Draft Minutes of Rowing Ireland AGM,

Held on 20 November 2022, 11 a.m. at the Sport Ireland Campus.

Members (clubs) represented –

|  |
| --- |
| Anna Liffey Rowing Club |
| Athlone Boat Club CLG |
| Athlunkard Boat Club |
| Ballina Rowing Club |
| Bann Rowing Club |
| Bantry Rowing Club |
| Belfast Boat Club |
| Belfast Rowing Club |
| Callinafercy Rowing Club |
| Cappoquin Rowing Club |
| Carlow Rowing Club |
| Carrick on Shannon Rowing Club |
| Castleconnell Boat Club |
| City of Derry Boating Club |
| Clonmel Rowing Club |
| Colaiste Iognaid Rowing Club |
| Coleraine Grammer School Rowing Club |
| Commercial Rowing Club |
| Cork Boat Club |
| Cumann Ramhaiochta Colaiste na Coiribe |
| Desmond Rowing Club |
| Donegal Bay Rowing Club and Gym |
| Dublin University Boat Club |
| Dublin University Ladies Boat Club |
| Enniskillen Royal Boat Club |
| Fermoy Rowing Club |
| Galley Flash Rowing Club |
| Galway Rowing Club |
| Garda Boat Club |
| Graignamanagh Rowing Club |
| Gráinne Mhaol Rowing Club |
| Kenmare Rowing Club |
| Killorglin Rowing Club |
| Kilmacsimon Swimming & Rowing Club |
| Kings Hospital School Rowing Club |
| Lady Elizabeth Boat Club |
| Lagan Scullers Club |
| Lee Rowing Club |
| Lee Valley Rowing Club |
| Limerick Boat Club |
| Loughros Point Rowing Club |
| Methodist College Belfast |
| Muckross Rowing Club |
| Neptune Rowing Club |
| New Ross Boat Club |
| Newry Rowing Club |
| Offaly Rowing Club |
| Old Collegians Boat Club |
| Olderfleet Rowing Club |
| Phoenix Rowing Club |
| Portadown Boat Club |
| Portmagee Rowing Club El Nino |
| Portora Boat Club |
| Presentation Brothers College Rowing Club |
| Queen's University Belfast Boat Club (QUBBC) |
| Queen's University Belfast Ladies Boat Club |
| Ring Rowing Club |
| Shandon Boat Club |
| Shannon Rowing Club |
| Skibbereen Rowing Club |
| Sligo Rowing Club |
| St Josephs Rowing Club |
| St. Michaels Rowing Club - Limerick |
| The Lady Victoria Boat Club |
| The Royal Belfast Academical Rowing Club |
| Three Castles Rowing Club |
| Tralee Rowing Club |
| Tribesmen Rowing Club |
| UCC Rowing Club |
| University College Dublin Boat Club |
| University of Galway Boat Club |
| University of Limerick Boat Club |
| Waterford Boat Club |
| Waterville Rowing Club |
| Wicklow Rowing Club |
| Workmans Rowing Club |

1. Welcome.

Martin Hogan, Chair of the Board thanked all member clubs for attending virtually and in person. He welcomed everyone to the AGM and noted housekeeping and safety rules.

He noted to the AGM that no notices or objections were received.

The Chair noted that the pack circulated prior to the AGM would be taken as read and that we would first move to Item 9 on the agenda, the Rowing Ireland Awards, in order to let the recipients leave the AGM.

9. Rowing Ireland Awards.

The Chair welcomed and invited Paul McDermott of Sport Ireland to present the Awards. The CEO made the announcements and discussed the high level of interest and competition in the awards scheme and the difficulty for the judging panel which included independent international rowing expertise.

**Awards and recipients**

1. Volunteer of the Year – Shane Russell, Whitegate RC
2. Rowability Award – Rory O’Brien, Galway RC
3. Women in Sport Advocate – Aisling Flanagan, Athlone BC
4. Coach of the Year – Conor Breen, St Joseph’s RC
5. High Performance Rower of the Year – Katie O’Brien, Galway RC
6. Up and Coming Rower of the Year – Brian Colsh, University of Galway BC
7. Umpires Award – Kayla McCann, St Michael’s RC
8. Senior Rower of the Year – David Somers, UCDBC
9. Club of the Year – Athlone BC
10. Achievement of the Year Award – Alison Bergin Fermoy RC.
11. Receive and Consider the Company Accounts and Balance Sheet for the past year.

The Chair introduced John Murphy of Grant Thornton, the appointed auditors of Rowing Ireland.

John Murphy explained that there had been a full and substantive audit and all of the figures in the accounts and that they are true and accurate and all have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act.

There were no objections to the accounts and they were approved. The Chair came back to this during the AGM.

**Proposed by Wicklow RC and seconded by Lee Valley RC.**

1. Approve minutes of the last AGM.

There were no objections to the minutes and they were approved.

**Proposed by UCDBC and seconded by Old Collegians BC.**

1. Matters arising from AGMs and EGMs.

The Chair on behalf of the Company thanked Paul McDermott representing Sport Ireland and explained that over 90% of Rowing Ireland funding currently comes from Sport Ireland. The Chair also explained that Rowing Ireland is a little behind in terms of funding as there were some governance issues that needed to be dealt with and that there had been many meetings with Sport Ireland in that regard.

The Chair told the AGM that had been some disciplinary matters and that two individuals involved have agreed to step back from the sport and committees for 5 years and 2 years respectively. The Chair acknowledged the success of the Governance Roadshows and the excellent feedback from clubs.

