

A Zoom Meeting was held on Thursday 20th January 2022 at 8 pm.

1. Attendance

Mrs F McNally	A Rice	Ms C Adair	H Nixon	D Bintley
D McCullough	Mrs N Tanner	Mrs R Rice	W Clinghan	S Kyne
S Carleton	E Irwin	G O'Hare	Mrs C McKim	Mrs A McKiver
Mrs J Parkinson				

Apologies

H Massey	Mrs A Patton	D Doherty	M Caughey	M Turley
B Holmes	D Witherspoon	C Mearns	M Fitzsimons	I Kerr

2. Chairman's Business

The President took the chair as the Chairman was having technical issues.

3. Competitions

3.1 Licenced Tournaments

The Competitions Secretary thought that the Association would need to allow licenced tournaments to recommence. The Competitions Secretary proposed and S Kyne seconded that licenced tournaments could start from 1 February. Mrs N Tanner asked if licenced tournaments that had been paid for but were unable to take place in 2019/20 could be carried over until next season. All agreed.

S Kyne stated that new tournaments could be run in Shaw's Bridge to encourage bowlers to start again. G O'Hare suggested that the third Saturday in February was a possibility to run a tournament. A discussion took place on the format. The Honorary Secretary suggested a round robin pairs competition with the top two in each section competing in a knockout competition. It was agreed that the value of prizes would be given to the winners, runners-up, and the beaten semi-finalists would be determined by the number of entries.

3.2 British Isles Championships January 2022 and November 2022

There were four withdrawals from the A Series and these would be filled by players doubling up. The ESMBA have put Covid measures in place and players must take lateral flow tests each morning. It is hoped that players and officials will have a successful and safe weekend.

With the British Isles taking place in Scarborough in January, Ireland will host the Championships in November. This means that National Championships must take place before the end of this season with the winners representing Ireland in Shaw's Bridge. The Competitions Secretary will outline a possible schedule later in the meeting.

3.3 National Championships

2019/20 National Championships Report

The Competitions Secretary listed the winners of the various competitions. She thanked the Umpires Association for their assistance, Mrs F McNally, H Massey, Mrs J Parkinson and C Mearns on the dress table and S Kyne at the control table. The President presented the IIBA with a new cup for the National Triples. In connection with prizes the runner up in the Over 55 Pairs did not stay for the presentation and no explanation was given apart from they forgot. The last time this happened it was decided that in this situation the players forfeited their prizes and cup. The runners-up cup in the junior singles was missing. It is currently in Donegal and it has to go to Monaghan. The

Honorary Treasurer stated that the cost for the 3 days at Shaw's Bridge was £1,050, £1,280 were paid out in prizes and £95 in programmes.

The Competitions Secretary said that letters have been sent out to league secretaries asking for information on whether or not they are operating and if so how many clubs are taking part.

2022 Nationals

Possible dates to hold the Nationals at Shaw's Bridge are as follows:

12 March, 26 March, 2 April and 9 April. The top rink is only available as BIBC Saturday leagues will be continuing. For the Ladies/Juniors/Over 55s competitions, forms will be sent to see if there would be enough interest in these competitions to make them viable.

Some alterations will have to be made to the entry forms. National criteria are to apply. Convenors are to circulate forms via post or email if it is available. Club must have their Annual Sub with Honorary Treasurer before entry form is returned. Entries to be returned to the Zone Convener with payment (or online payments to the Honorary Treasurer). Ideally each competition will be completed on the day of the event.

Champion of Champions Competitions

This could be run possibly in September/October and this would include any tournaments that are completed in the next few months.

3.4 Top Team Competition

As a Zone is required to represent Ireland in the Top Team Competition, which is to be hosted by Ireland over the second weekend in October, it was decided to run a one-day Inter-Zone event in Shaw's Bridge on 5 March. To get the competition completed it was decided on a one-off basis to reduce the number of players from 24 to 16. A Ladies competition would also take place on the same day if there was sufficient interest. The cost would be £60 per team.

3.5 World Bowls 2022 and 2023

Preparations for World Bowls in Belgium were going ahead as planned. There was some uncertainty whether Scotland would host World Bowls 2023. Ireland is due to host World Bowls in 2024. It was decided that if Scotland were unable to host in 2023 it was agreed that it would not be possible for Ireland to host the British Isles Championships in November and then World Bowls in such a short timeframe.

4. AGM

It was decided that the Secretary would investigate the possibility of holding the AGM in Shaw's Bridge either on the 19 or 26 April depending on the availability of Shaw's Bridge and the printer.

Meeting closed 10.15 p.m.