



BRISBANE NORTHSIDE ARM BOWLERS ASSOCIATION INC.

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To: Bronwyn White
Bowls Australia
bwhite@bowls.com.au

2nd September 2019

Hi Bronwyn,

I have attached a copy of the email I received yesterday for Bowls Australia executive to view.

"Good morning Tony,

Bad news, I'm afraid. I've closed (hidden) my site because:

- 1. "MABA (David Johnson) set themselves up as representing the whole of "Q'ld". They only look at their own members for State Champs and State Selection, but I think they are basically "Gold Coast" centric. McKay and Brisbane Northside ABA sprung up to cater for Armed Bowlers in their area, but MABA doesn't want to know them. McKay and Brisbane NABA want Bowls Q'ld to run Armed Bowls so it's fair for the whole (very big) State and supported. Bowls Q'ld don't want to know about it. (MABA members have to fund raise to get their members to Tranmere \$1500 (same in NSW only \$2000)). Because I have Brisbane NABA on my site, they are no longer contributing stories, photos to me. Silly really, as their members, many of whom are friends of mine, enjoy and support my site. It's just David I'm guessing who is trying to keep his empire together and on the Gold Coast?"*
- 2. Rodney Egge, South Aust.*
- 3. Barry Anset, Victoria.*

I'm sorry it came to this, but the egos of these 3 men got to me in the end.

Can you let me know please, if my perception of what is happening in Q'ld correct? I need to have it right.

Can you also please confirm to me that my site is unviewable to you? I don't want people stealing my content.

I can post you a USB with everything, BNABA on it, or drip feed it if you like.

I really did enjoy working with you.

Cheers Pamela"

Bronwyn, as you are aware, I have requested a meeting with Bowls Australia Executive to discuss how we might move Arm Bowls forward for the benefit of the game and members.

This is just another example of David Johnson (MABA) and his like-minded selfish people putting pressure on people to benefit their own empires.

On behalf of Brisbane Northside Arm Bowls Association Inc, I would like to discuss the following with Bowls Australia executive, in the first instance, about the following topics:

1. The removal of **Medical Certificates for Arm Bowlers** has become a detrimental scenario and has cost us players from Arm Bowls and Clubs in recent times. It is my understanding that a recent Arm Bowls tournament attracted a couple of Representative players making a point to take out the prize money using an arm. Not what Bowling Arms were designed for and very damaging to the game.
2. The **confusion as to who is running Arm Bowls** is also a detrimental scenario and is causing players to re-think their want to play bowls. I had an incident at Kallangur Memorial Bowls Club last week by which I was approached by a husband of a lady player who was playing in a final of pennants and was called out by the umpire for not having a BA sticker on her Bowling Arm prior to commencement of the match. This umpire had his daughter playing in the opposition and according to the husband went out of his way to upset the lady and put her off her game, which ended up as the end result. The man's argument with me was "if BA is not running Arm Bowls in general, then why do they have the right to have an Artificial Devices Policy and keep interfering in how Arm Bowlers play." I clarified that this was not an Arm Bowls match but Pennants and this just made him angrier, walking away stating that his wife was going to give bowls away as BA want to have their cake and eat it to. I could not disagree with that as I find it amazing that we have a BA Policy for Arm Bowls stating that anyone can use an arm, but they do have to have a sticker on the Arm and as far as Arm Bowls titles are concerned BA want nothing to do with that. Instead we now have three groups to my knowledge with MABA (holding themselves up as Queensland), BNABAI – representing players on the Northside of Brisbane and holding tournaments on the Northside at various clubs, hoping to promote the sport and Mackay who I have not spoken to recently, but last time I spoke with them they were disenchanted with MABA and what they could do to assist them. They felt, at that time that it was a long way for their players to attend State Championships on the Gold Coast and felt that selection for any National Squad was impossible with MABA running the event for allegedly Queensland. I have also heard from some players in Hervey Bay that agree that only the select few friends of MABA are getting picked for State selections. BA please show leadership and take control of Arm Bowls.
3. We need to have a **register of Arm Bowlers** and if a player is an Arm Bowler then they are an Arm Bowler. The constant argument I have with non-arm bowlers is that I am President of Brisbane Northside Arm Bowlers Association Inc and have nothing to do with Bowls Australia, but I get the questions because people are wanting answers and BA do not seem to be interested in sorting out Arm Bowls. Both Arm Bowlers and non-Arm Bowlers are not happy, in general, with the flexibility brought in on May 1 2019 and there are a number of players talking about quitting the game over it. I am very sure that this was not the intention of BA.
4. **State and National Championships should be run by BA**, not MABA and their equivalents interstate. The current situation is creating an unfair and discriminatory scenario, to Arm Bowlers in Queensland and interstate. MABA are holding themselves up to be the only Arm Bowlers Association in Queensland and similar situations are happening in other States. There needs to be one governing body and that needs to be BA. Again we are losing players from Bowls Clubs due to this scenario. A fair and equal opportunity should be given to all Arm Bowlers in order to make State Teams.
5. A very serious situation that came up last month and was raised to me, as President of BNABAI, was that some of our members want to move away from Registered Bowls Clubs and **take the Arm Bowls to Villages that have Bowling Greens**, thus allowing them not to belong to any Bowls Clubs whereby they pay fees to BA, as they believe that BA is not supporting our sport. I would hate to see this happening, with the potential closure of Grange Bowls Club this month in Queensland, Donnybrook down to 12 playing members, Banyo down to 30, we do not need to lose any more members from the clubs or clubs themselves. BA needs to get involved and assist the support in growing, not giving people reasons to move away from clubs. This is the reverse effect that I would have liked to see Arm Bowls having on Bowling Clubs. We always intended trying to get players back into bowls from Villages. We are at the Seniors Expo at Strathpine today and tomorrow with Kallangur Memorial Bowls Club to encourage these people back to bowls.
6. **The loss of our Web Page** will be detrimental and I will fund a new website for BNABAI in order to keep the information corridor going with our members. This will take me some time to organise. Also, the loss to other states of Pam Bryant's great work is also detrimental to Arm Bowls. Again, we need BA to step up to the mark and get us a National Website. I am very web savvy and would be happy to assist in managing such a site for BA, but we need BA to step up and support us.
7. We need to have **Arm Bowls Development Officers in each State** as this is a part of our great sport that needs to be promoted better and taken on board by BA. How this might work I am unsure living a State as large as Queensland. Discussion needs to be had though.

I would again request a meeting with Bowls Australia Executive to further discuss these and any other items that need to be discussed pertaining to Arm Bowls. My warning to BA is a simple one ... sit on your hands and do nothing and

the risk is that Arm Bowlers in Australia that at last count came to 20,000 plus may just decide to move away from BA and Bowls Clubs in general and that would be disastrous for Bowls Clubs who are already struggling, in my opinion. And what could be worse is that Clubs themselves pull away from BA and start their own competitions without BA. There are already Clubs becoming Barefoot Bowls Clubs and having no official competition and again this is not good for Bowls in my opinion.

BA please take control and provide the leadership that Arm Bowls requires. The current situation is a formula for long-term disaster to Arm Bowls and Bowls Clubs, in general, in my opinion.

I look forward to your response.

Regards

Tony Watson
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