

GWR 2024-25 Winter Doubles: Response to the request for feedback

This is the unedited (though anonymised) feedback from the post-season questionnaire that I published to team captains. I have supplied the full detail to committee members but I'd welcome feedback on how much of this (up to and including the lot!) you think I should share with:

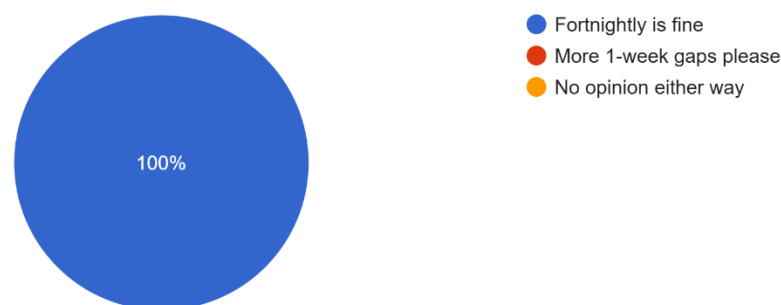
- All team captains
- The wider GWR membership.

Apart from slight discomfort over the praise for my organisation of the event (which feels like much less work than that involved in running the sessions), I can see nothing that's particularly contentious so the only question for me is would the general membership be interested in all of this or should we show them edited highlights?

Season start date and duration

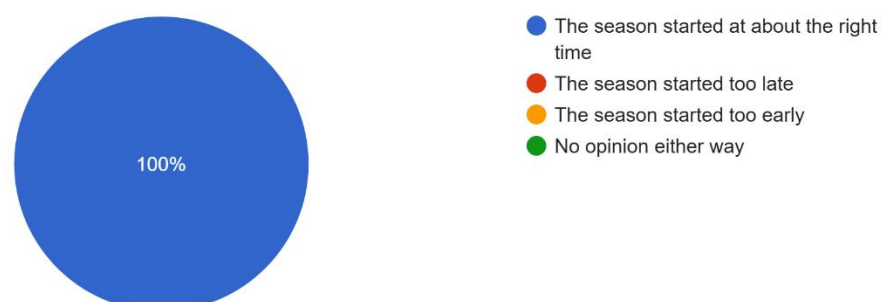
Rounds of play are typically scheduled fortnightly. Is this about right? Should there be more weekly games, shortening the overall season?

9 responses



Start date for the season

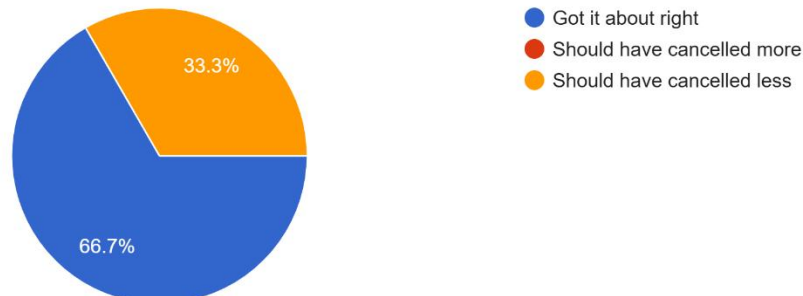
9 responses



Coping with the conditions

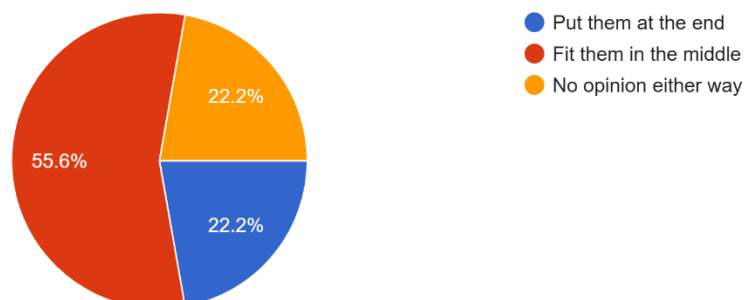
Did we get this about right?

9 responses



Should catch-up games be scheduled for the end of the season, squeezed in between other rounds or doesn't this matter to you?

9 responses



Please add any other comments on the start date, gap between rounds, split of rounds across pre-Xmas / New Year, catch-up games, etc.

Start before end of October

Enjoyed it all

All-in-all I think it is a very good well-run competition. I would like to suggest that this and other competitions "could" be used as part of a ranking system across GWR. This could then be used as part of the selection criteria for things like the IRQ's.

Fixture schedule about right and seems to work well.

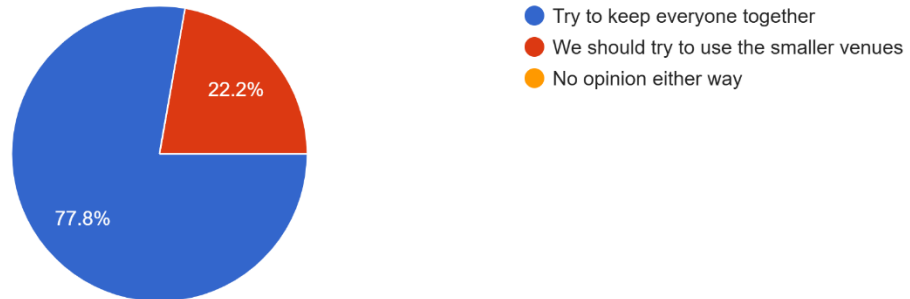
We should be stricter on the scheduled dates, if you can't make it then organise your own alternate date before the next scheduled round, or forfeit the game.

