



MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 27th June 2021 @ 2.30pm

via Zoom and Terenure Badminton Centre

Present: Catherine Smith (President, in the chair)
David Murphy (Chairman)
Grainne Kinnerk (Honorary Treasurer)
Betty Luttrell (Acting General Secretary)
Walter Rountree, Avril Dungan, Liza O'Rourke, Derek Stewart, Joe Wright, John Taylor, Martin O'Hanlon. (Executive Committee)
Brian Herman (Trustee)
Pat Marron, David Hogan (Honorary Life Members)
Jean Kelly, Brian Kelly (Youth Activities Committee)
Joe Byrne (Midland BC)
Mary Byrne (ESB BC)
Philip McKeown (IT)

By Zoom Badminton Ireland
David McGill
Michael Watt

Honorary Members:
Gay Dinan, Mary Dinan, Muriel Moles, Judy Bryant.

Trustee:
Tommy McGrath

Club Representatives:

Ailesbury BC, Baldoyle District BC, KADCA, Old School, Raheny, Portarlinton Parochial, Portlaoise Carlow LTC, Roundwood BC, Kilkenny City BC, Dunboyne BC, Dunboyne Juv BC, Lucan Juv BC, Kilcullen BC, South Dublin BC, Whitehall Road Juv BC, Naas Juv BC, Raheny Smashers BC, Kadca Juv BC, St Laurence's BC, PSLC BC, Killoughey BC.

Visitors
Janet Fletcher
Margaret Fallon
Shirley Cobbe

Catherine then opened the AGM by welcoming all Leinster Members, Club Secretaries and visitors.

She read apologies from:

Breda Connolly (Vice President)

Har Allison, David Grimes, (Honorary Members) Lynn McCrave (DSB).

a) Minutes of Previous General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2020 AGM were taken as read.

As there were no matters arising, adoption of the minutes was proposed by David Murphy and seconded by Brian Herman.



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b) Presidents Report

Catherine Smyth read through her report. She spoke about another unusual year, where, due to Covid-29, the only tournaments held were those played in Europe where we witnessed some sterling performances from the Irish playing there. The highlight of all was Leinsters Nhat Nguyen who made it to the last 16 at the 'All England's'. This was followed up last week by his selection to represent Ireland at the Tokyo Olympics in July and we all wish him the best of luck and hope he enjoys the experience.

She commiserated with anyone who had lost someone during the year. She spoke about the loss of Dick O'Rafferty, Joe Buckley and Eileen McCormack, former stalwarts of Leinster Badminton. She asked for a minute's silence in memory of all who passed and also all past members of Leinster Branch.

Badminton Ireland

She thanked Badminton Ireland for their tremendous support to the Branch. They made many representations to Sports Ireland on our behalf and helped to secure a Grant to assist with loss of Revenue during lockdown. They also extended Insurance, Affiliation and Membership to all Clubs for 2020-2021. She also thanked the Staff of Badminton Ireland who kept in touch with our Branches during the year.

Life Memberships and Awards

Catherine Smyth said it was with pleasure to advise that the following will receive life Membership to-day: Joe Byrne, Roy Cobbe and Margaret Fallon, each who had worked for the benefit of the Branch (and continue to do so).

She advised that Volunteer Pins will be presented to:

David Murphy DDLC, Shirley Cobbe CAC and SWLBL, David Hogan (YACS), Carol Ni Fhearghail, Muriel Moles and Tom McGrath (Umpires), Siobhan Grehan (Tournaments) and Avril Dungan (Honorary member). The Pins will be posted to them in the coming days.

Catherine Smyth thanked the Executive committee who continued to meet by Zoom during the year. They put in tremendous work which included the creation of a Strategic Plan for the Branch. She also thanked the Trustees who are always available in the background when needed.

She finished the Report by thanking the departing members of the Executive: Avril Dungan who contributed significantly to the Committee and Terenure Centre.

David Murphy-Chairperson is stepping down. During his time as chairperson, Covid-19 impacted every area of his chairmanship and there were many huge decisions to be made, which he did in a respectful and professional manner for the Branch. She noted that he has always given generously of his time to the Branch and knows he will not be far away from the Executive and any support they need will be given generously.

