

IRISH INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION

The fourth Executive Meeting of the 2023/24 season was held by Zoom on Thursday 23rd November at 8 pm.

1. Attendance

Mrs F McNally	D McMahon	A Rice	Ms C Adair	H Nixon
S Kyne	D McCullough	Miss H Foley	D Crawford	P Martin-Bell
S Carleton	G O'Hare	Mrs A McKiver	Mrs J Parkinson	P Eakin

Apologies

D Bintley	Mrs A Patton	D McNamara	J O'Hare	S Bates
E Irwin	I Kerr	C Mearns	Mrs C McKim	

2. Chairman's Business

The Chairman welcomed Peter Eakin, the new Foyle Convener. He congratulated both International teams in winning their respective titles. He also congratulated the individual triple on their win in the main series and the individual pairs and triples in the A Series. The Chairman noted that this was Ireland's eleventh consecutive victory in the Main Series Team event and also R Stubbs had now won seven individual championships.

3. Notice of Any Other Business

3.1 Dress

3.2 World Sponsorship

3.3 Amendment to Law 37

Change "if any of the **first two bowls in any end** delivered by the lead..." to "if **the first bowl in any end** delivered by the lead..."

3.4 Amendment to Law 45 (g)

Change "for a complete period of two bowling seasons" to "for one bowling season,"

A new sentence inserted before the last sentence to read:

"If a player who physically moves to where he/she lives then they should not be penalised and be able to play immediately."

4. Minutes of the meetings held on 26th October 2023

The minutes of the Zoom meeting were proposed and seconded.

5. Matters arising from Minutes

- 1) 5.1 Meeting with the Umpires – to be dealt with under Item 8.
- 2) 6.5 Junior Interzone format – to be dealt with under Item 6.4.
- 3) 11.1 Foyle Zone – to be dealt with under Item 7.
- 4) 11.2 Top Team Trophy - This was delivered to Mr P Hudson by the Chairman.

6. Competitions Secretary Reports

6.1 World Bowls Qualifiers Report

There were 64 Singles, 34 Pairs, 16 Triples and 21 Fours;

The winners and World Bowl Representatives are as follows:

Singles: J Morrow, St. Matthew's, Armagh Zone

Pairs: L McHugh & S Quinn, Steelweld, Mid Ulster Zone

Triples: T Stinson, R Brown & C Clarke, Newmills, South Tyrone Zone

Fours: R Allen, R O'Neill, M McNicholl & L Harrison, United Services, North West Zone

Slow play was discussed and this happened mainly in the fours competition. Various proposals were made but it was decided that the Competitions Committee would look at the wording regarding the players coming onto the mat.

6.2 Club Championship Report

There were 29 clubs entered and one withdrew.

The Main Competition winners were Steelweld who defeated Maghera A 15-11.

The Plate Winners were Strabane A who beat Loughanreagh 18-15.

6.3 Interzone Competitions - Venues

Ladies Competition

1st round

Monaghan v Mid Ulster @ Ardagh

North West v South Tyrone @ Christ Church, Limavady

South Down v Lisburn – TBC

Mid Down v Oriel @ Edengrove

Western v Northern @ Regal Hall, Enniskillen

West Down v Mid Antrim @ Holm Park, Dromore

East Antrim v Donegal @ Abbey Pres.

Mid Tyrone v Armagh @ Edenderry

Mens Competition

1st Round

Mid Antrim v Armagh @ Clogh Pres

Lisburn v South Down – TBC

Donegal v Northern @ Raphoe Cathedral

North West v Mid Tyrone – TBC

Larne v Oriel @ Kilwaughter 1 pm start

East Antrim v North Eastern – TBC

Mid Ulster v West Down @ Maghera Pres

Western v South Tyrone @ Regal Hall, Enniskillen

Mens Shield

Belfast v Monaghan @ Shaws Bridge

Mid Down Bye

6.4 Junior Interzone format

The Competitions Secretary asked Conveners how many Juniors they had. It was decided to hold a 2 rink competition with zones joining up if they did not have 8 Juniors.

