



2018-2019 Pennants Survey Report

Nb. All Conclusions and Considerations made in this report are purely based on the data received and analysed in the Pennants Survey conducted November/December 2018

Introduction

Bowls North Harbour acknowledges that Pennants is our largest participatory competition, and we want to 'get it right' with regard to what players and clubs want. We want to deliver a pennants programme that both encourages participation at all levels and provides an opportunity for our elite players to play against each other on a regular basis, and is largely determined by what players and clubs want.

This season, a new format for Pennants was introduced that consisted of the following:

- an 11 week programme,
- club teams playing in divisions of 6, where each club played each other club in the division both home and away (10 weeks)
- a finals day played between the top 2 teams in each division after the completion of the 10 rounds of play
- 1 game played per day, Saturday mornings commencing at 9am
- each team consisted of 3 triples sides

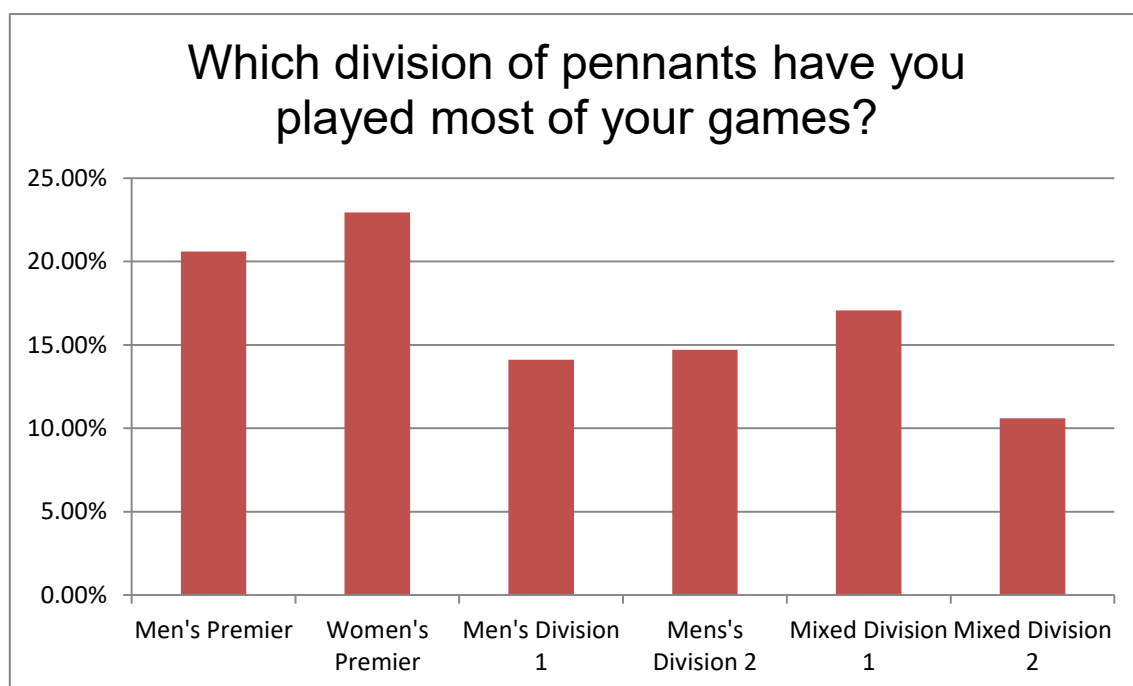
This programme was introduced following feedback with club representatives and the centre board of management at a meeting held on the 7th June 2018 that discussed the upcoming Centre programme.

A survey was conducted during and immediately post the pennants programme to ascertain how players enjoyed this format of Pennants, what they would prefer as a Pennants format going forward, and also to discover the reasons that individuals chose not to participate in Pennants this year.

A very pleasing 216 individuals responded to the survey, with 168 of these (78%) having played in Pennants this season. A further 48 individuals (22%) who did not play in Pennants this season also provided valuable information around why they did not play. This is an excellent response rate, and suggests that close to half of all the people that played Pennants this season responded to the survey. This has provided the Centre with valuable and scientific data to assist with any decisions moving forward around how the Pennants programme will be run in future seasons.

