

Minutes of Open Meeting held by ZOOM, 3rd July 2021

PRESENT: Angus Young, Kyle French, Janet Stockel, Sharon Hancock, Robin & Jenny Cruikshank, Ros Richter, Glenn Casey, Glenda Wilkinson, Monique & Ryan Wiegand, Carmel & David Blyth, Diane Knight, Errol & Kaylene Weir, Gayle Sutton, Nelson Thomas, Marilyn Long, Shane Cashill, Annette Dunstan. Haydn Weir was there briefly.

APOLOGIES: Max Evans

President Angus explained that as we were unable to give a weeks' notice of this meeting, it is not a special general meeting, but a discussion made necessary due to the AIBBC meeting to discuss Nationals on this coming Monday night. We need some guidance from our members for that meeting.

It is unfortunate we were unable to hold the full delegates meeting as planned. The votes at this meeting will not be binding as they would have been at the delegates meeting, but the views of this meeting will suffice to give us something to go to the AIBBC meeting with.

1. Angus started by given a short review of the AIBBC meeting from last Monday.

- NSW and SA have elected not to send teams to Nationals this year.
- For these states it seems to have been a COM decision rather than by state team players.
- QLD has some players that are still keen to go, but we will struggle to get even half a team.
- VIC is upset at the negativity and the potential loss of the event for a second year in a row. At best it would be 2 divisions from Victoria, 2 divisions from Tasmania and 1 division from Qld which might contain players from NSW and SA who wanted to go.

2. There are key issues we need to decide tonight.

- Whether we want to send a team to Nationals, in some form. We will be unable to get a full team but may be able to send a half or even a quarter of a team as a QLD team.
- Whether we want to see the event go ahead given that NSW and SA not being a part of that does change it.
- There is also the possibility of the event changing to an Open Entry Event. This could only happen if it was voted at AIBBC level to not hold Nationals at all. In that case VIC and TAS might want to run their own event, although it appeared that the hope is still that it will be an AIBBC sanctioned event.
- Currently there are 2 teams going and 2 teams not going, but this does not mean the not going teams will vote to cancel Nationals. Even if we were to vote for it to be cancelled, it may still go ahead if either NSW or SA vote for it to proceed. In this case we might still want to be able to send the willing players to represent QLD.
Would we want a National Championship to proceed with only 2 states playing and QLD not even having the opportunity to send the players willing to take the risks?

3. Angus invited comments.

- If all states are not competing, how can it be an Australian Championships?
 - ❖ *If 3 or more states vote to hold the Australian Championships even with only 2 states playing, then the event will go ahead because the event is sanctioned by the Australian Council, there is nothing we can do if that happens.*
- It is not right that 2 and a bit states can be a Australian Championships.
- It would not be a championship just an open carnival.
- What was the survey results?
 - ❖ **Response from questionnaire so far:** 20 undecided, 15 no, 7 yes
- Some of the undecided are still keen to go but only if they would not get caught up in a quarantine. Some cannot afford the time or money that could involve.
- General feeling that if all states are not participating then it is not a National Championships.
- It is not a championship it should just be an open tournament for those people who want to go and play. An Australian Championship is played between all 5 states.
 - ❖ *There is currently the option for all states to compete, every state has been invited. NSW is currently not allowed to travel, but that could change in the next 7 weeks. Some states are choosing not complete, the same as an individual might choose not to go to state titles*
- At the moment QLD cannot travel to VIC because we are not allowed in.

- If things change dramatically, could NSW and SA change their minds about sending teams?
 - ❖ *It is always possible, and there was a certain amount of pleading to SA to re-consider their position over the week until the next meeting.*
- Opinion that QLD delegates should be going to the AIBBC meeting and voting in favour that if VIC want to hold something then fine but come up with a plan to make it an open event that is not an Australian Title.
 - *By “open event” does that mean that anyone can play with anyone, even from another state?*
- Ultimately it is up to the Host, but perhaps with consultation with others, so long as it is a high standard event of Indoor Bowls.
- There was some concern from TAS delegate that if it were not a National Championship, then some of their players might not be interested if they were not representing their state.
- How would an open event be run, you can't just turn up and go into a draw.
 - *The Ballarat committee has already said that, and want a decision made at this next AIBBC meeting so they have time to come up with an event that could be run and come up with a draw for that.*
 - *The Ballarat people have said that they will probably lose money no matter what, even with an open event, as in the end it will depend on how many people can actually get there. They will need expressions of interest so they have some idea of numbers and what they can do.*
- Call it “AIBBC National Open Championships” and run it similar to how NZ does.