She asked if there were any questions arising from the report.

Brian Kelly asked if any consideration had been given to a presentation for Nhat and she advised that a presentation piece of Glass is ready, and she is talking to David McGill to agree when it will suit to present it to him. A piece is also ready for Seamus Halpin who will be umpiring at the Para Olympics.



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Roy Cobbe asked if all of the Exec were present at the meeting in Whitehall Road and Catherine replied yes and he wondered if this was appropriate as it was advertised as a Zoom meeting.

c) Consideration of the Presidents Report:

The President's report was taken as read and accepted by the meeting. It was proposed by Martin O'Hanlon and seconded by Avril Dungan.

A round of applause was held for Catherine Smyth.

d) Chairman's Report

David Murphy said being chairperson of Leinster was a great experience however, the role during the Pandemic was very challenging and not always enjoyable and in addition, he had to take time out for surgery and recuperation. He is happy to step away and will focus on DDLC and getting back to play. He thanked Catherine Smyth for her kind words and in turn thanked her for her support during the year.

There are a number of people he wanted to thank for their efforts during the year:

He reiterated Presidents words and acknowledged the support from Badminton Ireland for the Branch.

The effort by Liza O'Rourke in the Grant application for Loss of Income Grant was critical and invaluable and all thanks to her for that.

He thanked Philip McKeown- Branch IT Manager (in a voluntary capacity). He is owed an enormous debt of gratitude for hours and effort put in during the time.

He thanked Joe Byrne, Roy Cobbe and Brian Herman for their help and advice during his term. He also thanked the Acting General Secretary for the support he received from her.

In terms of the future, he has great confidence in the new Executive and believes they will get people back to play and he can see great things ahead for the Branch. He wished them and Leinster well and ended his speech on that note.

e) Consideration of the Chairman's Report:

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

It was proposed by Grainne Kinnerk and seconded by Catherine Smyth.

A round of applause followed for David Murphy.

f) Honorary Treasurer's Report

Grainne Kinnerk addressed the meeting. She said that she had been co-opted as Honorary Treasurer to the Executive committee in October 2020 and now presented the 2019- and 2020-Year end Accounts for approval. She advised that the Branch is in a precarious situation, with many difficulties presented by Covid-19. Since October 2020, A Finance Committee has

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been put in place. In addition, a Purchasing and Finance Policy has been developed and implemented.

On a positive note, the Resilience Grant (Covid-19) which Leinster Branch received has helped the Centres in the upgrade of Electrics and new Mats in Baldoyle and in Terenure Lighting and added Security. She expects that Badminton Ireland will continue to provide support and will support the Branch with Affiliations later in the year.

That concluded her report and she said she was happy to take questions from the meeting.

Brian Herman spoke and congratulated the Executive and the Treasurer and said in spite of the write off of £53k over a two-year period, the Branch only lost €5k. He was personally concerned about the statement in the Treasurers Report that we are looking to fill certain pillars on the Executive which seemed to him like canvassing.

Appointment of an Auditor to serve for 2 years:

Derek Stewart asked about the appointment of Auditors for the coming 2 years. Grainne Kinnerk (Treasurer) then proposed Cronin & Co, and this was seconded by David Murphy.

Consideration of Honorary Treasurer's Report:

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

The adoption of the 2019 Leinster Accounts was proposed by John Taylor and seconded by Liza O'Rourke.

The adoption of the 2020 Leinster Accounts was proposed by Brian Kelly and seconded by Derek Stewart.