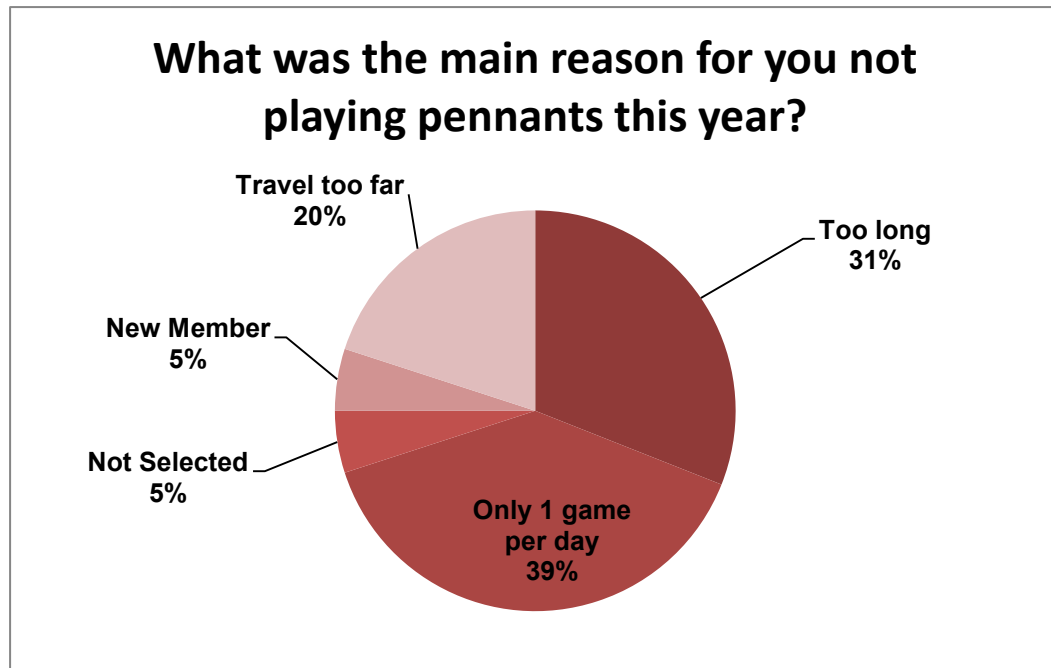
Respondents by division of Pennants played in during the 2018-2019 season

- Of the 168 individuals who played in pennants, responses were reasonably evenly distributed across all divisions.
- 44% of all respondents played most of their games in premier division (men's or women's) whilst the remaining 56% of respondents played in the other divisions.



Reasons for not playing Pennants in the 2018-2019 season

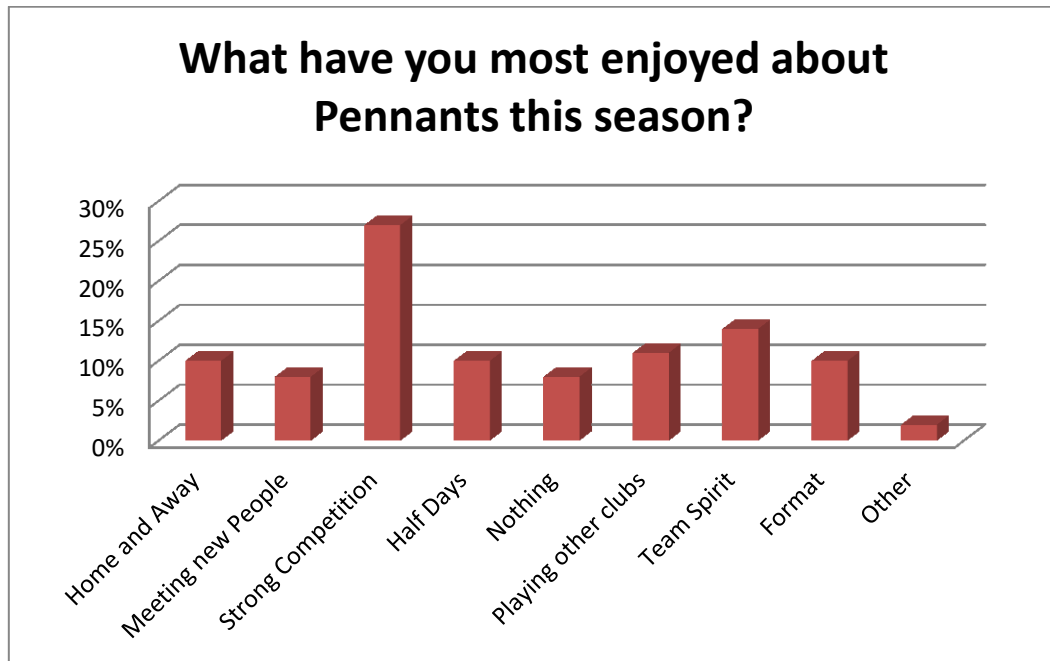
- 48 respondents to the survey did not play pennants, and the main reasons for this are outlined below.