4. If SA or NSW vote to hold the National Championships, and it goes ahead with only 2 states,

do we want a QIBA sanctioned team to be able to compete if we have no choice after that vote?

- What is AIBBC going to consider as a team?
 - *The impression we got from last weeks meeting is that AIBBC would be willing to work with almost anything as a team. Other states could give us people to make up to at least one division, possibly even a full team.*
- Was it discussed to postpone it to later in the year? There was, but it did not go very far, as if there was a hotspot in Melbourne or anywhere, players could have to quarantine on arriving home. Until the bulk of the community is vaccinated, there is always a risk to going. Postponing may not change anything.
- The Australian Team Selectors will possibly select a larger quad than normal, even from players who don't compete this year.

5. COMPENSATION

- VIC would probably push for compensation if the National Championships are called off, particularly if they are unable to make money out of an Open Event.
- At the last meeting it was stated that all states need to register as members of the AIBBC then some of that could go towards the state to help offset losses.
- If the Nationals do not proceed, there may need to be a notice of motion about what to pay a state.
- Would it be appropriate to offer some compensation for monies lost??
Only if they call it off completely. NOT if they go ahead with the other option of another titles.

6. IF IT GETS VOTED AT AIBBC LEVEL FOR NATIONALS TO PROCEED

- If it gets voted at AIBBC level for the Nationals to proceed, then do we have the right to stop anyone from competing who wants to go, if they can get there?
- Opinion: if AIBBC say they are going to go ahead and its going to be an Australian Championship, that QLD as a whole does not send one single person. We go as a full team or not at all.
- Can we raise a vote of no confidence if it is voted to proceed?
 - *What would be the point, if 3 or 4 states voted to hold them, then they would probably vote against a motion of no confidence.*
- If QLD does not send a side, can our willing players go as spares for other states? They would not be representing Queensland then.
- Don't send a team if it is not complete, but happy for individuals to go and play for another state.
- If some individuals want to go a titles held at Ballarat, that is their own concern not QLD's if QLD votes against going to a National Titles, it is up to the individuals to do whatever quarantine they need to do for both directions.
- If SA changes their mind and decides to send a team, and only NSW has pulled out, what do we do if there are 3 other states saying they will go?

- Health is still a concern - it is too risky still.

ANGUS: so we are saying that we vote that QLD is not sending a team to a Nationals, but we are ok for individual players to go to an Open Event, or as spares to another state.
No player will be disadvantaged for Australian selection by non-attendance.

We could impose a 14 non-play period from end of Nationals or Open Event to players. After some discussion it was decided we probably not implement that.

OUR VOTE TO AIBBC will be to not send a QLD team, and to not hold the Nationals, but that we are supportive for VIC to hold an Open Event that anyone may attend. If nationals do proceed, we have some players who would be willing to play for another state.

7. PRACTICES

As we are not sending a team, there is little point in having the practices, so they will be cancelled.

8. DELEGATES MEETING AND PAIRS

At this stage we will re-schedule the meeting and pairs for the 17th of July, still at Dalby.
Should a sudden lockdown preclude this date, we will try for the 7th of August instead.

9. 4th JULY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Toowoomba representatives were asked if they were happy to proceed with the Championships on 24th and 25th July. Errol and Kaylene Weir said they were okay to proceed.

It was noted that Toowoomba ran a really good 5 game day recently. Perhaps some similar event could be held on the second practice weekend.

It was asked if the money QLD puts in to pay for the Team Dinner could be offered to VIC as compensation, and under what conditions – regardless of event held, or only if the Nationals are not held, or if no event can be held.

It was noted that as we are not going to Nationals, we could use one of the weekends to hold either the Pairs or an open event.

TROPHIES – if the Nationals are held, then we will have to arrange a courier to deliver them to Victoria. Sharon noted in the Chat that she would be going regardless and could take them.
If the open event is played instead, then it does not matter.

It was asked if feedback from the AIBBC meeting would be sent out. We will send a summary, with a more detailed review at the delegates meeting.

Angus thanks everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed 8.15pm

Janet Stockel
Secretary QIBA Inc.
14th July 2021

Angus Young
President QIBA Inc.