



## MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 @ 2pm

### Terenure Badminton Centre

**Present:** Tommy McGrath (President, in the chair)  
Roy Cobbe (Chairman)  
Kevin McGrath (Honorary Treasurer)  
Betty Luttrell (Acting General Secretary)  
Joe Byrne, Seamus Halpin, David Murphy, Catherine Smyth,  
Vinod Pillai, Aoife Lennon, Grainne Kinnerk (Executive Members)  
Brian Herman, Declan McGinn, Har Allison (Trustees)  
Jean Kelly (Vice President)  
Dick O'Rafferty, Tom McGrath, Joe Buckley, PJ Cooney, Gay  
Dinan, Mary Dinan, Ita Marron, Brian Kelly, Mary Gannon, Loftus  
Warren, Avril Dungan, Jim Callan (Honorary Life Members)  
Jean Denihan (Baldoyle Centre Manager)  
Veronica Farrelly (DDLCC)  
Michael Cronin, John Richards (Cronin Accountants)

#### Club Representatives:

Aer Lingus, Ailesbury, Baldoyle District BC, ESB, KADCA, Old School, Pembroke, Raheny, Terenure College Jnr, Eire Friends, Portarlinton Parochial, Carlow LTC, Meath BC, Dundalk BC, Roundwood BC, Vikings, An Caislean Nua, Old Bawn, Mount Pleasant, Knocklyon, De La Salle, Kilmessan, Smith Nirvana, South Dublin BC, Whitehall Juvenile BC

#### Apologies:

Imelda Breen (Ailesbury), Siobhan Grehan (Snr Team Manager), Norma McIntyre (KADCA), Siobhán Dollard (General Secretary), Michael Watt, Ronan Rooney (Badminton Ireland), Muriel Moles, David Grimes, Gay Sullivan, David Hogan (Life members)

Before the meeting started, Tommy McGrath asked everyone to stand for a minutes silence in memory of all past and deceased members of Leinster Branch.

Tommy then opened the Annual General Meeting (AGM) by welcoming all Leinster members, Club Secretaries and then read the apologies received.

#### a) Minutes of the previous General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were taken as read.

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Declan McGinn and seconded by Brian Herman.

There were no matters arising.

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### **b) The President's Report**

Tommy McGrath read through his report which outlined the highlights of the past year. He congratulated all the players who had represented both Province and country in the past season. He finished by thanking Leinster Executive, the many committees, staff and volunteers for their contribution during the year.

### **c) Consideration of the President's Report**

The Presidents Report was proposed by Brian Kelly and seconded by Gay Dinan and accepted by the meeting. The attendees gave a round of applause for Tommy McGrath.

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

Roy Cobbe read through the Chairman's report in which he thanked all members of the Leinster Executive for their support and hard work throughout the past season.

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

- The report was proposed by Loftus Warren and seconded by Brian Herman. Roy then received a round of applause from attendees.
- Tommy McGrath acknowledged Roys hard work during the year and thanked him and his family for their efforts on behalf of Leinster Badminton.

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

Kevin McGrath addressed the meeting and submitted the 2016 Year End Accounts for approval. He then read through his report. He thanked all of those who had supported him in his role during the year.

He asked for questions from attendees and the following questions were raised:

- i) Clarification was sought about the interest rate and type payable on the LBBUI loans
  - ii) Any plans to re-value Fixed assets
  - iii) Concerns about changes in Affiliation amounts received
  - iv) Insurance Premium increase
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- i) Mike Cronin undertook to do calculations and revert to committee and Fearghal Kearney confirmed that the rates are variable.
  - ii) Roy Cobbe said a re-valuation could be undertaken and it was suggested that it could be done as part of the disposal process.

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- iii) Roy Cobbe confirmed that annual receipts are unchanged and holding at circa €50k per annum. What has changed is the timing of receipt of monies from Badminton Ireland who have changed the timing of payments to Branches. Monies were received early (at end of 2015) for 2016, which showed as a drop in Affiliations in the 2016 Accounts. It should wash out in the year to come.
- iv) Roy Cobbe advised that Insurance costs are closely monitored and any increases are unavoidable and in line with Industry norms.

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

The Report was proposed by Roy Cobbe and seconded by Brian Herman. Roy Cobbe thanked Mike Cronin (Accountants) and his team for the work they did to ensure Year end Accounts were prepared and ready for the AGM.

#### **h) Election of a Chairman to serve for two years.**

The following has been nominated for election:

- Roy Cobbe (Portlaoise BC): proposed by Kevin McGrath (Raheny BC) and seconded by Tommy McGrath (Roundwood BC).

As Roy was the only nomination received, he was deemed to be elected as Chairman of the Executive committee to serve for two years.

