



## MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2015 @ 2pm

### Terenure Badminton Centre

**Present:** Tommy McGrath (President, in the chair)  
Jean Kelly & Mary Dinan (Vice-Presidents)  
Joe Byrne (Chairman)  
Fearghal Kearney (Honorary Treasurer)  
Amanda Dunlop (Acting General Secretary)  
Séamus Halpin, Roy Cobbe, John Kelly, Dave Murphy, Jenny Coyle, Ita Marron (Executive Committee)  
Brian Herman, Declan McGinn & Har Allison (Trustees)  
Dick O'Rafferty, Tom McGrath, Joe Buckley, PJ Cooney, Gay Dinan, Muriel Moles (Honorary Life Members)  
Jean Denihan (Baldoyle Centre Manager)  
Brian Kelly (Ex PRO)

#### **Club Representatives:**

Ailesbury, Baldoyle District BC, ESB, KADCA, Old School, Pembroke, Raheny, St. Brigids, Terenure College Jnr, Eire Friends, Mount Pleasant, Portarlinton Parochial, Carlow LTC, La Sallian Ladies, Roundwood BC, St. Brigids, Pembroke, Clontarf Parish

#### **Apologies:**

Ronan Rooney (BI Chairman), Richard Vaughan (BI CEO), David Hogan (Hon Member), Siobhán Dollard (General Secretary), Loftus Warren (Life Member), Margaret Fallon (Kildare Jnr BC), Joe Kirwan (Kildare BC), Gay Sullivan (Life Member), Breda Connolly (President BI/Executive Member), Catherine Smyth (Executive Member), Avril Dungan (Ex L&C), Tony Nolan (Johnswell)

Before the meeting starts Tommy McGrath asks everybody to stand for a minutes silence in memory of all past members of Leinster Branch.

Tommy then opens the AGM by welcoming all Leinster Members, Club Secretaries and reads the apologies.

#### **a) Minutes of Previous General Meeting**

The Minutes of the 2014 AGM were taken as read.

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Brian Kelly (Leinster) and seconded by Lynn McCrave (La Sallian Ladies) and agreed to by the meeting.

#### **Matters arising from the minutes**

Dick O'Rafferty queried the new layout of the financial accounts and the power tender. *FK said he put the power out to tender and Energia were the most competitive, so both*

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*centres should be seeing big savings over the year. He also said that the Auditors were in at the moment and he would be seeking their advice on the layout of the accounts.*

#### **b) Presidents Report**

Tommy McGrath reads through his report outlining all the events he had the pleasure of attending in the past year. He has thoroughly enjoyed his term as President of Leinster Branch and he states that the highlight of this season was being in attendance at the 60<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

Tommy McGrath finished up by thanking the Leinster Executive, staff & volunteers for all their work over the last year.

A round of applause was held for Tommy McGrath.

#### **c) Consideration of the Presidents Report:**

The President's report was taken as read and accepted by the meeting.

#### **d) Chairman's Report**

Joe Byrne would like to thank all the members of the Leinster Executive for their hard work and support over last season, he then takes the meeting through his report detailing the work done in Leinster over the last season. As he was stepping down as Chairman, he paid a heartfelt thanks to his wife Mary for being so tolerant of the time he spent on badminton over the last 4 years.

A standing ovation followed.

#### **e) Consideration of the Chairman's Report:**

Tommy McGrath thanks Joe Byrne for all the work he has put in over the last year.

A presentation was made to Joe on behalf of Leinster Branch, in recognition of all the work Joe has done over the last 4 years, and John Kelly outlined the hours that were put into the graded events, the long telephone conversations they had in regard to the Branch, Joe's passion for the sport of badminton irrespective of level and all done in conjunction with his "day job". A bouquet of flowers was also presented to Mary Byrne.

Roy Cobbe (as Incoming Chairman), spoke about how he wants to get more people playing the game of badminton, particularly in the other Leinster counties. He's looking forward to taking the role of Chairperson and thanked Breda Connolly & Jean Kelly for nominating him.

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The Chairman's Report was taken as read and accepted by the meeting.

