

COUNTY VICE PATRONS

Many people ask 'who and what are the Vice Patrons'?

In each of the four Divisions of the County, the Vice Patrons are a group of players, from any of the clubs within that Division, who pay a small sum of £2.00 to indicate that they wish to become a member of the Vice Patrons.

These players from all different clubs, then 'band together', to play matches against any of the other Clubs in their Division and some are fortunate enough to be selected to play in the Inter Divisional Billingham League and Pullen Cup.

Each Division has a 'Controller' appointed by the GPC who is required to send out - to all players who have paid their small sum of £2.00 to become a VP - a list of all the matches that have been arranged against any of the clubs in their Division and the Inter Divisional BL matches and Pullen Cup, asking the players to indicate their availability for these matches.

The whole ethos of the VP's is that - when selecting teams for friendly matches - the controller is required to ensure that:

- a) all players who submit their return making themselves available - are selected to play - in a reasonable proportion of the friendly matches - dependant on the number that they make themselves available for.
- b) Players are selected - wherever possible - to play on rinks - with players from other club - and not with players from their own club.

Each controller is also responsible for selecting a team for each of the Inter Divisional Billingham League matches and the Pullen Cup. These are highly competitive matches for which each controller will attempt to select what he considers to be his best team - but it is expected that any player selected for these matches has made himself available for - and has played in - some of the friendly matches.