

Hi All,

I am attaching all the details you need to compete in next season's Challenge.

### **Dates**

Saturday and Sunday 13/14th January 2024. Please make sure your Captains know this now and recruit their teams early.

### **Hotels**

Despite ever-increasing costs, all the hotels we use have restricted any increase to around 5%, which is fantastic. So a shared room with two nights' accommodation, breakfasts, buffet dinner on the Friday and Dinner / Disco on the Saturday is less than £150 pp in most cases. I am still willing to book a hotel in Milton Keynes but I need at least 12 teams to sign up to this, so please try and persuade teams playing there that it is good value and it is about time we had this happen there. Ring or email me by the end of September please.

We are going to the same hotels as we have in the past five years, and all are 3 or 4 star and well proven to give us value for money. Some have full leisure facilities which are free for your players to utilise.

### **Venues**

Bournemouth, Milton Keynes, Eastleigh, Worcester and Wolverhampton are all booked and the paperwork attached will indicate where your teams will be going. The match fees sadly have to go up as Sports Centres have all increased their prices, mainly to cover their increased electricity and gas bills. We will invoice every county in December for the match fees, which will be in proportion to the number of matches played, as we did in January this year.

The fees will be £32 per team per match for the Over 40,45,50,55 and 60 age group and £24 for the Over 65 and 70's. This equals £4 per player per match.

### **Teams**

We have spare capacity to take extra teams in the following age groups: Over 45's at Eastleigh and Wolverhampton, Over 50's at Bournemouth and Worcester, Over 55's at Wolverhampton, Over 60's at Worcester, and Over 65's at Wolverhampton. You have until mid-October to ring me with any extra teams please. Second teams are also welcomed. Divisions are planned with 7 teams giving you all 6 matches, but sometimes you might end up with as many as 8 matches but will never play fewer than 5 though.

### **IMPORTANT changes**

**All player nominations must be in by the 13th November, and this is also the final date for hotel bookings, as any rooms not let are handed back to the hotel. Nomination Forms will be sent to you in October.**

**Please note there must not be any withdrawals after this date as the match schedules will be started then.**

Please make sure all your team captains get this email, and the plea from me is "**please start as early as you can when selecting teams**". Mid to end of September is good, but that only gives you 7 weeks before the cut off date.

Any questions just ring me please 07734008006.

Regards  
Roy Carder  
Chairman  
Masters Policy Group