

## IRISH INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION

The Fourth Meeting of the 2024/25 season will be held in Dungannon Rugby Football Club on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 at 7.30 pm.

### AGENDA

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Chairman's Business
3. Notice of Any Other Business
4. Minutes of the previous meeting
5. Matters arising from the Minutes
6. Competitions Committee's Report
  - Champion of champions
  - Interzone
  - Over 55 Interzone
  - Ladies Fours
  - Juniors
7. British Isles Report
8. Finance
9. Old IIBA Records and gifts to past officers.
10. Clubs for affiliation
11. Correspondence
12. Any other notified business
  - Most IIBA events are geared towards top tier of bowlers. Tournaments not supported by many due to dominance of top tier. We need to address bowlers below that level if we and clubs are to survive.
  - Most sporting organisations operate world championships - Olympics, rugby, soccer etc operate every 4 years - should Bowls go down the same avenue?
  - In British Isles, England, Scotland and Wales travel every 3 years while Ireland travel 3 years out of 4. Travel has become increasingly expensive and the other nations take Ireland to venues not always easily accessible. I suggest we change BI to every 2 years and we taken a harder line at BI council meeting.
  - There needs to be a greater time gap between ladies and BI.
  - In the British Isles, I proposed many years ago that there should be 3 international games per day. It is long overdue for the same to be in place for individual series with reduced ends. Last time a player lost his first game and had little opportunity to recover. With 6 games that chance is there.
  - In the A series, I suggest that rather than selecting players who have been there before or did not make premier team, we

should use it as a way of introducing fresh faces even if they have not won a lot. This would give them a great boost.

- Constitution: Pg 22 Administration (a) No office bearer of the Association can also be a zone convenor at the same time.

**\*\* Notice of Any Other Business to be advised by email to the Secretary by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

## IRISH INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION

The Third Meeting of the 2024/25 season was held in Belfast Indoor Bowls Club on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.30 pm.

### 1. Attendance

F McNally	A Patton	S Carleton
H Nixon	D Crawford	E Irwin
G O'Hare	A Rice	I Kerr
S Kyne	M Caughey	D McMahon
C Adair	J O'Hare	A McKiver
D McCullough	P Martin-Ball	J Parkinson

### Apologies

J Shannon	P Eakin	T Vance
H Foley	North West Zone	

### 2. Chairman's Business

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. He congratulated the ladies on their performance at the British Isles in Carmarthen—home with all 5 trophies.

### 3. Reps from Irish Bowls Federation R Horner & T Smith.

The Chair welcomed T Smith to the meeting (R Horner was unable to attend).

- The Irish Bowls Federation obtain funding for Northern Ireland players from SportNI. For funding of players from the South we would have to consult with the southern authority. Currently the IBF supports outdoor and indoor bowlers.
- The IIBA did not accept the opportunity to join in with the IBF when it was founded.
- Funding is based on performance and membership. Currently this involves medals won by players.
- There are 6 projects underway at present looking at “retention and growth” in bowls.
- The IBF has a constitution and meets 9 times a year.
- Benefits: the IIBA would increase the membership numbers dramatically which may increase funding. However, lottery funding is unlikely to get bigger.
- The different associations could work together and avoid events clashing with each other.

### 4. Notice of Any Other Business

Received and circulated.

## **5. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

## **6. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

**Item 5:** Tournament Software: 4 stayed behind to arrange when to meet. We selected the Cohannon on the 20<sup>th</sup> September. 2 apologies were sent. A few things were talked about but it was not able to show much as the internet connection was bad.

**Item 6:** While giving the report for the Competition Committee There was talk of a live draw and everyone agreed to that. However, we had talked about using Tournament Software at an earlier meeting and it was agreed that that system would be used for all our draws, which is why some convenors expressed an interest in learning more about it; we had also agreed that once a decision has been made that we would stop the habit of changing decisions at other meetings within that bowling year. This meant that the live draw which we had all agreed to, could not take place.

**Item 12-**Irish Bowls Federation: 3 officers have met with Robin Horner and Tommy Smith and a result of this meeting is that they are here tonight to tell you all more about what is involved and what we as an association may have to do. The date of our next meeting was amended to facilitate the attendance of R Horner and T Smith.

**Paperwork to be available for downloading.** Mid Down were concerned about the cost that the zone may have to pay for printing and distributing this to their clubs.

