

WALLOP!

Dear Club Secretaries,

It might currently be cold and dark outside, and England’s performance Down Under hasn’t exactly warmed our cricketing spirits…..but with spring just around the corner, the Wiltshire Wallop will be returning bigger and brighter than ever in 2018!

This will be a fun, simple, 20 over competition open to all Wiltshire affiliated clubs. The main aim is to encourage local cricket for all and perhaps unearthing a new gem for your club! In 2017, for the first time, we ran a Cup and Plate competition - we will do this again this season!

Below is a loose format of the competition:

* 20 over matches
* Run during May, June, July and August
* Group matches to be played during a selected fortnight. (you can decide which day and time)
* Groups of 4 or 5 teams (this will be confirmed once number of teams are established)
* Each team playing each other a minimum of once (maybe twice - again confirmed once numbers are established)
* Proposed Finals day (for cup and plate) on Sunday 12th August 2018.
* Social media coverage and competitions throughout the tournament.

*Groups* – these have always tried to be created on a geographical basis, to keep the travel time to a minimum. So the groups will be created (as best as possible) in terms of distance between the clubs.

***Building on 2017***

After each year of the Wallop we always seek feedback from clubs to ensure we can improve the competition year on year. Based on feedback following last year’s competition, we can confirm:

* **Play-Cricket** – We will use play-cricket for the 2nd year in 2018, after running the competition through it for the first time in 2017
* **Pink balls and coloured clothing** – This was not mandatory last year and nor will it be this year. However, the feedback from clubs that used it was positive and so we encourage clubs to try ideas such as coloured clothing and pink balls so as to make the competition as appealing and eye catching as possible
* **Plate finals day** – This was a great way of involving all teams in the group stages and giving them something to play for if they lost early matches. This will continue in 2018
* **Competition and Discipline rules for finals day** – As we always stress, the aim of the competition is to be as unbureaucratic as possible, and as such we will continue to encourage games to be played in that spirit, particularly in the group stages where there will not be centrally appointed umpires. However, based on feedback we will be introducing slightly more formalised competition rules and frameworks for the finals day stage at which point appointed umpires will be in place.

***What you need to do next?***

Run the idea past your club/committee and decide if you would like to enter the competition. Once I have a list of clubs willing to enter then groups can be created and match rules sent out.

Please note that this competition is fully endorsed by Wiltshire Cricket Limited. The Wiltshire Wallop is THE competition open to all clubs in the county. Perhaps you might like to speak with other clubs who have entered previously to see if they have enjoyed the competition.

***Deadline***

Please reply to this letter via e-mail ONLY if you wish to participate, by 5pm on Friday 23rd February 2018. Also send me the contact details (name, e-mail, phone number) of the person who will be your club's main contact for the competition.

This is meant to be a fun, but competitive tournament, free from lots of onerous rules and regulations but full of fantastic cricket action! If you have any queries at all please do let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Kind regards,

Ben White

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#WiltshireWallop2018