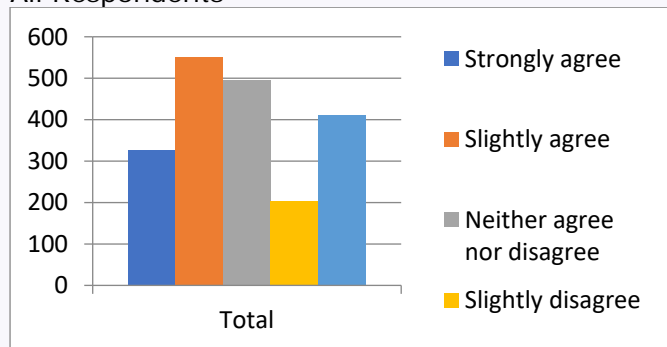
By Bowler Type



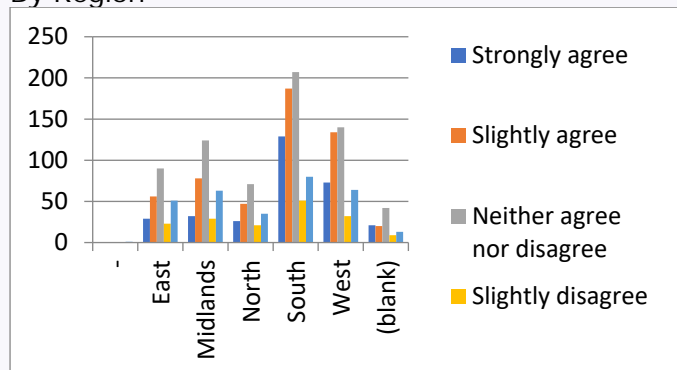
(e) Qualification places allocated as a percentage of the whole number of qualification places will resolve qualifiers playing a number of different rounds dependent on the size of the county

42% agreed with this statement (16% strongly 26% slightly) 34% neither agreed nor disagreed and 24% disagreed. The pattern is the same across region, gender, age and bowler type

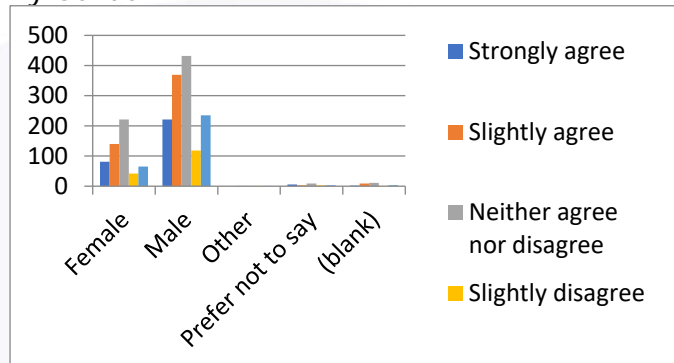
All Respondents



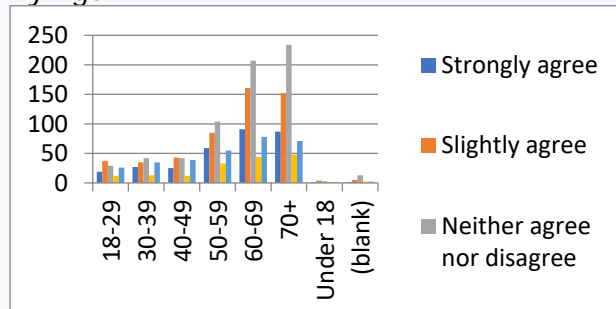
By Region



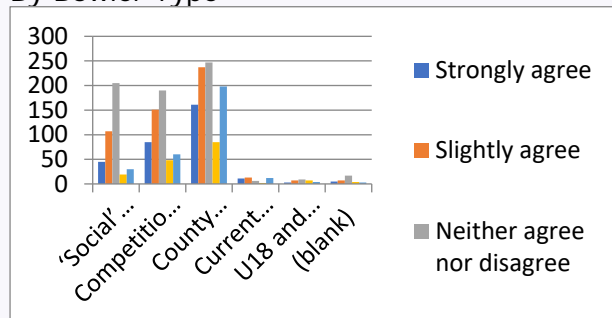
By Gender



By Age



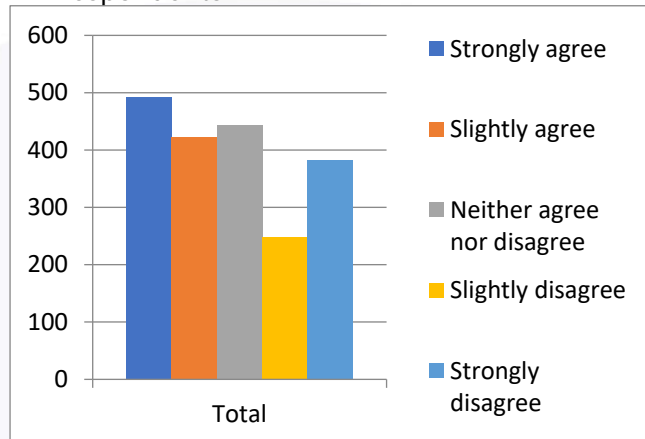
By Bowler Type



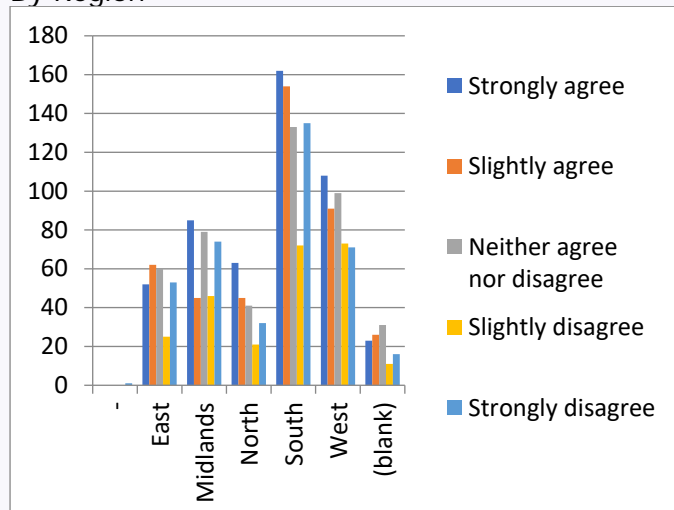
(f) I would still enter national competitions even if there were fewer qualifiers for the national finals

46% agreed with this statement (25% strongly; 21% slightly); 22% neither agreed nor disagreed and 32% disagreed. Men more likely to disagree. And social bowlers and those aged over 70 more likely to have no opinion either way.

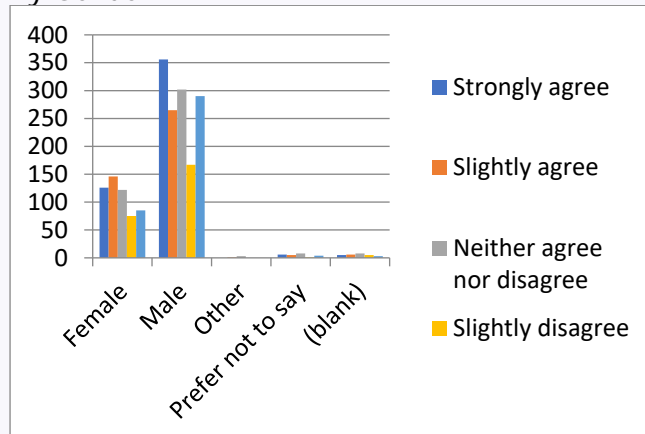
All Respondents



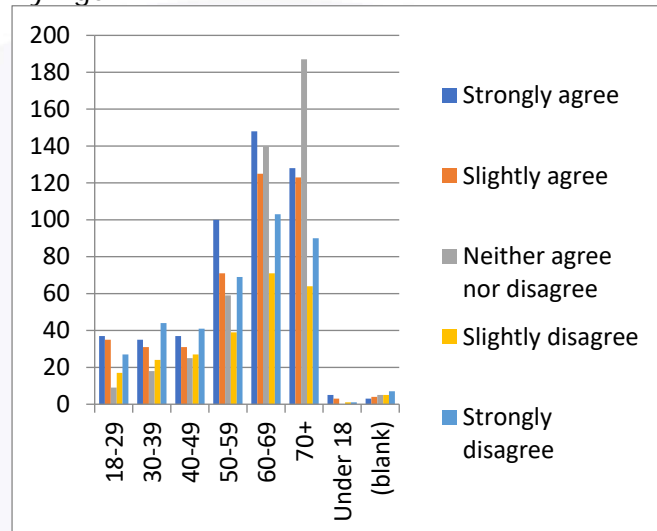
By Region



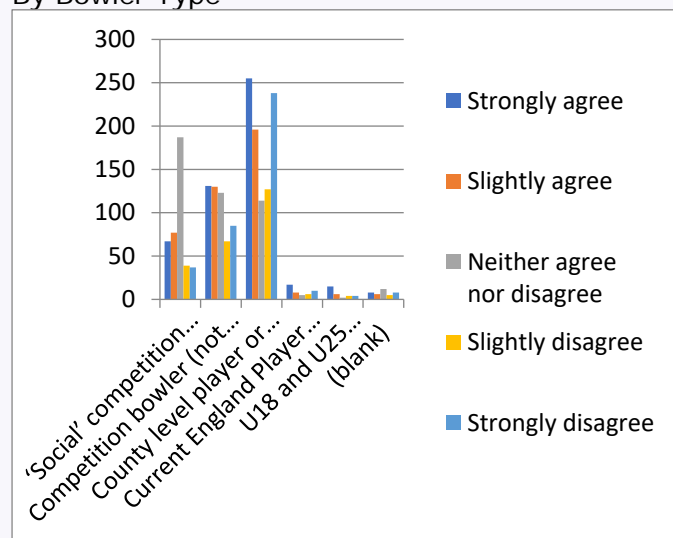
By Gender



By Age



By Bowler Type



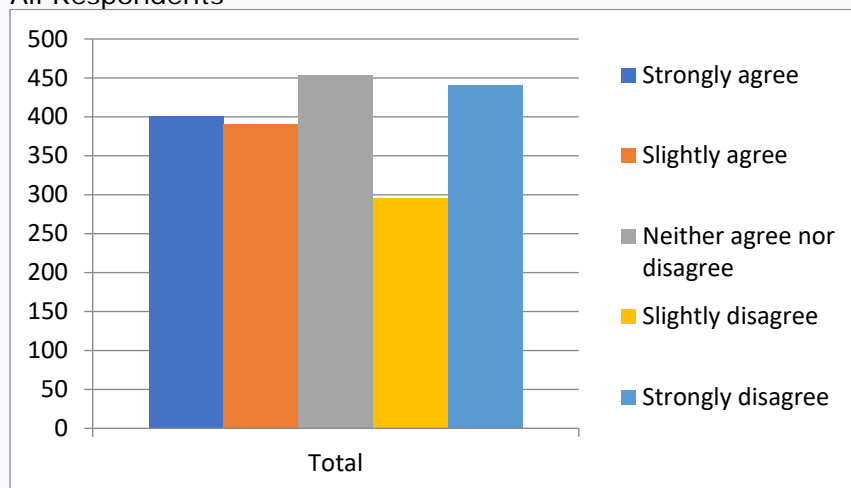
## SECTION 7: SCHEDULING OF COMPETITIONS

Q22 Thinking about the scheduling of national competitions to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

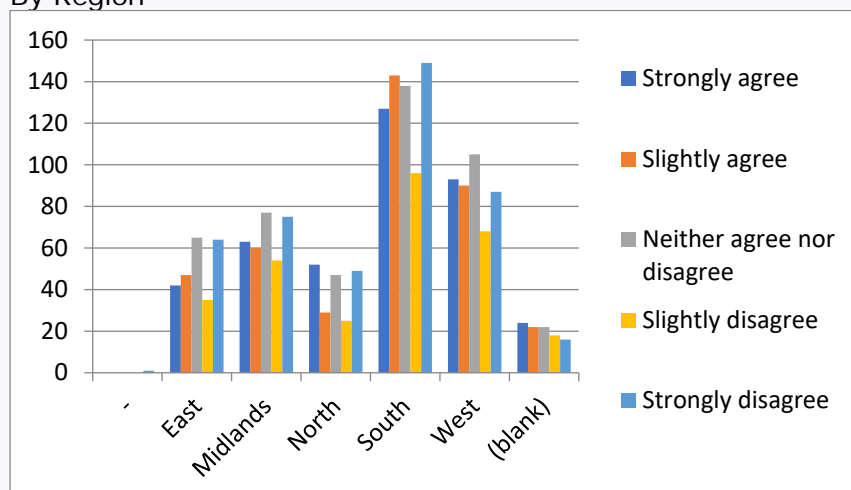
- (a) I believe the national finals should focus primarily on the national championship Blue Riband events

40% agreed (20% strongly; 20% slightly ) with the statement. 37% disagreed and 23% neither agreed nor disagreed

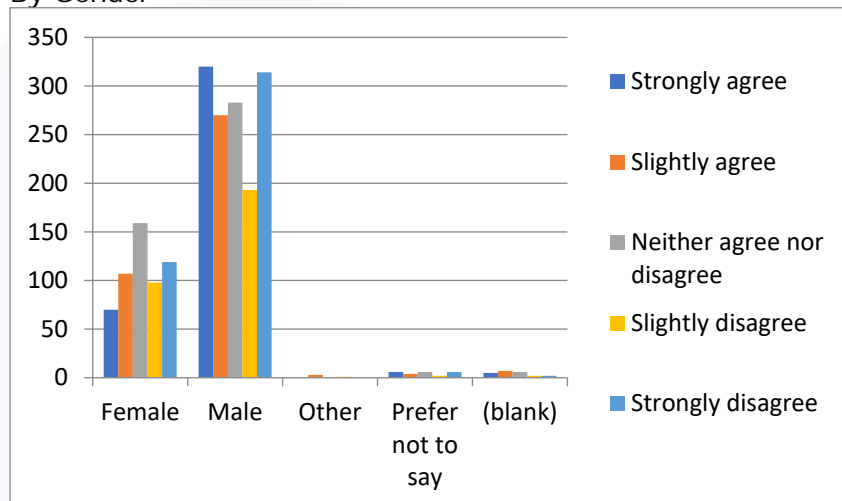
All Respondents



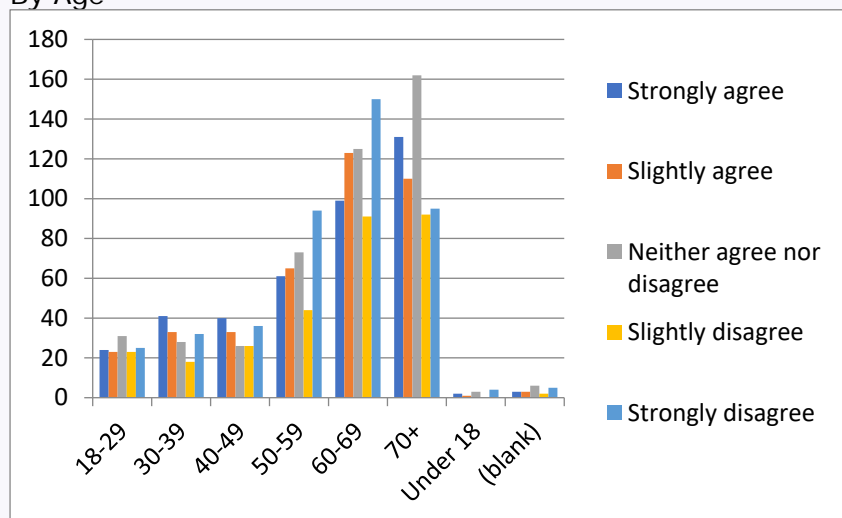
By Region



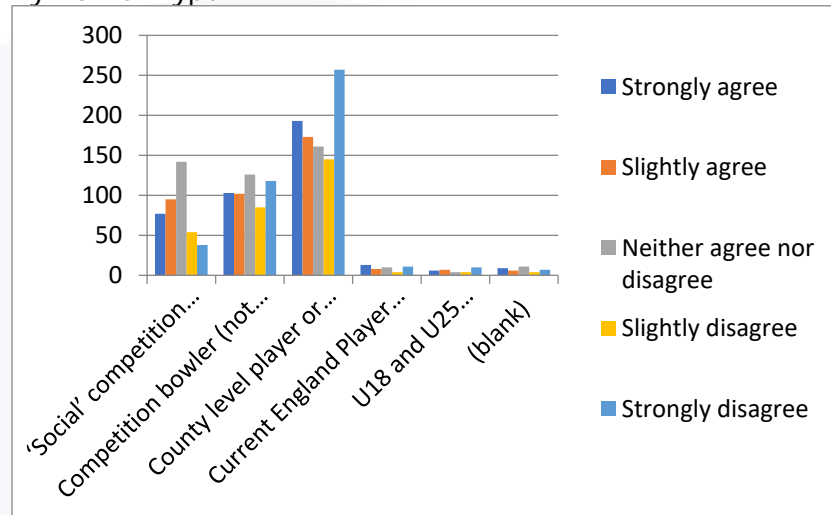
By Gender



By Age



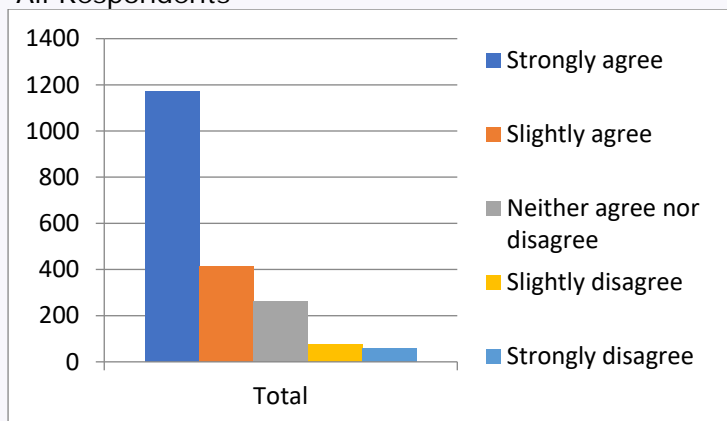
By Bowler Type



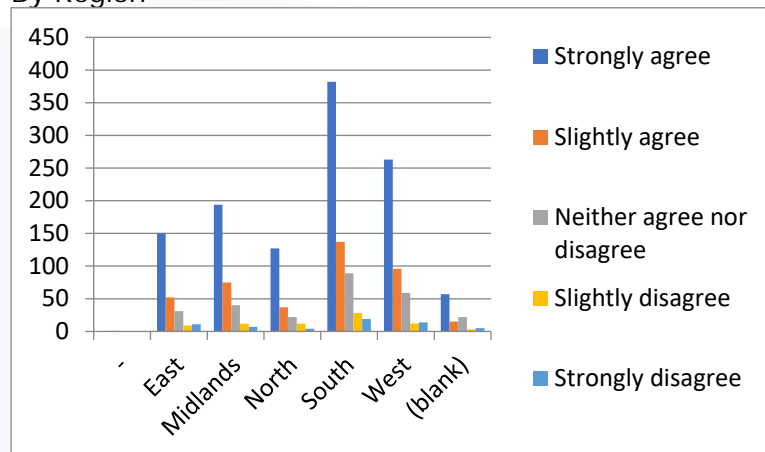
(b) *I believe the national finals should celebrate the inclusivity of our sport with the appropriate representation of age, gender and ability*

80% agree with this statement (59% strongly 21% slightly) 7% disagreed and 13% had no opinion either way

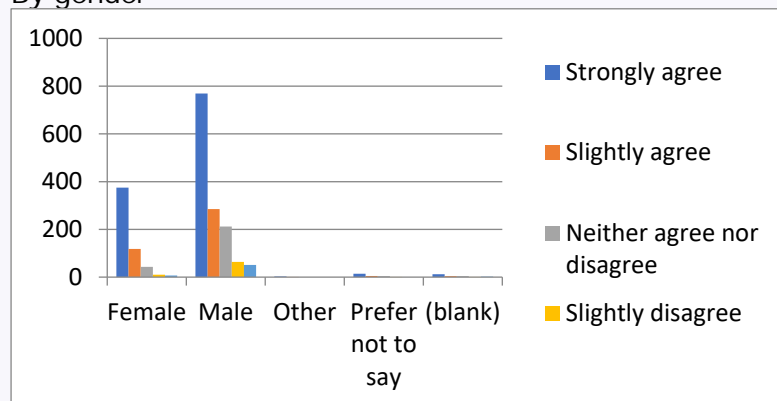
All Respondents



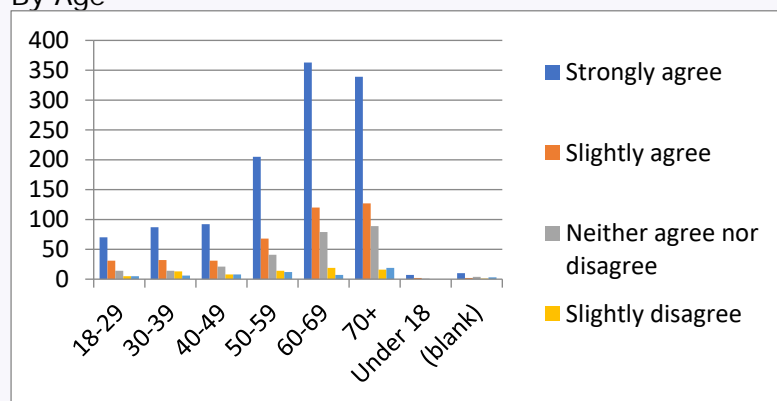
By Region



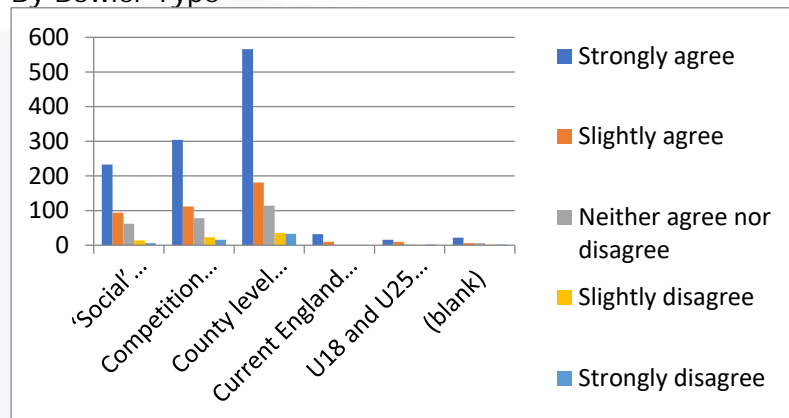
By gender



By Age



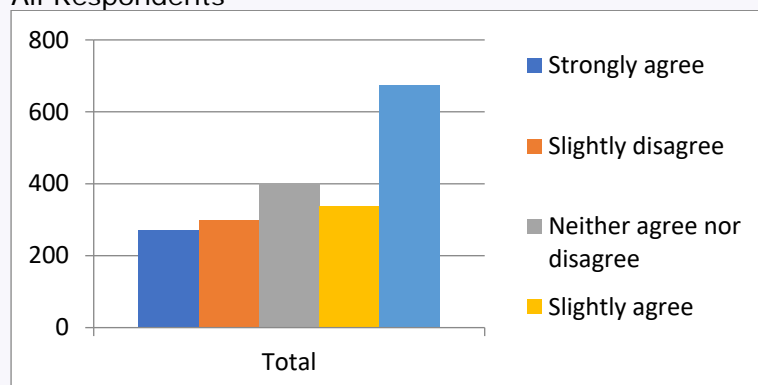
By Bowler Type



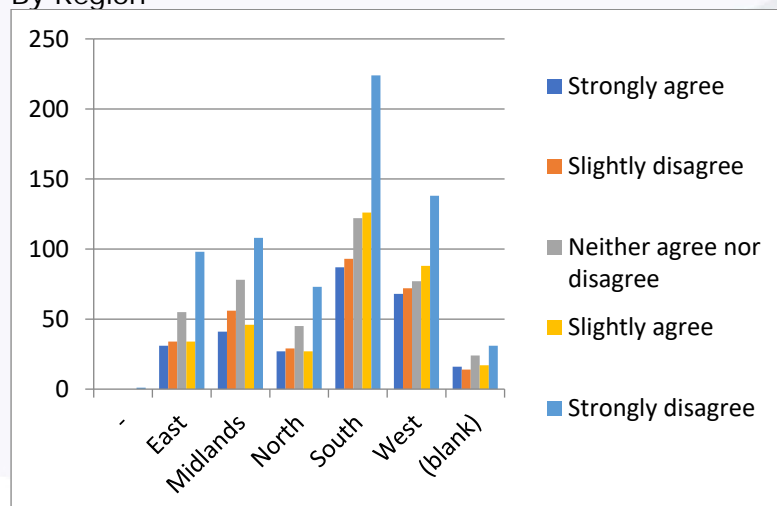
*(c) I believe that duplications and clashes should be avoided by limiting qualification places.*