### **f) Honorary Treasurer's Report**

Tommy McGrath addressed the meeting saying that they only had "Draft" accounts at this time. Dick O'Rafferty then proposed the meeting hold off on discussing the accounts as they weren't ready. Mary Dinan seconded this.

*FK said Dick had a valid point as the financial statement wasn't ready. He did run through the highlights however, saying there were issues regarding loss of court hire, this was due to an increase in juvenile events and coaching.*

*There's a large expenditure of €40K, this is made up of replacing the floor on Courts 1-4 in Whitehall Road (c. €30K) and replacing the bar ceiling in Baldoyle (c. €10K). He commented that big buildings have big bills and he is always looking for ways of reducing expenditure. A small loss will be showing in 2014, however, there are no big repairs due in 2015 and the loans are being paid off aggressively, at c. €6K per month.*

Lynn McCrave asked where the schools feature in the accounts.

*FK said they come under Competitions.*

She then asked about schools trophies that have been mislaid over the years.

*FK said this was a matter for the YACS.*

It was agreed that another meeting be scheduled to deal solely with the accounts, possibly in early September.

*FK said that the auditors were in at the moment and he should have final accounts in the next week or so. These will then go up on the website for all to view.*

Dick O'Rafferty said that the Executive Committee should take action on any matters arising from the Auditors report without waiting for the Special Meeting. Roy Cobbe will address this at the next Executive meeting.

Jean Kelly, at this point, paid tribute to all the players in Leinster for their fabulous results in tournaments, home and abroad.

### **g) Consideration of Honorary Treasurer's Report:**

In view of the motion above it was agreed to defer consideration of the accounts until the Special Meeting in September.

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### **h) Election of Chairperson of the Executive Committee to serve for two years:**

The following has been nominated for election:

- Roy Cobbe (Portarlington Parochial BC)  
*Proposed by:* Jean Kelly (Leinster Vice President)  
*Seconded by:* Breda Connolly (Aer Lingus BC)

As Roy was the only nomination received, he is deemed to be elected as Chairperson of the Executive Committee to serve for 2 years, consecutively.

### **i) Election of Five members of the Executive Committee to serve for two years consecutively:**

The following have been nominated for election:

- 1) Séamus Halpin (Kilmessan BC) – *Proposed by Catherine Smyth (KADCA Jnr BC) – Seconded by Joe Byrne (Ailesbury BC)*
- 2) Joe Byrne (Ailesbury BC) – *Proposed by John Kelly (Leinster) – Seconded Catherine Smyth (KADCA Jnr BC)*
- 3) David Murphy (PSLC) – *Proposed by Breda Connolly (Aer Lingus BC) – seconded by Jenny Coyle (Old Bawn BC)*
- 4) Jean Kelly (Leinster Vice-President) - *Proposed by David Hogan (Leinster Honorary Member/YAC's) – seconded by Ita Marron (Leinster YAC's)*
- 5) Lynn McCrave (La Sallien BC) - *Proposed by David Murphy (PSLC) – seconded by Joe Buckley (Leinster Honorary Life Member)*
- 6) Vinod Pillai (Eire Friends) – *Proposed by Madhav Kumar (Eire Friends BC) – seconded by Joshy Paulose (Eire Friends BC)*

*The members of the Executive Committee who have retired according to the Rules of the Branch are: Seamus Halpin (Kilmessan BC), Roy Cobbe (Portarlinton Parochial BC) & John Kelly (Leinster)*

As there were 2 new faces (Lynn McCrave & Vinod Pillai) put forward for a position on the Executive Committee, they both stood and told the meeting a bit about themselves, outlining their achievements, objectives, interests and how they could help on the Executive Committee.

A vote was taken, Amanda Dunlop collected the voting slips and together with Declan McGinn and Har Allison, counted these in another room.

Tommy McGrath then deemed Seamus Halpin, Joe Byrne, David Murphy, Jean Kelly and Vinod Pillai, elected to the Executive Committee.

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### **j) Appointment of an Auditor to serve for 2 years:**

Brian Herman (Trustee/Life Member) proposed Cronin & Co as auditors for the next 2 years, this was seconded by Mary Byrne (ESB).