Catherine Smyth thanked Grainne Kinnerk on behalf of Leinster Branch for all of her work in the timely provision of the Accounts and their availability for review at the meeting.

g) Election of Chairperson of the Executive Committee to serve for two years:

The following has been nominated for election:

Derek Stewart (Honorary member Kadca BC)

Proposed by Breda Connolly (Aer Lingus BC) – Seconded by Mary Dinan (KADCA BC)

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

h) Election of Four members of the Executive Committee to serve for two years consecutively:

The following have been nominated for election:

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1. Dean Dowling (Dunboyne BC) - **Proposed by John McGrane (Kilcullen BC)-
Seconded by Liza O'Rourke (Pembroke BC)**
2. Margaret Fallon (Naas Junior BC) - **Proposed by Dean Dowling (Dunboyne BC) –
Seconded by Liza O'Rourke (Pembroke BC)**
3. Martin O'Hanlon (Carlow LTC) - **Proposed by Liam Nolan (Carlow LTC) - Seconded
by John Doyle (CLTC).**
4. Walter Rountree (Longwood BC) - **Proposed by David Murphy (Danum BC) -
Seconded by Joe Wright (Ailesbury BC).**
5. Roy Cobbe (Portlaoise BC) - **Proposed by Catherine Smyth (KADCA BC) - Seconded
by Alan Cobbe (Portarlington Parochial**

The members of the Executive Committee who have retired according to the Rules of the Branch are Avril Dungan, Martin O'Hanlon Walter Rountree. Martin O'Hanlon and Walter Rountree are eligible to go forward for election.

Prior to the vote, Catherine Smyth thanked the departing members of the Executive for their contribution over their terms.

The Vote then commenced. During which there was some queries about the inability of Juv Clubs to vote. Brian Herman advised that Juv clubs have never voted at an AGM. No Vote for committee member has taken place since 2018. The vote took place in person in Whitehall Road and by Zoom.

On completion of the Vote, Catherine Smyth deemed Dean Dowling, Margaret Fallon, Walter Rountree and Martin O'Hanlon, elected to the Executive Committee. She welcomed all and wishes them well in their new Roles.

i) Honorary Life Members Award:

Joe Byrne

David Murphy spoke about Joe, initially about his playing career and then spoke about his contribution as a volunteer for Leinster Branch.

Joe was introduced to Badminton in Secondary school. He joined ESB BC after School and during his first year there played league in DDLC. After 6 years he joined Corinthians to get a better level of match play. After another 6 seasons, he moved up to Ailesbury BC.

Following an Achilles injury, and his one and only season not playing in DDLC, He returned to ESB to play League. 5 years later he moved back to Ailesbury to try keep a high level of competitive play and he still plays there to-day. All of this time he has remained faithful to his starter club (ESB) by always retaining his annual social membership there.

As the demands of his competitive career were easing, Joe and a few others were encouraged to join the committee of DDLC. At the time the DDLC systems were paper based and time consuming. Joe used his creativity and pc skills to reengineer the process and became the driving force in a hardworking, active committee then and a number of other committees afterwards. Over the past 15 years, in his capacity as a committee member/volunteer his efforts and those of his committees contributed to a significant growth in the popularity and



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standard of Badminton in Leinster and this continues to this day. Some of his and the committees' achievements during this time are:

Revitalisation of the Dublin Badminton Association

Identification of a competitive gap for Players which led to the set-up of BPL.

Creation of a range of 7 Tournaments, played annually in Baldoyle BC.

During that period, he also had time to become an active member of the Leinster Executive Committee and spent 4 four years as Chairperson of the Executive. Joe excels at taking on an ailing project and driving it to success as he has done in his current role as Chairperson of Midland BC. Prior to the closure imposed on it by Covid-19, he had turned around Midland BC and it had become a very popular venue for parties, quizzes and social nights and in doing so he returned it to a profit.

Joe's drive, enthusiasm and work ethic have been invaluable to Leinster Branch over the years, and it is my pleasure to present this Honorary Life membership to him.

Roy Cobbe

Lesley Cobbe spoke about her dad-Roy.

Roy's playing career started in Portarlington Parochial where he spent much of the early years playing doubles with his brother Alan. He changed over to partner Loftus Warren and they gained the reputation making matches go on long into the night with the "old scoring" and wearing out their opposition - I'm told it was like hammering against a brick wall.

At Portarlington he first reached the top grades in the South West Leinster Badminton League (SWLBL). He earned plenty of silverware there. He also won his All-Ireland League title with Portarlington which he is very proud of.

In 1980 he took on coaching "junior badminton" at Portarlington. That was just the beginning of his immense contribution as a volunteer to badminton in Leinster, most of which has been with South West Leinster Badminton League (SWLBL) over a period of 30 years.

