



## English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd

### National Competitions Questionnaire Summary Report

In November 2011 the English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd announced that it would be conducting a critical review on its National Competitions both on what competitions are staged and how they are administered.

The first phase of the review was to obtain the views of National Competitors, Clubs and Counties and this was conducted via a questionnaire. This was sent to all competitors whose email addresses were held at Head Office and copies to all Area, Club and County Secretaries.

All responses were asked to be returned by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

The total of questionnaires distributed was 1,600 and the EIBA received back 369 completed forms, which was a 23% response.

Of the questionnaires received back the age breakdown was as follows: -

Under 18	-	11	(3%)
19 to 25	-	12	(3%)
26 to 49	-	52	(14%)
50 to 59	-	46	(13%)
60 +	-	223	(60%)
Club / County	-	25	(7%)

## RESULTS

### Are there too many National Competitions?

51% of the respondents indicated that there were not too many competitions compared to 46% who said there were. 3% of the respondents had no view on this question.

### Should the Denny and Yetton Plates be withdrawn?

Nearly half the respondents, 49%, wanted the Plate Competitions to remain. Of the remaining 51%, 29% said yes the Plates should go whilst 22% had no view on this.

### What other Competitions should be removed?

From the respondents who said there were too many competitions the following were the main ones to go for each area.

Ladies	-	Over 50 Triples, Vivienne & Lingford
Mens	-	Over 60 Fours, Over 50 Triples and Over 60 County League
Mixed	-	Top Club

### Should the EIBA Run More Competitions?

There was an overwhelming response of 76% who said that there should not be any more competitions introduced.

Of the 21% who said that there should be additional competitions they suggested U18 singles, Parent & Child and or Generation pairs as ones to be added to the schedule.

**Should there be the same competitions for Men and Ladies?**

76% respondents were in agreement with this question whilst 14% were not.

**Would you be in favour of aged competitions becoming Over 50?**

66% were not in favour of this move compared to 28% who were.

**Should there be an Under 18 Singles Competition?**

The view on this question was close with 55% saying that there should be an Under 18 Singles compared to 35% who said no there should not.

**Should the following competitions be played in sets?**

The introduction of sets to the National Competitions was not seen as a popular suggestion: -

Singles - 80% said no.

Pairs - 90% said no.

Triples - 91% said no.

**How Many Competitors should compete at the National Final Weeks?**

There was no definitive view on this matter from the respondents. 36% said it should be 16, 34% said 32 and 24% said the number should be based on the overall entries into the competition.

On the question if the competitors were reduced to 8 or 16 would you be in favour of the last 32 still receiving National Championship Badges the view again was evenly split. 39% were in favour, 36% were not and 25% did not have a view.

**Are you happy with the EIBA holding 3 National Final Weeks?**

The view of the competitors was that they were happy with this arrangement. 77% happy compared to 19% who were not.

When asked how the National Final weeks should be structured there was no overall opinion. 41% said that the schedule should remain as it is currently, whilst 43% wanted there to be a specific week for Ladies, Mens and Mixed competitions.

**Are you happy with the Venue Locations?**

51% of competitors were happy with the EIBA's selection. Of the 44% who were not the majority, 87%, said that the Weeks should be moved around the Country every year.

**Would you like to see travel expenses removed and prize money being paid from the Q.Finals onwards?**

The majority of the respondents, 55% were not in favour of this whilst 36% were.

**Or should more money be given to travel expenses than prize money?**

The response to this was evenly spread with 42% saying yes and 40% saying no. 18% of respondents had no opinion on this.

**Would you be willing to enter National Competitions on the following terms?**

The respondents were given 4 suggestions on how the qualifying rounds could be arranged and asked if they would compete if they were introduced.

The most popular suggestion with 65% was that the National Areas should stay as they currently are. The next most popular suggestion with 25% in favour was for the qualifying rounds to be played in an open regional draw up to the National Final Weeks.

The suggestion which attracted the lowest support was for all competitions to be open national draws, 3%.

**What is your view on the National Competition Rules?**

84% of respondents said the rules were fine as they were.

**In your opinion who should pay the rink fees?**

The most popular view was that rink fees for National competitions should be shared, with 70% sharing this opinion. The next popular opinion was that the loser should pay with 12%.

**Is there a need for the Annual Presentation Lunch at the end of the season?**

60% of respondents said that there wasn't a need for a presentation lunch and that the trophies should be presented at the Finals. 23% of respondents wanted the lunch to remain as it was.

**If the National competitions stayed as they are would you?**

This question gave four options to the respondent and the results were: -

- a) Always enter - 52%
- b) Not enter again - 2%
- c) Only play in Club or and County teams - 14%
- d) Enter one more year and then review – 27%

## SUMMARY

The EIBA Ltd are extremely grateful to those National Competitors, Clubs and Counties who took the time to respond to the questionnaire.

Whilst the response rate of 23% is encouraging it is important to note that over 75% of known competitors views have not been expressed. However, the feedback obtained has been valuable and constructive and as such will be of great assistance in structuring the continued review of National Competitions over the next few months.

This is further enhanced with many questionnaires providing additional comments which are being analysed currently.

Peter Thompson

Chief Operating Executive

January 2012.