

RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting(AGM) 2022 of the Association will be held at **on Saturday 17th September in Athlone, Co Westmeath**

Meeting began at 12.00 noon

Attendance

Michael Haverty, Michael Kelly, Johnny O'Keeney, Jimmy Gannon, Katie Kenny, Majella Haverty, Maureen Gannon.

On Zoom - Mick Cunningham, Brendan Noonan, Susan Farrell, Toni Neary, Frank Pastor

Presidents Welcome & Address

President Martin Lawless was unable to attend the meeting. He sent a letter which was read out by the General Secretary. He said that he was stepping down as President and wished the new committee for 2022/23 well.

In the absence of a President or Vice President, the meeting was chaired by the General Secretary. The meeting thanked Martin and Vice President Brendan Carey who also stepped down as VP for their work on behalf of the Association.

Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the meeting 2021 AGM were read by the General Secretary, Michael Haverty

There was no matters arising.

The Minutes were adopted

Officers Reports & Motions

Treasurers Report

The treasurer Johnny O'Keeney presented the his report. He thanks Sport Ireland for their financial support in the past year and grants towards the resumption of racquetball after covid. 25,000€ is to be distributed to clubs as subsistence grants. The is currently ongoing.

Motion 1

That the Treasurer's Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Tournament Secretary Report

Eoin Tynan sent the Tournament Sectreary Report, he outlined the results of tournaments held in the 2021 / 22 season and the number of competitors in each.

Eoin did not wish to be nominated for the Tournament Secretary for the coming season. The Chair thanked Eoin for his contribution in his role as Tournament Secretary.

Motion 2

That the Tournament Secretary's Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Development Officer's Report

Mick Cunningham presented the Development Officer's Report. He said that training was provided for the National Junior Development Squad in June and July of 2022. He also presented Foundation Refresher Courses in Fermoy, Ballinrobe and Kilkenny. He was also involved in his role as a Coach Developer to develop a Level 1 Coaching Course and a Referees Course.

Motion 3

that the Development Officer's Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Junior Development Officer's Report

Outgoing JDO Michael Barrett did not provide a report to the meeting. He indicated that he was no longer wanted to continue in the role of JDO. The Chair thanked Michael for his contribution as JDO.

Motion 4

that the Junior Development Officer's Report be adopted was withdrawn

PRO Reports

Majella Haverty read her PRO report. She reported that the Association is active on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The website is updated regularly.

Motion 5

that the PRO Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Motion 6

Anti-Doping Officer Report

Jimmy Gannon presented the ADO report. He said that wallet cards for athlete will in future in electronic form. He said he will also pursue the possibility of athletes to be tested at the 2023 National Championships

that the National Anti Doping Officer's (ADO) Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Children's Officer Report

National Children's Officer (NCO) Mark Murphy could not attend the meeting. His report was read to the meeting. He was happy to report no issues arose in the past year. Sport's Ireland requested for clubs to complete an online self-assessment framework to be carried out with all club's who have juniors. This was completed between October - November (6 weeks) 2021 and was essential to continue receiving our grant. However, very few clubs engaged in the process after regular follow ups. A total of four clubs completed the process fully.

A letter from Sport Ireland was recently received looking for the Association to respond urgently.

Mick Cunningham asked could the self assessment online form be simplified or adapted for smaller clubs.

He said it was hard for small clubs to keep up with the amount of administration involved and this was hampered by the lack of volunteers. Some discussion followed on the topic and it was agreed that an information pack would be sent to all clubs regarding safeguarding.

Mark Murphy said he was not going to continue as the Association Children's Officer for next season.

The Chair thanked Mark for his contribution to the Association as NCO.

Motion 7

that the National Children's Officer(NCO) Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Women's Officer Report

Katie Kenny read her report to the meeting. The season of 2021/2022 for women's racquetball saw an increase in female participation around the country.

Many clubs held women's nights which helped in the promotion of women's Racquetball.

Our annual Women's Open held in March was a huge success with the largest amount of events we've ever seen in the 5 years it's been running. We had 8 events with over 20 players.

Motion 8

that the Women's Officer(WO) Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Coaching Report

Majella Haverty read the Coaching report to the meeting. As of July 2021, a coaching committee was developed with the intention of driving forward the Level 1 development.

The 2022/2023 Coaching plan has been submitted and approved by Sport Ireland Coaching. Goals include Level 1 Development, Coaching Clinics and delivery of Foundation Level Courses. .Seven new coaches were certified with foundation level coaching. The course was delivered by trainee Coach Developers Frank Pastor(Sligo) and Conor Skehan (Tournaneena) and overseen by Coach Developer Mick Cunningham (Araglen). A second was held in Tullaroan, Co.Kilkenny. Five new coaches were certified with foundation level coaching. The course was delivered by trainee Coach Developers Frank Pastor(Sligo) and Conor Skehan (Fermoy). Coach Developers in Training Frank Pastor has completed all course days and now is doing placement with Racquetball Ireland to complete the final part of the course, his reflective log. Conor Skehan who completed part of the course in 2020, has to make up one day that he has missed in December in order to gain his credentials. Patrick Hanley (Fermoy) will become the new Director of Coaching for the Association.

