

## **Lancaster Bowling League Fixture Secretary's report 2024 season**

Last season was our first year using the new Bowling Results website to manage the league fixtures. Setting up the website and transferring all team and player data from the Online Bowls website took a lot of work. But we now have a system that is much easier to manage.

My thanks to all captains for entering results promptly after matches and for sending me copies of all result sheets.

There were again only a few postponements, and most of these were rearranged amicably by the captains involved. There was one postponement, due to inclement weather, that was disputed by the visiting team. This has led the committee to clarify the rules on how long players must remain at the green before games may be postponed due to bad weather. All players must remain at least 30 minutes beyond the scheduled start time before a match is postponed.

There were 14 occasions when teams were short of a player, involving 10 matches. This is a significant increase over previous years and is concerning. It is not acceptable for players to travel to a match to find they have no opponent. The league will need to monitor this and consider introducing penalties for offending teams.

We again had a team withdraw shortly before the start of the season. This meant that only one of our four divisions was complete, while three were one or two teams short. This is not a healthy position for the league, and both the league and individual clubs need to do much more to recruit new players.

Towards the end of the season, there was some debate about the scheduling of cup matches, especially the semi-finals and finals. For next season, we will schedule these matches earlier in the year, before floodlights are necessary. We will also try to schedule the Challenge Trophy and HW Nichols Trophy semi-finals and finals on different dates. This should allow more players to watch these matches and support teams from their clubs.

Finally, I am standing down as fixtures secretary for next season, as I am moving away from the area. I wish to thank the committee and all team captains and club secretaries for their help in making this job much easier than it could have been. I will be available to help the new fixtures secretary with setting up the new season.

Mike Armishaw  
Fixtures' Secretary