

QUESTIONS CONCERNING

2018/19 WELSH CUP

2018/19 CAMBRIA CUP

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Q8 If it were stipulated that halfway was Newtown then I think you would get entries from the North: we played an away match in Llandrindod Wells, hardly halfway.

A8 Matches are generally played by arrangement and while the organisers might intervene where two teams cannot agree such an arrangement would be unlikely to be accepted. Halfway between Llandudno and Cardiff is somewhere between Newton and Llandrindod Wells anyway.

But does this matter? The arrangements for next year are designed to make nearly all the matches regionalised so it is expected that North Wales teams will play against North Wales teams until late in the competitions, similarly with South Wales teams.

Q7 In 2017/18 the final will have to be replayed if the undefeated team loses. Is this the right approach, and what alternative can you suggest?

A7 It is true that most teams will be unhappy at having arranged a final, usually involving a lot of travelling and all the attendant problems, and then have to do it again. One solution is a finals day (see earlier answers). If that is not acceptable then instead of a Welsh Cup final of 64 boards, perhaps they could play 48 boards, and if the undefeated team is losing they play 16 more boards.

It is less obvious how to do this in the Cambria – perhaps only 36 boards, and play an extra 12. Maybe a finals day is more important for the Cambria.

Q6 You have mentioned a finals day. Do you have a date in mind?

A6 The intention is to have two finals days, one for the Welsh Cup, one for the Cambria Cup, over the weekend of 17th/18th August 2019. That weekend seems completely free from both Welsh events and English events. Several Welsh players play in English events. It is also not the bank holiday weekend. Time to put it in your diaries!

Q5 Despite regionalising the early rounds there will be quite a lot of travelling in the later rounds. This may lead to delays and concessions. Have you a solution?

A5 One of the advantages of a final day (see answer A3) is that it removes a lot of long journeys for the successful teams and means that the competition will be finished in a year.

Q4 How about seeding the more successful teams so that they miss the first two rounds to avoid playing too many matches (see Q3)?

A4 While possible this has the following snags. First, there will still be too many matches overall (as in Q3). Second the timescale would not be solved. Third, no-one ever agrees on who should be seeded and there would be interminable arguments. So it will not be tried now.

Q3 Despite the small number of teams a team that loses a match but does not lose another one might have to play seven or eight matches to win these events. Is this right? Is there time in a year?

A3 These are serious problems for the more successful teams. Assuming no snags the best solution seems to be to play a final on one day with one undefeated team and four once defeated (these numbers may vary slightly).

Q2 A few years back the first round was played in triples so each team played two matches. Are you going to try this again?

A2 No, not this year. It will be double elimination but run properly to avoid travelling. The triples were not a total success with teams not allowed to concede and other problems.

Q1 This year too many matches were conceded. How will you avoid this in future?

A1 Teams are encouraged to register six players. All the earlier and shorter matches will be regionalised so it should be possible to play them on weekday evenings.