Only 29% agreed with this statement (14% strongly; 15% slightly) 51% disagreed and 20% had no opinion either way

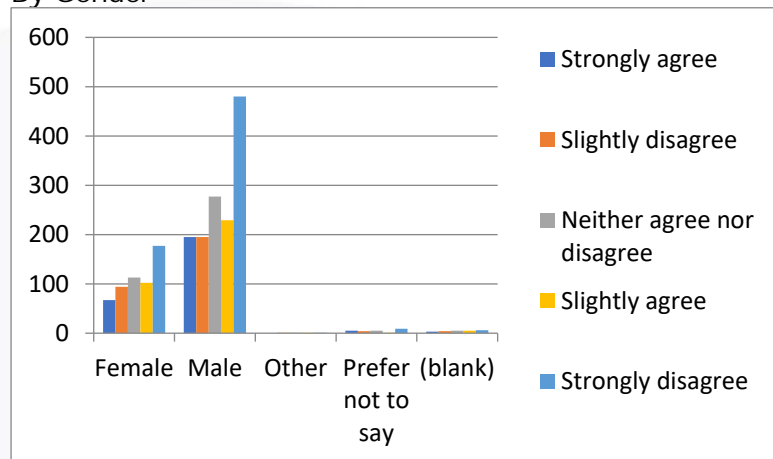
All Respondents



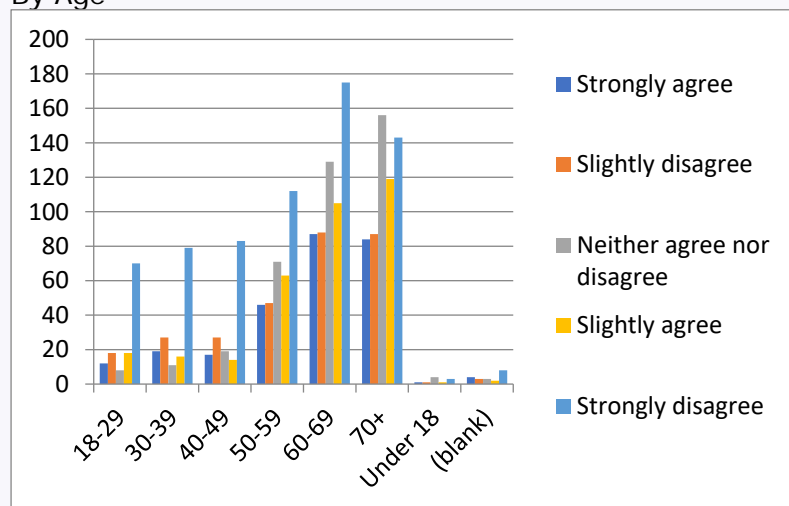
By Region



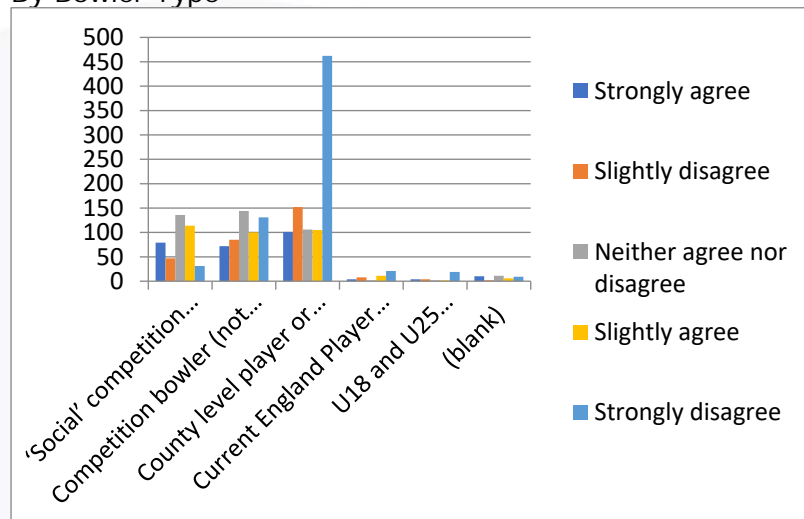
By Gender



By Age



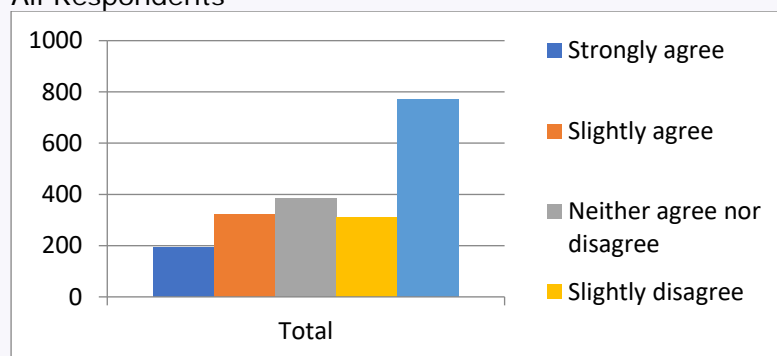
By Bowler Type



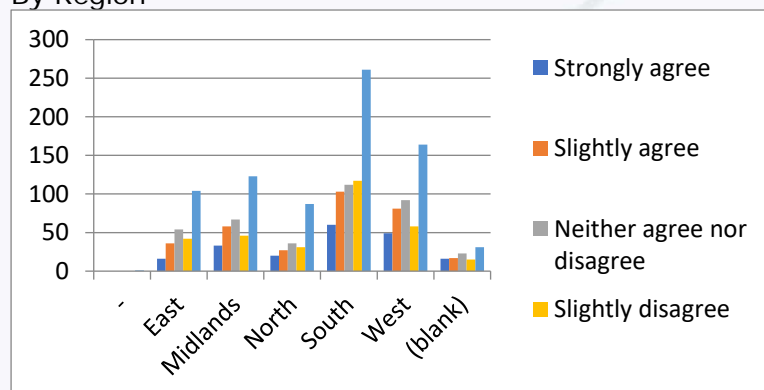
(d) *I believe that duplication and clashes should be avoided by reducing the number of events that are open to all at the point of entry.*

Only 26% agreed with this statement (10% strongly 16% slightly) 55% disagreed (39% strongly 16% slightly) and 19% had no opinion either way

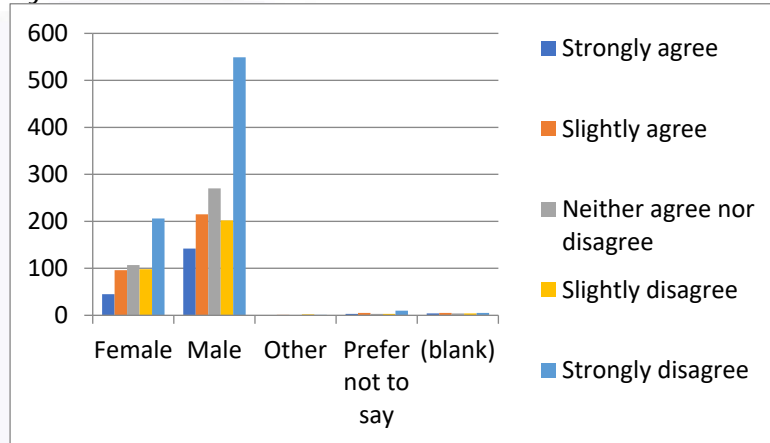
All Respondents



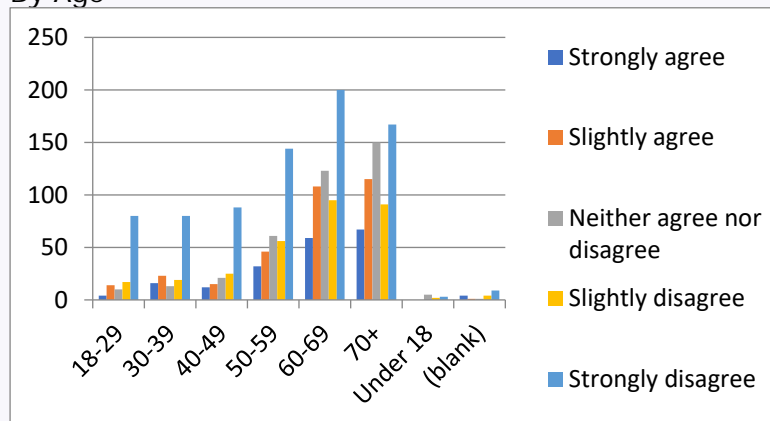
By Region



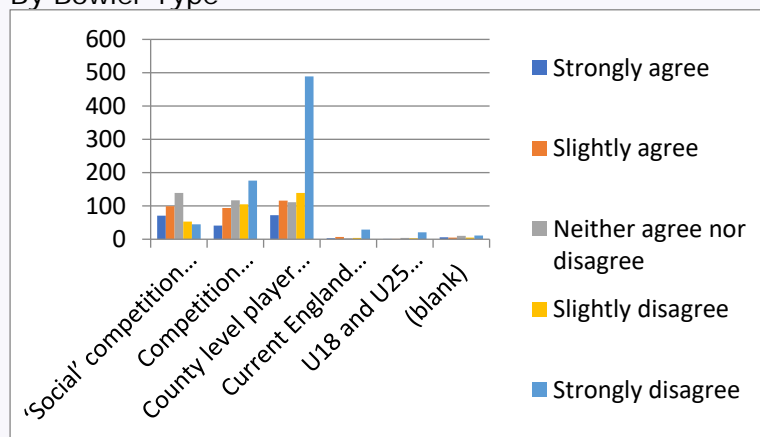
By Gender



By Age



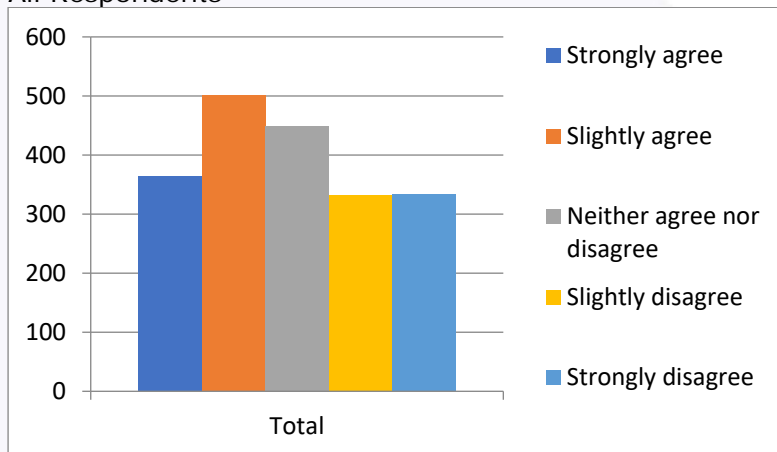
By Bowler Type



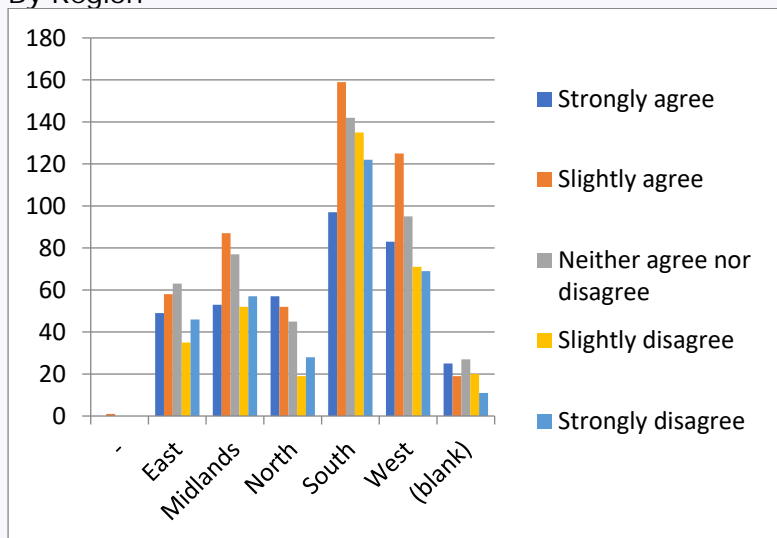
*(e) I would prefer to play more often in a day to reduce time commitments and cost of attending the national finals*

43% agreed with this statement (18% strongly; 25% slightly) 34% disagreed and 23% had no opinion either way

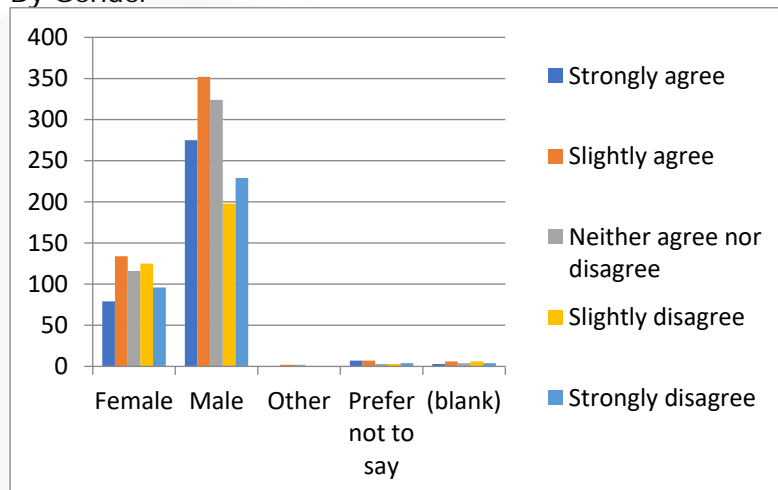
All Respondents



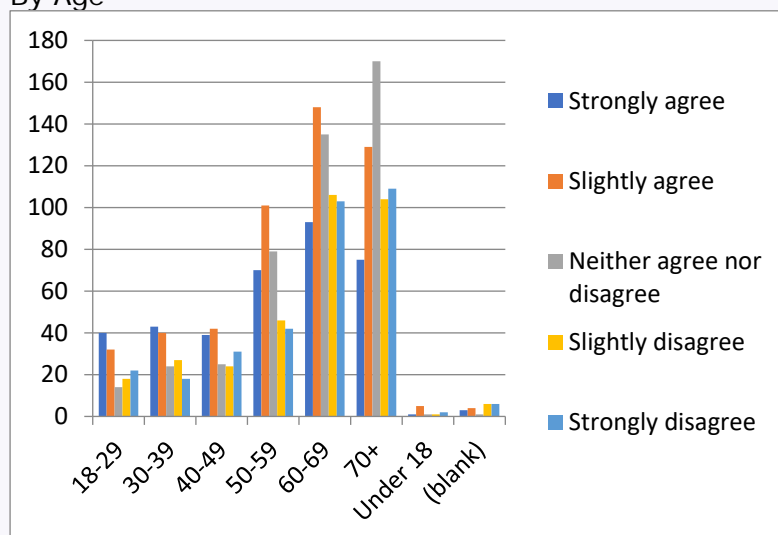
By Region



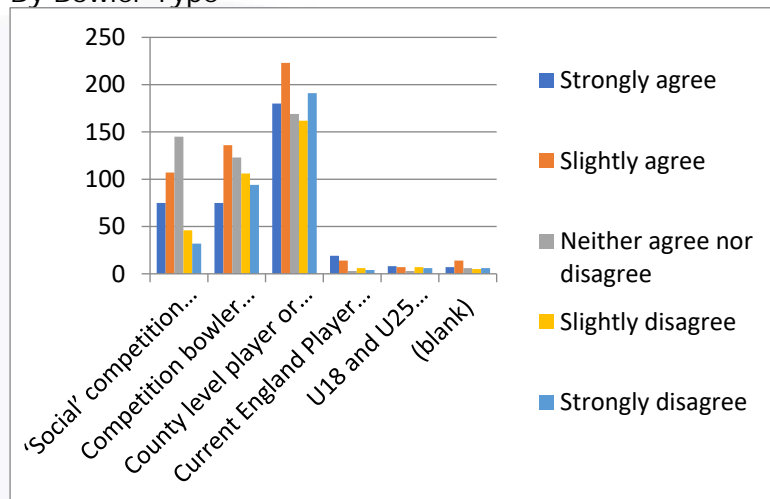
By Gender



By Age



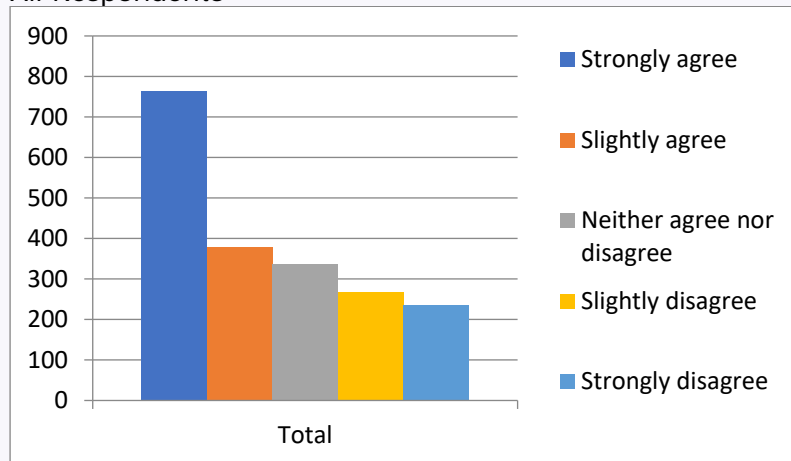
By Bowler Type



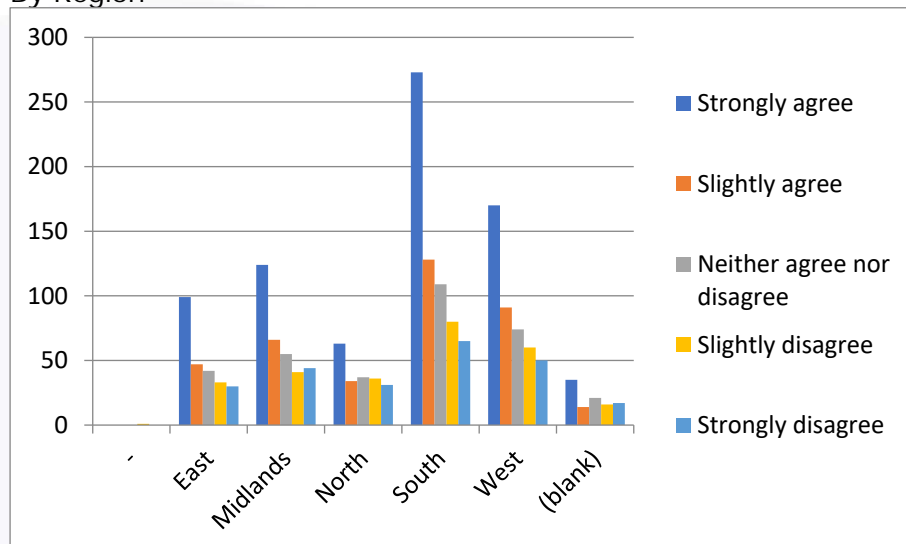
(f) *I would prefer not to play more than two matches per day in any single event*

57% agreed with this statement (38% strongly; 19% slightly) 25% disagreed and 17% has no opinion either way

