

Minutes of Committee of Management Meeting held by ZOOM, 27th June 2021

Present: President Angus Young, Patron Robin Cruikshank, Senior Vice President Kyle French, Junior Vice President Max Evans, Secretary Janet Stockel, Treasurer Sharon Hancock.

President Angus Young opened the meeting at 7.10pm.

1. Upcoming AIBBC meeting:

AIBBC are have a meeting tomorrow night to discuss the Nationals.

NSW have pulled out completely (to be confirmed at meeting).

SA is rumoured to have a full team.

TAS is presumed to have a full team.

VIC have extra 50+ players, and currently say they are definitely going ahead.

2. RESPONSES FROM QUESTIONNAIRE SO FAR:

18 undecided, 13 no, 7 yes. Most of the undecided as worried about getting caught in quarantine.

- David Speechley sent a text saying that they are definitely going ahead.
- Does not mean it would proceed in the usual format. With NSW already out, it has to change things. A shorter format should be less days.
- Re-looking at the mini-nationals, or somewhere between that and the full version?
- We might only get half a team, possibly less.

Australian Team selection may proceed regardless, but you are supposed to go this year to be in the running. With NSW out, we will see if AIBBC changes their decision on that.

3. QUESTIONS FROM SELECTORS & OTHERS FOR AIBBC MEETING

We received an email from Selectors with some questions, and also a few others.

COM had a meeting and discussed the letter from the selectors as well as others received, but there was no way Angus was going to call a team meeting when there had been a recent COVID scare caused by a couple travelling from Victoria, through NSW, crossing at Goondiwindi, going through Toowoomba to the Sunshine Coast. It would have been reckless to have a meeting of the team. We decided to send out the questionnaire instead to get the general feeling of the team.

Any member is free to email through any questions they have, however until the AIBBC meeting, we would have very limited answers.

3.1 The Selectors posed the following questions:

1. Does the AIBBC and / or Victoria have a Covid Safe Plan?
2. If the Championships were to proceed at this stage what would happen if another outbreak and lockdown occurred?
3. What are their plans now that New South Wales have withdrawn?
4. What happens if Queensland withdraws?
5. What would happen with the international test match and trials etc?
6. Just on the off chance some players want to travel to Australian titles, how many players will the AIBBC accept as a state team?
7. Will there be any limit on the number of players allowed in the venue in Ballarat? This will depend on the restrictions at the time of the Championships and these can change suddenly. We need to have this clarified as to how AIBBC are going to handle any sudden changes.

3.2 The Weir family posed these questions:

1. The possibility of having to quarantine, the cost plus the lost income due to quarantining.
2. No covid player safety plan has been made available by Australian body, Victorian or Qld bodies and it feels like it's up to players to keep themselves safe, not really reassuring.

3. Over successive days of play how are players going to maintain adequate social distancing to make players feel safe.
4. Is cheering going to be stopped as this increases the risk of covid transmission.
5. Delta strain a concern.
6. Transmission on flight to Melbourne.
7. The health concerns if we catch covid or the thought of bringing it back to our families, community, fellow bowlers and work community.

3.3 ANSWERS

- We presume that AIBBC or Victoria have a COVID Safe Plan, they would not be allowed to proceed if they did not. All other questions cannot be answered until after the AIBBC meeting.
- AIBBC has to be given the chance to respond to questions before making a decision to pull out. And is it fair to those who want to go to have the opportunity taken away by the fears of the rest?
- It is up to the AIBBC and Victoria to decide if the nationals proceed, not QLD or our selectors.
- If another outbreak occurs, we would have to follow the state health advice, and then make personal decisions about what to do.
- If Queensland withdraws? Can't answer that. Robin thinks that the other 3 states would still go.
- Currently regional Victoria is allowed 300 people at an indoor event. With only 4 teams that is more than enough, depending on how many spectators there were. It would be Victoria's problem to deal with numbers to ensure social distancing is maintained.
- International – the question will be asked.
- Just on the off chance some players want to travel to Australian titles, how many players will the AIBBC accept as a state team? If a state pulls out but individual players want to go, how will AIBBC deal with that?
- Should Queensland consider asking NSW if they have players who want to go, would they play for Queensland?
- It will be difficult regardless, depending on how late people make a decision to go or not.
- It should not affect availability of accommodation, although it could be more expensive.

3.4 What is our ideal scenario?

- We want to be able to do something that is in the best interests of the players, both those who want to go as well as those who don't. Hope for postponement? Until vaccinations are to completed, which seems unlikely this year, the reasons for people pulling out would still be valid if it was delayed until October or November. Which means August is as good as any time.
- Regarding Australian selection, we could vote for people to be eligible even if they don't go to nationals, but we are one out of 5 with the voting.
- Cheering is not specifically disallowed on health advice, but can AIBBC make that a local condition, along with wearing masks if not playing?
- Like football, should any spectators be required to be seated?

3.5 DO WE VOTE FOR NATIONALS TO GO AHEAD IN SOME FORM?

- If they say we need a full team do we vote NO?
- Leave the decision to Angus to make, as we don't know enough yet about other states preferences. He will have to see how the meeting is going and make decisions on the fly.
- There is no way for us to have a full team of Queenslanders. Victoria has more than enough players to fill any spaces we have.

- If VIC, TAS and SA all have full teams, there is a good chance they will vote to hold the nationals in the existing or similar format but with only 4 teams. Unless there are enough spare players to make up a fifth team to replace NSW as well as filling QLD. Or could have a bye for the NSW team games.
- If Victoria has to fill too many spots, then it is not really a National. Max suggested something more like an Australian Open with individual nominations. Then anyone from any state can go, and teams would not need to be state based. Some events would have to be excluded because of time.
- Should we ask for the option to send half a team? If there are NSW players who want to go, is it better to invite them because they can't go, rather than have players thrust upon us? We don't know how many NSW people would want to go? But if there are enough?
- We also don't know how late is too late to get extra players to fill the team. There is a likelihood that at least a quarter of the team could pull out only 1 or 2 weeks before.
- We also have the situation where some players have said no they are not going on the questionnaire, but have accepted on the acceptance form. Which response do we believe? Do we take the acceptance form as the official document? If people have paid the \$10 fee but don't go, do we refund the fee?
- It seems from the questionnaire that people are unwilling to make the decision themselves, they are waiting for COM to make the decision for them.
- Everyone is a maybe until the day they leave. We can't pressure anyone to go, and anything can happen last minute.
- Perhaps if there was a regional airport to fly into instead of Melbourne, as Tullamarine has the potential to be a highly infectious environment. Charter a 40-60 seat plane? Probably out of our range. Perhaps a bus? From Toowoomba as that would be reasonably central for everyone?
- The whole matter will have to go to the delegates, because if some of the Selectors don't go, then they are not eligible to be selectors anymore due to the motion passed that Selectors have to travel. We may need to elect new selectors.
- Will AIBBC make it a condition that people must have had the vaccination?
- A definite COVID plan with requirements for player safety could encourage players to go – sanitiser, masks, distancing, seating etc. Can AIBBC/VIC enforce masks if the current health advice says you don't have to wear them?

8. Next COM meeting

Date proposed – 27th July, if possible in person at Caloundra.

There being no further business, President Angus thanked everyone for attending.
The meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

Janet Stockel
Secretary QIBA Inc.
14th July 2021

Angus Young
President QIBA Inc.