

## **County League Survey – January 2024**

Context : Members asked for view on the current county league format and structure

### **Executive Council Summary**

From the 53 responses received there is a clear indication that the current format of matches played on a Saturday, with a home and away fixture basis is the preferred structure, although several respondents have raised the question of midweek games.

Similarly, there is broad approval for the current format of the matches, namely fours, but some differing views on the length of the game (ends and or time limit), and the continued use of respots.

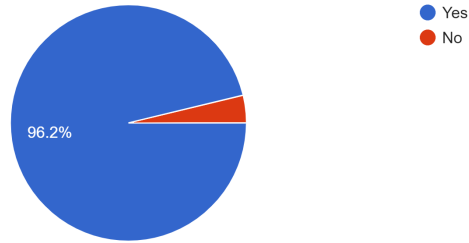
There is support for considering the introduction of a County League Cup, the format of which would need to be agreed but expected to follow the Denny Cup being a drawn knock-out competition on a two rink home and two rink away basis. This though could be used as the testing ground for a different format along the lines of a multi discipline match.

However, the very useful insight is in the additional comments made by respondents covering a wide range of topics on alternative options, travel , division structures, etc. which may help us in looking at options moving forward.

The number of responses is disappointing when you consider the number players who take part in the league. Equally the number of younger players who have responded is low, but this must be taken in the context that we do not have a clear view of the players age groups within the association.

Do you participate in the Men's County League?

53 responses

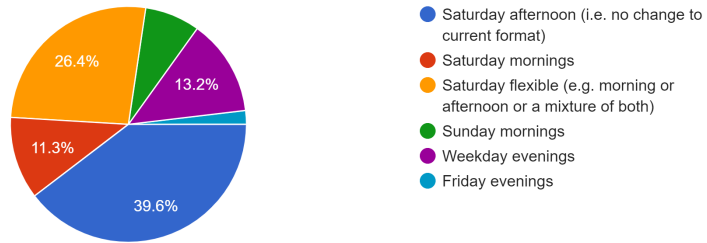


Key reasons stated

Positive	Negative
Visiting other clubs	Distance travelled
Games played on a Saturday / Afternoon	Length of game
Format of games (i.e. fours)	
Competitive matches and challenge of playing other clubs	

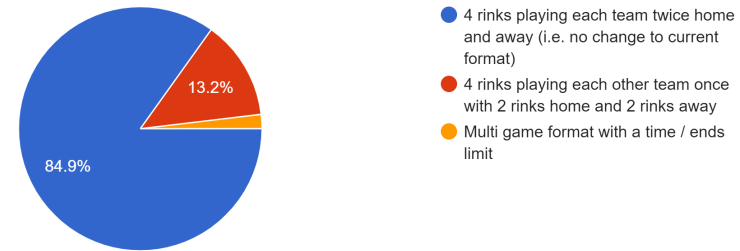
When would you like matches played? (please answer your preferred day/time)

53 responses



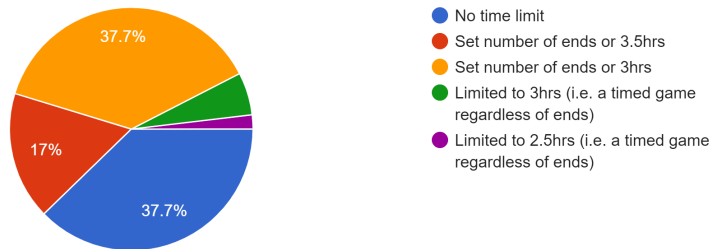
Match/Fixture format

53 responses



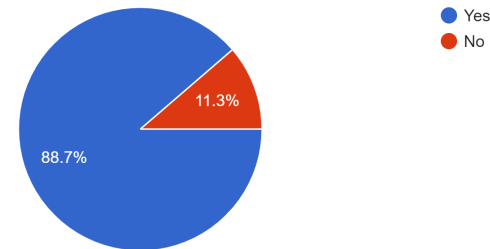
Would you like the match to have a time limit?

53 responses



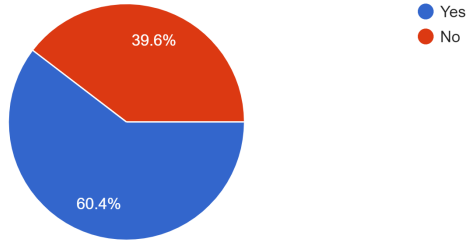
For 2023/24 we introduced respots, would you like to see this continue going forward?

53 responses



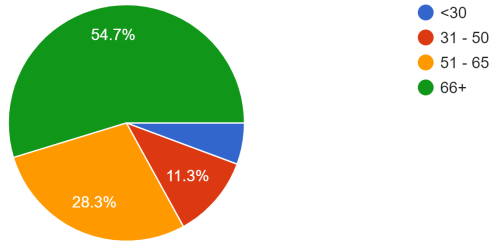
Would you be interested in a County League Cup?

53 responses



Age group

53 responses



## Additional Comments

- No premier league - county split into 2 (various divisions), 2 winners play off for County Title
- All County league games to be played on sat afternoons only
- Definitely should change the fours for triples
- Things def need a shake up. The current format is out of date and not exciting enough for younger players coming through. County league is good but needs to be different and more exciting. Perhaps introduce singles, pairs and triples into it as well. Shorter games with re spots and week day evening games. Saturday day time is difficult for those with families and for those that work.
- I do wonder if we should keep county league as current and introduce a mid week league with smaller teams of max 10 players. Played in 2 sessions with mixed events 2 bowl triples and 3 bowl pairs 8 ends Followed by either the same. Teams can make changes.
- Happy to have some flexibility on days/times as easier for example for Beccles to avoid Sats because of the car park being used by footballers. The game is too long at moment.
- I don't think there are a sufficient number of matches in each league and consideration could be given to go back to the old system of 3 Leagues
- Having played in a format where a league was 2 home and 2 away I would recommend that you do not follow this format. This lead to a quick down turn in the number of players who wanted to play and a huge drop in standards, as will any switch to triples. Your current format is working well, change is not necessary.
- I prefer no later than 2 for afternoon starts
- Travelling is an issue for many so other than the top division have remainder regionised
- There are not enough games to play and Perhaps you should consider just three leagues to increase the number of games
- Bowls is one of the very few sports where men and women can compete on an absolutely equal basis. Particularly given the challenge in clubs maintaining numbers, why don't we celebrate this by making the league mixed? It is hard to see any benefit in retaining the men only structure. Opening the league to both sexes would not only make it easier for all teams to field players but also give more opportunity for our great lady players to participate in competitive matches.
- Would like to see triple matches, this would encourage more teams, I pulled out because of the two bowls , four man format but would rejoin if the league was changed to triples
- Continue with respots but allow each rink to nominate to kill an end Either allow unlimited nominations until successful or allow 3 nominations per rink per game regardless of success.
- Realise it's difficult to organise leagues unfortunately the travelling for us at Hunstanton to Shotford & Diss is very difficult. Especially as we go past several clubs we could play, equally must be just as bad for them visiting us. Maybe the two rinks away/home might help the current situation.
- Need a mid week league to sit alongside the county league 2 sessions 1st session 3 bowl pairs 2 bowl triples 4 bowl singles x 2 2nd Session Same again but 2 players playing singles have to different to 1st session. All games 9 ends 2 points per event and 3 points for the session win. 22 points from the night.
- A County Cup competition for both A and B teams