

IRISH INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION

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

1. Attendance

F McNally	A Rice
H Nixon	P Martin-Ball
G O'Hare	S Carleton
C Adair	R Glass (Mid Tyrone)
D McCullough	A McKiver
N McClure (Armagh)	J Parkinson
D Bintley	

Apologies

S Kyne	M Caughey	E Irwin
J Shannon	J O'Hare	I Kerr
H Foley	P Eakin	D McMahon
D Crawford	M Petticrew	North West Zone

2. Chairman's Business

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. He congratulated the British Isles team that played in Scotland. He also wished North West Zone success in the Top Team competition.

3. Notice of Any Other Business

Received and circulated.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Item3: Convenors were reminded that the presentation from T Smith regarding the Irish Federation of Bowls needs to be discussed further and any queries raised before the AGM takes place.

Item14.1: An email regarding an apology was forwarded this to via email. The executive and the individual felt that this was not acceptable as it had been agreed that there would be a letter forwarded to the individual concerned..

6. Competitions Committee's Report

Report had been submitted a report to the Secretary.

Champion of champions

This year's competition had 21 singles (1 withdrawal), 49 pairs (1 withdrawal), 23 triples (3 withdrawals) and 14 rinks - a total of 107 entries.

The singles were won by Gary McNabb who beat Colum McHugh.

The pairs were won by Aaron Ward who beat Rachel Cochrane.

The triples were won by Paul Duff who beat Adam Rankin

The rinks were won by Jamie Glackin who beat Stuart McSorley

Next year we are looking at 2 days with the Executive giving entry to National singles, pairs, triples and rinks, ladies singles, pairs, triples and rinks, over 55's, mixed pairs, junior singles and pairs in each zone. These 12 competitions have the potential to significantly increase entries.

Thanks to Jean for all her help throughout the day.

Interzone Games

Could convenors post venues in the WhatsApp group, along with addresses.

Over 55 Interzone Competition

30 teams entered – one withdrew.

There were some 500 bowlers in Shaws Bridge which I believed exceeds safety regulations. Foyle were compelled to concede their game because they had no ladies on the team. They indicated that they were not aware of the rule requiring 4 ladies being included. As last year it was a competition which proved to be an outstanding success. It gave bowlers, many of whom never got the chance to represent their zone, the opportunity of doing so and the opportunity to play in such an environment. It was clear that those competing thoroughly enjoyed playing against others at a similar level. They all wanted to win but not win at all costs. It proved to be a long day with main and plate competitions. We managed to get the competition down to the semi-final stages which was our target.

The semi-finals and finals will be played on Saturday 23 Nov.

In the main competition:

North Easter meet North West B while Armagh Red meet East Antrim

In the plate:

Mid Ulster A meet North West A while West Down meet Donegal.

Thanks to those who helped during the day.

Safeguarding

We had several issues with AccessNI applications. This led to a long conversation with Paul Stevenson NSPCC. Paul has indicated that while south of the border, it is a legal requirement to have a child protection individual in place, in N Ireland it is not a legal requirement.

As a result;

Clubs who do not have under 18's as members are not required to have a CPO

Clubs who have under 18's as members are strongly advised to have a CPO.

If a club goes to another club for say a league game and have an under 18 in their team, the responsibility is with that team and NOT the home team.

If an under 18 is entered in a competition and the parent asks someone to take him / her to the venue, it is a private agreement between the parent and that individual. If something happens, it is a matter between the parent and the individual and possibly PCNI or another agency.

If an under 18 attends an IIBA event, the parental form must be completed and it should include the name of the individual responsible for taking the under 18 to the competition.

Each zone should have a Safeguarding Officer.

Please remember to forward all fees - £10 for AccessNI and €12.50 for Federation of Irish Sport - to Treasurer.

7. British Isles Report

As Team Manager I am pleased to give the following report:

Premier: runners-up in the Fours, Won Triples and Singles, Team and country cup. The team have won from 2012 to date consecutively. (Colm McHugh has now won all 4 BI titles.)

A Series: won Triples, Singles, Team and country cup. Team have won from 2018 consecutively.

One "historical" event that happened as well was the winners of both singles competitions came from the same club in Mid Ulster zone. It was also noted that D Crawford and E Curran had now won the Triples on 3 occasions.

The players all supported each other and as we expect, behaviour was excellent. Even the umpires commented on how our players interacted with each other and gave support. It was a pleasure for me as Team Manager to work with them all. Our President, Flo, also congratulated the players and the manager.

The convenors had been contacted regarding hosting the British Isles. In the past this was always on a Friday/Saturday when it came to us while the other countries played on Saturday/Sunday. Last year the IIBA hosted World bowls which had grown to 3-day competition and it took place Friday/Saturday/Sunday.

The responses were as follows: 1 zone said keep it Friday/Saturday. Another zone said it understood that Sunday created a problem for some individuals but they would respect the decision reached. All the others voted for Saturday/Sunday event.

8. Finance

- The Finance Committee held a zoom meeting and it was agreed to give the officers of the IIBA £2000 Honorarium, as before.

- About 80% of clubs have paid their annual affiliation. This increases after 1st Nov if unpaid by that date.
- Clubs in Cork feel that they get nothing out of the IIBA
- The 10 mats that were bought from Armagh zone to facilitate SMPT are to be resold as they are no longer required (SMPT have purchased their own mats).
- SMPT to be contacted regarding any outstanding monies.
- BIBC are apparently hiring out our mats to the public to be investigated
- G O'Hare is to see if there are any grants available for new equipment.

9. Old IIBA Records and gifts to past officers

We have been entrusted with various boxes of records that go back many years of the IIBA. We have also a box of "gifts" that previous officers had been presented with in the past. The meeting agreed that the gifts should go to charity and that the Secretary should investigate about the possibility of getting the records scanned.

10. Clubs for affiliation

BIBC have submitted a request for affiliation. Paperwork to be brought to the next meeting.

9. Correspondence

None

10. Any other notified business

These items were discussed briefly but owing to the absence of S Kyne have been deferred.

*10.1 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.***

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

Deferred

10.3 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.

*10.4 There needs to be a greater time gap between ladies and BI. This is currently being looked at with the possibility of the next Ladies international taking place in January 2026. **Deferred.***

*10.5 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 our single 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.***

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

Signature: Chair _____ Date _____

Signature: Hon Sec _____ Date _____