As there were no other nominations, Cronin & Co were duly appointed for the next 2 years.

### **k) Honorary Life Members Award – Pat Marron (Mount Pleasant) & Derek Stewart:**

Jean Kelly said a few words about Pat Marron, outlining his badminton playing career, firstly in Munster under the watchful eye of Brother Dwane, then in Dublin winning countless Leinster Open & National titles as well as World Police Games titles. He has coached club players, squad players and ultimately the Senior Irish Team. He is currently head of coaching for the YACS and manages to get every last ounce from every player that crosses his coaching path.

Pat responded with congratulations to Joe Byrne for all his work and also to Roy Cobbe as incoming chair. He reminisced about his playing days and paid tribute to the Executive Committee for all their work.

Gay Dinan spoke about Derek Stewart, how he started in Clontarf Parish as a junior and was selected on the Leinster U18 team. He then moved to Pembroke BC where he gained a place on the Minor, Junior & Senior Interpro teams. As there was no senior club on the northside of the city, Derek was instrumental in setting up KADCA in Kilbarrack. Over the years Derek won many titles, coached senior & U18 Leinster teams, sat on the Executive committee and umpired in the 1976 Europeans in Dublin. He was part of the committee that sourced and purchased the Baldoyle Badminton Centre.

Derek responded by commenting that he hasn't been involved in the sport for more than 20 years but paid tribute to Claude McLindon for all his efforts in getting Derek to play badminton. He also commented that badminton is a sport for life and that Leinster Branch is a top organisation in sporting terms. He thanked Dick O'Rafferty, Har Allison and Mary Dinan for all their input over the years and said it was a great honour for him.

### **I) AOB**

1. Lesley Cobbe (Portarlinton Parochial) asked if the website could be updated?
  - a. *All were in agreement with this suggestion.*

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2. Nigel Boyne (Mount Pleasant) asked what was happening with the Senior Team?
  - a. *Joe Byrne said that a new manager and selectors had to be appointed but they were hopeful of continuing their success at the ICC. He also commented that the Senior Team had been contributing, so there was no reason it should cease.*
  
3. Brian Herman (Trustee/Life Member) asked how many people want the AGM on a Sunday afternoon rather than on a weekday evening.
  - a. *Roy Cobbe asked, in return, how many people would travel to another venue in the country on a weekday evening rather than a Sunday afternoon, for the AGM. He said he would discuss it further with the incoming Executive Committee*
  - b. *Gay Dinan (Life Member) indicated that the rules of the Leinster Branch state that the AGM should be held in the first week of April. He said that bigger numbers may attend if it were held in April.*
  
4. Gay Dinan (Life Member) suggested that a huge amount of Committee time was being taken up with financial, so would there be any merit in appointing an separate Finance Committee who report directly to the Executive Committee on a monthly basis, therefore saving time.
  - a. *Tommy McGrath (President) said it was something the incoming committee would look at.*
  
5. Brian Herman (Trustee/Life Member) would like a full review of the Leinster Branch Rules and would be happy to help with this.
  - a. *Roy Cobbe asked Brian to have a look at this and come back to the committee with the rules he thinks need reviewing.*
  
6. Nigel Boyne (Mount Pleasant) asked what was happening about a heating system for Whitehall Road.
  - a. *Joe Byrne said that this would be addressed, if the Capital Grant Application (referred to in his report) was successful.*
  
7. Imelda Breen (Ailesbury) had a query on Leagues & Cups.
  - a. *Joe Byrne said this was a matter for the Leagues & Cups Committee and to speak to them.*
  
8. Brian Kelly (Ex PRO) asked, in view of Richard Vaughans resignation (BI CEO), what was happening with this.
  - a. *John Kelly (BI Rep) said that the process to find a new CEO had begun and they would hope to have someone in the position by September.*



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Tommy McGrath wished all the athletes going to the Special Olympics, in August every success in the Games.

Tommy thanked the Office Staff in Terenure for their work over the last season and presented Amanda Dunlop with a token for herself, Marie & Siobhán.

With no further business, Tommy McGrath thanks everyone for attending and brought the AGM to a close.