**IRISH INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting held on the 13th February 2025.

**1. In attendance:**

H Nixon

F McNally

G O’Hare

S Kyne

C Adair

A Patton

D Crawford

A Rice

J O’Hare

P Martin-Ball

S Carleton

E Irwin

I Kerr

D McMahon

T Vance

A McKiver

J Parkinson

**Apologies**

D McCullough

D Bintley

H Foley

S Bates

J Shannon

**2. Chairman’s Business**

All were welcomed to the meeting.

**3. Notice of Any Other Business**

Received and circulated.

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes for the meeting dated 23rd January 2025 need a few changes before signing. They will be amended for the executive meeting on the 13th March.

**5. Matters arising from the Minutes**

Item 5: Regarding the scanning of old IIBA documents D Bintley has since contacted PRONI and Iron Mountain.

Item 9: Regarding correspondence given to the Disciplinary Committee. D McMahon had asked what it was about, and he was told by me that it was “Confidential”. However, I have since been told that after that meeting a convenor/convenors started ringing around/WhatsApping to find out what the situation might be. This has put the Disciplinary Committee at a severe disadvantage. If an appeal is necessary, the executive “hear” it and according to our Year Book anyone who has prior knowledge cannot be involved. If something is identified as confidential leave it alone and let the relevant committee deal with it. Unfortunately, this is not a new issue, but it is serious and should not happen.

At this point in the meeting S Kyne made several comments regarding the last meeting:

* He had been on the Executive for 40 years and had left that zoom meeting upset. Comments had been made about S Kyne’s approach to the Ladies Fours game that took 2hrs 15mins.
* At the Junior Interzone it had been announced several times during the day how the scoring would work. The abusive language and social media reports would have led to a Disciplinary issue only for the North West Chairman intervening.
* Also, at the Juniors a convenor had been asked to “tone it down” as he was disrupting the Junior Interzone games.
* A Mid Down player accused the Competition Committee of getting revenge on an ex-officer who stood down at the AGM, by making Mid Down play an interzone game against Larne. The Mid Down convenor responded to this by saying the Competition Committee should have contacted him about the situation. The Plate draw has been messed up as a result because of the decision to allow Larne into the Plate. S Kyne said it had been done to encourage Larne and to for the best of bowls. D McMahon felt communication could have been better
* In future any verbal abuse should be referred immediately to the Disciplinary Committee
* T Vance raised the issue of dates not suiting for semi-final of plate, yet Northern played their game on a Friday night to try and keep to the schedule.
* Medals for interzone plate games were discussed. This led to a proposal from T Vance, seconded by D McMahon that medals should be obtained for all interzone events (Boomer, McIlroy, Gents Plate, Ladies Plate & Over 55). The cost of the current badges rose from £8,70 to £12.00. The option of drop-down badges to be investigated.
* Also discussed at this stage was the question regarding the Disciplinary Committee---should it be made up from non-executive members.

**6.** **Competitions Committee’s Report**

**Interzone**

McIlroy Final between Donegal and North West to take place in Maghera Presbyterian on 1st March.

Boomer Final between West Down and Western to take place in Ballinderry, Cookstown on 8th March.

The Men’s Plate Final to take place on 5th April, venue to be confirmed.

D McMahon proposed that the venue for all the finals should be planned at the start of the season (regardless of who gets through). S Kyne seconded this.

**Club Championship**

These finals are scheduled for the morning of 29th March in Belfast.

**Nationals**

Times for these events will be emailed to convenors and published on Facebook.

**7. Finance**

426 clubs had affiliated. Their fees cover the administration, honorariums and insurance. Most National monies had been paid with North West and Oriel still to pay.

S Kyne is to organise a form for the convenors to complete showing which clubs took part in the nationals and how many entries from each club were received.

The new accountant had informed our Treasurer that we would make a loss this year.

**8. Clubs for affiliation**

A form had been received from Belfast IBS but some of the information needed to be clarified.

**9. Correspondence**

Email from T Vance.

**10. Outstanding items of AOB**

These were discussed:

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| 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. | Leads to “super clubs”. If league teams were smaller this might lead to less “outsiders”. |
| Most sporting organisations operate world championships - Olympics, rugby, soccer etc operate every 4 years - should Bowls go down the same avenue? | To go to World Bowls Council |
| 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. | To go to British Isles Council.  The Irish Bowls Federation will help with the cost, but the amount is not known. |
| There needs to be a greater time gap between ladies and BI | Already sorted. The next Ladies Internationals is scheduled for 17/18th January 2026 in Belfast. |
| 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. | To go to British Isles Council. However, if the Isle of Man returns this will affect the number of games. |
| 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. | Proposed and seconded that a minimum of 50% of the A Series team should be new players. The 2-year restriction would continue to apply. |
| Interzone game venues for next season | Finals to be arranged at the beginning of the season. |
| Changes in laws of the game 2025/26 | * Club Championship: Remove the reference to 75% and apply “national criteria” only. Proposed and seconded. * Rule 45 (g) Change to 1 bowling season. Raised initially by Belfast Zone & Salisbury Club. Proposed and seconded. * Officers to look at the rule book |
| Facebook – Coverage of Interzone Competitions and Data Breach? | Improve the coverage of interzone events.  Regarding the Data breach, an incorrect photo had been submitted and was removed 8 hours later once the mistake was discovered. (It had included information about juniors). |
| IIBA website – November minutes – Matters arising Item 14.1 | Names will be removed from the website. |
| Constitution V Administration (a): No officer of the IIBA can be a convenor at the same time | This is to be left as it is in the constitution as the meeting agreed that all the officers need to be independent from their zone. |

It was decided that the next meeting would take place on the 13th March 2025 in Dungannon.