

We just wished to provide you with an update on progress in a number of key work areas as we build towards the 2021 season.

### **Return to Play**

We attended a session with Sport England and DCMS representatives yesterday, held for all National Governing Bodies, to learn more about the proposed 'return to play' guidance for all sports. The message was very positive and spelt out just how vital the return of sport and physical activity is to the health of the nation. We have now begun preparing our guidance based on the information received yesterday and will issue to counties and affiliated clubs once DCMS approval has been obtained. As restrictions are relaxed over the coming months, please note that DCMS' sport-specific guidance will be released one week prior to each Step of the government roadmap being implemented (i.e. 5<sup>th</sup> April ahead of 12<sup>th</sup> April). To provide additional support to help affiliated clubs open safely, we are working in collaboration with the Bowls Development Alliance to develop club resources under the banner 'Back to Bowls' and we shall provide more information on this later this month.

### **Competitive Events Programme 2021**

Thank you to all counties that have provided feedback to us regarding our plans for the competitions, championships and national finals. Whilst 2021 will look a little different, your feedback demonstrates that we all share a common goal – getting the maximum number of people participating in a covid-friendly manner. In accordance with the timeline laid down at the AGM, we are finalising the following for release next week and will ensure that counties receive 'in advance' notification before the wider public announcement:

National Finals 2021 – Schedule and Qualification Numbers in Championship events

- National Competitions – Play-by dates
- Competition Rules
- Inter-County Events – Update

### **Registration Guide for Affiliated Clubs**

We are committed to providing the best possible service to our affiliated clubs, to communicate efficiently with club leaders and ensure that we can promote clubs within our sport and to potential new members. Thank you to all counties that have already submitted their affiliated club returns (together with primary club contact information). Please could we request that all your returns are submitted to [matt.wordingham@bowlsengland.com](mailto:matt.wordingham@bowlsengland.com) by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. We shall then ask affiliated clubs to complete the Registration Form. We will share with you copy of the guide that clubs will receive in advance. Your support in encouraging affiliated clubs to complete the Registration Form will be greatly appreciated.

**Alistair Hollis**