The Xmas - New Year gap is about right

Venues

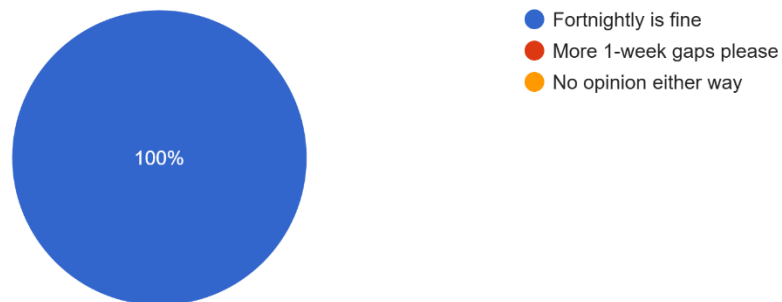
Should we try to keep the teams all together or to split them across multiple venues?

9 responses



Rounds of play are typically scheduled fortnightly. Is this about right? Should there be more weekly games, shortening the overall season?

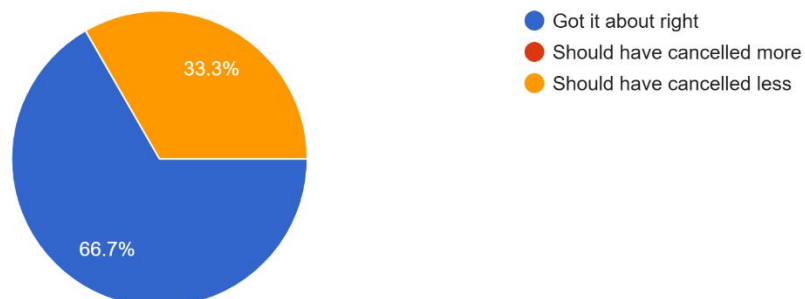
9 responses



Coping with the conditions

Did we get this about right?

9 responses



Any other comments on game format & length, session start times, etc.?

Just prefer full games. Would love to introduce. A better way to speed up games as some people are consistently very slow. Not sure how, I know rules permit 1 minute but it is most often unnecessary.

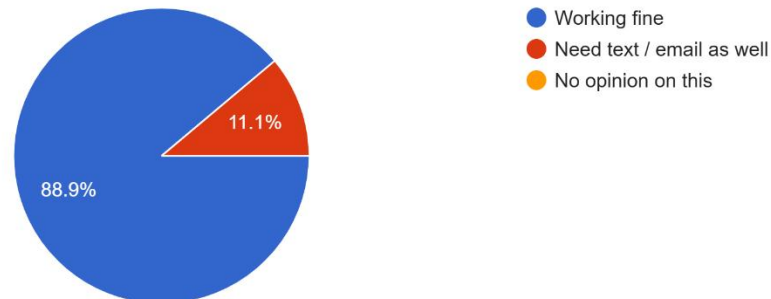
Maybe 9.30 for 10 start would be better for those travelling further.

Personally, would prefer a 10am start time to help with travel time early morning, especially when roads might be dangerous due to wintery driving conditions. We are a wide region geographically, and some travel long distance e.g. Weston SM to Cricklade.

Communications

Should we major on the WhatsApp group?

9 responses



Please add any other comments about the format, tone & style, frequency or any other aspect of communications

As with all WhatsApp groups it seems there are messages posted which are irrelevant to those other than the single intended recipient. Contacts need to be considerate in this respect and use a private communication wherever possible. This would help avoid confusion and clogging the group.

Anything else

Is there anything else you'd care to share that might help improve future league seasons?

Use of the 1-minute rule

- 1. The system for any "no show" team is to award the opposition a 13-7 win. I realise this is in line with how PE tournaments approach the situation. However, I'm not in favour of any team not playing to receive gratis 7 points per match and a score which might possibly affect the league standings. Perhaps a zero-points score recorded against the team not playing would work. The team present and ready to play receive a victory with an 8-0 or 9-0 score.*
- 2. There was the unfortunate fixture cancellation when poor weather was forecast. It turned out to be fine weather and ironically much better than many days when we did play. The decision as to cancel or not might have been left to early on the actual playing day. Teams could have contacted the organiser on the day, or some sort of notice posted on media, to give the go-ahead. Play could possibly have been given a later start that day, in order to assist with long travelling time for some. I know that the cancellation and consequent extra added date caused inconvenience for some teams unable to play on the added date.*
- 3. No doubt this has become a popular and successful competition, involving a wide range of clubs and players within GWR. It offers a very positive, competitive experience, benefitting players' and the region's standard of play. The competition relies on conscientious and detailed managing, and this is carried out in exemplary manner.*

It all runs very smoothly which is down to a good competition organiser.