At the 1990 SWLBL AGM, Roy was nominated to be President Since then, He has served for 30 years as a Vice-President on the Executive Committee, for 7 years as secretary / Treasurer, and as President for 6 years over 3 terms – up to the present day where he is the current President. He spearheaded the setup of new competitions like the SWLBL Championships, and initiatives like the SWLBL Umpires. I believe he is among the record holders for having spent the most nights spent out at South West events.

In the 2000s he got involved at Leinster level; for a short time at Inter-County and organizing the Leinster Inter-League for almost 10 years. He served on the Leinster Badminton Executive for 8 years – and as Chairman for 4. At BI level he became an official BI Umpire, and worked closely with BI on ways to improve on and promote badminton in the province.

But his contribution doesn't end there. Grass roots club badminton has always been very dear to his heart and in the mid-00s he set up Portlaoise Badminton – now the biggest club in the SWLBL, and soon after helped set up Kilkenny Badminton.

He has stayed close to Portlaoise ever since – continuing his playing career there. He has given a huge amount to badminton in Leinster and is so deserving of this small token of appreciation from Leinster Branch.

I couldn't say all of this without giving special mention to my Mum Shirley – the backbone of the work he has done, is doing, and no doubt will continue to do. I'm sure he would agree that this is as much hers as it is his.



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Margaret Fallon

Liza O'Rourke spoke about Margaret Fallon and said epitomises all that is good about a Badminton Volunteer in Leinster

Margaret started playing social badminton in Naas GAA, and quickly fell in love with the sport which in turn led to her children joining Naas Junior Badminton Club. Margaret, very quickly, became a dedicated volunteer in the club and it was not long before Margaret became involved in Juvenile Kildare Badminton Association, and since then, this County Association has gone from strength to strength. She is involved in events too numerous to mention here and drives them to success with the committee of Kildare Badminton Association. All the above illustrates how KBA promotes and supports Juvenile badminton. KBA leads by example and Margaret Fallon exemplifies this leadership.

j) Rule Changes

Catherine Smyth said It has been decided to postpone the discussion/Vote on the rule changes. Instead, it will be managed at a Special General meeting. When agreed, the date will be notified to the Council.

l) AOB

Zoom comments:

R Cobbe -Query re Write off for Midland Branch – no other Branch has had that assistance-what is the logic of that.

Grainne Kinnerk responded by saying that the Executive does not expect either bar to open in the next twelve months and therefore the write off gives a true and fair view of LBBUI balance sheet.

Kevin Lennon (Dunboyne Juv)

Kevin Lennon asked about Voting rights of Juvenile Clubs and said it is very urgent that this be changed and how can it be done.

Brian Herman responded and said in the history of the Branch, they have never had a vote., The proposed Rule changes will be reviewed to ensure this is included before it goes to the special General meeting for approval.

Kevin Lennon said Juvenile Clubs are different from Senior Clubs and need all the representation they can get.

Zoom comments.

Judy Bryant asked about the proposed Rule changes and the differences between the Honorary Secretary role and that of the ??General Secretary. Catherine Smyth replied that there would be time for discussion and questions at the Special General meeting which will be called for that purpose.

Presentation to David Murphy-Outgoing Chairperson



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Catherine Smyth said it was with great pleasure that she presented a small token to David as a thank you from the Executive and Branch for his contribution to Leinster Branch over the past 2 years in his capacity as chairperson.

Zoom comments: Michael Watt (Badminton Ireland) posted congratulations to Derek Stewart on his new role and said Badminton Ireland look forward to working with him and his team. In response David Murphy asked Derek to say a few words.

Derek said that he looks forward to the job, there is a lot of work to do. The Executive have a Plan which includes the change/revision of the current Structure, and the Incoming Committee are looking forward to working on it. All of the committee have both Badminton and Business experience. He is aware of the importance of the Juvenile side of Badminton. On the new Structure- the Pillars- he believes there is a route there with easier access to members. He concluded by thanking the President David and the IT manager for their contribution to the Branch.

With no further business, Catherine Smyth thanked everyone for attending and brought the AGM to a close.