

Irish Amateur Rowing Union Ltd

Annual General Meeting

6th April 2014

Minutes

1 Attendees:

Athlunkard BC, Belfast RC, Carlow RC, Carrick on Shannon RC, Colaiste Iognaid RC, Commercial RC, Dublin University BC, Dublin University Ladies BC, Fermoy RC, Garda BC, Grainne Mhaol RC, Lagan Scullers Club, Lee RC, Lee Valley RC, Monkstown and Cork Harbour RC, Muckross RC, Neptune RC, New Ross BC, Offaly RC, Old Collegians BC, Queens University Belfast BC, Queens University Belfast Ladies BC, Royal Belfast Academical Institution BC, Shandon BC, Shannon RC, Skibbereen RC, St Michaels RC, Three Castles RC, Tribesmen RC, University College Cork RC, University College Dublin BC, Waterford BC.

2 Introduction

Mr. C Cronin, President, opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.

3 Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting

The President presented the minutes of the 2013 AGM. There were no matters arising. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Shannon RC and seconded by Offaly BC and adopted unanimously.

The President then presented the minutes of the EGM held on the 14th December 2013. There were no matters arising. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by St Michael's RC and seconded by Lee RC and adopted unanimously.

4 The Annual Report of the Board for 2013.

4.1 President's Report

The President commented briefly on his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He acknowledged the excellent work done by K. Kerr in developing the Tracker system to accommodate the competitive rule changes. He also congratulated Paul O'Donovan on his excellent result in the 2013 U23 World Rowing Championships and he thanked the Rowing Ireland Board and officers for their support during the year.

5.2 *Hon Secretary's Report*

This report was presented by the Secretary and taken as read. There were no questions.

Adoption of the Reports of the President and Secretary was proposed by Old Collegians BC, seconded by Lee RC and adopted unanimously.

6 **Board Sub Committee and Other Reports**

6.1 *Sub Committee Reports:* Reports from the following committees had been circulated prior to the meeting and were taken as read, Domestic Events Committee, Umpires Committee, Safety Committee, Recreational Rowing Committee.

F Durkin (Offaly BC) queried the need for a Recreational Committee separate to the Touring Committee. G Farrell (Shannon RC) stated that while recreational rowing encompasses touring it also includes other aspects of rowing as a pastime. Many interested in rowing as a recreation are not interested in participating in tours. F Coghlan (Shandon BC) added that recreational rowing provided a big opportunity to increase participation in rowing generally and, in order to realise this potential, a separate focus was required to that of organising tours.

Adoption of the subcommittee reports was proposed by Tribesmen RC, seconded by St Michaels RC and adopted unanimously.

6.2 *Branch Reports:* Reports from the following branches were taken as read and elicited no comments: Leinster Branch, Munster Branch, Ulster Branch, and Connacht Branch.

The adoption of the branch reports was proposed by Shannon RC, seconded by Skibbereen RC and adopted unanimously.

7 **President and Branch Awards**

The President presented his award for 2014 to Dominic Casey of Skibbereen RC. He reflected on the outstanding success of Skibbereen RC since its relatively recent affiliation to Rowing Ireland in 1971. He stated that in a little more than forty years the club has won approximately 140 Irish Rowing Championships. The recipient of the reward has been the key driver of this success from the beginning. His award recognised Dominic's passion for the sport, his talents as an organiser and his great contribution to Irish rowing at both club and national level.

Mr. Casey thanked the President for the award and dedicated it to all in Skibbereen RC who have made the club the success it is today.

The Connacht Branch award was presented by Eamonn Colclough to Mike McCrohan of Tribesmen RC. The award recognised Mr. McCrohan's key role over many years as a club stalwart, a local and national event organiser and a Branch board member.

The Munster Branch award was presented by Kieran Kerr to Mary Bonner of Tralee RC. The award recognised the great effort it takes to get a fledging club off the ground in an area

which had no Rowing Ireland club tradition. The recipient had taken on this task in Tralee and succeeded in establishing a successful and growing club.

The Leinster Branch award was presented by Gerry Farrell to Niall O'Toole. The award reflected the appreciation of the Branch for the return of Mr. O'Toole to the sport as part of the Leinster High Performance support group and for the enthusiasm with which he was imparting his knowledge and experience to a new generation of rowers.

