

Leinster Branch Badminton Union of Ireland

Minutes of Annual General meeting
held
on Sunday May 19th 2019
at
Terenure Badminton Centre

- Present Catherine Smyth(President,in the chair)
Roy Cobbe (Chairman)
Kevin McGrath (Honorary Treasurer)
Executive Members: Joe Byrne, Aoife Lennon, Grainne Kinnerk.Lesley Cobbe,Avril Dungan,Mark Topping.
Trustees: Brian Herman,Har Allison,Siobhan Grehan,Tommy McGrath.
Honorary Life Members: Dick O'Rafferty,PJ Cooney, Gay Dinan,Mary Dinan,Brian Kelly,Muriel Moles.
Jean Kelly, Brian Kelly,Grainne Kinnerk-YACs,
Jean Denihan(Baldoyle Centre Manager)
Club Representatives: Longwood BC, Carlow LTC,Knocklyon BC,ESB,Baldoyle District,Portarlington Parochial,Old Bawn,Kadca Jnrs, Kilcullen BC, Ailesbury BC,Terenure College JBC, South Dublin Spartans.
Joseph Mangan -Danum BC
Veronica Farrelly,David Murphy (DDLCL).
Ronan Rooney,David McGill(Badminton Ireland)
John Richardson (Cronin Accountants).
- Apologies David Hogan, Tom Mcgrath,Joe Buckley,David Grimes,Gay Sullivan,David Frimes,
(Honorary members).
Declan McGinn(Secretary Baldoyle BC,Breda Connolly Chairperson Baldoyle BC.
Siobhan Dollard(General Secretary).Clontarf Parish BC(Pam Watts),An Caislean Nua BC(Jocelyn Navarro).

The President Catherine Smyth (CS) welcomed everyone to Whitehall Road for the Leinster Badminton AGM. Before starting the meeting she asked all present to stand for a Minutes silence in memory of all past and deceased people- members and staff, particularly former staff member Rita Hogan and former chairman of Leinster Branch and Honorary life member- Norman Borton.

Catherine then opened the Annual General Meeting (AGM) by welcoming Leinster council members ,committee members and Club Secretaries.She then read the apologies received.

a) Minutes of the previous General Meeting

Catherine asked if there were any comments about the Minutes of the 2018 AGM. There was none and therefore they were taken as read and the Minutes were then adopted into the meeting.

b) The President's Report

The president read through her report which outlined the highlights of the past season. She congratulated all the players who had represented both province and country during the season. She finished by thanking Leinster Executive, the many committees, staff and volunteers for their contribution to Leinster Badminton during the year.

c) Consideration of the President's Report

The Presidents Report was proposed by Tommy McGrath and seconded by Brian Herman. The attendees gave a round of applause for the president.

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 and apologised if he left anyone out. He also thanked Catherine who took over the role of President last year.

e) Consideration of the Chairman's Report

- The report was proposed by Tommy McGrath and seconded by Ian Frost. Roy then received a round of applause from attendees.
- Tommy McGrath thanked Roy for his contribution, which Tommy said was outstanding during his time as Chairman. The attendees gave Roy a huge round of applause.

f) The Honorary Treasurer's Report

The treasurer addressed the meeting and advised that, while Draft Accounts were available to the meeting, there are some items which required clarification and resolution by the committee before they could be ready for sign off. He apologised for the delay, which is not satisfactory and was caused by the delay in the submission of Accounts to the Auditor. He will meet the Auditor next week to finalise.

The Treasurer then read through his Financial report and asked for questions from attendees. Before any questions were asked, Brian Herman acknowledged the efforts by the Treasurer, particularly in the area of Cost management. The following questions were raised:

- i) Cost of Light and Heat show some increase on previous year (€106k vs €170k). Catherine Smith explained that the Executive had only reviewed the Draft Accounts before the meeting and have queried same. It would be added to the list of queries for the Auditors for resolution before Accounts could be finalised.
- ii) The Draft Accounts indicated that Tournament Income had dropped from previous year (€76k-€52k), can this be explained?
- iii) In relation to the Affiliations, it was asked if they have dropped from previous years. RC replied they had not. They have been static for the past 5 years. Any difference is caused by the timing of receipt (post December). David McGill (B.I.) then spoke and said B.I. carried out research on the area of membership. Their research shows that in spite of efforts to increase and retain members, each year, approx 2000 new members are signed up, but 2000 leave the Sport in Ireland. He confirmed statement made by RC about affiliations, some clubs affiliated before December while others do so in January.