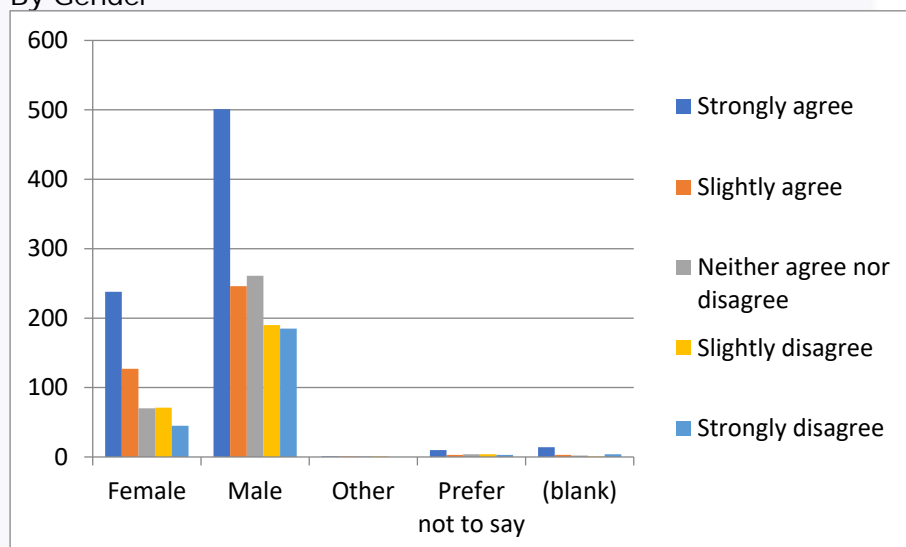
All Respondents



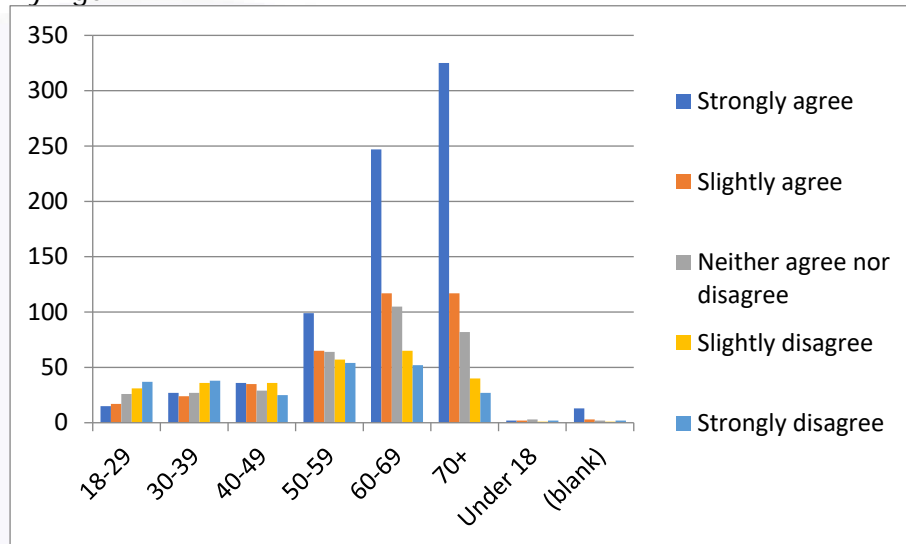
By Region



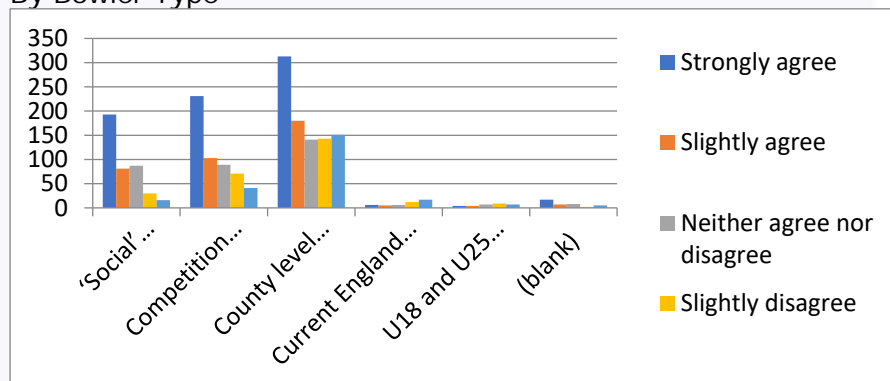
By Gender



### By Age

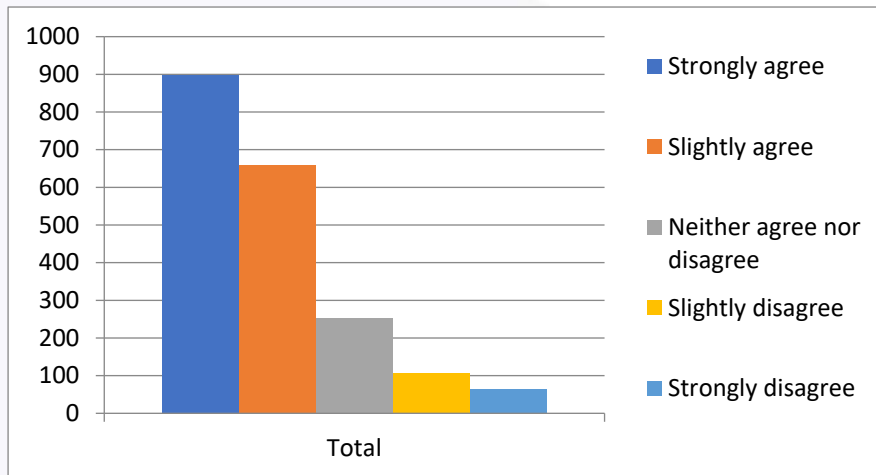


### By Bowler Type

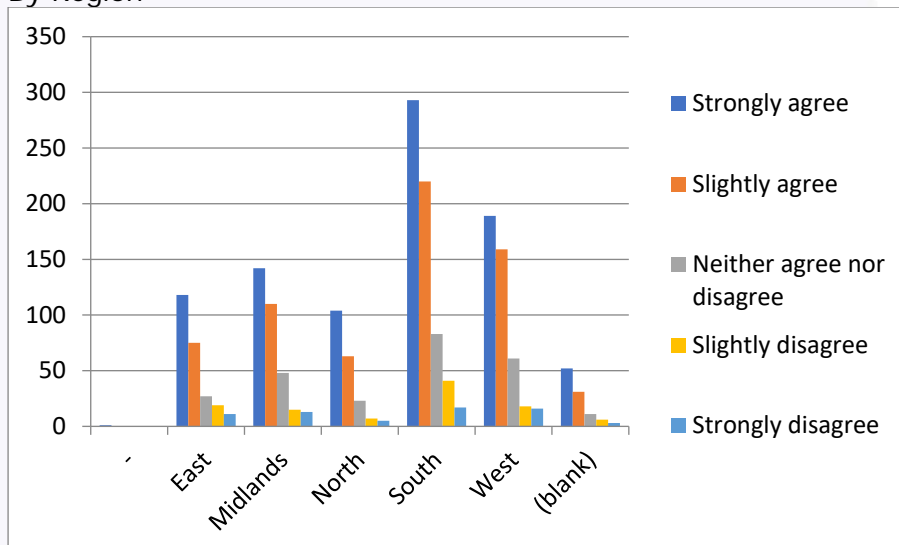


(g) *I would support the greater use of evening sessions*

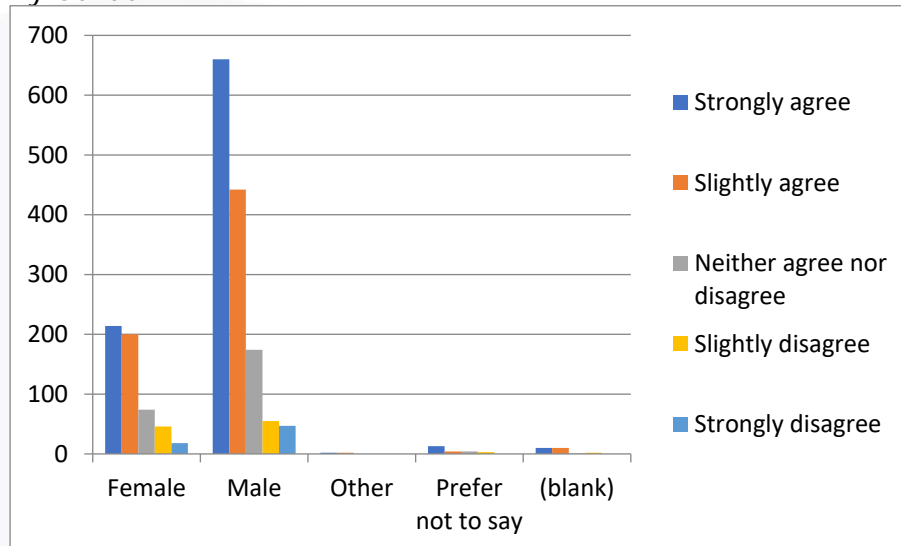
78% agreed with this statement (45% strongly; 33% slightly) Only 8% disagreed



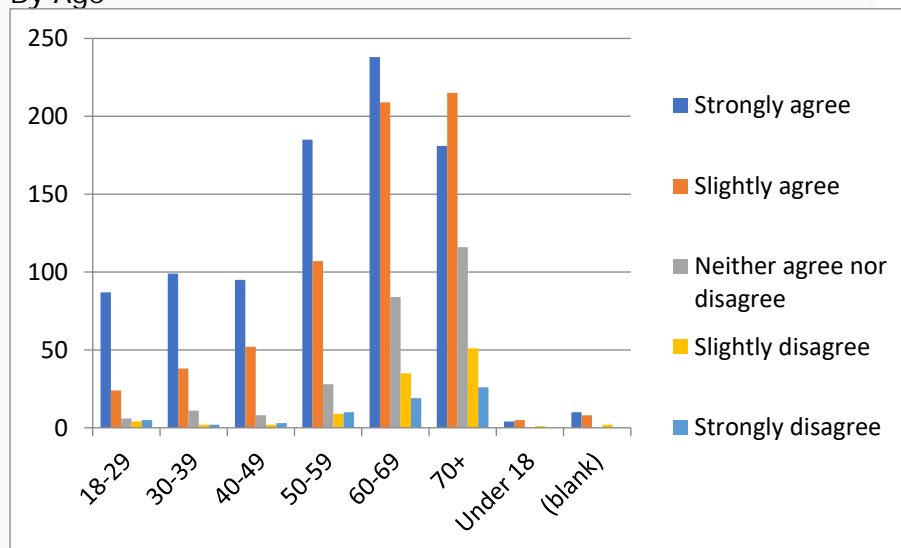
By Region



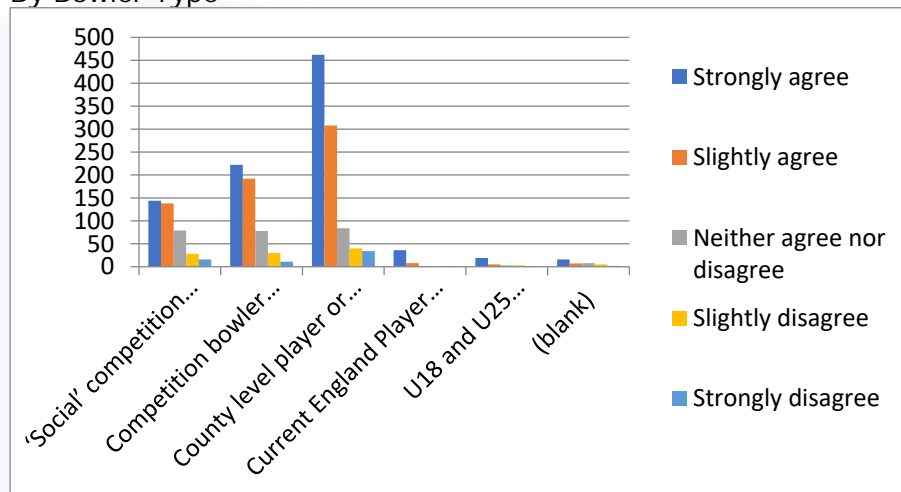
By Gender



By Age



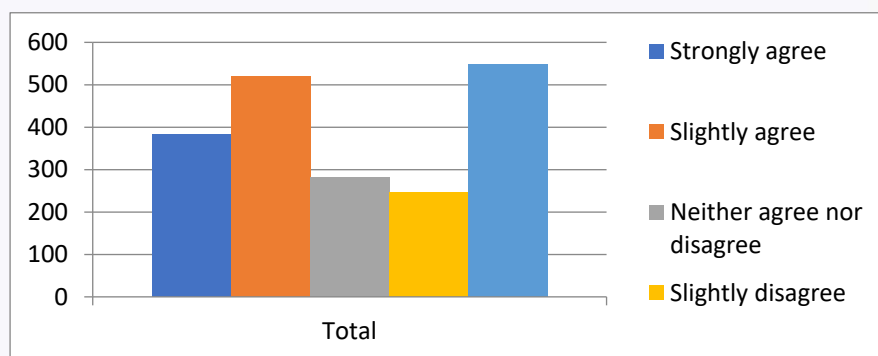
By Bowler Type



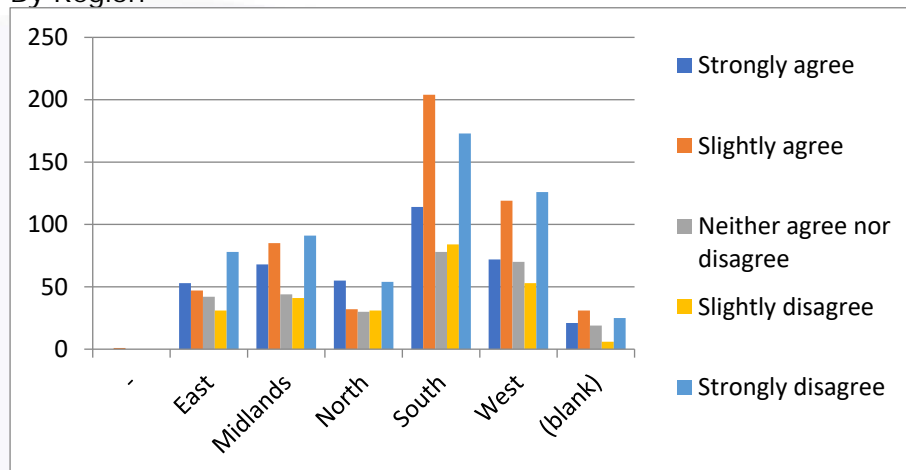
*(h) I would support the finals of some competitions being held outside the national finals to reduce duplications*

45% agreed with this statement (19% strongly; 26% slightly). However 40% disagreed with the statement and 14% had no opinion either way

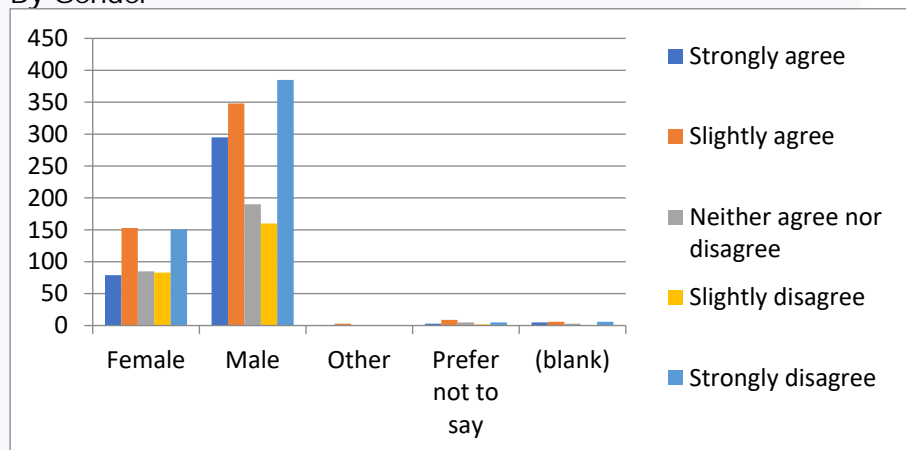
All Respondents



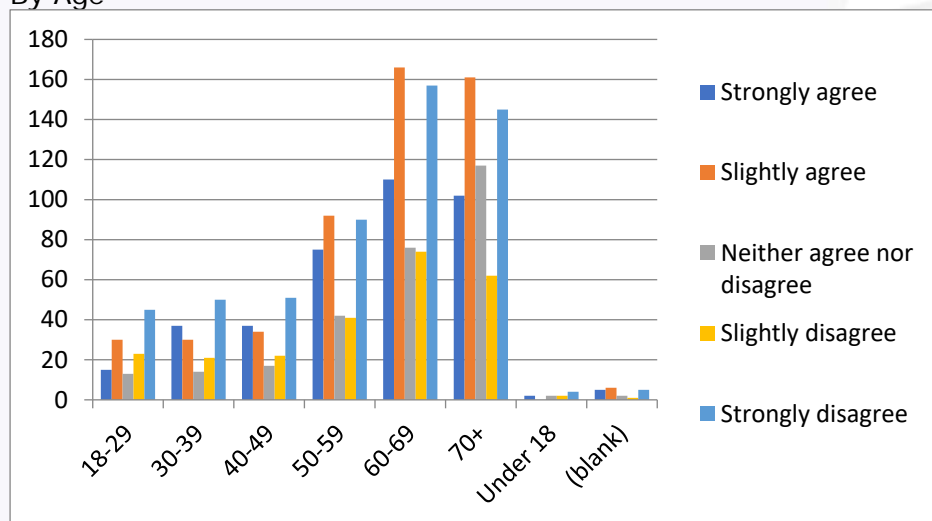
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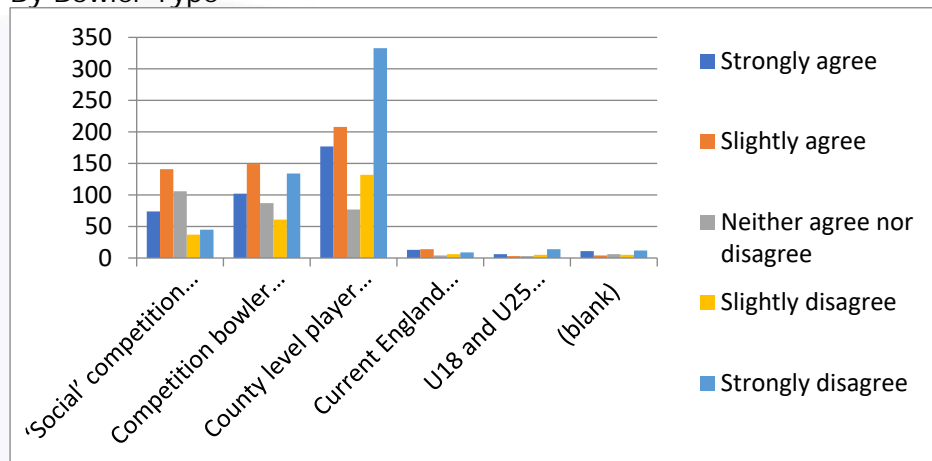
By Gender



By Age



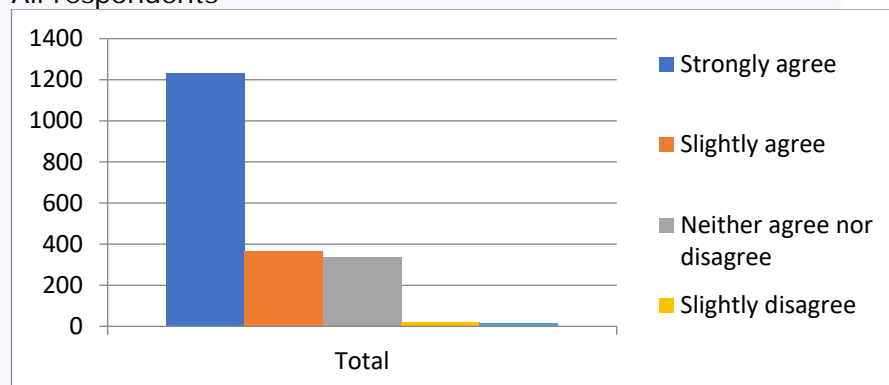
By Bowler Type



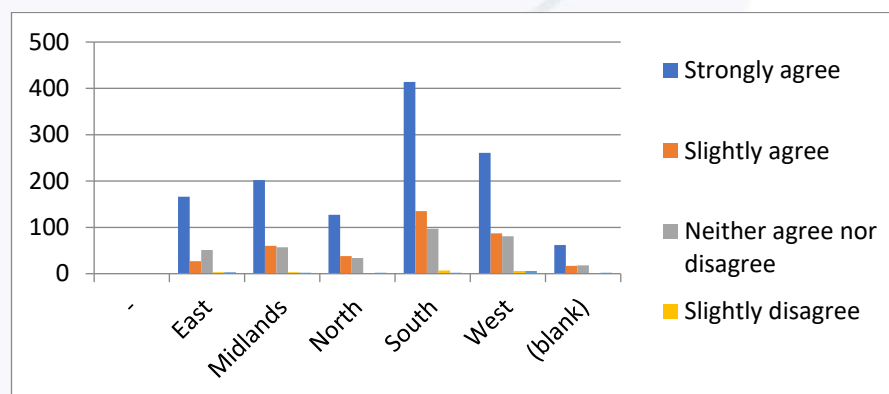
- (i) *I believe players should be permitted to participate in national finals in all rounds of the Blue Riband events for which they qualify*

80% agree with this statement (62% strongly; 18% slightly) 17% had no opinion either way

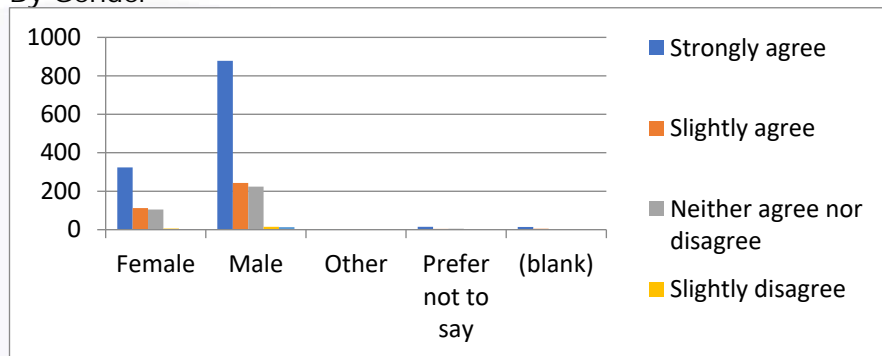
All respondents



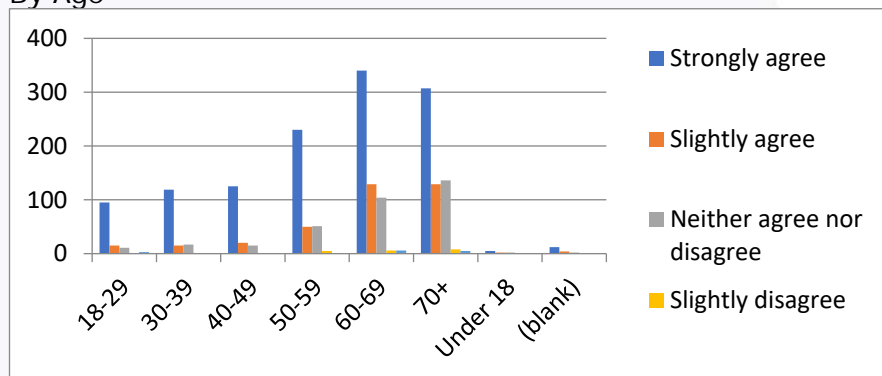
By Region



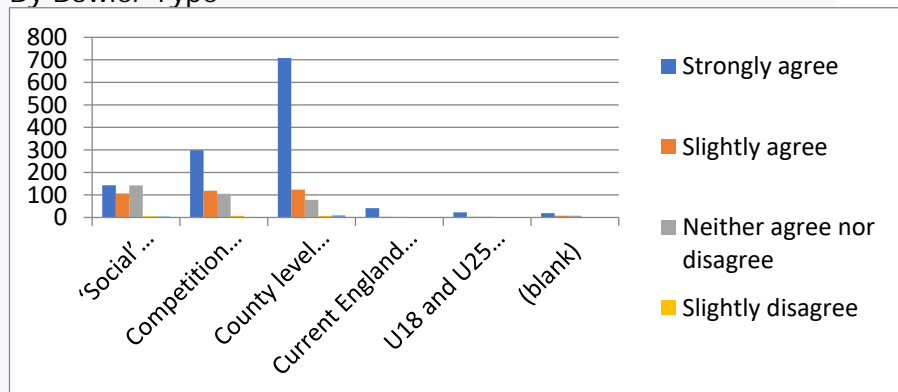
By Gender



By Age



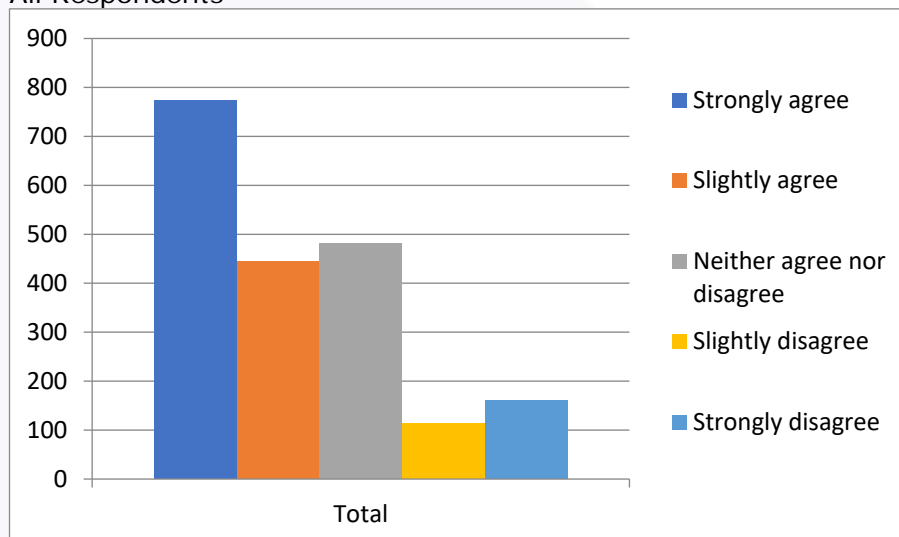
By Bowler Type



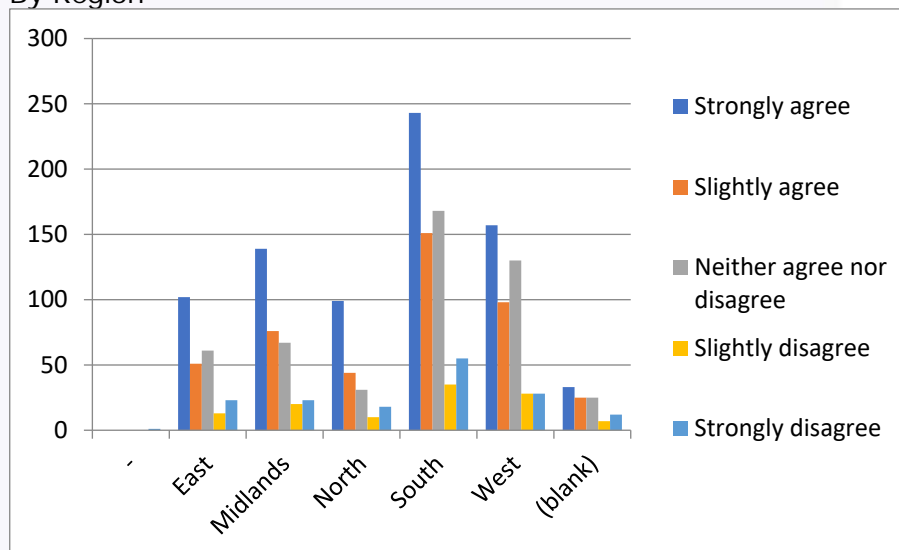
(j) *I believe qualification numbers should be maximised*

