



BRISBANE NORTHSIDE ARM BOWLERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Contact: Tony Watson 0408 766 992 Email: brisbanenorthsidearmbowlers@gmail.com

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

Cc: Brett Wilkie – Bowls Queensland

26th December 2019

Hi Neil,

RE: RESPONSE TO POINTS DATED 24/12/19

Point 1. *We work with the national committee and state coordinators – whether they are self-appointed or not, it is logical for us to work through them.*

- Under normal circumstances that would be correct, however, you are aligning your loyalties with a group of not only **self-appointed**, but **self-interested** people, who do not necessarily include **ALL** Arm Bowlers, particularly in Queensland. For BA to do this you are stating clearly that you do not care about Arm Bowlers, but **“want to be seen to be caring about Arm Bowlers”**.
- By aligning with this group in its current format, **you are actually creating a discriminatory, inequitable and exclusive environment** for these people to justify to themselves that they are doing the right thing and that is not acceptable by our members or many other Arm Bowlers and Bowlers in general.

Point 2. *Clay Parker has recently been employed by BA as an RBM, is on the National Coaching Committee and is a NSW rep, a coach and user of a Bowlers Arm....we will use his advice for BA going forward.*

- I am glad to see a fellow Arm Bowlers placed into this role and hope that Clay decides to talk to all parties to gather the necessary information to advise you on and not just the current self-interest group that BA has sanctioned to date in the self-appointed National Committee and State Co-Ordinators
- I wish Clay well and I would like to meet with him, as a representative of BNABAI and discuss his thoughts for taking Arm Bowls forward in the 2020 year.

Point 3. *BA does care about Armed Bowlers but we don't need to take them over.....we support all registered clubs and members thereof, whether they use an Arm or not.*

- Again here we have a **“want to be seen to be caring about Arm Bowlers”** situation. No one is asking you to take over Arm Bowlers and their various Groups, just use some guidance and mediation in order to take the sport forward as one, especially if you are going to take advice from self-appointed and self-proclaimed groups such as the alleged National Committee and State Co-Ordinators who have already created an unfair and exclusive environment for the competition. Your (BA) current process is causing groups to split and you are on the verge of a major split if you do not get off your hands.
- You state here that you support all registered clubs and members thereof, whether they use an Arm or not, however, you are not prepared to listen to what the second largest group of Arm Bowlers in Queensland (BNABAI) are suggesting and instead place MABA views above all in Queensland as being the way to go.

Point 4 - *By not having the BA logo on your shirts now means they cannot be worn in events such as the AO and other Championship events.....is that a smart move for your membership?*

- Our shirts will be produced in early to mid-January. Unfortunately, BA are still not affording us (BNABAI) any respect and are choosing to back MABA and company in their **discriminatory, inequitable and exclusive environment**, but then want us to align with you (BA).
- Our members will be asked to vote on where to from here and all conversations with BA will be available on our website <https://www.brisntharmbowls.org.au/> so that they can make an informed decision. However, as previously stated most of our members believe that I am wasting my time trying to get BA to do anything, but I felt I had to try, as President of BNABAI.
- Most likely outcome is that we will not be applying the BA logo to our Jerseys and we will be availing our Services to anyone who wants to play Arm Bowls regardless of being a member of any Bowls Club. We will continue to pay for the use of Greens at Clubs and will continue to carry our own insurances, which is more than Barefoot Bowlers do, so to deny us this access would be considered total discrimination on BA's behalf.
- I expect our membership to swell in 2020 and we are potentially going to expand out to other areas, so our numbers will keep growing. Do you want to turn your back on 50+ members currently and the potential to be many more in Queensland?

BA can take accountability for our actions and we will start to work with other options for taking our case forward, particularly in Queensland. **All we want is a fair, equitable and inclusive opportunity to take our game forward and have equal opportunities for all Arm Bowlers to represent their State** if BA are going to condone a National Competition.

I am sorry to say Neil, but I would have to agree with the majority of our members at this time and after the discussions we have had – BA do not care about ALL Arm Bowlers just the select few who hold themselves up to be the National Body for Arm Bowls. (appointed by whom)

Regards

Tony Watson

President

Brisbane Northside Arm Bowlers Association Inc

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