In the case of members leaving, Ian Frost asked if there is any good information on this as his committee are constantly trying to get kids in. DMCG replied that the same numbers leave as those who join. Next steps in his research is to reach out to those who leave to get feedback so we can stem the loss. Ronan Rooney added that movement/loss of players is not just Leinster and not just Badminton, it is similar in the rest of ROI, Wales, Scotland, England. He said anything which BI had done so far has not made a difference and it's plainly a retention issue. KMcG then said that Dublin Schools Badminton have changed the trend, as their numbers (school entries) have gone up from 51 in 2018 to 62 in 2019, so there is a demand for Sport. It mentioned that post Juvenile stage, players leave and go to University (Tallaght IT is an exception to this). It was also said, improved communication between BI and the Clubs could help. Ronan Rooney said a very high effort is put into communicating with the 130 clubs and the communication channels are limited to (two) - through the Club Development Officers and Branch.

- iv) Mary Dinan said it is impossible now to get volunteers to run events.

CS asked that the discussion be brought back to the Auditors and these matters could be pursued under AOB.

CS asked if the meeting were happy for the Executive to review the Accounts, discuss with the Auditor, sign off and publish on the Website and this was acceptable to all. BH said communication might be required if a significant variance emerged in the final version and said that it's a hard job being treasurer and all credit to Kevin for doing a great job.

g) Consideration of the Honorary Treasurer's Report

Pending response to the queries raised, Treasurers reports was not signed off and was deferred back to the Incoming Executive committee to discuss and agree position.

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

The following has been nominated for election:

- David Murphy (Viking BC): proposed by Joe Byrne (Ailesbury BC) and seconded by (Philip McKeown (Old School BC).

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

Following his election, David Murphy said he got great encouragement from everyone to go for the job. He is looking forward to the next two years. As the back of the Financial struggle is well broken, he is looking forward to developing Leinster and achieving something and more importantly keep it going as well as it is now. He also thanked Roy for his hard work, in stabilising the Branch.

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

The following have been nominated for election:

1. Roy Cobbe (Portlaoise BC)- proposed by Kevin McGrath (Raheny BC) and seconded by Joe Byrne (Ailesbury BC).
2. Grainne Kinnerk (Pembroke BC)- proposed by Roy Cobbe(Portalaoise BC) and seconded by Kevin McGrath (Raheny BC).
3. Avril Dungan (Honorary Life member)-proposed by Catherine Smyth (Kadka Jnrs) and seconded by Roy Cobbe (Portlaoise BC).
4. Walter Rountree (Longwood BC)- proposed bySeamus Halpin (Kilmessan BC) and seconded byCecilia Murtagh (Dunderry BC).
5. Georgina O'Reilly(Baldoyle & District BC) proposed by Michael Smith ((Baldoyle & District BC) and seconded by Muriel Moles (Kadca BC)
6. Tommy McGrath(Roundwood BC) proposed by Kevin McGrath(Raheny BC) and seconded by Roy Cobbe(Portalaoise BC)

Prior to the meeting, Tommy McGrath withdrew his nomination to Executive position.

The members of the Executive Committee who retired according to the Rules of the Branch are: Joe Byrne (Ailesbury BC), Vinod Pillai(Eire Friends.BC) . Lesley Cobbe (Portarlinton Parochial BC) is not seeking re-election

As there was five vacancies on the Executive Committee, the five nominees listed (1-5) above were deemed to be elected to the Executive Committee.

j) Presentation of Honorary Life Membership

None

Presentation

Presentation to Roy: CS presented Roy with a small token as an acknowledgement and thank you of all the work he had done for Leinster in the past 4 years.

CS then presented Shirely Cobbe with a bouquet of flowers in acknowledged of the support she had been to Roy during his chairmanship.

AOB

CS referred back to earlier discussion about Badminton in Leinster and support received from Badminton Ireland, she reminded attendees that she has held the role of representing Leinster with BI. She said there is a lot of information sent down from BI to Clubs to be passed on, not always pick up or passed on.