60% agreed with this statement (37% strongly 23% slightly) 24% neither agreed nor disagree and only 14% disagreed

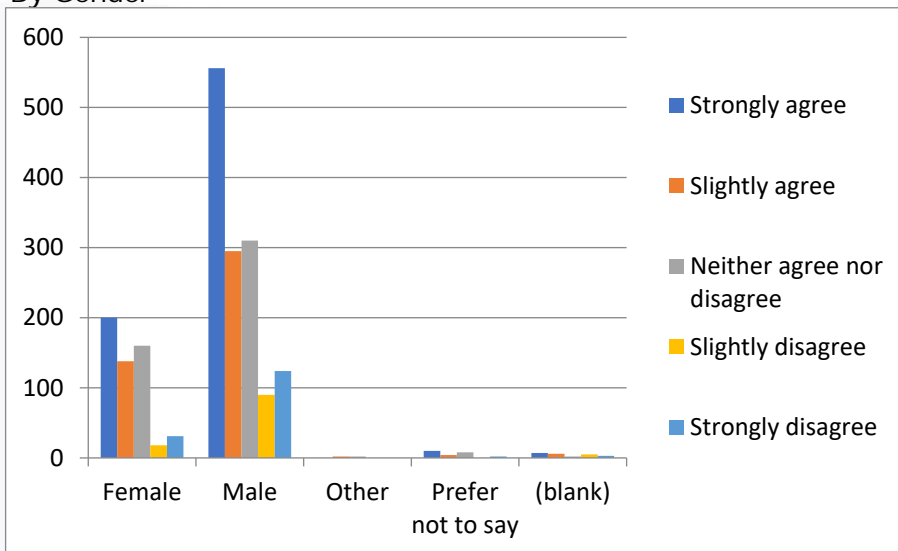
All Respondents



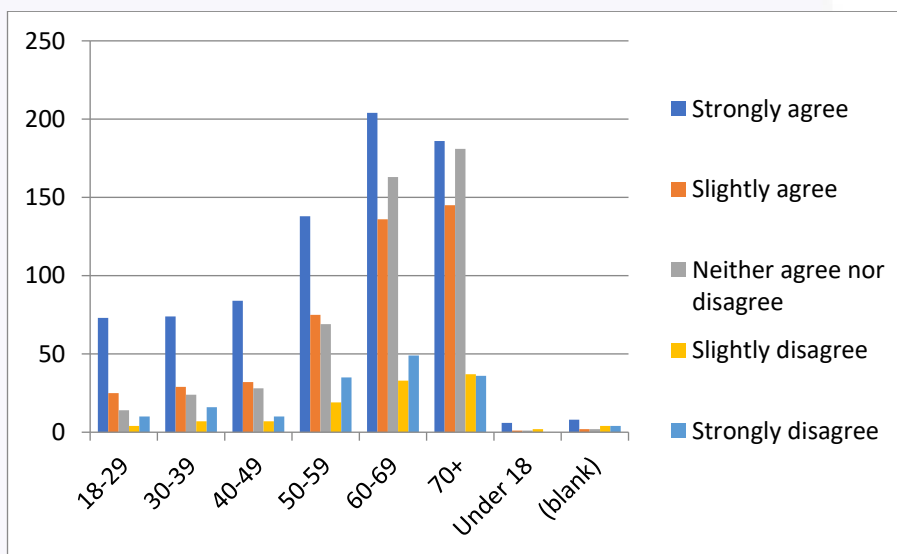
By Region



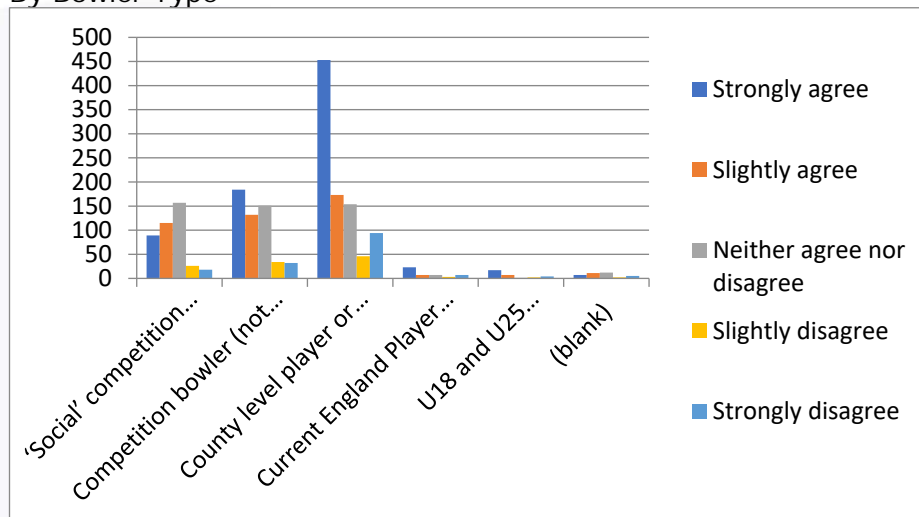
By Gender



By Age



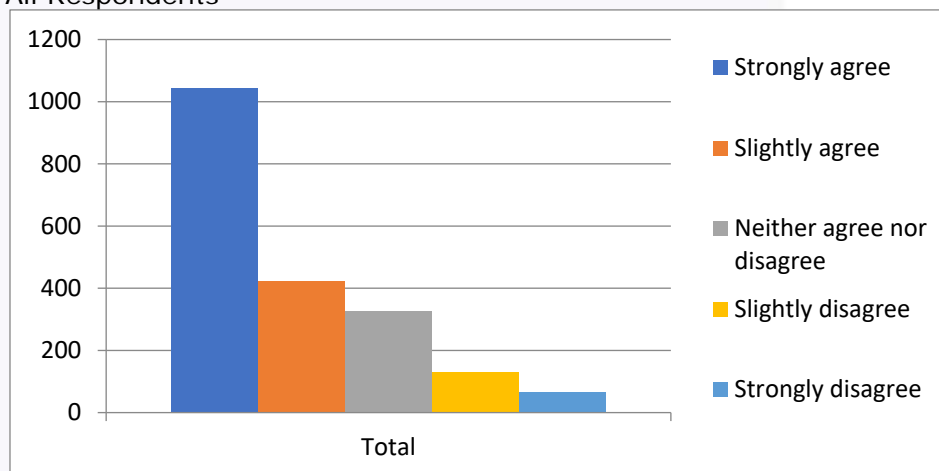
By Bowler Type



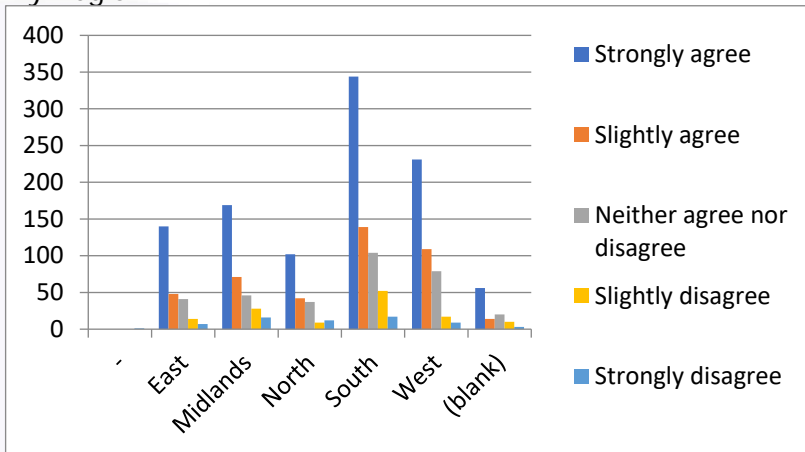
(k) I believe all competitions should conclude during the national finals

73% agreed with this statement (52% strongly 21% slightly) 16% had no opinion either way and 10% disagreed

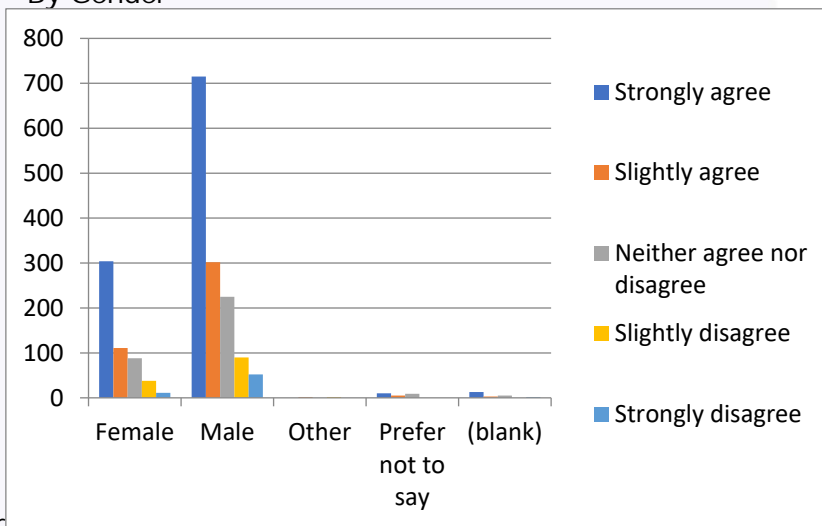
All Respondents



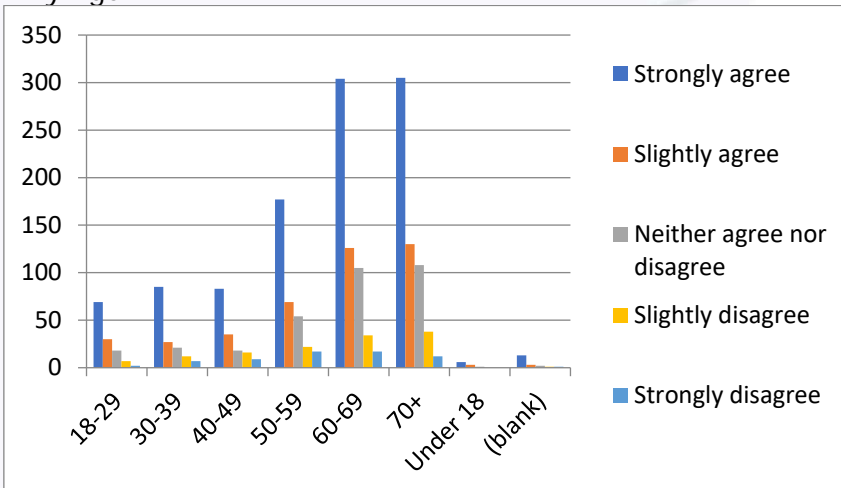
By Region



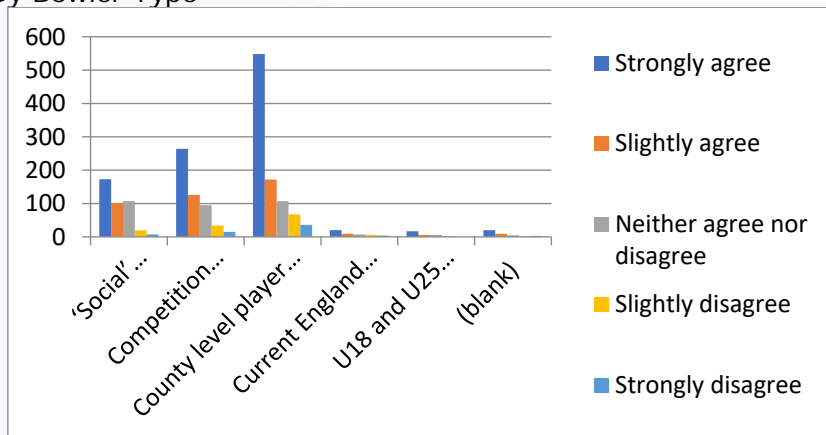
By Gender



By Age



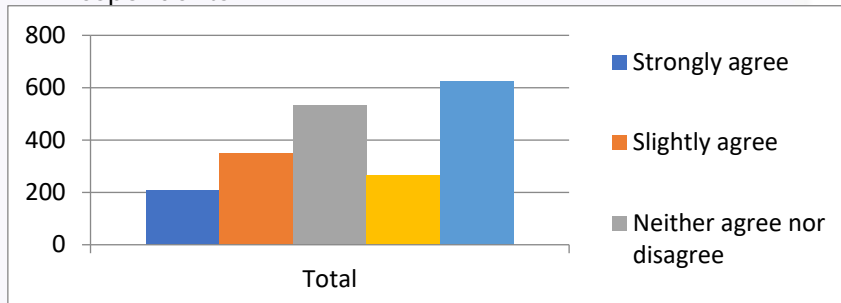
By Bowler Type



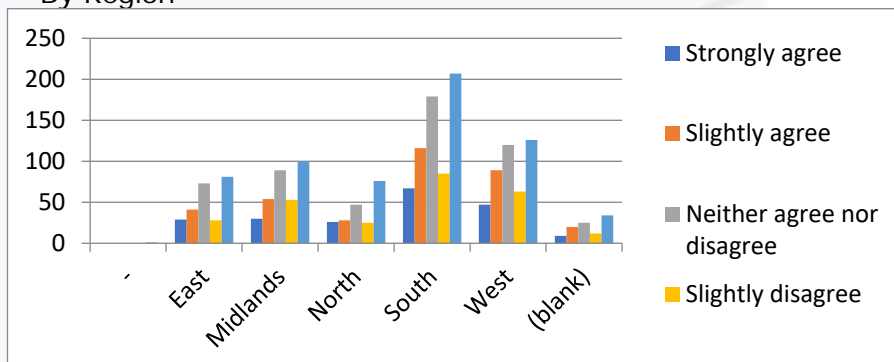
*(I) Entry in some events should be restricted to provide the opportunity for more players to reach the latter stages*

45% disagreed with this statement, 29% agreed (11% strongly 18% slightly) and 27% had no opinion either way

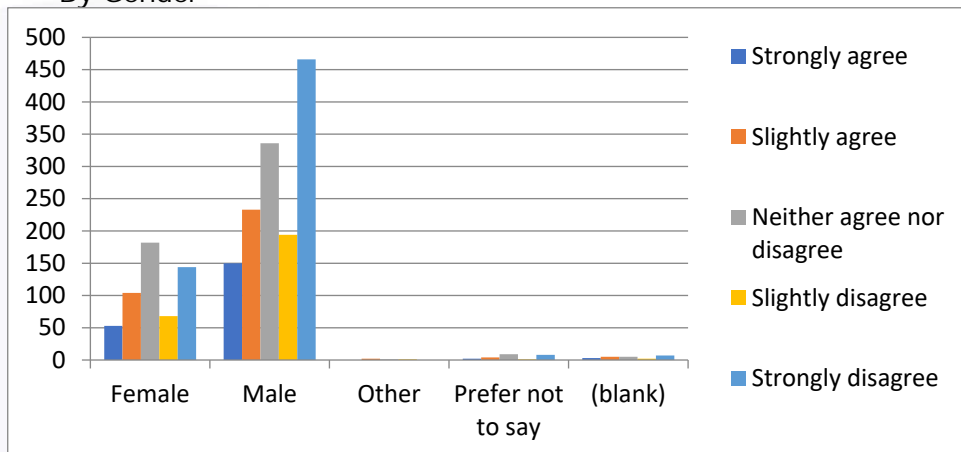
All Respondents



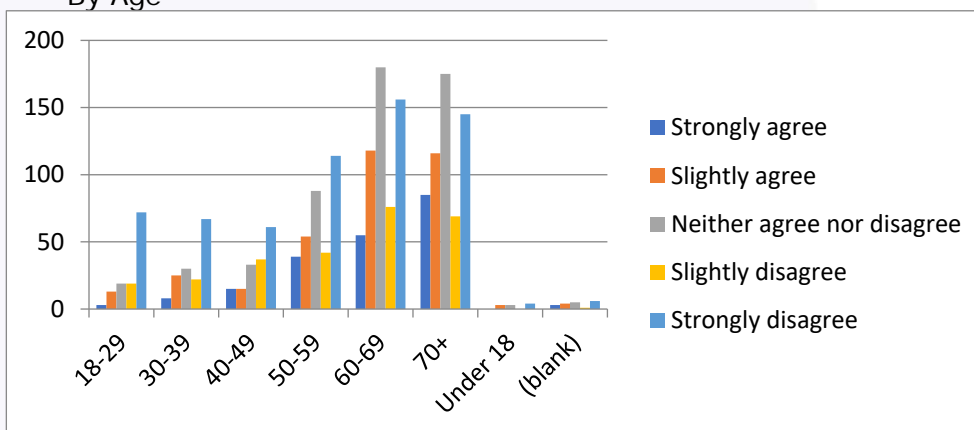
By Region



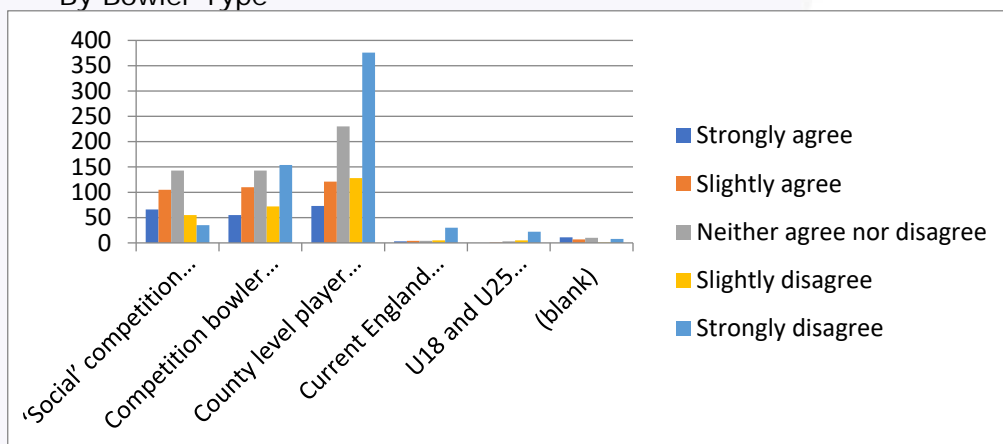
By Gender



By Age



By Bowler Type



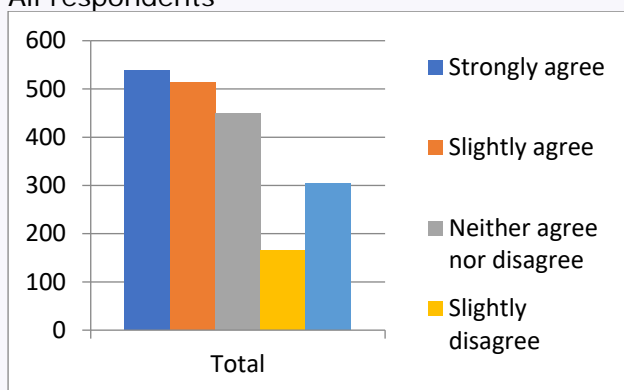
## SECTION 8: GAME FORMATS

Q23 Thinking about the game format of the national finals, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements.

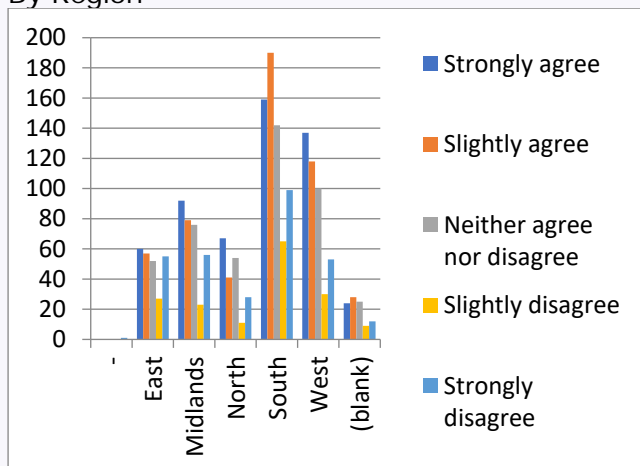
- (a) *Formats in Blue Riband events should replicate those at international level to help provide a pathway, and make for consistency for fans*

53% agree with this statement (27% strongly; 26% slightly) 23% neither agreed nor disagreed and 23% disagreed.

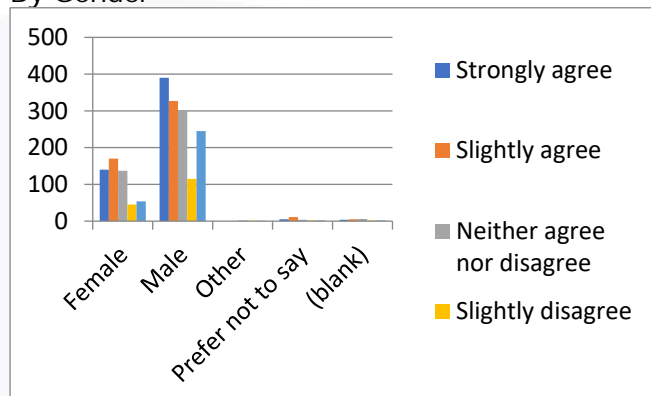
All respondents



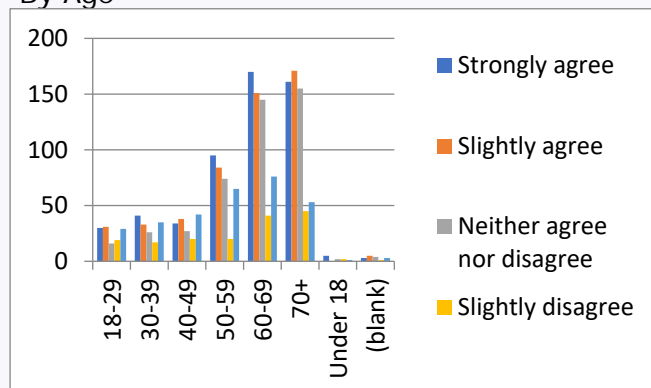
By Region



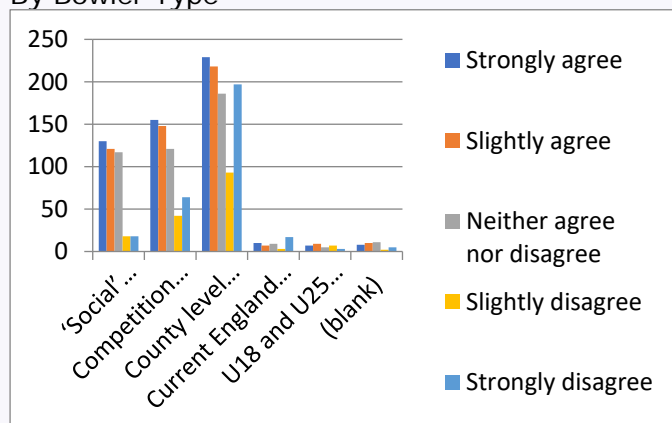
By Gender



By Age



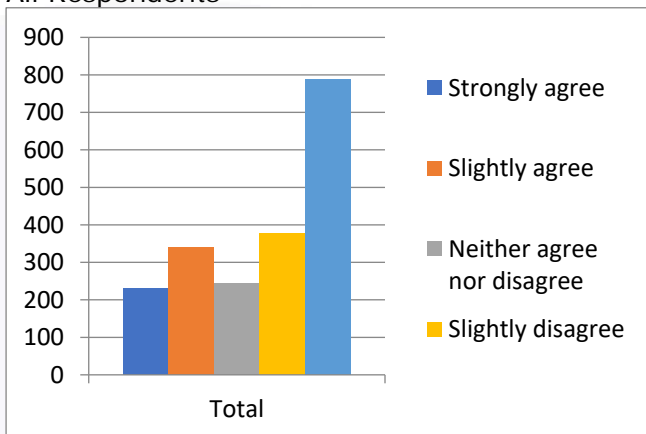
By Bowler Type



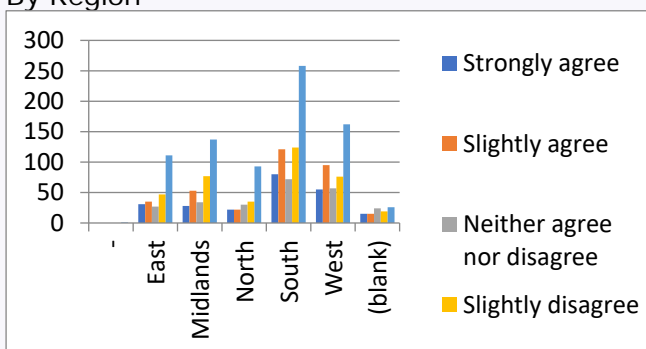
(b) *Matches should be made shorter in some events to provide opportunities for people with less time to play in competitions.*

Only 29% agreed with this statement (12% strongly 17% slightly). 12% neither agreed nor disagreed and 59% disagreed with the statement.

