

## **AMF SENIOR BOWLERS CLUB 2009 – NEW BONUS SYSTEM**

From 2009 AMF are going to trial an innovative handicapping system in their non-ranking Senior Bowlers Club tournaments. The reason behind this is that more and more people are being “penalised” for being over 65 and having their bonus capped. And it’s not just at the older end of the spectrum. There are the young ‘uns who have lower averages than some of their peers and yet still have to give them a head start. So that is WHY this new system is being introduced.

You may have heard about this and are wondering HOW this is going to work. This system is going to take into account the bowler’s ability and age and provide a unique handicap which will remain constant for the season and will work as follows.

The age bonus is going to change to a similar system used in Europe. Bowlers aged 50-55 will receive 0 age bonus. Thereafter 1 pin per each year from 56 with no limit i.e. a bowler aged 72 will receive 17 pins bonus per game. The bowler’s age will be that as on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 – no additional pins will be given through the season, even if they have a birthday.

The bowler will enter off an average that has been established in the previous year over both AMF and Team England senior tournaments. These averages will be worked out by David Steiner and supplied to Diane Joyce by the end of December 2008. If a bowler has not competed in any senior event during 2008, they must supply a copy of their highest league or tournament average over a minimum of 30 games. If no proof of average can be supplied, they will not receive any handicap but may still receive the age bonus.

The handicap will be 50% of the difference between the bowler’s average and 210 with no maximum i.e. a bowler with a 170 average will receive an additional 20 pins bonus.

The handicap bonus for all non-ranking AMF Senior events in 2009 will be a combination of both of the above and will be the same for the whole of the season, regardless of birthdays and performance.

Examples:

A bowler who is 52 and has an average of 208 will have a handicap of 1  
A bowler who is 64 and has an average of 178 will have a handicap of 25  
A bowler who is 57 and has an average of 155 will have a handicap of 29  
A bowler who is 67 and has an average of 200 will have a handicap of 17

So you can see, whilst it is still not entirely an even playing field, it is certainly less uneven. More people have a chance to compete without being penalised and more people have a chance to make that first cut or even win a prize.

Please note that the new system does not currently fall in line with the Ranking event criteria. Therefore the old bonus system of 1 pin per year over 50 to a maximum of 15, will apply to the Leeds and Nottingham events. I hope you will continue to support the AMF events under the new system and please feel free to give me your thoughts as I am sure you will.