6.5 Ladies Fours

The Competitions Secretary currently had 5 entries with the closing date for entries of 9 December but when she asked if there were any more entries the number had risen to 22. This competition will be played alongside the Junior Competition on 6 January in Shaws Bridge.

7. Report of meeting with clubs in Foyle Zone

The President, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and Hon Competitions Secretary attended the meeting in Cumber Upper. There was a good attendance, and it was a very positive meeting. P Eakin agreed to take over as Zone Convener and would hold National

Championships in Foyle. Because of the exceptional circumstances it was agreed that if any players had entered their Nationals through another Zone thinking that no Nationals were being held in Foyle Zone that they could revert to Foyle Zone as long as they had not already played in any National Championships in the other Zone. Their entry fee would be refunded. It was also agreed that if the players wanted to return to Foyle Zone next season they could do so.

8. Meeting with the Umpires Association

A meeting was held with the Umpires Association including their Chair and Vice-Chair. An agreement was made with what the Umpires are to receive each year, and this is to be ratified by the Umpires Association. The Umpires present were not told there was a limit to IIBA contribution. The Hon Competitions Secretary will request how many Umpires will be required each Saturday. The Umpires Association were requested to balance out umpires travelling distances. A discussion was held regarding the format of Umpires courses and would it be possible to reduce the number of nights required and changing the test from written to verbal. It was also agreed to pay the Umpires Association a one-off payment for last year.

9. British Isles Report - Chairman

The British Isles AGM was held in Rhyl. Scotland were thinking about entering the Top Team Competition next year. It was decided that the Ladies Internationals would be held on the second Saturday of every October and next season the Championships would be held in Carmarthen. It was also agreed that the AGM would now be held on the Saturday night of the Ladies Championships.

10. Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Update

It was reported that a lack of support from clubs and Zones and only 10/11 had gone through the vetting process. The information would be emailed again. There was uncertainty whether the Child Protection Courses taken in Oriel would cover the Juniors in Shaws Bridge in January. The situation would be clarified. Suggestion that the Child Protection Officers be included in the Year Book.

11. Clubs/Leagues for Affiliation

None

12. Correspondence

Email received from Ballyroan Bowling Club, Dublin wanting to know more about the Association, A pdf of the Yearbook was sent along with the application form for a new club.

13. Any other Notified Business

13.1 Dress

The issue of dress when representing Ireland was raised. It was stated that as the jackets had been sponsored the players should have been travelling in them. It was proposed and seconded that the players should wear their jackets travelling. The President was thanked the President for obtaining the sponsorship for the shirts and jackets.

13.2 World Sponsorship

The issue of sponsorship was raised. It was suggested asking players if they could assist in obtaining sponsors.

13.3 Amendment to Law 37

Change “if any of the **first two bowls in any end** delivered by the lead...” to “if the **first bowl in any end** delivered by the lead...”

It was suggested that the present rule has put Irish bowlers at a disadvantage on the international stage and that it was a halfway house with the respect that bowlers could not ditch the jack with their first bowl. It was suggested that it would make the game more tactical with players choosing to play back bowls to stop the jack being ditched by the lead. It was proposed and seconded - the proposed amendment to the rule. There was no counter-proposal.

13.4 Amendment to Law 45 (g)

Change “for a complete period of two bowling seasons” to “for one bowling season,”

A new sentence inserted before the last sentence to read:

“If a player who physically moves to where he/she lives then they should not be penalised and be able to play immediately.”

The Hon Competitions Secretary stated that this had been tried before but was unsuccessful. It was suggested that the player should sit out 2 seasons of Zone bowls and that reference to Nationals, Juniors and Over 55s should be removed. It was agreed that the Competitions Committee should rewrite Law 45 (g) with the revised Law being introduced next season.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held by Zoom on 4 January and the Hon Secretary will contact Dungannon Rugby Club for a face-to-face meeting in February.

Meeting closed 9.50 p.m.