- This indicates that only playing one game a day was the biggest reason that people chose not to play pennants in the 2018-2019 season, with close to half of the respondents to this question giving this as their major reason.
- The three biggest reasons for not playing pennants in the 2018-2019 season were
- Only playing 1 game per day,
- The 10 week programme was too long a programme
- Having to travel too far.

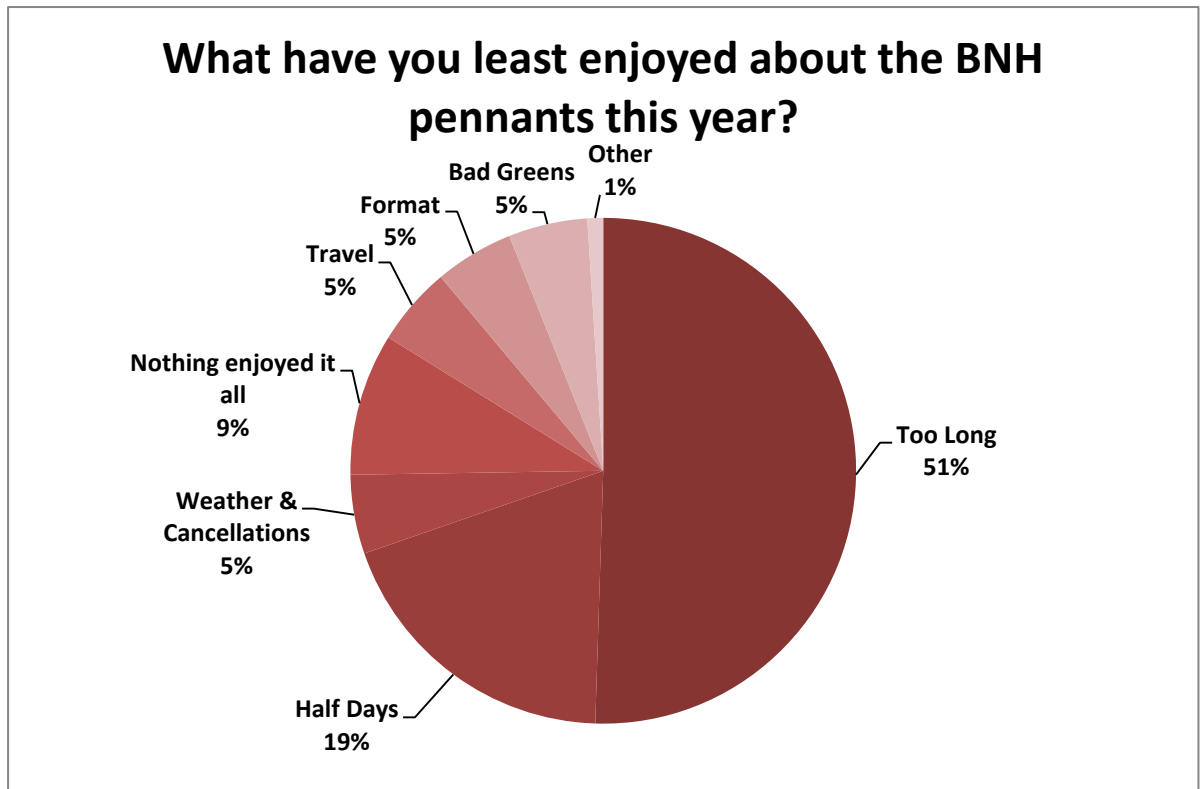
What did individuals most enjoy about Pennants in the 2018-2019 season?

- 150 individuals responded to what they most enjoyed about pennants with a wide range of answers.
- These were mostly evenly distributed although just over a quarter of all respondents stated that what they most enjoyed was the strong competition involved.