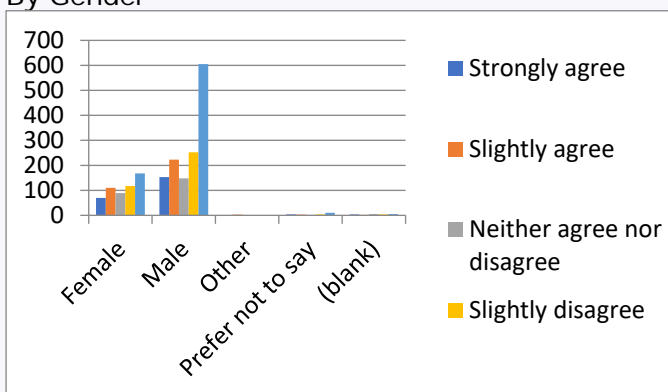
### All Respondents



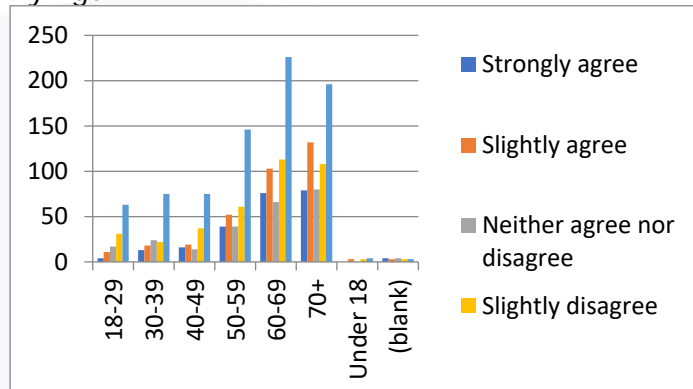
### By Region



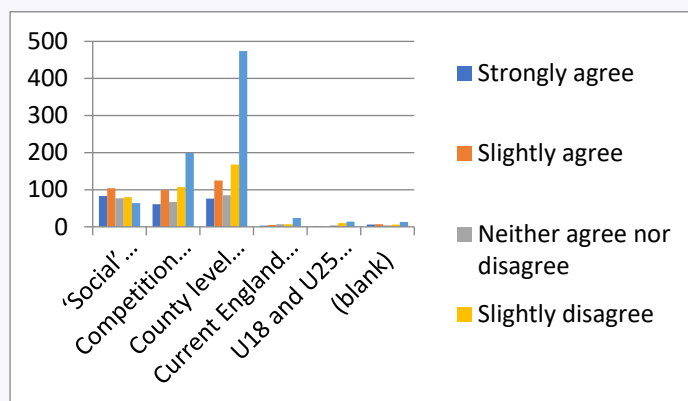
### By Gender



By Age



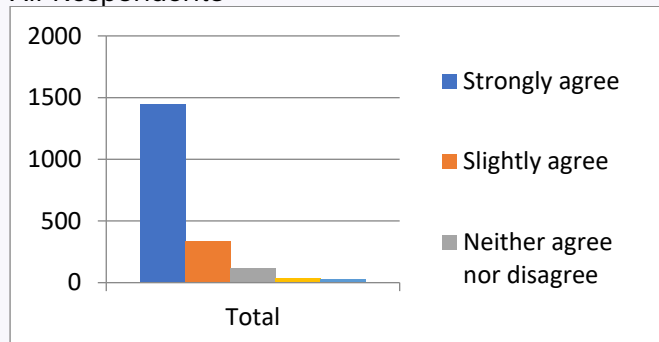
By Bowler Type



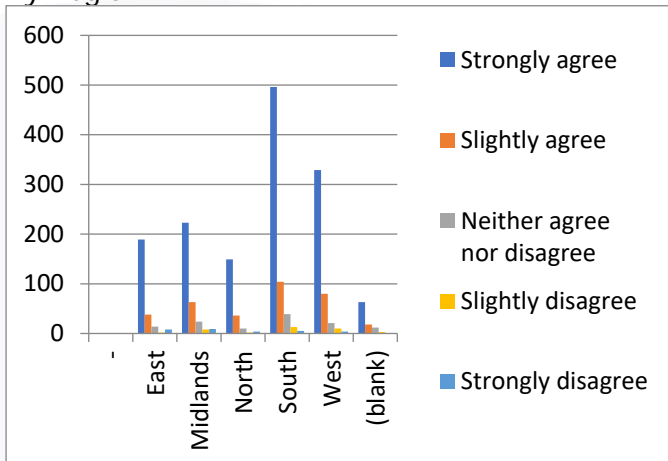
(c) All rounds of a single event (qualifying rounds and final stages) should follow the same format.

90% agreed with this statement (73% strongly 17% slightly). 6% had no opinion either way and 6% disagreed

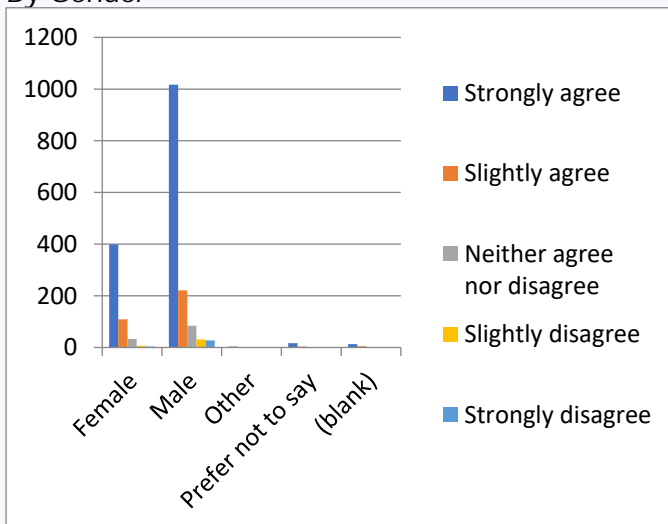
All Respondents



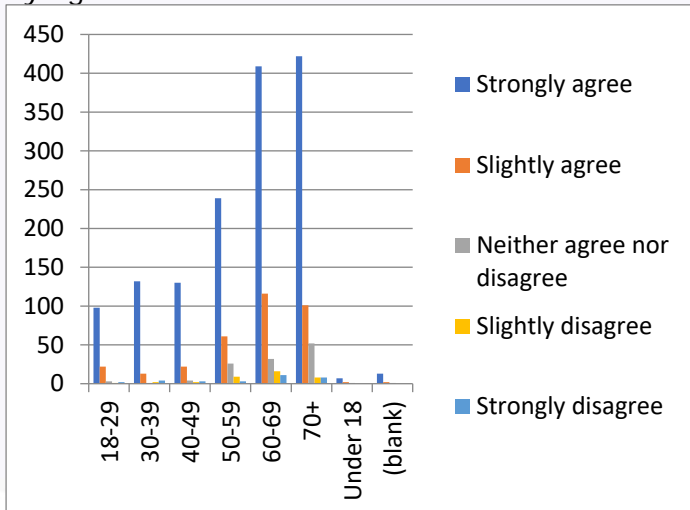
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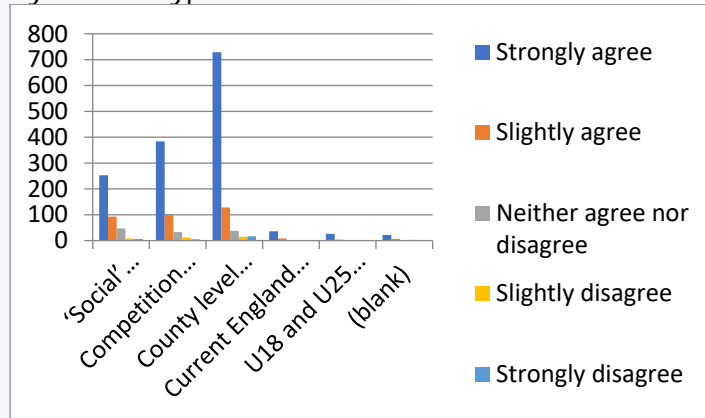
By Gender



By Age



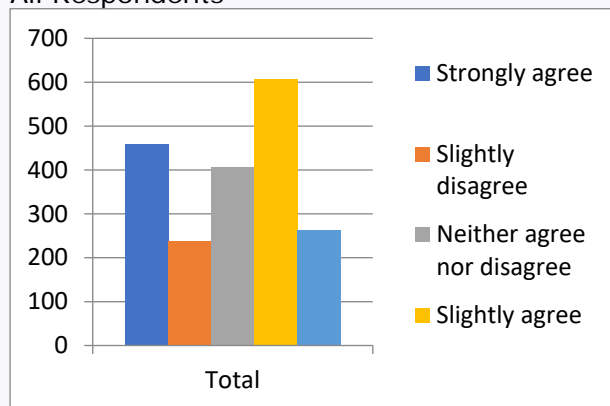
By Bowler Type



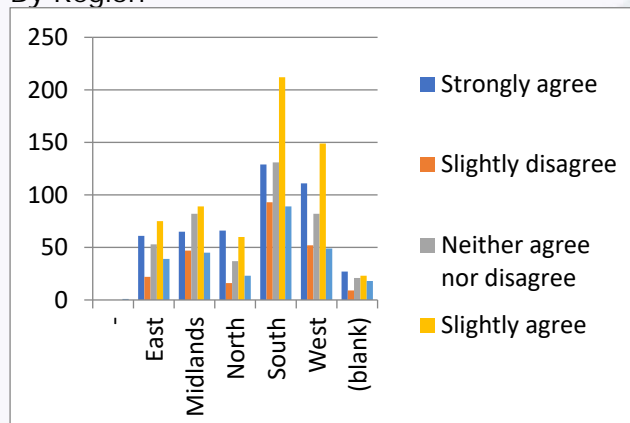
(d) I would support the introduction of more events ( County/Regional)where several rounds are played on a single day.

35% agreed with this statement (23% strongly 12% slightly) 21% had no opinion either way and 44% disagreed

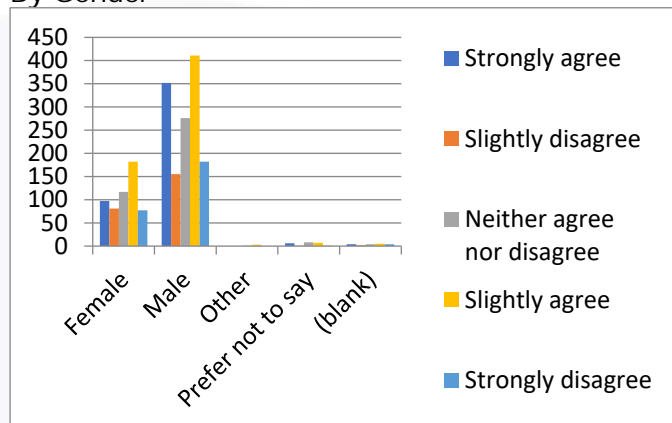
All Respondents



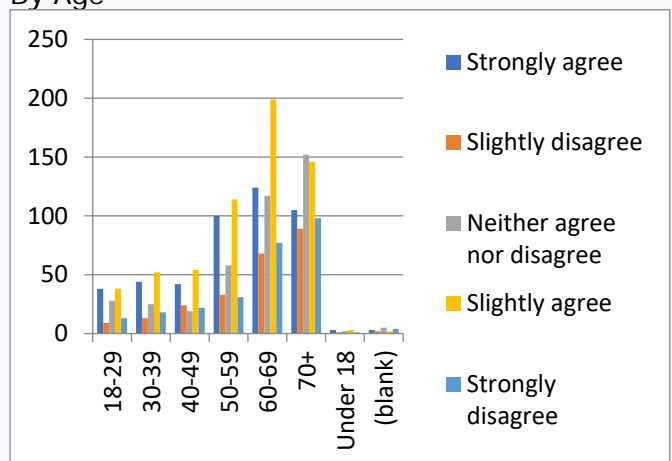
By Region



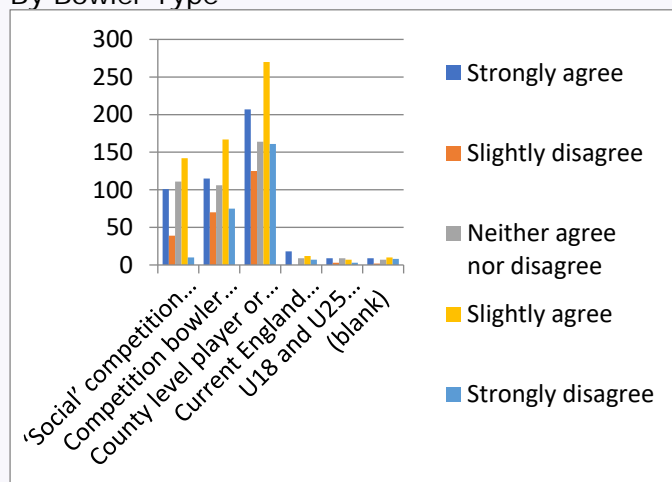
### By Gender



### By Age



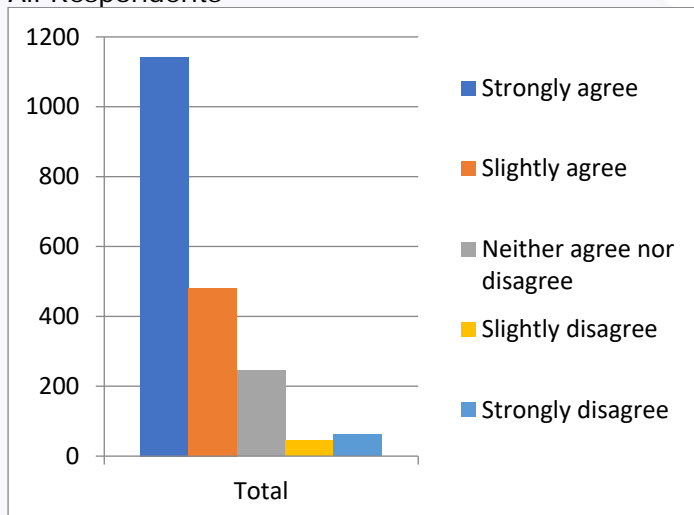
### By Bowler Type



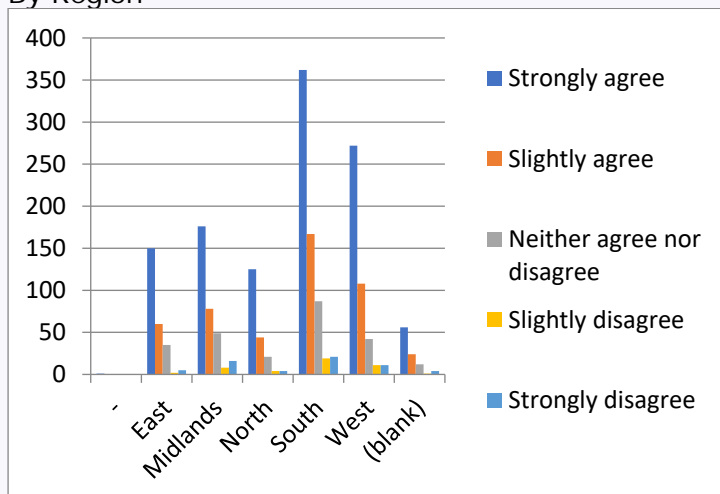
*(e) I would support the introduction of events that encourages new people to play in competitions*

82% agreed with this statement (58% strongly 24% slightly) 12% had no opinion either way and only 5% disagreed

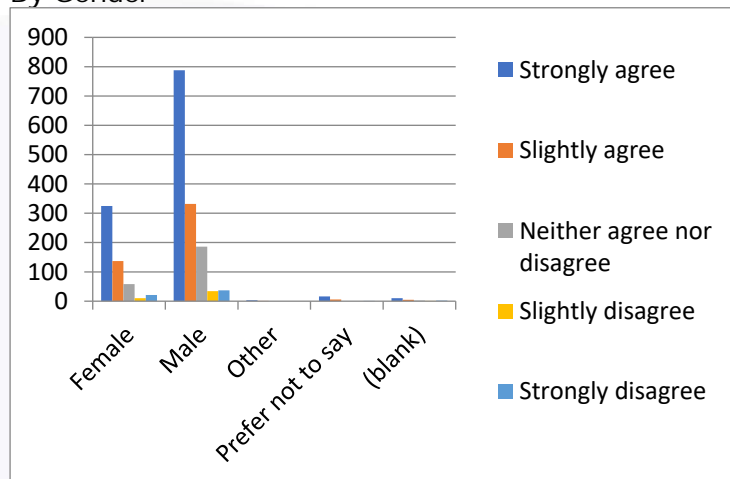
All Respondents



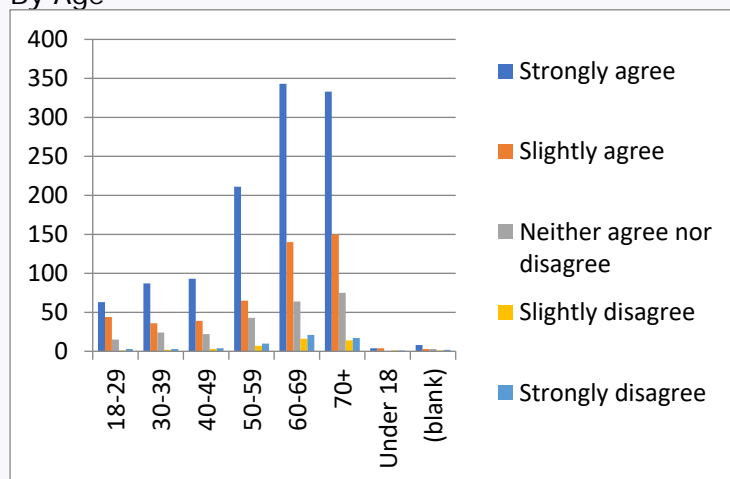
By Region



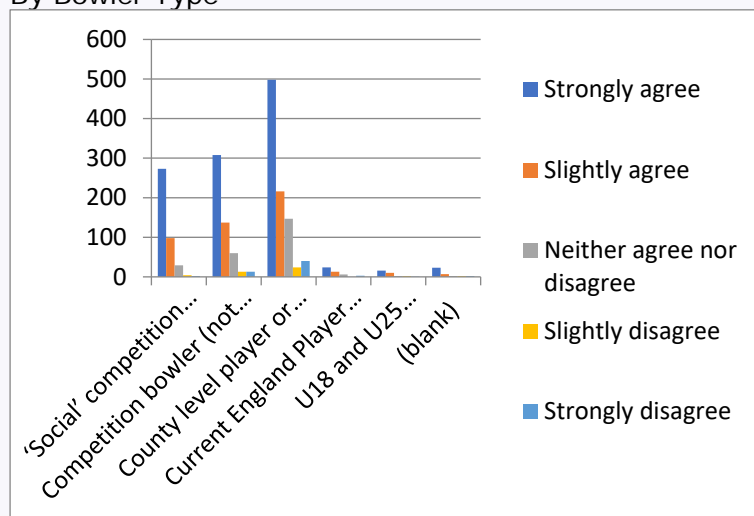
By Gender



By Age

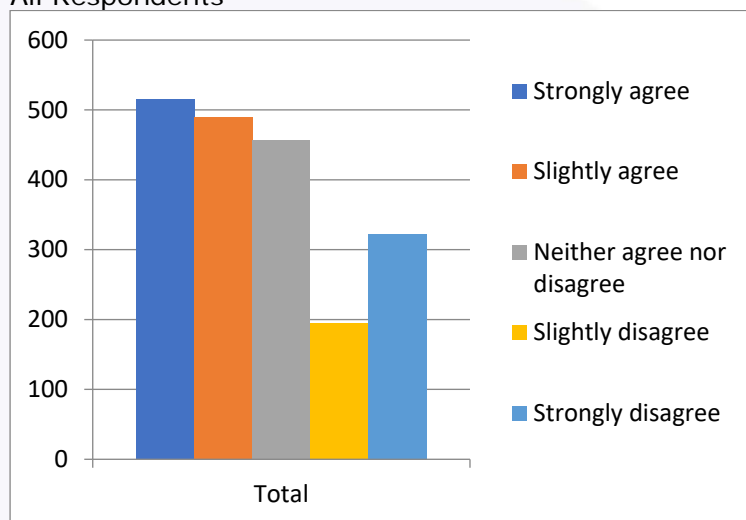


By Bowler Type

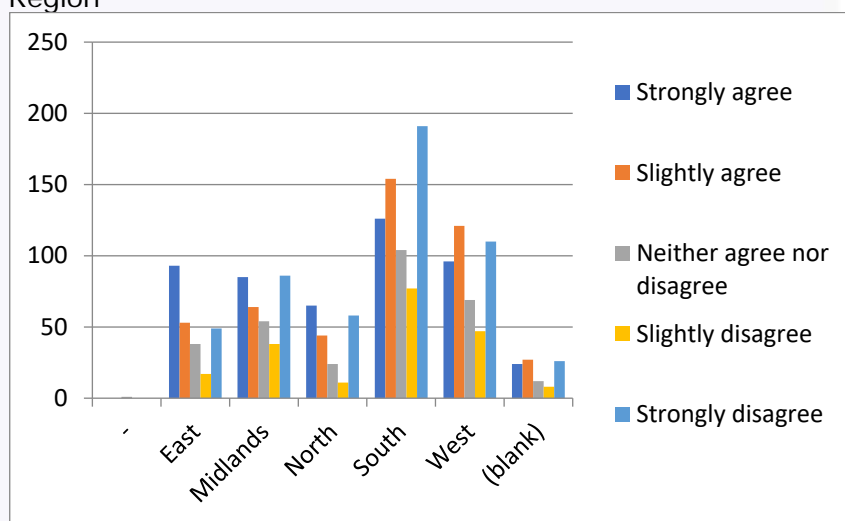


(f) I would participate in open events that do not lead to national finals.  
51% agreed with the statement (26% strongly 25% slightly) 23% neither agreed nor disagree and 26% disagreed.