Motion 9

that the Coaching Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Registration/Insurance Report

Assistant Sec Michael Kelly read the above report. He said that the premium for the players injury insurance increased substantially for 22/23 but he said the Association would keep the registration fee the same as the previous season.

There were 7 claims lodged with the insurers last season from a total of 354 registered players.

Motion 9a

that the Registration/Insurance Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Provincial Representatives Reports

Leinster Council Report

Antonia Neary reported a new Leinster Council Committee was formed. Work is ongoing in promotion of the sport in Leinster.

Motion 10

that the Leinster Council Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Connacht Council Report

M Haverty report that a committee is in place and a Zoom meeting for Connacht clubs will be organised shortly to organise events

Motion 11

that Connacht Council Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Munster Council Report

Johnny O'Keeney reported on the Munster Council activities. He said that the main tournaments, Fermoy Open, Tralee Open and Munster Close Championships will be held in the 2022/23 season. Other activities are also planned.

Motion 12

that the Munster Council Report be adopted was passed unanimously.

Changes to the Constitution

Motion 13

Constitution: Article 9 Executive Committee(EXCO) Formation

Delete the post of Vice President and assign the VP duties to the General Secretary.

[The motion was passes](#)

Motion 14

Constitution: Article 9 Executive Committee(EXCO) Formation

The post of Assistant Secretary to become Registrations Secretary

[The motion was passed](#)

Motion 15

Constitution: Article 9 Executive Committee(EXCO) Formation
That the post of PRO be renamed Communications & Media Officer

[The motion was passed](#)

Motion 16

Constitution Article 9 Executive Committee(EXCO) Formation
add paragraph 9.10; Officers may hold more than one position on the EXCO with the exclusion of the Treasurer, Junior Development Officer and General Secretary who are confined to one position.

[The motion was passed](#)

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected

President: (2022-2024) *There was no nominations...committee will seek to co-opt a person for the role*

Gen Secretary: (2021-2023) Michael Haverty(Castlebar) (2 year term from 2023)

Asst Gen Secretary: (2022-23) **Michael Kelly**(Ballinrobe)

Treasurer: (2022-24) **Katie Kenny**(Castlebar)

Tournament Secretary: (2022-2023) **Jimmy Gannon** (Arklow) (2 year term from 2023)

Development Officer: (2021-2023) Mick Cunningham (Araglen) (2 year term from 2023)

PRO: (2022-23) **Majella Haverty**(Castlebar)

Children's Officer: (2022-2) **Mick Cunningham**(Araglen)

Junior Development Officer:(2022-24) **Johnny O'Keeney**(Fermoy)

Women's Officer: (2022-23) **Antonia Neary**(Arklow)

Drugs Liaison Officer: (2022-23) **Jimmy Gannon**(Arklow)

Designated Liaison Person: (2022-2023) **Rachel Hanrahan**(Galmoy)

Appointees

Director of Coaching: Patrick Hanley(Fermoy)

Mandated Person: Jimmy Gannon(Arklow)

*Elections take place in **even years** for President, Treasurer and Junior Development Officer. Elections take place in **uneven years** for Vice-President, General Secretary, Development Officer and Tournament Secretary. All other posts, Assistant Secretary, PRO, Anti-Doping Liaison Officer, Children's Officer and Women's Officer will be elected on a yearly basis.*

Changes to the Rules & Regulations

Motion 17

Rule 10.3 Rules & Regulations

Change from

Players who have been promoted at Open Tournaments since the previous National Championships may revert back one grade from the current grade. This applies to singles divisions only and does not apply to doubles. Players must play in their current grade for doubles.

to read

Players who have been promoted at Open Tournaments since the previous National Championships may revert back one grade from the current grade. This applies to singles divisions for all grades except players promoted from novice.

Novice players promoted since the previous National Championships may revert back to play Novice Doubles but cannot partner another promoted player.

The motion was passed

Motion 18

Rule 11.6 Rules & Regulations

Bronze medals will be awarded to losing semi-finalists at Junior National Championships where there is 5 players or more in a division.

Change to read

Bronze medals will be awarded to losing semi-finalists at Junior National Championships where there is 6 players or more in a division. Where there is 5 players or less in a division a play off will decide the bronze medal position.

The motion was passed

Motion 19 Rules & Regulations

Add the following to the Rules & Regulations

Officers are not permitted to provide any form of character reference for an individual as part of legal or Court Proceedings, in his or her capacity as an Officer of the RAI. For the avoidance of doubt, RAI participants may not use RAI-related letterhead nor sign any such character reference in their capacity as an Officer of the RAI. Any character reference, whether provided by an Officer or a Member should specify that it is being provided in a personal capacity and not in any way on behalf of or as an Officer or a Member of the RAI.

The motion was passed

Strategic Plan 2023-27

A brief out line of the Strategic Plan was given. The plan will will be sent to all clubs in the coming weeks

Any Other Business

The was no other business

Meeting ended 2.15pm.