

To all our members,

Switching to **14 teams per division** for the **2027-28 season**.

Firstly we really do appreciate the jobs the many landlords/ladies do in our area, and we are thankful to them for allowing us play skittles midweek September through to May.

The Paulton & District Skittle league has traditionally played its matches on Wednesdays & Thursdays. However, our cup matches have to be arranged by team captains outside of these days, on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays, traditionally used by the Farmers, Ladies and Nova leagues.

Last season we had **75** cup matches played on different days, with over **60** league matches postponed, to be rearranged on different days. We also had **17** cup matches and even **6** league matches forfeited because of players still on holiday in September/May. Many teams said that they could not get players to play two matches in a week or just that the venue did not have a spare date to play the match. Not to mention that at the end of the season our league was running into the 'Summer Skittles' hosted by a lot of our pubs & clubs. We had one team postpone their first 3 league matches because of players on holiday !

Our members were telling us,

- a) Start the season later and end it earlier.
- b) Play less cup matches
- c) No more captains ringing captains to arrange cup matches.

So for the 2027-2028 season our aim was to bring **League & Cup** matches back to Wednesdays & Thursdays only. However if we did this it would make the season at least a month longer !

The only way to achieve our aim was to reduce the divisions to 14 teams and incorporate cups into this system. Our season could now start 1 week later and finish 1 week earlier and **ALL** matches would be played on Wednesdays & Thursdays. Even our AGM would move from Fridays to Thursdays.

The hope is to expand our league from 78 to 84 teams, (6 divs of 14). However if we only have 78 teams then each division will run with one free space, (6 divs of 13). Let's hope we don't lose any more teams.

If your team has been knocked out of the cup and you have no match that cup week you could arrange a postponed match or even fix up a friendly match for that date.

The committee feels that this new system should not affect the local community in any major way. What it would do is give clarity to landlords. 'Wednesdays & Thursdays are Paulton Skittles nights', the rest of the week, Fridays especially, are theirs to arrange other events.

As you probably know, it takes a lot of time and effort to implement new systems. Planning 4 teams to play on the same alley is a bit of a headache, and even the cup draws have to be arranged so that two teams do not clash on the same night. What we must remember is that skittles is a game we all love, in fact it's more than a game it's a much needed social event. Long may it continue. 🍷

Keith Parsons League Secretary – Paulton & District Skittle League.