Grainne K asked if there is any correlation between other bodies. She was advised that other bodies are similar to Badminton. A comparison has been made with tennis – at a high level, however their numbers are higher, as are the cultural differences, which makes it hard to make meaningful comparisons.

Jean Kelly asked if it's because players are playing but not affiliating ,(her group is an example of this) DMcG said it is an element.

Jean Denihan thanked Roy for his contribution during his time as Chairman. In particular she also wanted to put on record her thanks to Joe Byrne who leaves the committee after 10 years, which she said were full of hard of hard work and great effort for Leinster Badminton. She asked that it be put on record her personal thanks for his help and support to her during that time.

CS then referred back to Mary Dinans question about volunteers and asked what options there are to encourage volunteers at Junior levels , there was some discussion but no conclusion was reached.

Gay Dinan referred to Minutes and said that the numbers, in relation to the Presidential election should have been quoted in the Minutes and this observation was supported by Brian Herman

Site at the Back-Whitehall road

Since last update, the sale price was agreed at €1.4m, deposit paid and project went to Planning, with many studies on the way. The main issues arising in the Planning process was with the river and the bridge, where a higher **anticipated** than anticipated span was needed (more expensive to do). The developers reverted to say they could not pay the agreed price and reduced their offer to €900k, which the Exec felt was too much of a drop to accept.

Actively looking at other offers. RC believes the site will sell and is worth the original price and some of the original interested parties will be back.

In the year ahead, there are other major projects to pursue, the next one under the Capital Grants, the application time is in September, which is our worst time as our funds are at their lowest and we are required to have a certain percentage of the funds required in our account.

Honorary Membership

Brian Herman suggested that, as the number of Life members are reducing - more are falling off than being added and he suggested that, going forward, we review how they are awarded and the number honoured each year. RC said it had been looked at and it was agreed that it has to be someone who deserves it. CS said there are probably people out there working hard and Exec may not be aware of some and please tell the Exec.

On a similar note, Ian Frost suggested there must be a way of recognising achievements of Leinster Players who have gotten International recognition. Is there a way in the building of doing so?

Lesley Cobbe (LC) commented about the communication with BI around the Province and said that the workshops last year were difficult as the notice and timing from BI was not adequate or suitable. DMcG commented there was 4, only 1 in Dublin and poorly attended, but he will do the workshops again next season and will try harder to get them to work.

LC mentioned that the County structure is failing and it needs to be changed. Ronan Rooney said BI needs to help and then get feedback and asked what would LC like to have happened, she replied the workshops need to happen out of Dublin. Getting the message to all will be the real challenge.

Aisling Ryan - Senior team manager said regardless of the County structures, we are dependant on children for the game and on parents as volunteers, messages must be got to them. Her suggestion - from her teaching experiences that short videos work really well, just make a short video, put it on the website and it's available to all and should reach more people.

Child Safeguarding

LC mentioned the requirements of child safeguarding and the impact its responsibility is having on volunteers. When she had responsibility for some during the season she was very anxious and felt alone and needed support. Volunteers are not comfortable and the responsibility if anything goes wrong is off putting. RR said BI are aware volunteers are afraid and BI want to help and get the message out there that the no volunteer is on their own, there is training available and support from BI - just ring the number.

CS asked if there were any further questions.

Gay Dinan asked if the Executives would consider holding the AGM on a day other than a Sunday, maybe a weekday? Dick O'Rafferty said it had been tried, but as most people involved, work during the week so it didn't work. DMcG said, BI hold theirs on a Saturday and the numbers who attend are very low too. Jean Kelly said as things are working ok, it's not a problem.

CS asked if there were any further questions and as there were not, all that was left for her to do was to thank everyone for attending, thanks to Roy and the executive committee. She then

welcomed David as chairman and also welcomed the committee for 2019-2020, particularly the new members, Georgina and Walter.

To close the meeting, the incoming chairman, David thanked all for attending. He referred to the earlier comment about Joe Byrne leaving the Exec and agreed that he has worked very hard for Leinster and Joe does know that he and his hard work are all appreciated by Leinster Branch.

To all of you who have run Leagues, tournaments and events- on behalf of the Exec thank you and we will make 2019-2020 another successful year.

End