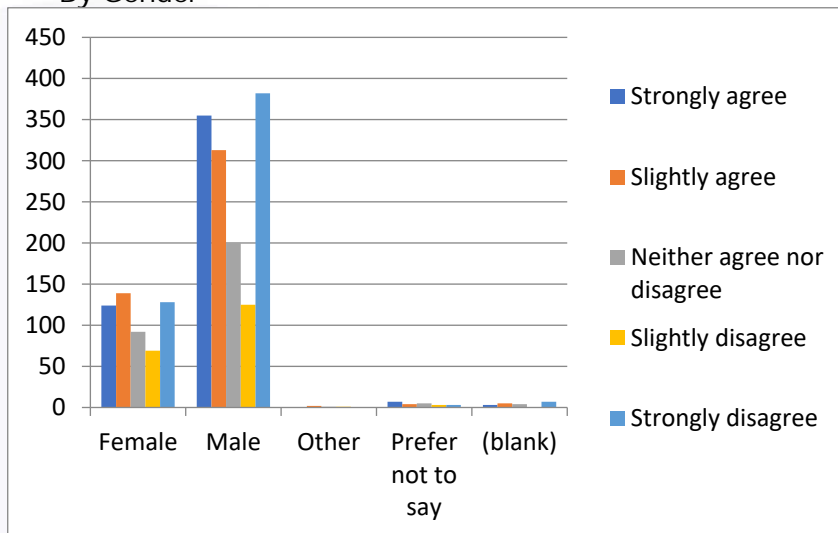
All Respondents



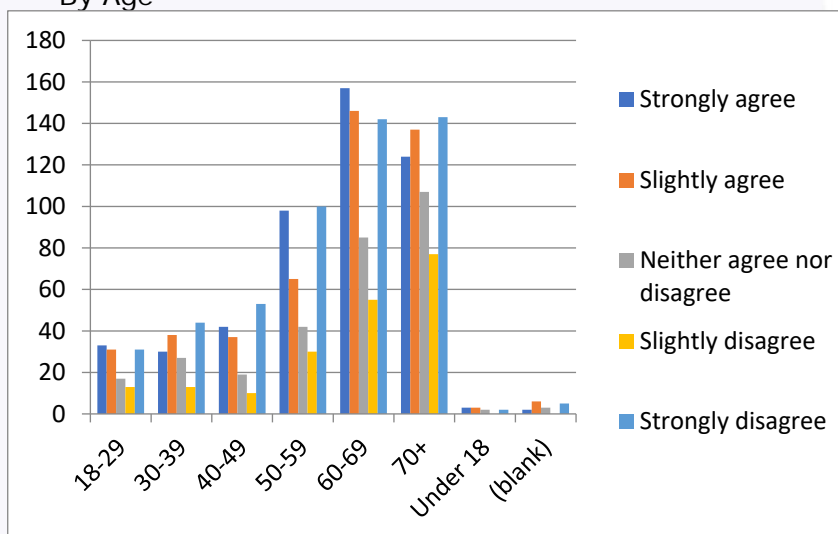
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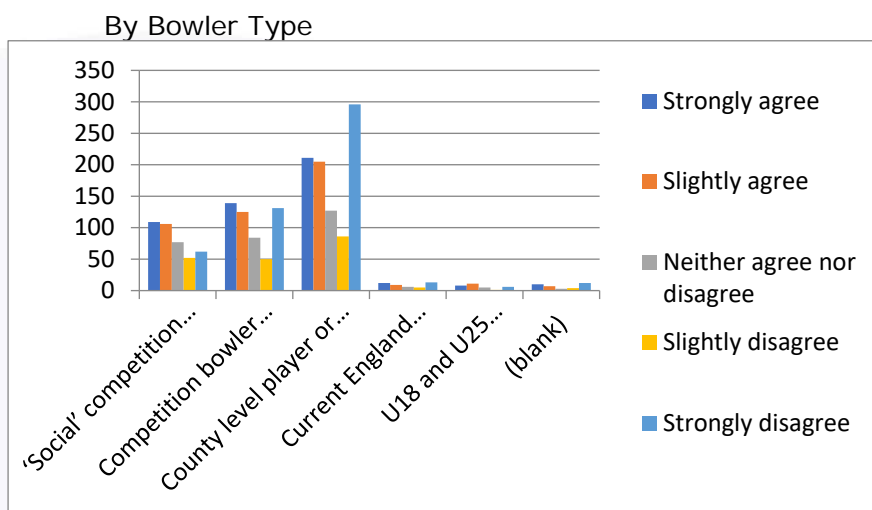


By Gender



By Age

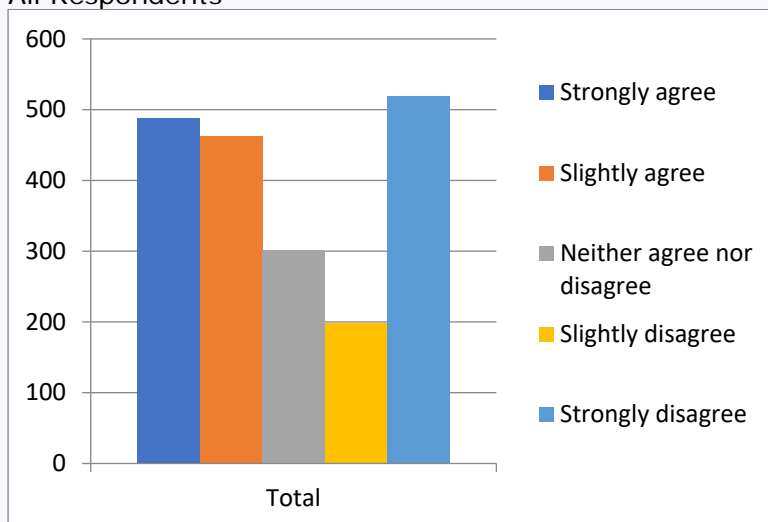




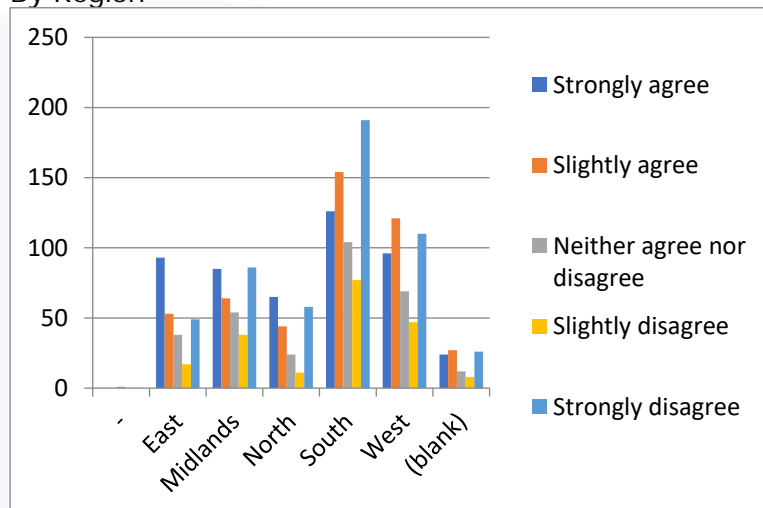
(g) I would support the event where players can change position during the match

48% agreed with this statement (25% strongly 23% slightly) 15% had no opinion either way and 36% disagreed.

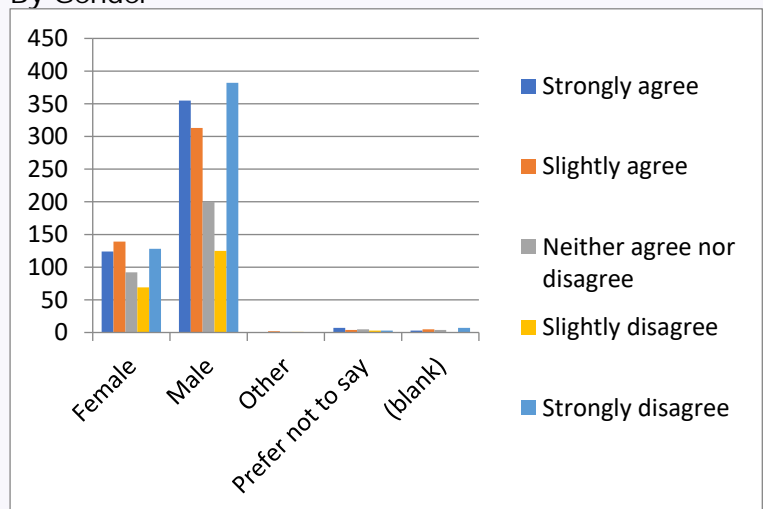
All Respondents



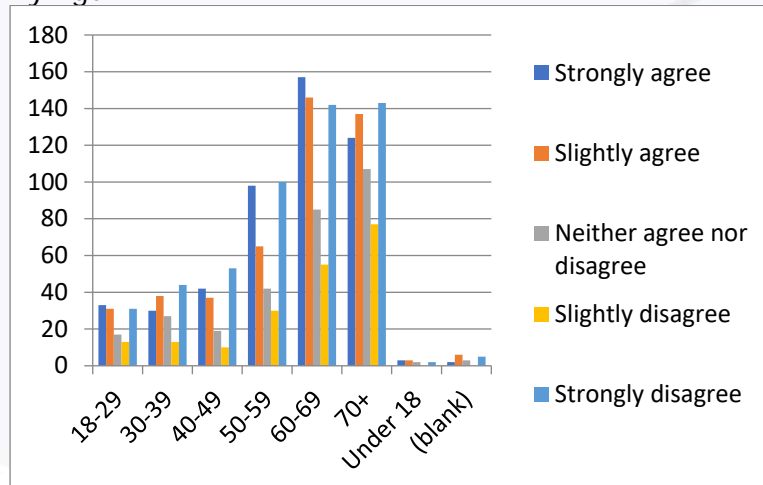
By Region



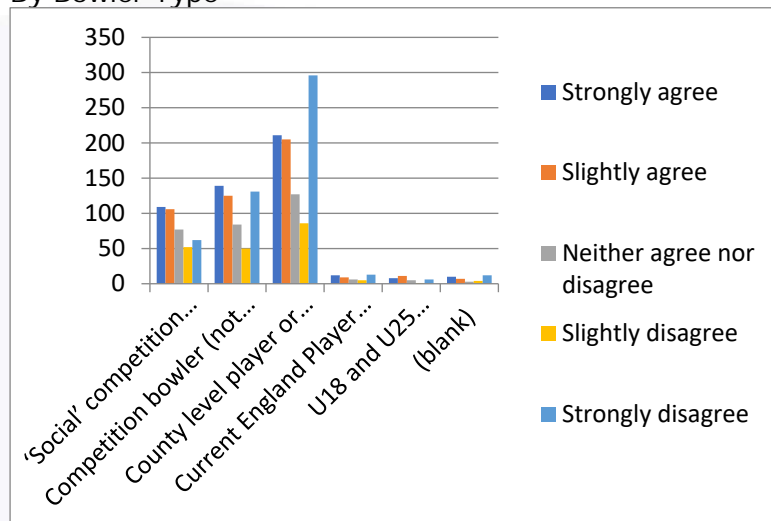
By Gender



By Age



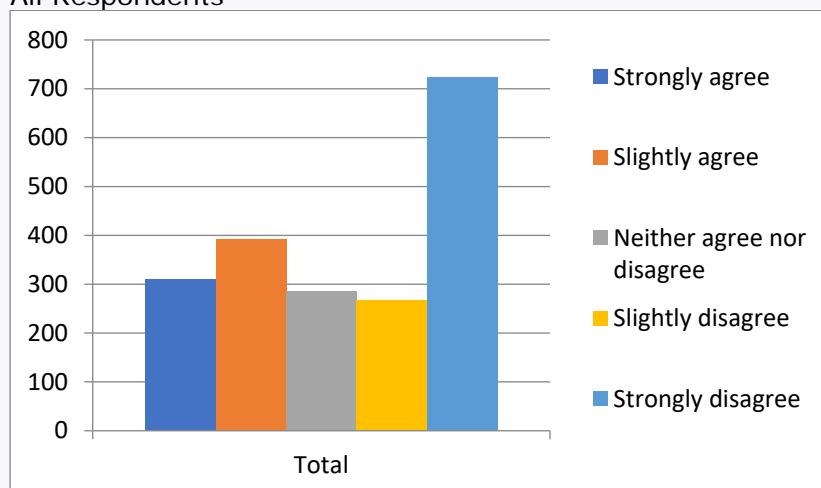
By Bowler Type



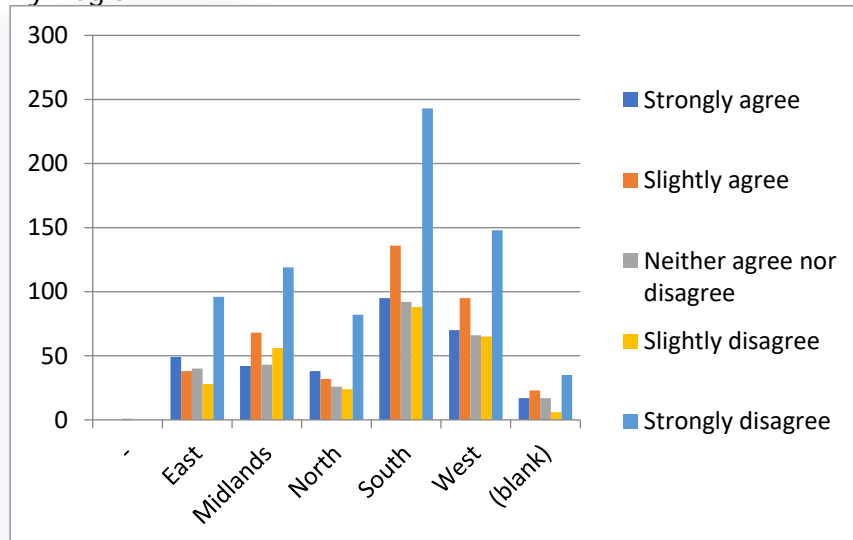
(h) I would support an event where substitutes can be introduced during the match

36% agreed with this statement (16% strongly 20% slightly) 14% had no opinion either way BUT 50 % disagreed (37% strongly)

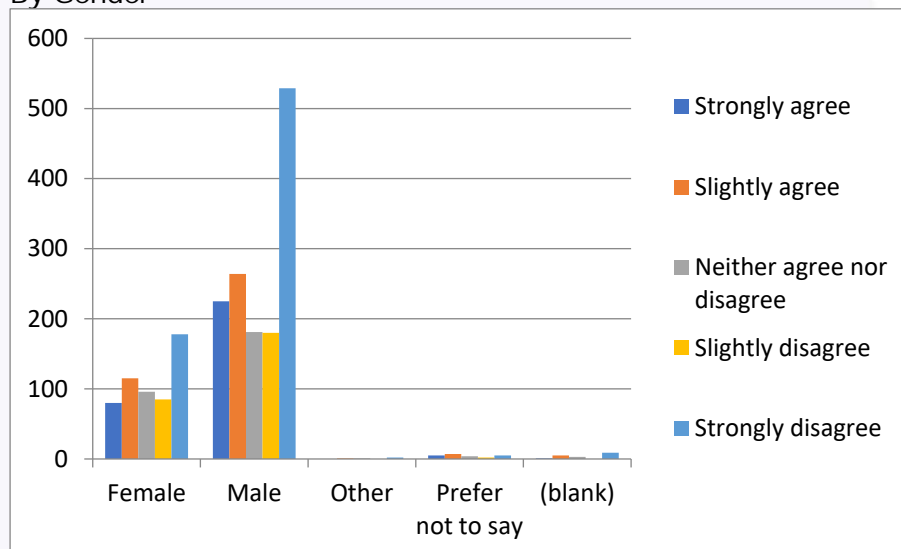
All Respondents



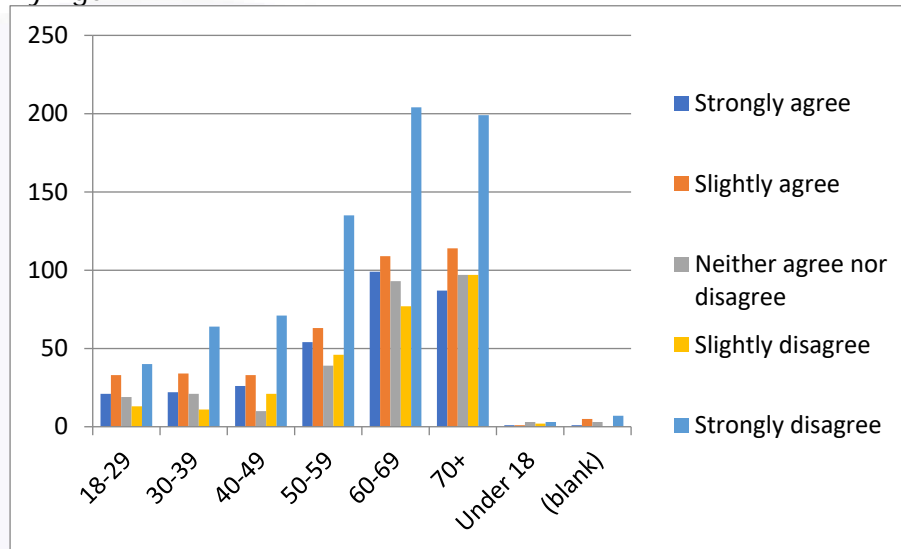
By Region



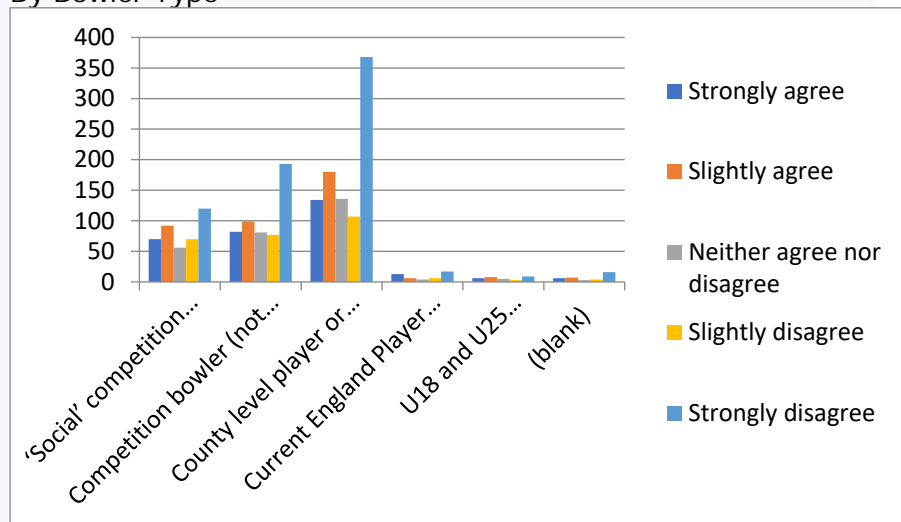
By Gender



By Age



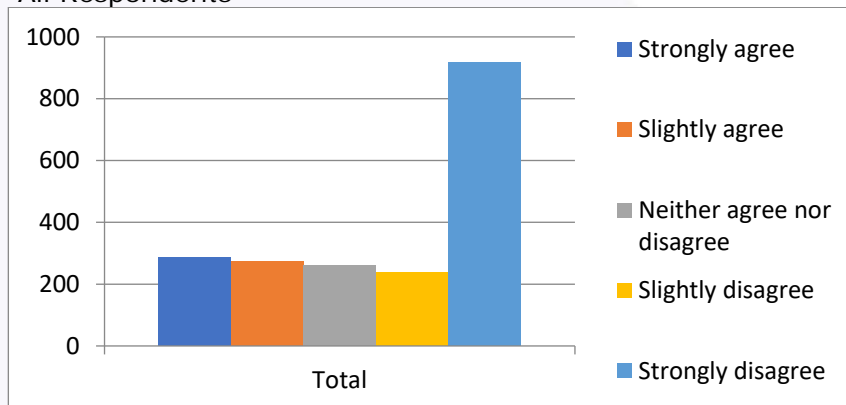
By Bowler Type



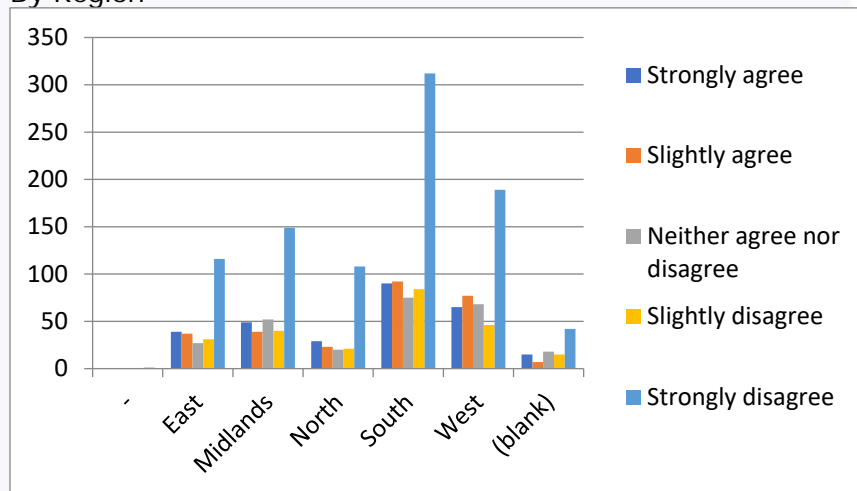
*(i) County and /or international players should be prevented from participating in some domestic events*

Only 29% agreed with this statement. 58% disagreed (46% strongly disagreed)  
13% had no opinion either way