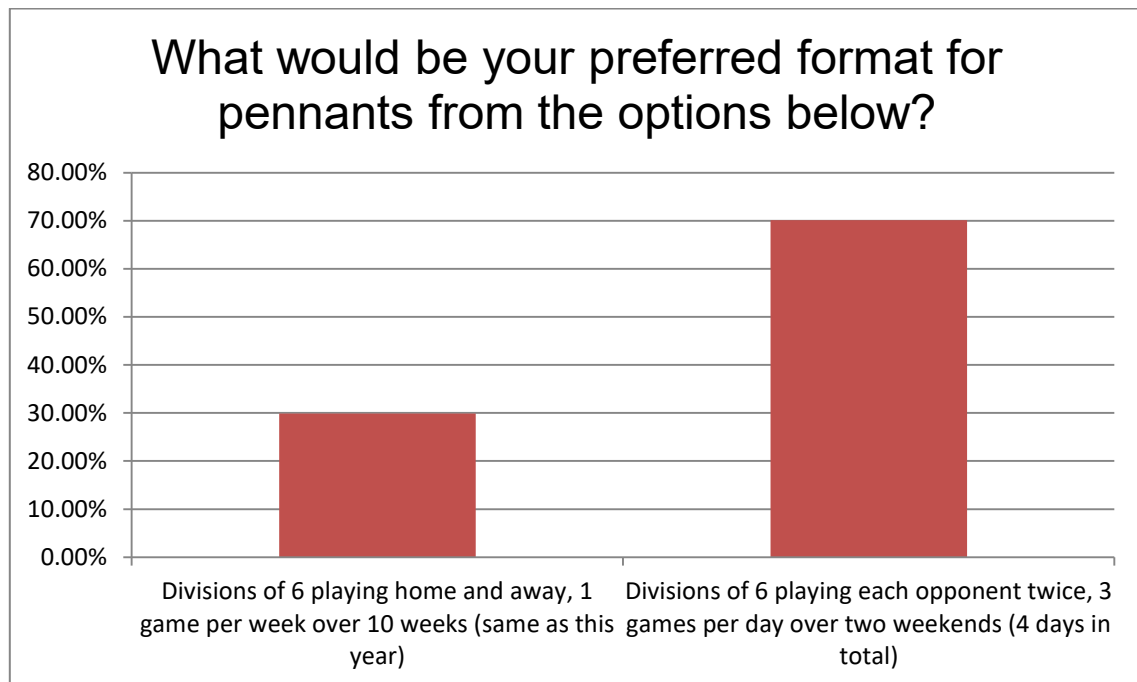
What did individuals least enjoy about Pennants in the 2018-2019 season?

- 170 people responded to what they least enjoyed about pennants with again a wide range of answers.
- Over half of the respondents to this question indicated that the 11 week programme was too long.



