



## MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 @ 2.30pm

### Baldoyle Badminton Centre

**Present:** Catherine Smith (President, in the chair)  
John Taylor (Interim Chairman)  
Grainne Kinnerk (Honorary Treasurer)  
Betty Luttrell (Acting General Secretary)  
Walter Rountree, Liza O'Rourke, Joe Wright, Martin O'Hanlon, Margaret Fallon, Dean Dowling. (Executive Committee)

Philip McKeown (IT)

#### **Badminton Ireland**

David McGill

#### **Honorary Members:**

Gay Dinan, Mary Dinan, David Hogan, Breda Connolly, Roy Cobbe, PJ Cooney, Jim Callan, Tom McGrath, Declan McGinn,

#### **Trustees:**

Brian Herman  
Tommy McGrath  
Har Allison

#### **Club Representatives:**

Old School, Raheny, KADCA BC, Portlaoise BC, Carlow LTC, Dunboyne BC, Kilcullen BC, South Dublin BC, Kadca Juv BC, PSLC BC, Smash BC, Pembroke, Rathmore BC, Terenure College, Kilmessan, Carlow Cavaliers, Danum BC, Baldoyle & District BC

#### **Sub Committee members**

Jean Kelly, Brian Kelly, Amanda Dunlop (Youth Activities Committee)  
David Murphy DDLC  
Lynn McCrave (Dublin Schools Badminton)

Before the meeting started Catherine Smyth asked everybody to stand for a minute's silence in memory of all past members of Leinster Branch and in particular Christy Gannon, Terry Young, John Bridgeman and Pat Denihan who died during the year.

Catherine Smyth opened the AGM by welcoming all Leinster Members, Club Secretaries and visitors and reads the apologies.

#### **Apologies:**

Michael Watt- Badminton Ireland  
Michael Cronin-Auditors  
Loftus Warren, Pat Marron, Muriel Moles, Avril Dungan  
Ger Kenna, Ita Marron, Pam Peard.

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#### a) Minutes of Previous General Meeting

President reminded the meeting that the Draft Minutes had been available on the Website and as there were no matters arising, asked if the Minutes would be passed as read.

Roy Cobbe raised a hand and said he had 2 comments about the Minutes:

i) AGM 2021 by Zoom

The notice of meeting which issued to Council members stated that the meeting would take place by Zoom, however Executive Committee members and other members were present. This was misleading and unfair to those who were not given the opportunity to attend the meeting. He requested that an amendment be made to the Minutes to state that it was a Zoom meeting and that those who attended bypassed the Notice of meeting instruction issued to Council members .

ii) 'Rule Changes' was listed as an Agenda item and on the day of the meeting ,attendees were advised that the topic was removed from the agenda. It was announced that an SGM would take place and no update has been provided since the AGM. He said he was very disappointed at how these matters were dealt with.

i) In response to the Meeting Attendees/Zoom, Catherine Smyth acknowledged that he was correct in his comments and advised the Minutes would be amended to reflect what was communicated vs what occurred.

Brian Kelly commented that some people attended, however there was no malice intended nor what there any hidden agenda in attending.

ii) In relation to the SGM, Catherine Smyth noted the lack of communication and advised that the SGM did not happen. She advised that the Exec continue to work on the Rule changes and Council will be advised when an SGM will take place.

Tommy McGrath asked if the Executive are still operating under the current Rules and why is it taking so long to bring the Rule changes to the Council. Catherine Smyth confirmed that the Executive continue to operate under the current Rules. In terms of timeline for presenting proposed new Rules to the Council, she deferred to John Taylor who advised that the Exec focus had been on getting back to play. His hope that the changes will be finalised by end of Summer with a date in the Autumn for the SGM.

The President then authorised the Acting General Secretary to amend the 2021 Minutes as follows:

#### Attendees at Meeting

The Executive Committee and some members attended the May 2021 AGM, which was inconsistent with Notice of meeting issued. Extract from that notice is :

"Final Notice is hereby given for the Leinster Branch Annual General Meeting scheduled for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 2.30pm will take place via Zoom. You will be aware from the initial notice of the Meeting that the Executive committee had hoped to have a face-to-face Meeting. Regrettably the Covid-19 restrictions have not yet eased sufficiently to allow a face-to-face meeting to go ahead."

Executive Committee members and some other members did attend the meeting in person without advising Council that there was an option to do so. This may have

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disadvantaged those who might have wanted to attend and this oversight was unfair to them.