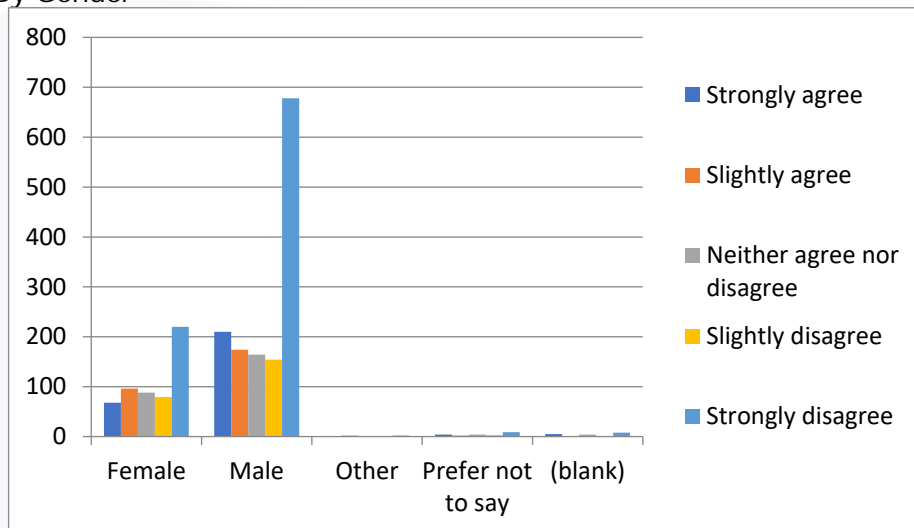
All Respondents



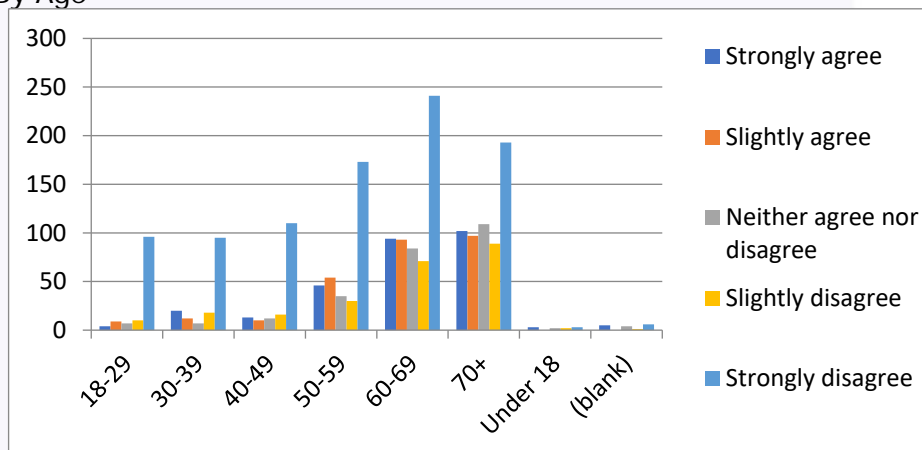
By Region



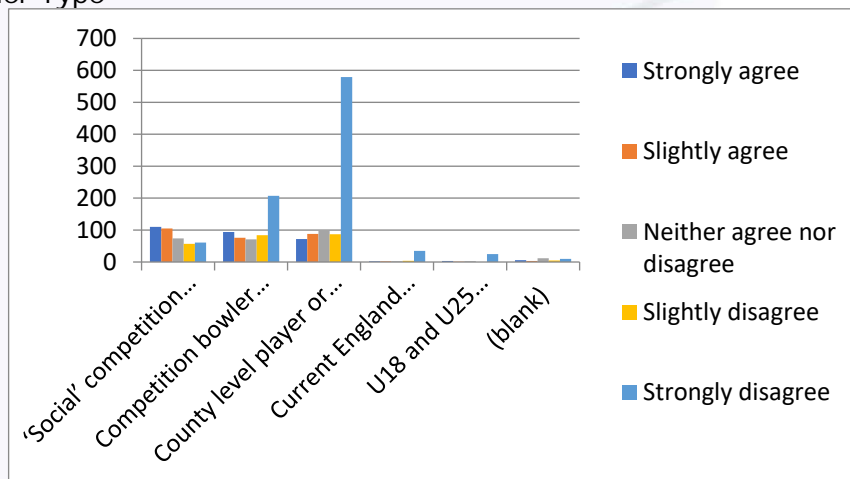
By Gender



By Age



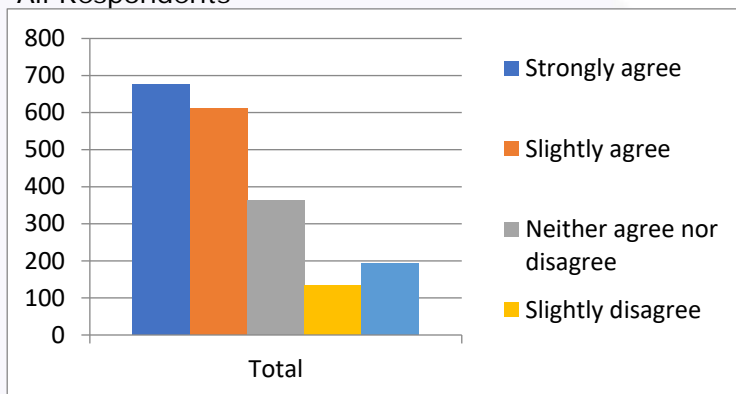
By Bowler Type



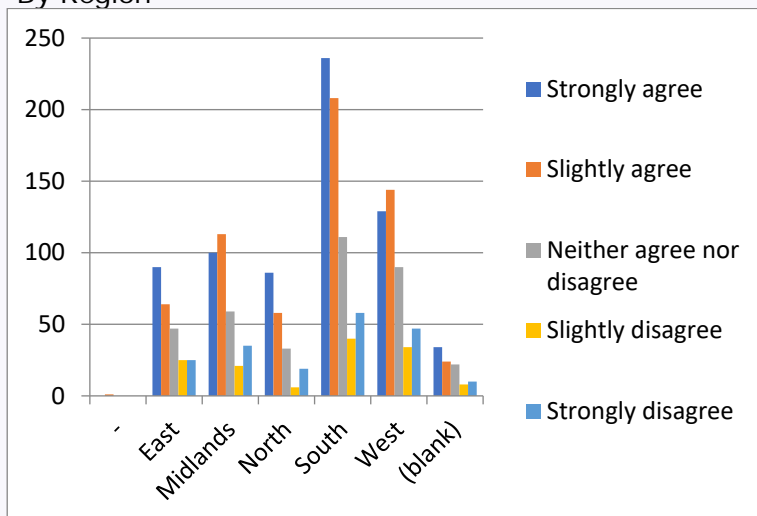
(j) *I would support the introduction of set dates to play in some national competitions*

65% agreed with this statement (34% strongly 31% slightly) 18% had no opinion either way and 17% disagreed

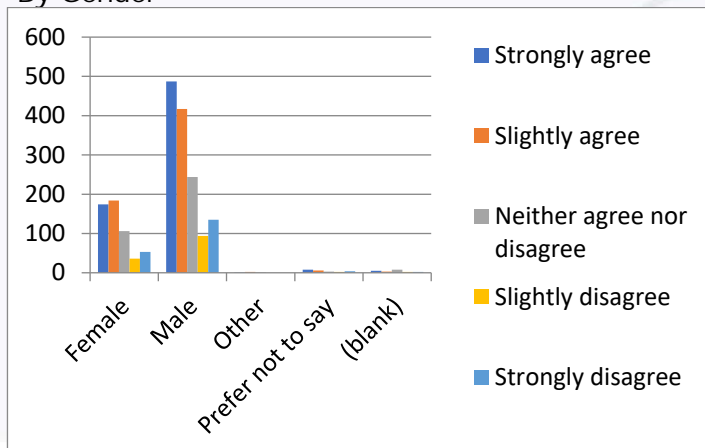
All Respondents



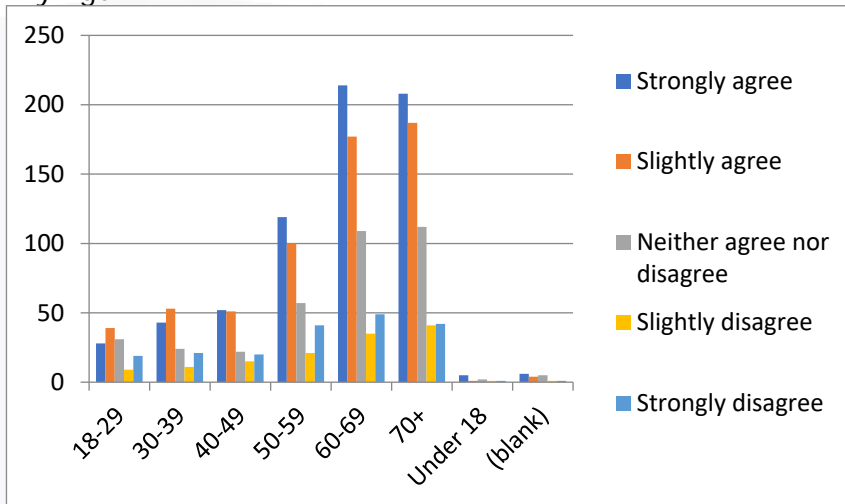
By Region



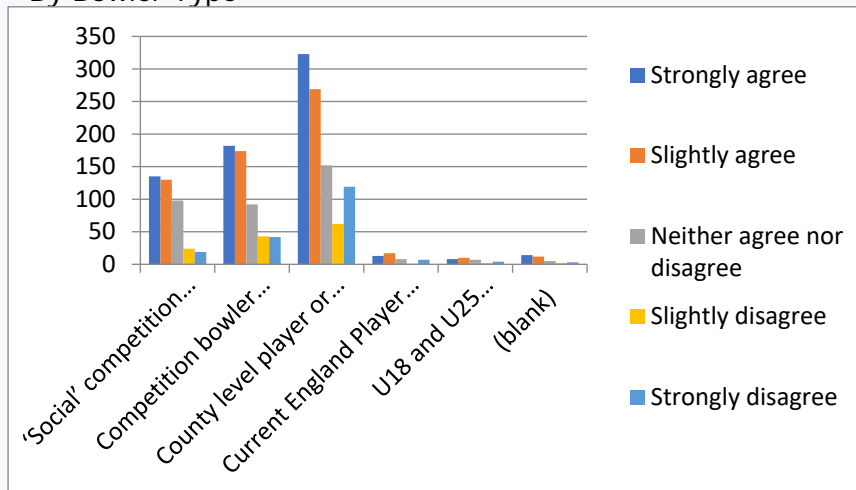
By Gender



By Age



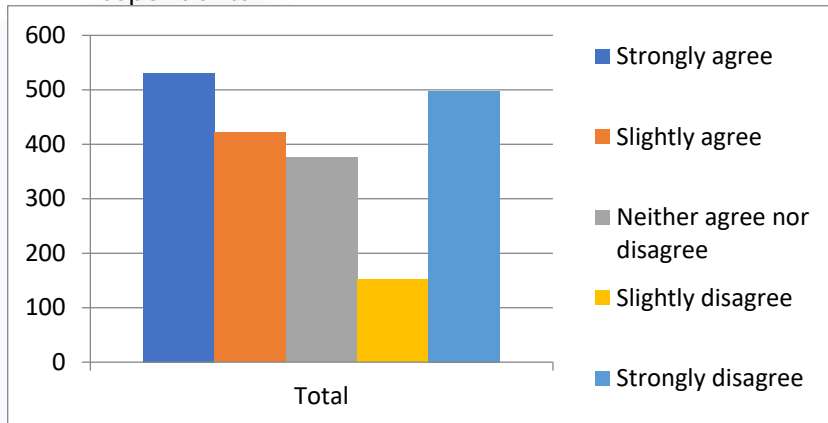
By Bowler Type



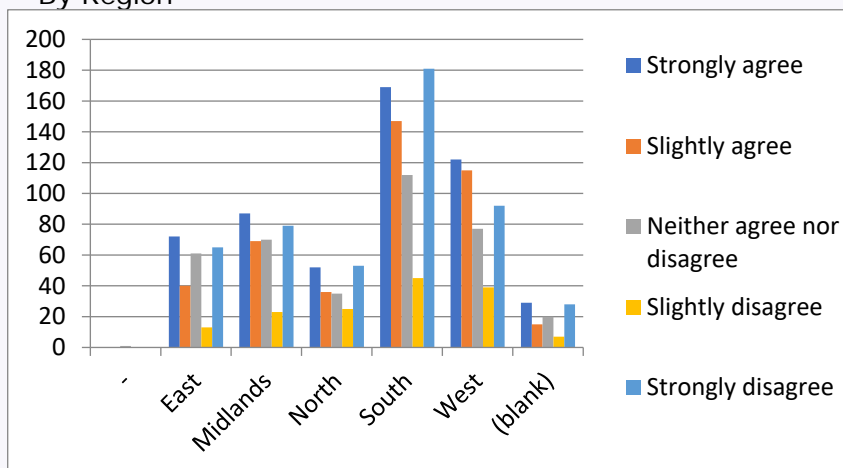
(k) I would support the introduction of events that can be played during weekdays (daytime)

48% agreed with this statement (27% strongly 21% slightly) 19% had no opinion either way and 33% disagreed (25% strongly)

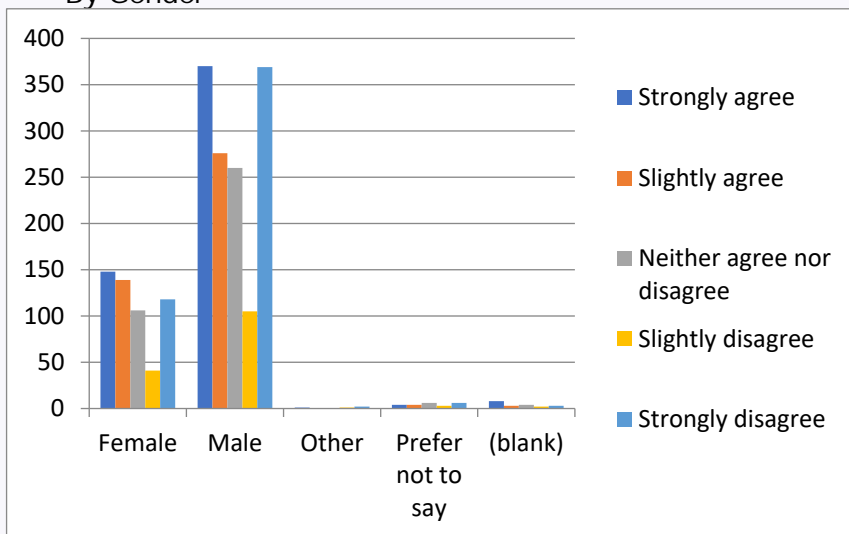
All Respondents



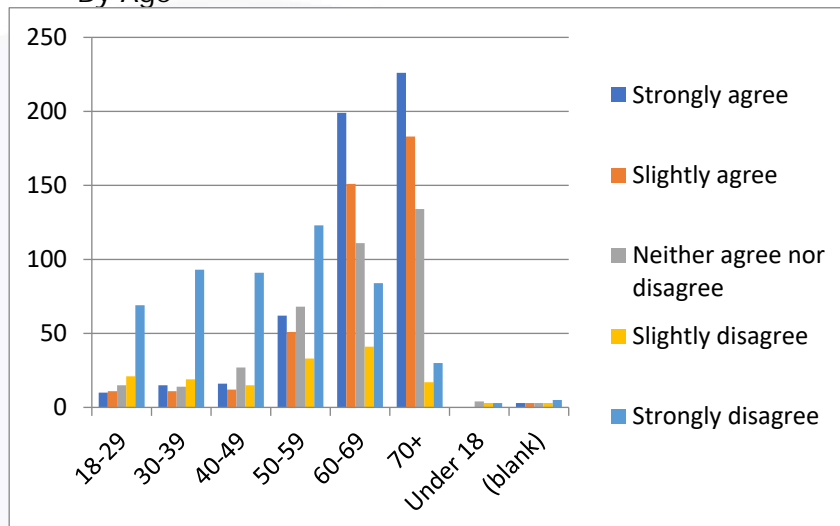
By Region



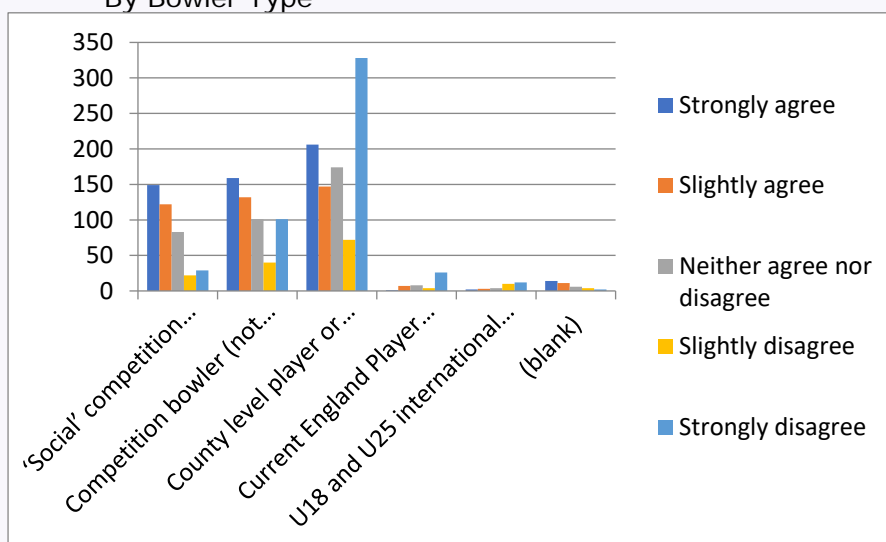
By Gender



By Age



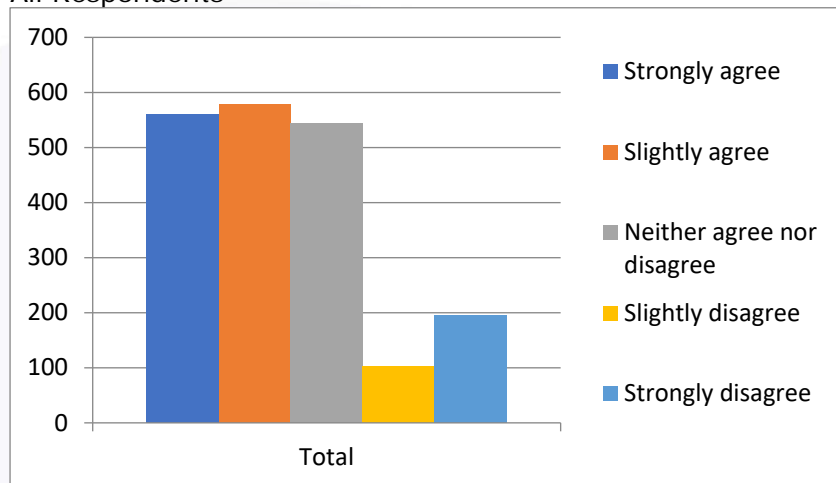
By Bowler Type



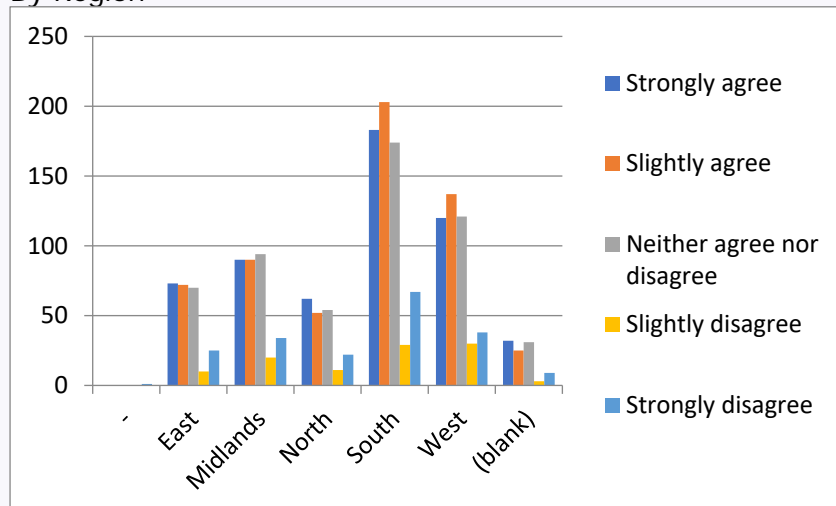
*(I) I would support the introduction of a national league (if played regionally in early stages)*

57% agreed with this statement (28% strongly 29% slightly) A further 27% had no opinion either way and 15% disagreed

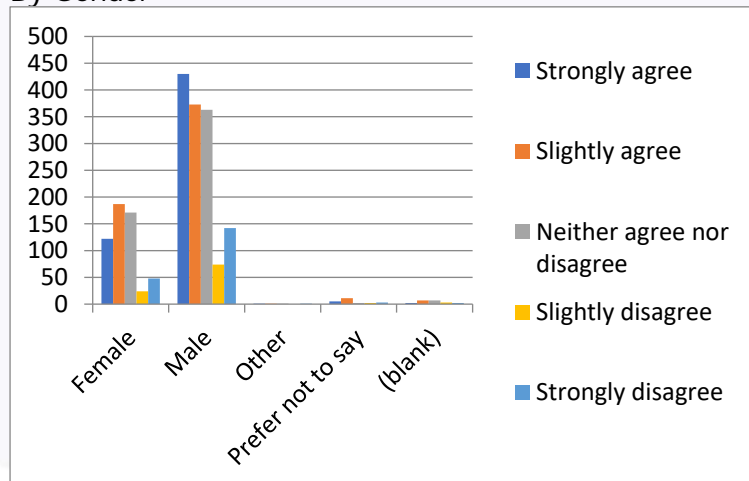
### All Respondents



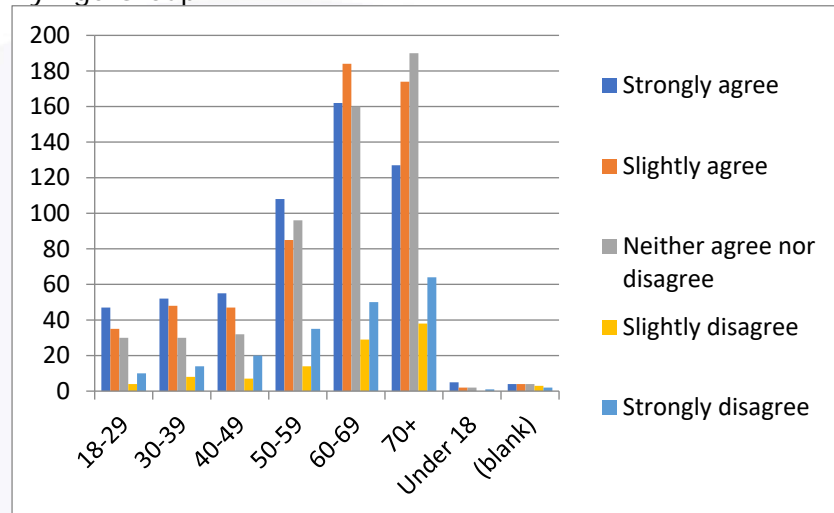
### By Region



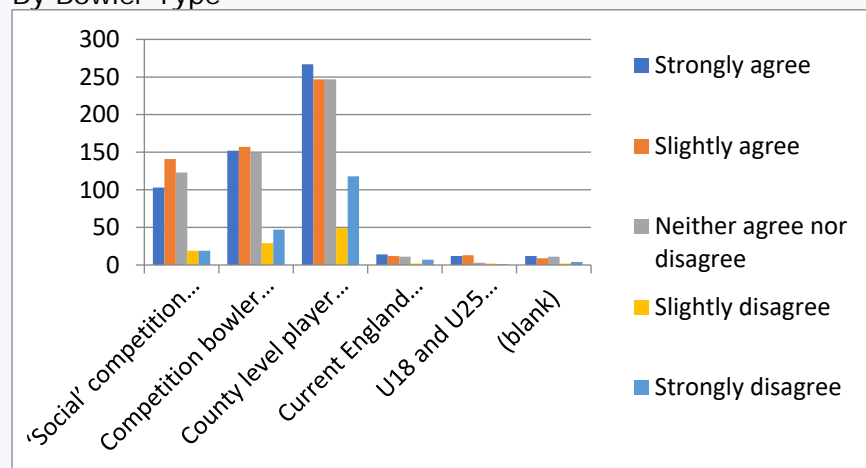
### By Gender



By Age Group



By Bowler Type



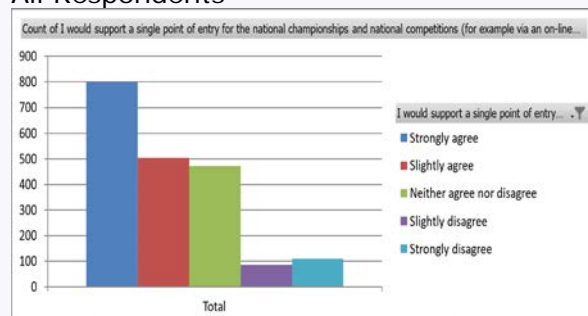
## SECTION 9: PLAYER EXPERIENCE

Q24 Finally thinking about the player experience, to what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements.