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

The following have been nominated for election:

1. Joe Byrne (Ailesbury BC) - proposed by Mark Topping (South Dublin BC) and seconded by Roy Cobbe (Portarlington BC).
2. Vinod Pillai (Eire Friends)- proposed by Shochan Andrews and seconded by Sumesh Tharian ( both Eire Friends).
3. Lesley Cobbe (Portarlington Parochial)-proposed by Roy Cobbe (Portarlington Parochial) and seconded by Sinead Kelly (Kilcullen BC).
4. Avril Dungan (Honary Life Member)- proposed by Kevin McGrath (Raheny BC) and seconded by David Murphy (Baldoyle District).

The member of the Executive Committee who has retired according to the Rules of the Branch is: Seamus Halpin (Kilmessan BC).

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As there was four vacancies on the Executive Committee, the four nominees listed above were deemed to be elected to the Executive Committee.

#### **j) Presentation of Honorary Life Membership**

Breda Connolly (Aer Lingus BC) - proposed by David Murphy (PSLC) and seconded by Tommy McGrath (Roundwood BC)

Tommy McGrath performed the introduction and said he had worked with Breda over the years and during that time she had always been a great friend to Badminton and to himself. He then handed over to David Murphy to do the formal speech and presentation.

David Murphy said it was a great honour to speak of Breda on this occasion. He briefly described Breda's Badminton journey and then summarised her achievements for Leinster Badminton. Breda replied by stating that there is a wealth of knowledge in the room and in accepting the honour, asked that everyone share that knowledge and work together for Badminton and if everyone does this Badminton will survive and grow. She finished by thanking the Executive Committee for the recognition which she said was for both herself and Peadar as everyone knew he had been her support on the journey.

#### **k) Proposed sale of part of site at Whitehall Road (Project Victoria)**

The Honorary Treasurer read through the presentation which outlined the proposal to purchase part of the site at Whitehall Road, made to the Executive committee by Victoria Homes, initially in July 2016. The Honorary Treasurer advised that the Executive Committee had put considerable time into the proposal and were in agreement that this was a positive step for Leinster Badminton. The Executive committee had agreed to present the proposal to the Club representatives for approval or their recommendation as to next steps.

He then invited questions and comments from the meeting.

The Presentation generated considerable discussion among the attendees with mixed reactions. There was a number of questions raised and comments made by a small number of people who sought clarity and better understanding of the proposal and had concerns about how Executive Committee approached the matter.

The questions raised broadly covered the following :

- Price Offered: Had other purchasers been approached? had Valuations been sought? What assurances were received that Leinster were getting the best possible deal?

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- Site: Has planning been received? Discussions held with South Dublin CoCo? Neighbours reaction?
- Player Facilities : Impact on Car park? Impact on Tenant Clubs? Loss of opportunities for next generation of players?

The comments made covered the following :

- Consideration of the Offer: More detailed information sought to progress.
- Notice given: It was felt notice of the matter was short, date of the AGM ( on Bank holiday week-end) was not helpful. Executive need to be mindful of due diligence and good governance in this matter.

At times the questions asked and responses given, resulted in discussions becoming heated. After some of those discussions, the President said there was a lot of other people in the room who had not had an opportunity to take part in the discussion and asked if any of them would like to do so.

Pat Marron took the floor and said it was important to remember that everyone was present because of their commitment to Leinster Badminton and little would be gained by letting the discussion become heated. He himself would like to hear more before deciding and proposed that time be given to people to submit their comments in writing to the Executive who would provide a full response for people to consider the matter. He further proposed, that the Executive committee call a General Meeting for consideration and voting on the matter. As there was overall agreement to this approach, it was adopted by the meeting.

In response and to achieve this, Kevin McGrath agreed the following actions :

- Clubs Reps, Attendees send their queries by email to the General Secretary by May 15<sup>th</sup>. These will be collated and re-issued to all within 7 working days for review and completeness .
- Exec Committee to publish responses on Website
- Set up a consultation process.

Kevin then thanked the meeting for their inputs and committed to progress the project as agreed above.

#### **I) AOB**

##### a) Dublin Schools Badminton:

A Report of the years competition was read out by Lynn McCrave, Committee Chairperson. She said she had undertaken the role of Chairperson when no one else was prepared to do so. She wanted to ensure the development of the under age players from a Badminton and social perspective was not dropped. She stated that there is a risk that



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Badminton at this level will decline unless we up the momentum in terms of coaching and co-ordination across Leinster.

- b) Pat Marron commented on the first time historic win for Ireland at the recent U17 European Event where Nhat Nguyen took gold in singles and bronze in the doubles with Paul Reynolds. It is a great achievement for both Leinster and Irish Badminton and should be acknowledged. Roy Cobbe agreed and will write to congratulate them.

With no further business to discuss Tommy McGrath thanked everyone for the attendance and wished all committees and Clubs every success for the coming year and then brought the meeting to a close.

End