Subject to the above amendment the Minutes of the 2021 AGM were proposed by Gay Dinan and seconded by Brian Herman.

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

Catherine Smyth read through her report which was in two parts. In the first, she reflected on some of the highlights and lowlights of her four-year term:

Highlights:

Nhat Nguyen qualifying for the Olympics in 2021

European Gold Medal performances from Leinster Senior and Juvenile players

Seamus Halpin reached BWF status as umpire and officiated at Para Olympics.

Our juvenile players who represent Leinster on teams at home and abroad.

Our amazing volunteers and the efforts they go to for Leinster Badminton.

Lowlights

Covid 19

Loss of some very influential Leinster volunteers: Dick O'Rafferty, Joe Buckley, Norman Borton, Gay Sullivan and Frank Peard.

Looking back on the current Season 2021-2022, the highlights are:

Return to Play, while slow at first, the numbers increased monthly.

Our Finances are in a healthy state, thanks to Grants secured from Sport Ireland and the prudent management of LBBUI finances by our Treasurer and the Finance Committee.

Our teams and players- both Senior and Juveniles continue to make great strides, by making Badminton Ireland teams and achieving great results on the Senior and Underage Nationals.

Leinster Branch are both supportive and proud of these successes.

Catherine Smyth said that as her term as President of Leinster Branch comes to an end, she wants to thank:

- All the Leinster Committees she had worked with during that time and wished them continued success.
- Badminton Ireland- in particular David McGill who was always at the end of a phone to answer queries and Conor Fadian who has enabled Safeguarding training and hosted many Open fora to enhance Governance and operations in the Branch.
- Her fellow Executive members and former Chairpersons for their support which made it a very worthwhile 4 years.
- Trustees of Leinster Branch who were available when advice was required and kept all working within the Rules of the Branch
- The Parents and our Players and continued success.
- The Staff in both centres

In closing she wished the next President of Leinster the very best. She said she knows that he will wear the Chain and Jacket with pride when representing the Council and all members.

She advised that Volunteer Pins will be presented later in the meeting.

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She asked if there were any questions arising from the report and there was none.

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

The President's report was taken as read and accepted by the meeting.  
It was proposed by Lynn McCrave and seconded by Breda Connolly

A round of applause was held for Catherine Smyth.

#### **b) Interim Chairman's Report**

John Taylor introduced himself and said he had been asked to take over the role of Chairman after Derek Stewart had stepped aside earlier in the year.

John said that as he listened to the Presidents report, he realised that it had a lot of similarities with his own report. The report is on the website and rather than repeat much of what has already been said, he said he would briefly focus on the highlights of the year:

The best thing was Play resumed  
After that, the replacement of Court lights in both centres  
The Electrical installation in Baldoyle BC

John thanked the sub-committees and Centres for their hard work and support during the Year.

He thanked the Trustees for their advice and availability as required.

He asked if there were any questions

Ian Frost asked if he could clarify the title. John advised that he is the Interim chairman until the 2023 AGM.

Ian Frost asked about the Leinster Senior Team, what was the driver, why allow teams travel short of players? John advised, but it that it wasn't for the want of trying to get players and it was very difficult to get a team together, players were tied up, some had injuries, the matches were later than other years which was also a factor. Execs intend to look at how this can be improved for the future.

Breda Connolly commented that the same difficulties impacted on the Inter Provincials team selection. She did suggest that a Strategic plan should be put in place for the Seniors and the reasons for unavailability need to be looked at as does the current criteria for senior team and she asked if age is an issue.

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John Amond commented about the Criteria which never seems to be in place or is ignored. Criteria is fine but LBBUI need to stick with it. The selection of non-Leinster players this year was an issue. It had also been the practice to publish the teams on the website, why has that stopped?

Mary Dinan asked if teams are still able to bring in players from other areas/clubs and pay them, if so, it is disgraceful

John T responded and said new criteria will be put in place for all teams. Consultation meetings will take place and suggestions taken on board.

Ian Frost commented that the criteria have stood the test of time if published and followed.

#### **c) Consideration of the Interim Chairman's Report:**

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

It was proposed by Brian Herman and seconded by Declan McGinn.

A round of applause followed for John Taylor.

#### **d) Honorary Treasurers Report**

Grainne Kinnerk addressed the meeting and said a lot of work had been done since last AGM. In summary:

A Finance committee had been established to make improvements and enhance controls.