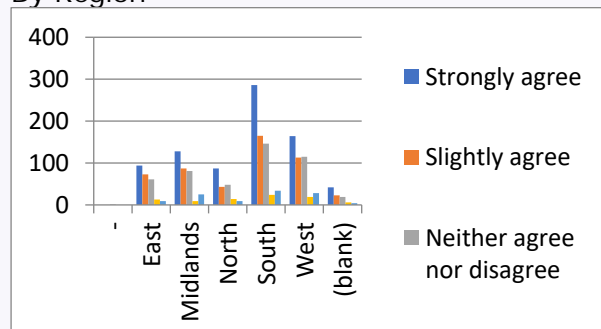
- (a) I would support a single point of entry for the national championships and national competitions (for example via an on-line registration process)

67% agree with this statement ( 41% strongly 26% slightly) 24% had no opinion either way 10% disagreed

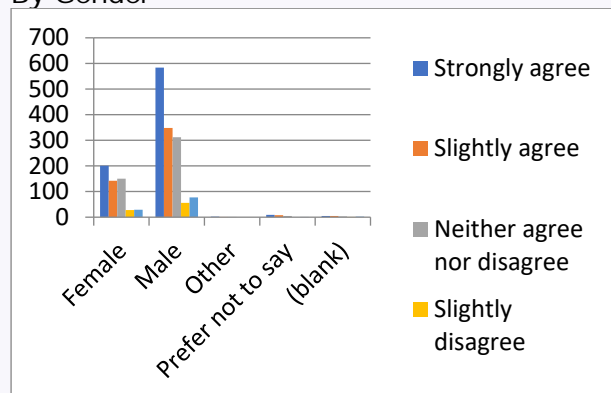
### All Respondents



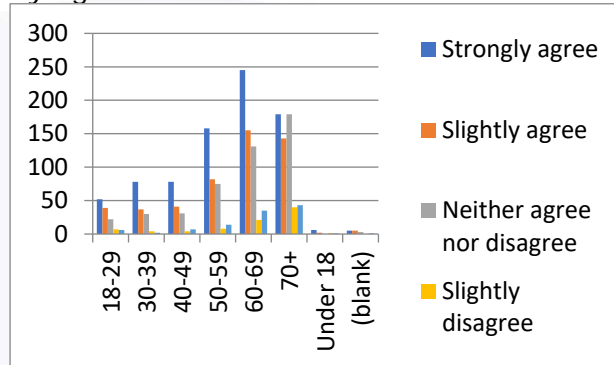
### By Region



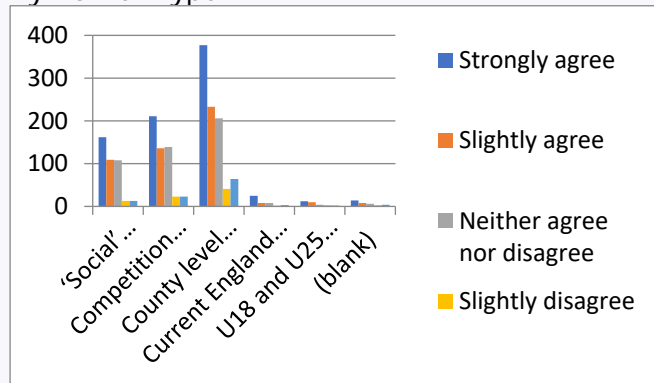
### By Gender



By Age



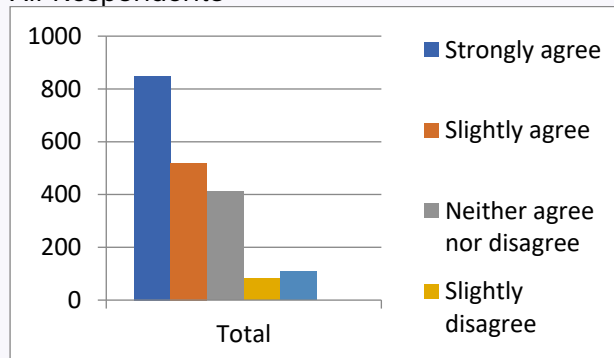
By Bowler Type



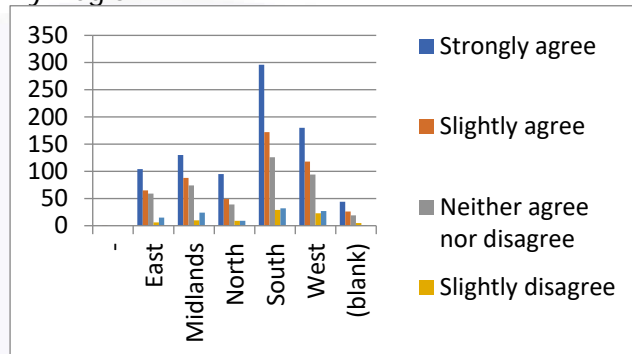
(b) I would support the development of an on-line competitions management for all national championships (including county rounds) and national competitions.

69% agreed with this statement (43% strongly 26% slightly) 21% had no opinion either way and 9% disagreed.

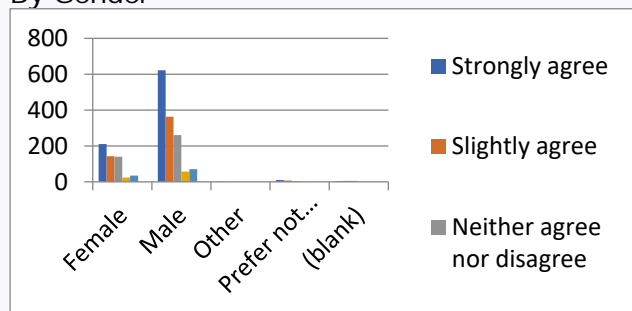
All Respondents



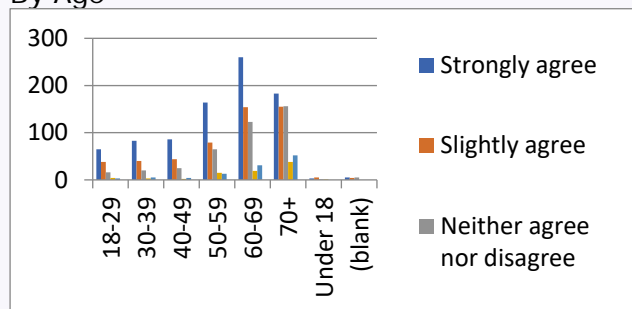
By Region



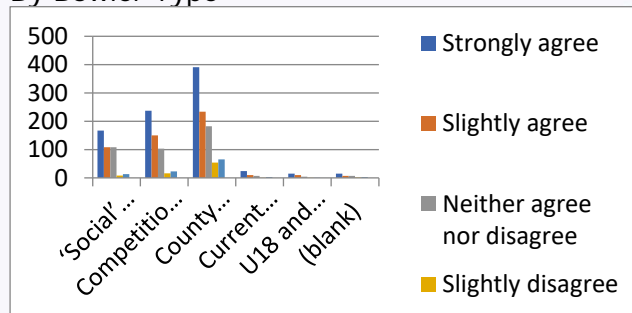
By Gender



By Age



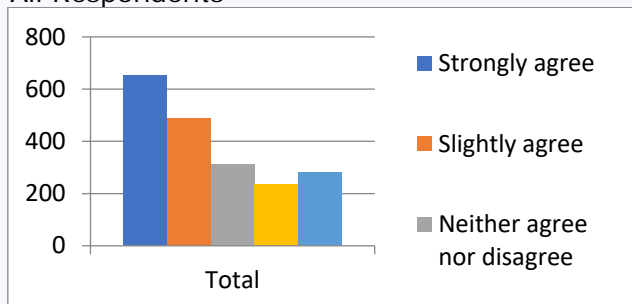
By Bowler Type



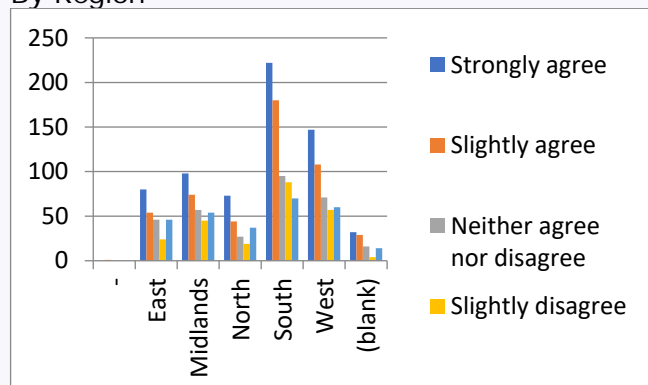
(c) I would support the development of a standardised calendar for ALL national competitions with the set-dates rather than play-by dates

58% agreed with this statement (33% strongly 25% slightly) 16% had no opinion either way and 26% disagreed (14% strongly)

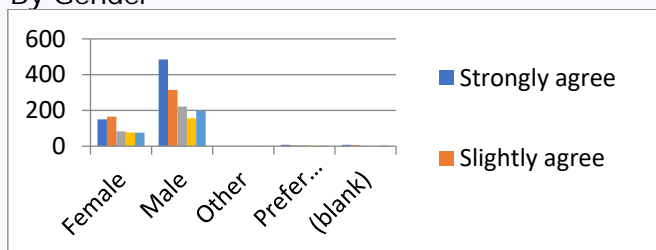
All Respondents



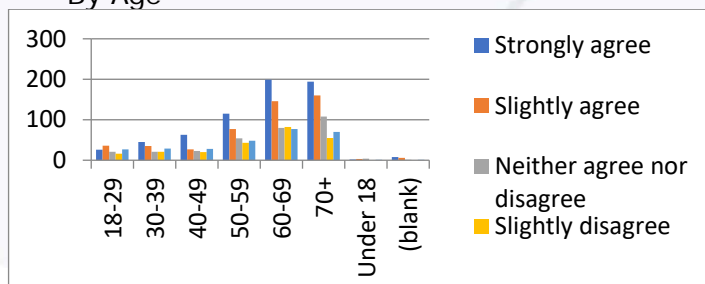
By Region



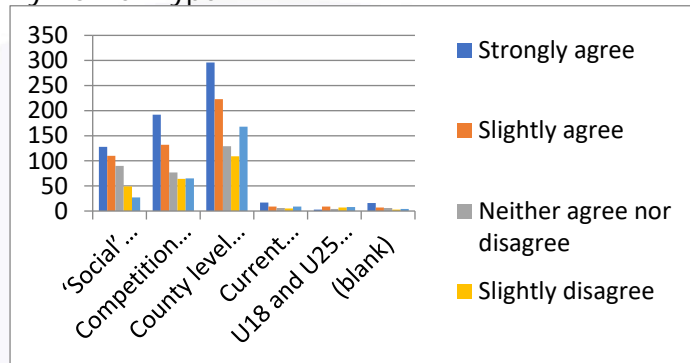
By Gender



By Age



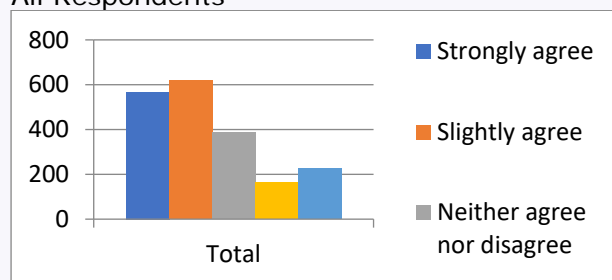
By Bowler Type



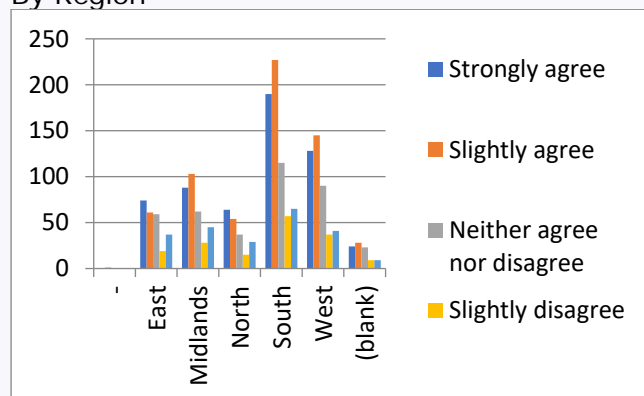
(d) I would support the development of a standardised calendar for SOME national competitions with set-dates rather than play-by dates.

61% agreed with this statement (29% strongly 32 slightly) 20% had no opinion either way, 20% disagreed.

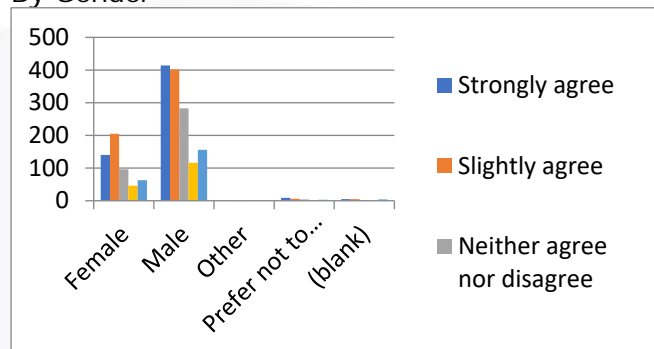
All Respondents



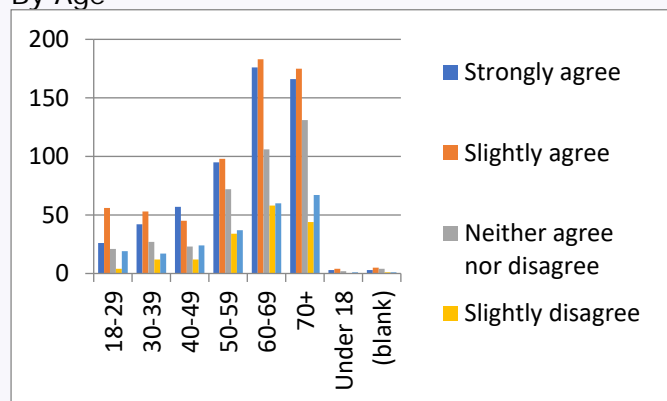
By Region



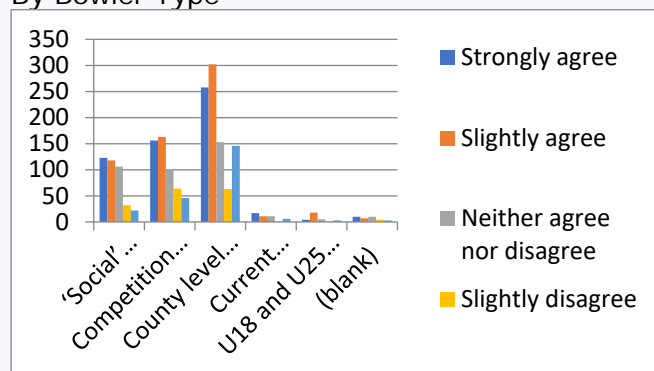
By Gender



By Age



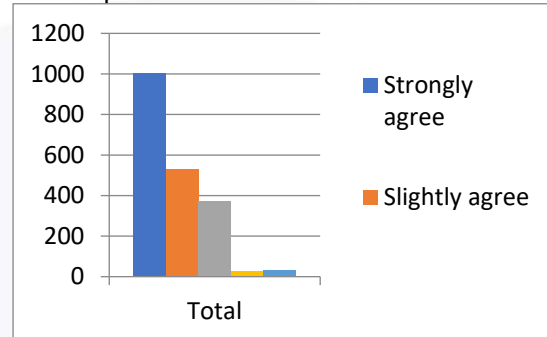
By Bowler Type



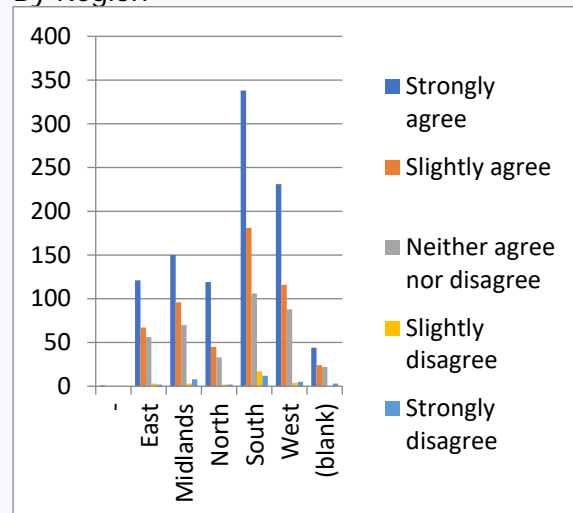
(e) *I believe the national championships and national competitions programme should be promoted together.*

78% agreed with this statement (51% strongly 27% slightly) 19% had no opinion either way and 3% disagreed.

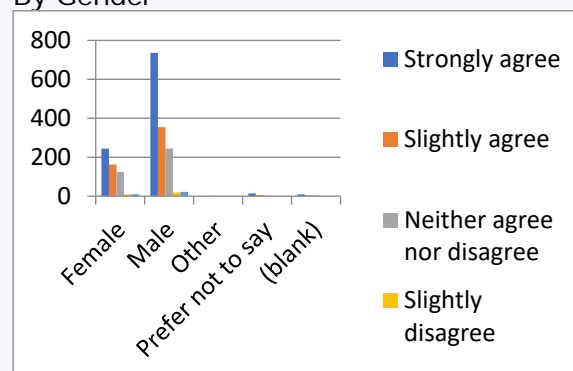
### All Respondents



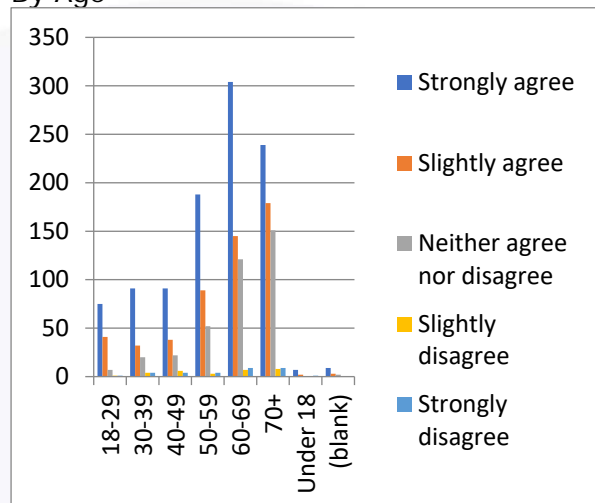
### By Region



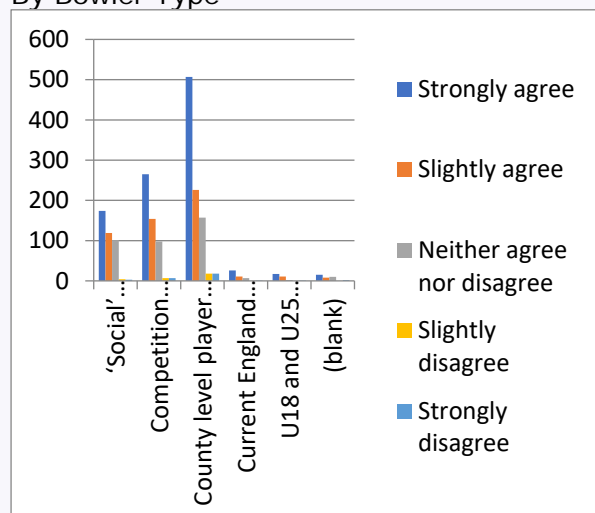
### By Gender



By Age



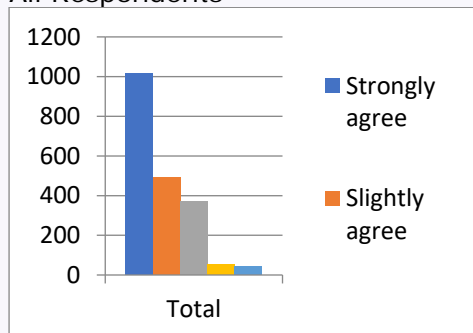
By Bowler Type



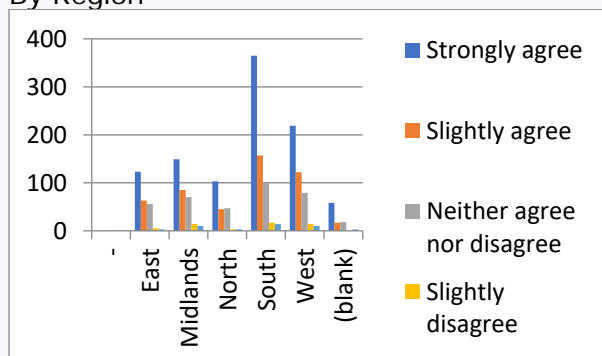
(f) *I would like to see the use of more technology across the sport in the management of competitions.*

77% agreed with this statement (52% strongly 25% slightly) 19% had no opinion either way and 5% disagreed with the statement.

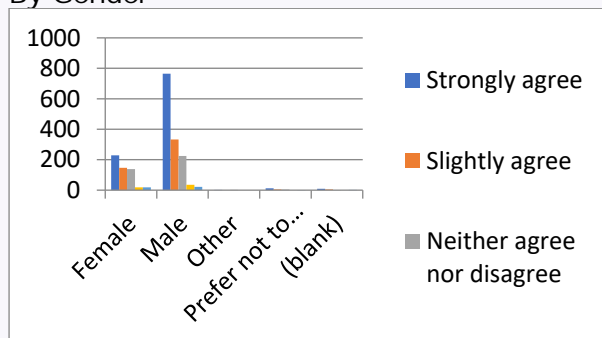
All Respondents



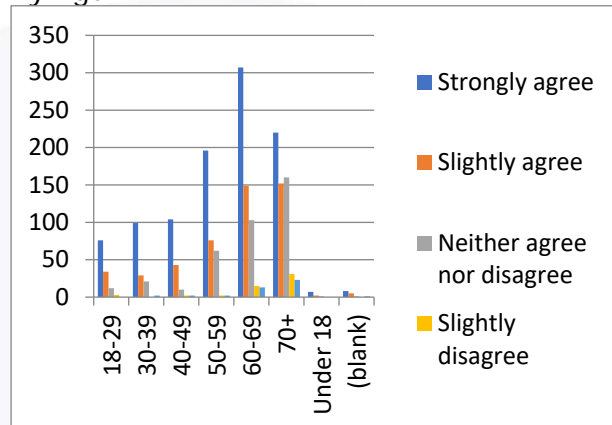
By Region



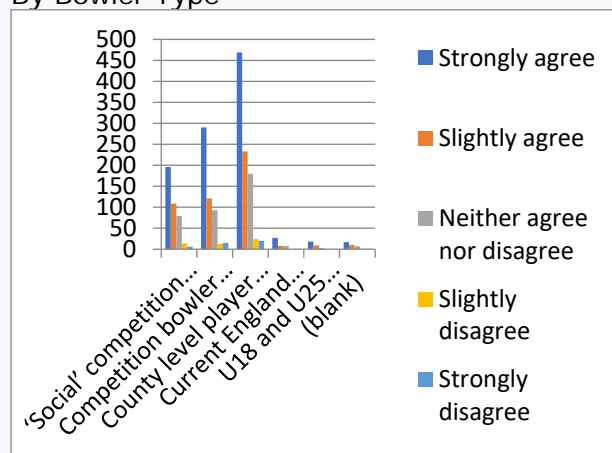
By Gender



By Age



By Bowler Type



## Appendix C: NATIONAL FINALS QUALIFICATION PLACES – PROJECTED

		Players per side	No. of Qualifiers	Total Participants
<b>BLUE RIBAND</b>				
Men	Four-Bowl Singles	1	62	62
Men	Pairs	2	62	124
Men	Triples	3	62	186
Men	Fours	4	62	248
Women	Four-Bowl Singles	1	62	62
Women	Pairs	2	62	124
Women	Triples	3	62	186
Women	Fours	4	62	248
<b>PERFORMANCE</b>				
Men	Balcomb Trophy	10	8	80
Men	White Rose Trophy	5	8	40
Men	U17 Singles	1	8	8
Men	U24 Singles	1	48	48
Men	U24 Pairs	2	35	70
Women	Walker Cup	10	8	80
Women	Amy Rose Bowl	5	8	40
Women	U17 Singles	1	8	8
Women	U24 Singles	1	48	48
Women	U24 Pairs	2	35	70
<b>TEAM SPIRIT</b>				
Men	Middleton Cup	24	4	96
Men	Top Club	6	8	48
Women	Johns Trophy	24	4	96
Women	Top Club	6	8	48
Mixed	Over 60 Inter-County	24	4	96
Mixed	Tony Allcock Trophy	8	8	64
Open	Club Two Fours	8	8	64
Men	Champion of Champions	1	8	8
Women	Champion of Champions	1	8	8
<b>PARTICIPATION</b>				
Men	Senior Fours	4	35	140
Men	Senior Singles	1	16	16
Men	Senior Pairs	2	8	16
Men	Novice Pairs	2	8	16
Women	Senior Fours	4	35	140
Women	Senior Singles	1	16	16
Women	Senior Pairs	2	8	16
Women	Novice Pairs	2	8	16
Mixed	Pairs	2	8	16
Mixed	Fours	4	8	32
Open	Family Pairs	2	8	16
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>2700</b>