



# Warwickshire Pairs League

## Meeting of WPL Working Group Wednesday 21 November 2007 7.00pm @ CBC

**Present:** Darren Evetts (Chair), Jon Downing, Steve Green, David Jones, Colin Lang (WCBA Chair), Elayne Meakin, Mike Meakin, John Pyner, Maggs Pyner, John Robbins

Darren opened the meeting by welcoming Elayne and Maggs both of whom have joined the directing team.

Darren thanked Steve for his work on collating all relevant information and indicated that he would take the lead for each agenda item

### 1. Background

Generally the new format has been recognised as a success. Today's meeting aimed to build upon this and take into account individual proposals for further improvements. Unfortunately the lack of suitable premises in Warwickshire (ie in a central area and with 22 tables considerably restricts our available options).

Nevertheless the changes agreed aim to take steps to address the common themes in the feedback both to and within the Committee:

- The standard of play within the top divisions is too wide
- The rules for substitution of players are too loose
- The jump for players in Division II from Pairs scoring in short encounters to IMPs over long matches is too wide
- The VPs awarded to absent players can encourage non-attendance in the final sessions of a series
- Players may prefer shorter matches in Division I
- A 3-session qualification for promotion is too low

The Committee considered but rejected other proposals:

- More Pairs scoring, rather than IMPs
- Changes to the assignment rules for the first evening

**The following amendments/additions would be made to the existing WPL rules for September 2008:**

## **2. Basic Format of Event/Size of Divisions**

It was agreed that for September 2008 the following would be implemented:

- **Premier** – A fixed number of 24 Pairs
  
- **Division I** – Either:
  - A. One division playing 3 x 8 board matches per evening – pre assigned. The number of pairs will be an even number and capped at 32.
    - I. Match 1 & 2 - A random draw
    - II. Match 3 - A random draw in two sections (a pair from the top half drawn against a pair from the bottom half) based on the previous series ranking. New pairings will be drawn in the top half and promoted pairs in the bottom half.
  - B. Two divisions of 14 or 16 pairs playing 2 long matches per evening – as current. (Assignments on the final evening are likely to involve playing a second match against the same opponent)
- See Appendix I for the VP scales.
  
- **Division II** – Butler IMP Pairs with 3 board rounds scored converted to VPs.

## **3. Substitutes/Absence Scores**

The current substitute rules will be replaced with:

- Players are responsible for arranging substitutes ~ the Competition Manager or Divisional Tournament Director can provide assistance.
  
- There may be opportunities for pairs to pair off instead of providing substitute pairs. The TD will post a list for players to sign up however it remains the player's responsibility to ensure that either a substitute is provided or they communicate which two pairs will not be playing.
  
- All substitutes must be approved by either the Competition Manager or the Divisional Tournament Director(s).
  
- In the event of pairs not playing the following scores will be assigned:

- Sessions 1-4: 8VPs per match with prior notification
- Final Session: 8VPs per match or Average to Date, whichever is lower
- Without prior notification 0VPs per match subject to the current conditions.

#### **4. Qualification Promotion/Relegation**

- Current promotion/relegation will apply for the current series.
- For the Feb-Jun Series the following promotions/relegations will be made:
  - Premier – 6 Relegations (or fewer to allow 24 pairs to be achieved)
  - Division I – 1 Promotion from Birmingham and 1 from Coventry. Two relegations will be made (fewer relegations may be allowed to achieve an even number)
  - Division II – 2 Promotions
- Including substitutes, the number of qualifying sessions for promotion and prizes will be increased from 3 to 4

#### **5. Communication Plan**

- Premier – Announcements at the remaining sessions this series and the first at the beginning of next (Feb). Emails.
- Division I – A questionnaire will be circulated (December) offering the two proposals.
- Division II - Announcements at the remaining sessions this series and the first at the beginning of next (Feb). Emails. For the Feb-Jun series tow sets of results would be produced Match Points and Butler. TDs would provide information to players on the differences between them and the tactics to be employed for September 2008. The official results for the series Feb-Jun 08 would be the match pointed results.

Appendix I

VPs	<b>MATCHES OF:</b>				
	<b>PROPOSED Div I</b>	<b>CURRENT Div I</b>	<b>PREMIER</b>		<b>DIVISION 2 (TBC)</b>
	<b>8 Boards or fewer</b>	<b>11 – 12 Boards</b>	<b>14 – 18 Boards</b>	<b>20 - 26 Boards</b>	<b>28 – 38 Boards</b>
	<b>IMP DIFFERENCE:</b>				
10 - 10	0	0	0	0	0 - 1
11 - 9	1	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 3	2 - 4
12 - 8	2	3 - 4	3 - 4	4 - 6	5 - 7
13 - 7	3 - 4	5 - 6	5 - 6	7 - 9	8 - 10
14 - 6	5 - 6	7 - 8	7 - 9	10 - 12	11 - 14
15 - 5	7 - 8	9 - 10	10 - 12	13 - 15	15 - 18
16 - 4	9 - 10	11 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 18	19 - 22
17 - 3	11 - 13	13 - 15	16 - 18	19 - 22	23 - 27
18 - 2	14 - 16	16 - 19	19 - 23	23 - 27	28 - 33
19 - 1	17 - 20	20 - 24	24 - 29	28 - 35	34 - 42
20 - 0	21+	25+	30+	36+	43+