Great support had been received from BI (Sport Ireland) for €150k Grant

EWSS halved the payroll costs

Large tranches of monies were spent on Baldoyle BC and Terenure BC

Next Year the spend focus will be on:

Repairs to Gable wall at Baldoyle BC and painting Terenure BC.

This concluded the Treasurers Report and she asked if there were any questions

Roy Cobbe asked how employee costs in 2021 could be €89k, a lot less than the figure of €125k in 2020

Grainne Kinnerk advised that hours were cut by Covid, less staff. Roy Cobbe contended that these applied to both years.

Situation also improved as a new process is in place for tenant clubs.

Roy Cobbe asked source of funds for the €40k spend on improvements for Centres and Grainne advise from Grant Funds.

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Roy Cobbe commented that the new court lights in Baldoyle are great. He asked that it be noted there is also a lot of Badminton happening outside of Dublin.

Helen Heery asked if it was also planned to paint Baldoyle as she was keen to see Baldoyle getting a fair crack of the whip.

Tommy McGrath asked if a Budget has been agreed for the year ahead and is there any more Grants to be availed of?

GK replied there is potential for Grants for Baldoyle BC

Ian Frost asked about Court Hire Occupancy

GK replied that Tenant Clubs are looking to extend their annual tenancy and a lot of interest for summer clubs, however Rental income has slowed and is under review.

Brian Herman commented that the financial performance was terrific and well done to the Executive.

Lynn McCrave asked where the income generated by DSB go. Grainne replied that Income is allocated to appropriate Event/sub committee. For this Seasons, all such Income will go into 2022. Treasurer said it might be timely to review the allocation of this Income and LMcC advised she would be happy to engage in the process

Derek Stewart then spoke and said he had a number of questions and comments with how the financial information is presented, particularly from the Baldoyle BC perspective.

From what he has seen he believes the financial controls and management leave a lot to be desired. Finances have moved from poor to moderate.

#### Issues

Presentation of Information – Derek said he believes there is a need to review and re-classify figures in the Report which would provide a clearer and more accurate picture. Examples of changes he would suggest are:

The Income from Masts is a Branch Income and not Terenure BC €51k

EWSS at €75.5k could be used to reduce the amount of the payroll.

Grant Information – could a breakdown be made available?

Revenue vs Capital: he queried this:

The Electrics/ Security Repair works and Mats at Baldoyle are all improvements and should be considered as Capital improvements- change of €91.8k

#### **Depreciation/Cost Allocation**

Not treated fairly in relation to outcome or as to how costs are allocated,

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How can the depreciation be split 50/50?

Use of Historic information.

Rates charged to Baldoyle BC only- how are they arrived at?

Total deficit for 12 months

Terenure BC €29k

Baldoyle €128k

Branch €9.7k

If the suggestions above were followed, the result would look like

**Deficit**

Terenure BC €15.9k

Baldoyle BC €6k

Branch Surplus would be €75k.

This result would change how people perceive Baldoyle BC/Terenure BC and the Branch.

To understand manage and control all LBBUI activities, it is needed to have:

Financial Information system to report all financial transactions showing current information clearly for to-day, compared to last year and against budget.

More Business intelligence to recognise issues and change approach.

Clarity around monies collected and spent for Major Tournaments and by Subcommittees.

He emphasised that work has been done by the Exec-particularly Grainne, but there is more work to be done. The costs are tight, and Revenues need to be improved. Recommends senior Staff be assigned to the operation.

Finally, he said that the absence of senior management at Baldoyle should be addressed, as they have lost ground since his departure

Grainne noted his comments and thanked him for same.

Tommy McGrath asked about Alarms/Monitoring costs and Grainne advised that new alarms were installed in both centres as a one-off cost.

David Murphy said that the Exec are doing a fabulous job and Brian Kelly agreed with this.

Grainne Kinnerk acknowledged this and said a lot of work was done and the Grant helped a lot.

**e) Consideration of Honorary Treasurer's Report:**

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

Ian Frost proposed the report and people present seconded in unison.  
A round of applause was given to Grainne.

**f) Election of President of the Executive Committee to serve for two years:**

The following has been nominated for election:

- David Murphy (Danum BC)- **Proposed by Breda Connolly (Aer Lingus BC) - seconded by Catherine Smyth (KADCA BC)**

As David Murphy was the only nomination received for President, he was deemed to be elected as President of the Executive Committee to serve for 2 years, consecutively. David Murphy accepted the Nomination and said he was delighted to be appointed President of Leinster Branch. He has lots of ideas for Branch and will do some PR across Branch and looks forward to working with the Executive and volunteers of the Branch.