The Ulster Branch award was presented by Brenda Ewing to Gordon Reid of Lagan Scullers. Ms Ewing stated that the recipient had served the Ulster Branch with distinction over many years in every possible position - both formal and informal. The award was in recognition of the work and effort put into the Branch by Mr. Reid over the years prior to his staff appointment with Rowing Ireland.

8 Executive Reports

8.1 The CEO's Report

The report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was taken as read. The CEO, Hamish Adams, took the opportunity to address the meeting. He stated that on his appointment in 2013 he had set himself a number of general objectives including reviewing the needs of the organisation, developing its capacity, working effectively with the Board and adhering to values of tolerance, trust and transparency.

A lot had been achieved during the year including taking on the running of the Ulster Branch, a governance review (the recommendations of which were under consideration by the Board), development of the NRC, coaching course development, competition development, the Tracker upgrade, establishing the HP team and structure, recruiting a communications officer and generating a positive financial result.

Challenges remaining included the over-reliance on ISC funding, improving safety standards and growing participation at all levels in the sport.

He ended by thanking the Board, the President, the Secretary and the staff of Rowing Ireland for their support during the year.

8.2 The High Performance Director's Report

The report, which had been circulated, was taken as read. The HPD, Morten Espersen, took the opportunity to thank Garda BC, Three Castle RC and Dublin University BC for the support they were giving the HP programme in Dublin. While acknowledging that there were a number of challenges facing the Rowing Ireland HP programme, particularly regarding heavyweight men, he believed that we had some very good crews and was confident of having at least three women's boats qualified in 2015 for the Rio Olympics.

The HPD then made a presentation to Paul O'Donovan of Skibbereen RC for the medal which he had won in the U23 World Championships in 2013. D Casey accepted the presentation on his behalf.

Adoption of the executive reports was proposed by Neptune RC, seconded by Offaly RC and adopted unanimously.

9 Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report

The Audited Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for 2013 were presented for consideration. The President reflected that it was encouraging to see a strong surplus being generated.

F Durkin (Offaly RC) queried whether the temporary membership levy agreed to for 2014 would be applied again next year. The CEO confirmed that the levy was temporary but that a decision on whether to apply it again in 2015 would be made by the Board later in the year in the light of circumstances. Mr. Durkin cautioned against targeting too large a surplus in the context of our dependence on Government grant aid.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Shannon RC, seconded by Dublin University BC and adopted unanimously.

10 Motions and Proposals

There were two proposals from the Board of Rowing Ireland before the meeting

Proposal 1 To allow the Board greater flexibility in setting the date of the AGM by deleting the final clauses of Rule 24 as follows:

Not more than 18 months shall elapse between the date of one AGM of the Company and that of the next. ~~but, subject to the above, the AGM shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, be held at such time and place as the Board shall appoint during the period April to June each year.~~

Proposer: The Board of Rowing Ireland

The Secretary, F Coghlan, presented the proposal to the meeting stating that the rationale in seeking the change was to allow the Board to schedule the meeting at a time of the year where the rowing events schedule was much lighter than between April and June and also that, all other things being equal, it made more sense to hold the meeting at the beginning of the rowing year rather than at the end. However he stated that although the Board was seeking more flexibility it did not mean that it would automatically decide to hold the meeting later in the year. F Durkin (Offaly RC) asked whether holding an AGM later in the year would mean that the AGM would not have the opportunity to approve the RI statutory accounts before submission to the ISC. The Secretary stated that the Articles of the company required that the statutory accounts be approved by the Board but only required them to be presented to the AGM. Consequently the AGM did not have to be held before submission of the approved accounts to the ISC although this would always be desirable.

Acceptance of the motion was proposed by St Michael's RC, seconded by Grainne Mhaol RC and passed unanimously.

