



BRISBANE NORTHSIDE ARM BOWLERS ASSOCIATION INC.

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To: Bronwyn White
Bowls Australia
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Cc: Brett Wilkie – Bowls Queensland

23rd December 2019

Hi Neil,

RE: EMAIL RESPONSE DATED 23/12/19

Thanks for your prompt response and you make some good points, however, I still see many issues in what we are discussing here and that is why I would have preferred a sit down meeting of all parties in order to work through it and maybe gain some compromises.

Item 1: Medical Certificates: Your response to the Medical Certificate is fine. I can see that potentially to have a Medical Certificate you could make Arm Bowls less inclusive to those who did not wish to ascertain one. We can accept that.

Item 2: Who is Running Arm Bowls: I still have an issue with this response as you are stating that BA is supportive of the National Event and actually provides a Trophy and places it on BA National Calendar.

- To support this event, in its current format, **BA is supporting an exclusive and inequitable event** that does not cater for **ALL** Arm Bowlers in this Country and, in particular, Queensland and this is where we have a major disagreement with what is taking place.
- You state that there is a National Committee for the Bowlers Arms Championships. These are a self-appointed group that are not accountable to anyone, as far as I can see, except themselves. They are holding themselves up to be running a National Championship, however, I know for a fact in Queensland that MABA are not opened to allowing a fair selection process or any other body but themselves to be involved in selection and the running of this event. In NSW I have been told that they have State Selection Committee, made up of all Associations in NSW.
- The way this event is run is total discrimination at this time and will be challenged.
- This is an excerpt from the MABA Expression of Interest for 2020. **"Requirements All Squad members are required under BCiB insurance criteria to be members of the Maroon Arm Bowlers Association. Your home Club insurance does not cover individuals for this type of competition. The team will travel together and will be housed as a team. Training sessions will be conducted by the MABA coach and drills will be issued to all participants. These sessions and drills are compulsory. Selected games / venues will also be compulsory and a list will be published once all expressions of interest are collated by a cut-off date. (TBA)**
 - o This is so discriminatory that it is not funny. Firstly, BNABAI hold identical insurances with Kelvin Kerkow and Kelvin has confirmed this and has denied that BCiB have any such clause in the MABA insurances. Apart from that why does anyone have to be a member of MABA (**Exclusivity**). In other BA National Events do you have to be a member of a specific club?? Training sessions are by their Coach exclusively and selections will be made at their events exclusively. And you can be assured that the same Committee Members and Friends will be the selections again in 2020. MABA are

holding themselves up to be the State Selection body and imply that they are supported by BA and BQ.

Item 3: Register of Bowlers: Fantastic and I hope this happens sooner rather than later and it is kept up to date. I will be interested to see the figures now, given that prior to removal of ID Cards there were 20,000 I am told.

Item 4: Arm Bowls Development Officers in Each State: I have spoken in the past with Michael Sorrensen and his solution to the issues are send two Queensland Teams to the Nationals. I would not think that this is reasonable or even practical and I doubt that the National Committee would approve that anyway.

- To Develop Arm Bowls has many facets to it and really is different to normal bowls development as you are dealing with a diverse range of people, older bowlers, people with disabilities and people with chronic health issues. I think that the Development of Arm Bowls should be looking at getting Villages involved and attending appropriate Expos etc in order to gain new members, as well as bowls clubs. Some of our newer players have been sitting at home and given the game away.
- Arm Bowls is not being developed to its potential and never will be until you get someone who has the interest of the Sport taking it forward and not a group of self-interest based people such as MABA doing so for Queensland.

Arm Bowls is really the only form of the sport I have ever known due to my physical disabilities and it is a fantastic opportunity to take the great game of Lawn Bowls forward, but in its current format BA and BQ in conjunction with groups like MABA are causing major division amongst Arm Bowlers, by having no set Policies and Guidelines for State and National events or selection processes.

BA has probably had good intentions with the sport of Arm Bowls, but by not taking Leadership of the group, you have and are causing more harm than good for the sport, in my opinion, at present.

I have worked with many Arm Bowlers, on a voluntary basis, from all across the State of Queensland, some from Victoria and NSW and I am listening to what they are wanting. That is a fair and equitable State and National Championships that is inclusive and this is not the case at this time, particularly in Queensland.

In the short time that we have been around we have developed at least 4 new players into our group who were not bowling at all, prior to getting involved with us. I am also listening to the statement regularly from the majority of Arm Bowlers that BA do not care about Arm Bowls and will not recognise it. Many of our current players are players that had played with MABA and some of them were about to give the game away due to the self-interest shown by MABA Committee.

Neil, you state "The purpose of the Arm is about inclusion not segregation.....Bowls in Australia does not need special interest groups working against each other. Collaboration and working for the better interests of the sport should be our focus."

This is our point exactly, and all we are asking is that BA take control of Arm Bowlers and show the necessary Leadership to take this great game forward in the future.

You have probably gathered to date that I am passionate about Arm Bowls and I am also willing to give some of my time to assist in the continued development of the sport, but we need a governing body that is not biased driving this sport.

Just to let you know, the BNABAI Committee voted yesterday unanimously to have our shirts produced without the BA logo and to allow non-members of Bowls Clubs to play with us for the future, as at this stage the Committee and our members do not see that we are getting the support of BA or BQ and MABA will not allow for inclusion of our players either. This was not the outcome that I wanted to see happening, but, until we see some value to Arm Bowls

being added by BA then we will operate as you have suggested as another group who do not have to follow the BA guidelines, unless we want to get involved in Pennants etc. Sad really!!

Regards

Tony Watson

President

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