**g) Election of a Vice President to serve for two consecutive years**

- Breda Connolly (Aer Lingus BC)- **Proposed by Mick Smyth (Baldoyle District BC) -seconded by Mary Dinan (Life Member)**

As Breda Connolly was the only nomination received for Vice- President, she was deemed to be elected as Vice President to serve for 2 years, consecutively.

**h) Election of an Honorary Treasurer to serve for two consecutive years:**

- Grainne Kinnerk (Rathmore BC)- **Proposed by Cherry Stanbridge (KADCA BC)- seconded by Liza O'Rourke (Pembroke BC)**

As Grainne Kinnerk was the only nomination received for Honorary Treasurer, she was deemed to be elected as Honorary Treasurer to serve for 2 years, consecutively.

**i) Election of **four** members of the Executive Committee to serve for two consecutive years.**

Executive members may only serve a maximum of four consecutive years.  
However, they become eligible for election again twelve months after retiring.

The following have been nominated for election:



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Amanda Dunlop (Pembroke BC) – *Proposed by Jean Kelly (BC) – seconded by (Liza O'Rourke (Pembroke BC)*

Liza O'Rourke (Pembroke BC) – *Proposed by Margaret Fallon (Naas Juniors BC) – seconded by Dean Dowling (Dunboyne BC)*

Derek Stewart (Life member BC) -*Proposed by Breda Connolly (Aer Lingus BC) - seconded by Mary Dinan (Life Member BC)*

Ray Vader (Mount Pleasant BC) -*Proposed by John Noble (Mount Pleasant BC) - seconded by Lincoln Nelson (Mount Pleasant BC)*

Joe Wright (Ailesbury BC)- *Proposed by Dean Dowling (Dunboyne BC)- seconded by Elaine Horgan (Ailesbury BC)*

*The members of the Executive Committee who have retired according to the Rules of the Branch are Liza O'Rourke and Joe Wright and 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.

A vote took place, Betty Luttrell and Brian herman collected the voting slips and together with Philip McKeown entered votes into a spreadsheet. The results were then double checked for accuracy by Margaret Fallon and Betty Luttrell.

Catherine Smyth then deemed Amanda Dunlop, Liza O'Rourke, Derek Stewart and Joe Wright elected to the Executive Committee. She welcomed all and wished them well in their new Roles.

#### **I) AOB**

President asked if there were any matters to be raised under AOB.

#### Team Selection

John Amond asked about noncompliance with Selection procedures

Ian Frost mentioned that the Team Selection Criteria states the selected teams will be announced on social media and this has not been happening.

#### Bar re-opening in Baldoyle

Elizabeth Dinan asked if there are any plans to re-open the Bar as it is badly missed by those who play there.

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GK said the Exec do hope to re-open

PR – for Baldoyle

Photo Area: Helen Heery suggested a Photo area should be set aside and prepared for taking photos of children and teams taking part in events. Ian Frost agreed with this idea.

Olympians on Walls in Baldoyle: Simon Keane suggested that pictures of Olympians should be on the walls and Catherine Smyth agreed and said Sonya should have been there a long time ago and not just Leinster, but all Badminton Olympians should be in both Baldoyle and Terenure.

Branch Executive:

Mary Dinan said Exec do fantastic work and people need to be able to access them and ask for support when required and wished them luck for the year ahead.

Presentation of Trophy to CACS

Catherine Smyth wanted to mark her presidency in a special way and donated a Trophy to the CACS committee for use as they wish. On behalf of the CACS, their Chairman Walter Rountree said he was delighted with the gesture and thank Catherine for her generosity.

Presentation of flowers:

As a tangible thank you for the help and support, she received during her term, Catherine Smyth presented a bouquet of flowers to i) Betty (Terenure) and ii) Muriel (Baldoyle).

Presentation of Pins

Veronica Clare and were nominated for Volunteer PIN in recognition for their works with DDLC and Navan BC and as neither were in attendance, Catherine Smyth will personally deliver to them.

#### **Presentation to outgoing President**

John Taylor said it was with great pleasure that he presented a small token to Catherine as a thank you from the Executive and Branch for her contribution to Leinster Branch over the past 4 years in her capacity as President of the Branch.

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