A member asked why the draft updated constitution was not issued after the 2021 AGM. The Chair explained that the Board received advice that the final version should be legally reviewed before filing and since new constitutional recommendations were being put to clubs this year as also advised, there was an opportunity to save about €5k and have the review done after this AGM. He also acknowledged the thousands of hours of work put in by the Governance Committee in bringing this new draft constitution to the AGM.

There were some questions from the floor on which version of the constitution is being proposed and the Chair explained that it was the one on the Rowing Ireland website that is named the Draft Constitution. He also clarified that it was called draft because it hasn’t yet been published by the Companies Registration Office as final legal advice is still to be received after the AGM has passed resolutions or not.

The Chair then invited Paul McDermott of Sport Ireland to speak. Paul congratulated Rowing Ireland on its achievements. He thanked the clubs, high performance team, and athletes, for their successes; and the staff, the Chair and the Board for the work they had done in 2022. Paul McDermott said that Sport Ireland had worked diligently with the Rowing Ireland Board and Executive to resolve issues that arose. He did not want to over dramatize events during the year but indicated at this stage there was no reason not to continue working collaboratively. He said that Sport Ireland recognises the huge opportunities for Rowing Ireland in its athletes and the development of role models. He thanked the Board for inviting him to the AGM and indicated it was not unusual for Sport Ireland to attend AGMs.

The Chair, on behalf of the company, thanked Sarah O’Shea for her comprehensive report and recommendations to the Board and Sport Ireland. He also thanked the clubs and legal advisors who had contributed to the governance journey.

6. Receive and Consider the Report of the Executive and Sub- Committees.

The Chair explained that these reports were contained in the Annual Report.

Garth Young (Board member) introduced himself to the AGM. He emphasised that we all need to leave local agendas behind and work together for all clubs on the island of Ireland. He explained that the Board had met 22 times over the last year mostly to address the constant undermining of the sport by a group of individuals. He pointed out that from here on there was an opportunity to move on and to not be wasting money on solicitors to deal with things like data breaches and negative or threatening behaviour to any board or staff member of the company.

1. Appointment of Auditors.

The Auditor recused himself from the room for this and there were no objections to the proposed appointment.

**Cork BC proposed and Phoenix RC seconded.**

9. Election of President until after 2024 Olympics

Pat Kiely explained how the voting system would work.

The Chair told the AGM that the Auditor was witnessing the counting of votes.

The result of the presidential election was 52 to 21 in favour of Neville Maxwell over Mick O’Callaghan.

Neville Maxwell thanked the AGM for voting and committed to pulling people together and working in a collaborative manner for clubs and international rowers.

Mick O’Callaghan congratulated Neville and affirmed his support for the new Board.

1. Election of Secretary to 2024.

The result of the election for Secretary was 49 to 23 in favour of Nessa Foley over Emily Dulohery.

1. Election of Treasurer until 2023 AGM

The result of the election for Treasurer was 40 to 31 in favour of Paul Kavanagh over Leo Gibson.

1. Ratification of Provincial Directors for 2022 until 2023 AGM

(Leinster VP, Munster VP, Ulster Rep, Connacht Rep).

Carol- Ann Smith – Leinster VP,

Pat Kinsella – Munster VP,

Barry McWilliams – Ulster Rep,

David Hussey – Connacht Rep.

**Proposed by UCDBC and seconded by Belfast RC**

1. Special Resolutions.

The Chair explained that these needed to pass by 75% of the vote.

1. The Company resolves to update its constitution based on legal advice and expert recommendations to improve governance taking account of the outcome of the special resolutions to be voted on at this AGM.

**Passed by 76.7% (56 -17)**

1. The Company resolves to allow the Chair to be elected by the Board from all Directors and Independent Directors based on skills, availability and experience.

**Passed by 77.5% (55 – 16)**

1. The Company resolves to revise its constituencies and Directorships to six individual categories to allow new nominations from (a) coastal and offshore member clubs and (b) the athlete cohort (from 2025.

**Passed by 88.7% (63 – 8)**

1. The Company shall appoint a Treasurer from the elected Directors based on skills and experience (from 2023 AGM).

**Passed by 81% (56 – 13)**

The Chair then thanked the Governance Committee for their comprehensive work on this.

1. Fixtures Update by DEC and Approval.

The Fixtures Calendar was shared on the screen and it was pointed out that there was a clash of the Indoors in January with Newry HOR. There was some discussion about attempting to improve the fixtures calendar. David Webb, the outgoing committee chair said that there would be an events workshop on 4 December and that if ideas came out of that they would circulate these to the clubs and event organisers to try to ensure that everyone’s needs are met.

**Proposed by Carlow RC and seconded by Sligo RC.**

1. AOB approved by the Chair.
2. High Performance Director Dial In.

This item was adjourned due to timing issues.

1. Update by Chair of the Safety Advisory Committee.

The Chair of the Safety Committee, Pat Kiely explained that the code of practice for leisure craft issued by the Department of Transport allows rowers to go out on the water without a life jacket and that there was liaison with the Department of Transport on this matter.

He pointed out that the affiliation process now involved requests for safety statements and that clubs would need to focus on this.

He also told the AGM that a process of producing an Emergency Action Plan was underway and that Rowing Ireland would be introducing a new system for managing incidents and sharing knowledge called IROW Safe.

The Chair then thanked Pat and his committee and thanked the attendees for making it the best attended AGM in our history. He wished them safe travels home on behalf of all members and Rowing Ireland and closed the meeting.