Proposal 2 It was proposed to add the following clauses and interpretations to the Rowing Ireland Articles of Association:

Dispute Resolution

91 *As a final point of appeal against a sanction imposed by the Company on a Member or Affiliated Club or Member of an Affiliated Club or in the event that for whatever reason the Company cannot use its own internal dispute resolution procedures, a dispute arising out of or in connection with the Memorandum, Articles, or Rules of Rowing of the Company shall be referred to Just Sport Ireland for mediation in accordance with Just Sport Ireland Mediation Rules (as amended from time to time). If such a dispute so referred is not settled within one day of the mediation being instituted or such other period as the disputing parties may agree in writing, the dispute shall be referred to Just Sport Ireland for final and binding arbitration in accordance with Just Sport Ireland Arbitration Rules (as amended from time to time).*

To be inserted in Interpretations:

"Member of an Affiliated Club" means any current member of an affiliated club.

Proposer: The Board of Rowing Ireland

The Secretary presented the proposal to the meeting stating the Irish Sports Council had asked that all National Sports Federations sign up to a dispute resolution mechanism by the end of 2014. Just Sport Ireland (JSI) is an independent Alternative Dispute Resolution service for Irish Sport offering both a mediation and arbitration facility. Hearings are held in private and any outcomes remain private unless both parties agree otherwise. He stated that the adoption of this proposal would mean that, after our internal appeals process had been exhausted, there is recourse to an independent mediator/arbitrator other than the High Court for any sporting dispute involving Rowing Ireland. In any such dispute, parties would be required to refer to JSI for mediation or final and binding arbitration. This would save time and money for all concerned.

F Durkin (Offaly RC) questioned whether the proposal denied anyone his/her right to go to court if they wished. The Secretary responded that, as he understood it, any citizen had the right to go to court on an issue should they wish to do so but that anyone either not prepared to follow this agreed process or to abide by its outcomes would be in a very weak situation in pursuing the matter through the courts.

Acceptance of the motion was proposed by Shannon RC, seconded by Tribesmen RC and adopted unanimously.

11 Election of Officers and Directors

Nominations had been received as follows:

President: C Cronin *Proposed:* Neptune RC *Seconded:* Monkstown and Cork Harbour RC.

There were no other nominations. Mr. Cronin was elected unanimously.

Secretary F Coghlan: Proposed: Shandon BC Seconded: Presentation College
There were no other nominations. Mr. Coghlan was elected unanimously.

Treasurer: S Dunlea: Proposed: Monkstown & CH RC Seconded: Cork BC

There were no other nominations. Ms. Dunlea was elected unanimously.

Branch Directors: (already elected by branches)

Connaught:	VP: E Colclough,	Rep: R Cooke
Leinster	VP: G Farrell,	Rep: L Gibson
Munster	VP L O'Callaghan,	Rep: K Kerr
Ulster	VP B Ewing	Rep: G Young

12 Election of Auditors

Kelly Murray, Galway were proposed by Lee Valley RC, seconded by Tribesmen RC and elected unanimously.

10 Licensed Officials

The names of Licensed Officials who have received their Licenses from the Umpires Committee were submitted for approval. K Kerr (St Michael's RC) pointed out that the name of Ian James had been inadvertently omitted from the list and he asked for approval for the list with this inclusion. G Reid (Lagan Scullers) requested that the name of G Fettis be removed from the list as he had resigned as an umpire sometime previously.

In answer to a query from the floor, K Kerr replied that no complaint regarding any umpire had been received in the past five years but asked that he, or the Board, be informed if there are any bad practices being reported.

The amended list was proposed by Offaly RC, seconded by Skibbereen RC and adopted unanimously.

11 2015 Calendar of Events

L O'Callaghan presented the draft calendar of events agreed at the previously held fixtures meeting. Some changes were noted and made to the draft.

The revised draft was proposed by St Michael's RC, seconded by Skibbereen RC and adopted unanimously.

12 Another Other Business

P Casey asked if the "Blue Book" was gone forever. The Secretary replied that publication had ceased a couple of years ago as a cost saving measure and there had been no subsequent request for it to be re-introduced. He pointed out that all the information once contained in the Blue Book was now available on the RI website. He confirmed that it was not the intention to recommence publication of the book.

T O'Callaghan (Lee RC) stated that an archive of hard copy documents should be kept by the organisation. The Secretary pointed out that hard copies of all AGM and Board Meeting minutes were kept on file.

The President on behalf of all those at the meeting recognised the work that P Casey had done on behalf of Rowing Ireland and was still doing on the organisation's behalf in his position as Treasurer of the Irish Olympic Council.

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed By:

Date:

Con Cronin (President)