Preferred format for Pennants in future seasons

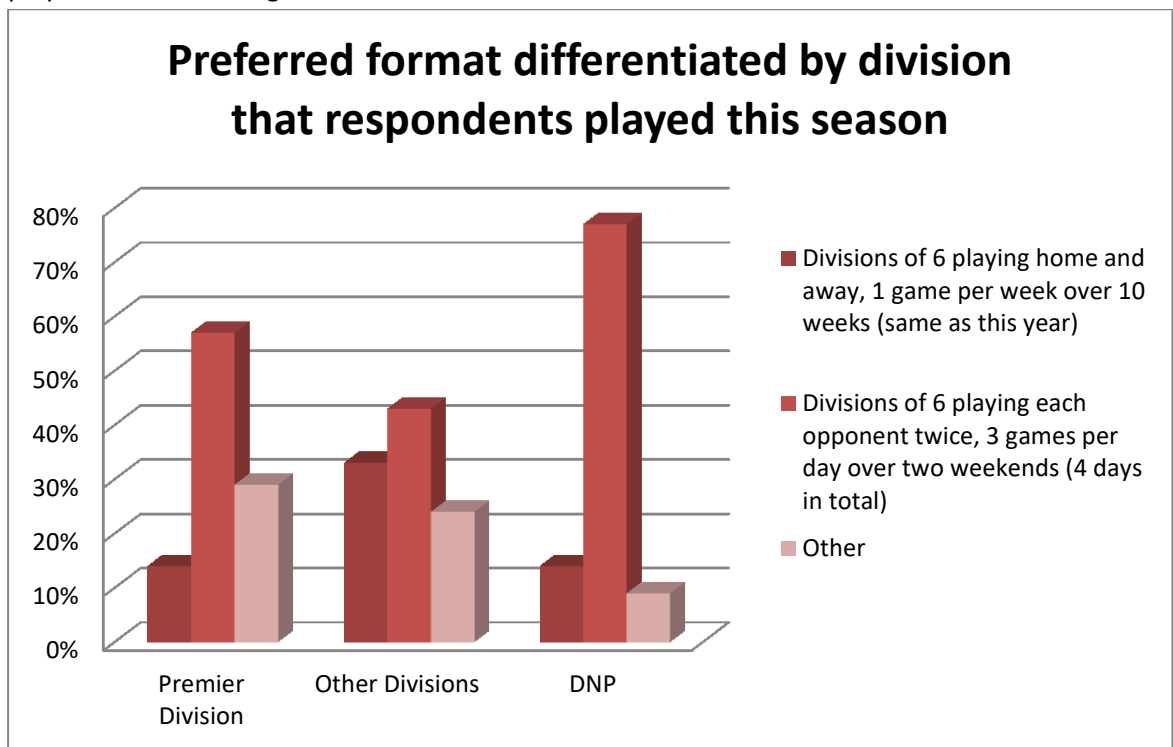
- 154 people responded to this question which asked them to select a preferred format for pennant.
- Nearly 3 out of every 4 people indicated they would prefer the shorter programme option from the two options provided



- In addition to this, 53% of people who responded to this question (81 individuals) provided further information about what format they would like to see being played in Pennants.
- Of these responses, 50% (40 individuals) suggested a 5 week, 2 game a day programme for future Pennants competitions. Nb. (This is 20% of all respondents to the survey)

Preferred format for Pennants in future seasons differentiated by division played in during the 2018-2019 season

- When this data was further analysed by which division of pennants that the individual played in the following occurred:



Premier Division

- This data suggests that most respondents who played in the Premier divisions of interclub would prefer a shorter programme, with over half of the respondents preferring a 3 games per day format as opposed to 1 game a day.
- Only 1 in every 10 respondents who played premier division pennants this season felt that the current format should be continued with.
- Additionally, nearly one in three people who played premier pennants suggested an alternative option.

Other Divisions

- Only 40% of respondents felt a decreased programme should be used
- 1 in every 3 respondents felt that the current 10 week programme should be continued with.

Respondents who did not play Pennants in the 2018-2019 season

- 3 out of every 4 respondents felt that a 3 games per day, shorter programme should be used.

Conclusions from the data received and analysed in the Survey

From the analysis of the data received in the survey the following has become clear:

- The 11 week programme is too long
- Players would prefer to play full days rather than half days
- Travel is an issue for some players, especially when only playing for half a day
- The strong competition provided by pennants is thoroughly enjoyed by players
- Players who did not play this season would be more likely to play next season if a shorter programme was introduced

Considerations for Clubs for Meeting January 29th regarding future format of Pennants

Following the information provided and the analysis of data in the report above the following considerations are suggested for the Pennants programme for the 2019-2020 season:

- Run a shorter, more intensive Pennants programme. 20% of all respondents to the survey suggested a 5 week, 2 games a day programme. This could be implemented at the loss of the home and away system, where each division plays two games per day and all at the same venue. This would require two green clubs where divisions of 6 are playing. (9 rinks required)
- This would enable the Centre to programme Pennants for slightly later in the season (mid October through to end of November) which would provide clubs with more opportunity to have well-prepared greens, better weather, and room for movement with reserve days.
- Additionally this will free December to allow clubs to focus on hosting social and corporate bowls through this busy part of the season. The Centre will endeavour to hold no Centre events in the month of December
- Not having a finals day if a double round robin system is in place
- Premier Divisions of Interclub to remain as 3 teams of triples (9 member teams)
- All other divisions to be played as 3 teams of pairs (6 member teams) to assist smaller clubs to enter teams in the competition
- Masters pennants division to be played on the same dates, divisions of 6 but only playing one game per day – 5 rounds. Open to bowlers over the age of 65.