**Tournament software:** a Convenor raised the point that his decision had been omitted from the minutes.

**Safeguarding:** still a problem throughout the IIBA.

## **7. Competitions Committee's Report**

It was noted that an excellent job had been done with the Master Pairs.

Times have been issued for the Champion of champions.

## **8. Interzone—Over 55 Draw**

It was discussed and confirmed that the draw would be done on Tournament Software.

## **9. British Isles Ladies Report**

The team manager gave an excellent report. On the first day the ladies did not lose a single game. They all supported each other throughout the event. They won the 5 cups that were available for presentation. On the second evening they all had a meal together in the hotel and this was enjoyed by all who attended. The ladies are

excited to host the event next year. Anne thanked, Flo, Seamus & Charlotte for their assistance. The President also commented that it was an exceptional weekend.

#### **10. Finance**

- Top Team funding- this is confirmed as an automatic payment of £500 to the zone who won the Men's Interzone.
- Convenors were reminded by the Treasurer that clubs should have their Annual Affiliation paid by the end of November as the books are to be given to the accountant in December.
- The Finance committee are to have a zoom meeting asap.
- The cost of travel/ferry to Auchinleck has worked out at £155 per person. This is to be paid by 8 November. Pick up points are Castledawson Park & Ride 8am and Shaws Bridge 9am.

#### **11. Codes of conduct**

These were discussed and amendments suggested. They will be looked at again.

#### **12. Clubs for affiliation**

Loughans Bowling Club were affiliated.

#### **13. Correspondence**

None

#### **14. Any other notified business**

14.1 Communications: social media, emails. This involved a hurtful email that was accidentally distributed to all the convenors/officers. One Convenor spoke and said she was extremely hurt by this; had evidence to show that it was untrue; requested that it go to the Disciplinary Committee. This led to a discussion about the Disciplinary Cttee and there is a reference to 7 days from the event" which meant that it could not be referred to them. There would also have been a problem getting a committee as they all knew about the email. It was also explained that a previous Disciplinary Committee decision was not notified to the Executive in case there were legal implications.

The Convenor concerned apologised for sending the email and using incorrect information which he had overheard at a previous World Bowls event. He also had not realised that his email went to everyone. He is to put an apology in writing to the Convenor and the IIBA.

14.2 Top of the mountain: Proposal regarding tournament winners.

It was suggested this although it was too late for this season. He hoped that this would increase the number of entries to licensed tournaments. It was proposed and seconded that this should be a matter for the AGM

14.3 At this point it was asked if “national” rules should apply to licensed tournaments or would this lead to the creation of more “super clubs”.

14.4 Foyle Ladies have withdrawn from the Interzone. It was agreed that there should be no penalty applied as we are trying to get Foyle up and running. Foyle players who transferred to other zones can if they choose, move back to Foyle this year without any penalty but after this season, they will have to accept the 2 years sit out of zone bowls if they choose to transfer.

14.5 Licenced tournaments must be run be either a club or zone. Individuals cannot run a licensed tournament.

14.6 Junior competitions. Last year an 11-year-old played a 17-year-old. The competition committee are to look at this and see if anything can be done. In connection with this the Hon Secretary was asked to remind convenors that there was an attempt to set up a group for junior coaching which would involve a representative from each zone.

*14.7 Most IIBA events are geared towards top tier of bowlers. Tournaments are not supported by many due to the dominance of the top tier. We need to address bowlers below that level if we and clubs are to survive. **Deferred.***

*14.8 Most sporting organisations operate world championships - Olympics, rugby, soccer etc operate every 4 years - should Bowls go down the same avenue?*

**Deferred**

*14.9 In British Isles, England, Scotland and Wales travel every 3 years while Ireland travels 3 years out of 4. Travel has become increasingly expensive, and the other nations take Ireland to venues not always easily accessible. I suggest we change BI to every 2 years, and we take a harder line at BI council meeting.*

**Deferred.**

*14.10 There needs to be a greater time gap between ladies and BI. **Deferred.***

*14.11 In the British Isles, I proposed many years ago that there should be 3 international games per day. It is long overdue for the same to be in place for individual series with reduced ends. Last time Kevin Conroy lost his first game and had little opportunity to recover. With 6 games that chance is there. **Deferred.** In the A series, I suggest that rather than selecting players who have been there before or did not make premier team, we should use it as a way of introducing fresh faces even if they have not won many tournaments. This would give them a great boost. **Deferred.***

*14.12 Constitution: Pg 22 Administration (a) No office bearer of the Association can also be a zone convenor at the same time. **Deferred.***