



Rowing Ireland AGM, Sunday 7 May 2023. 11 a.m. at the Sport Ireland Campus and Online.

Board members in attendance in the room, Chair - Martin Hogan, President – Neville Maxwell, Secretary – Nessa Foley, Pat Kinsella, Barry McWilliams, Carol-Ann Smyth.

Also in attendance in the room, CEO – Michelle Carpenter.

Clubs Represented.

ULRC

Tralee Rowing Club

St Josephs College Rowing Club

Lee Rowing Club

Belfast Rowing Club

Cork Boat Club

Lady Victoria Boat Club

City of Derry Boating Club

Cumann Ramhaiochta Cholaiste na Coiribe

New Ross Boat Club

QUBBC

Galway Rowing Club

UCD Boat Club

Belfast Rowing Club

Portmagee Rowing Club

Neptune Rowing Club

Bann Rowing Club

Gráinne Mhaol RC

Tribesmen Rowing Club

UCC Rowing Club



Offaly Rowing Club

Carlow Rowing Club

Commercial RC

Lee Rowing Club

Old Collegians Boat Club

Belfast Boat Club

Cumann Ramhaiochta Cholaiste na Coiribe

Shannon Rowing Club

Royal Belfast Academical Institution Rowing
Club

DULBC

St Michaels Rowing Club

Portora. Boat Club

Waterford Boat Club

Clonmel RC

Old Collegians Boat Club

Cork Boat Club

Tralee RC

Phoenix RC

Skibbereen Rowing Club

Commercial Rowing Club



Castleconnell Boat Club

Lagan Scullers Club

Fermoy Rowing Club

Clonmel Rowing Club

Offaly Rowing Club

Shandon Boat Club

DUBC

QUBLBC

Athlone Boat Club

New Ross Boat Club

Ring Rowing Club

Portora Boat Club

Clonmel Rowing Club

Portadown Boat Club

The Chair welcomed people to the meeting. He thanked people for joining online and confirmed a small in person attendance. He stated that Pat and Lucy had been doing the roll call.

The Chair confirmed that 71 clubs registered and that the quorum had been reached with more than 24 clubs represented.

The Chair went through the agenda and explained that the HP update wouldn't be going ahead.

The Chair confirmed that no items had been submitted.

1. Minutes of the last AGM and matters arising.



The Chair said that the minutes were circulated in the AGM pack and asked if there were any comments from the attendees online. There were no comments.

The Chair said that there was one matter arising to do with the constitution and that Aillil O'Reilly, SC would arrive shortly and would go through the changes to the constitution.

2. Directors' Report.

The President welcomed everyone to the AGM.

The President stated that Rowing Ireland is the national governing body in Ireland and Northern Ireland and outlined the aims of RI. He said that in 2022 a main focus was rolling out and adopting a governance code and that the feedback from clubs was very important in how we proceed with governance in our sport. The President thanked the Clubs and committee for producing this document. He pointed out that in 2022 there were 103 clubs registered with a membership of over 8000 people and credited the work of Get Going Get Rowing. He thanked Derek Bowen and his team for all the work on this.

The President then pointed out the importance of club engagement and highlighted the work Ceara has been doing in terms of Women in Sport and what clubs want. He thanked everyone involved in that sphere.

The President also thanked Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland and pointed out that SI are the main sponsor of RI. He said that all of the councils have worked well with us in terms of club development and new buildings and pointed out Athlone BC as a good example of this.

He also pointed out that in terms of HP 2022 was a fantastic year and congratulated the team.

The President spoke about the World Championships and said was very proud of the green wall, the huge crowd that was there from Ireland. He pointed out that Ireland had 13 crews entered and that the results were fantastic. He highlighted the men's double and Katie O'Brien in the single as well as the women's light weight double winning a bronze medal and the women's heavy weight double winning a bronze.

The President stated that huge numbers of Irish crews are now competing and being successful and that it was important to note that the clubs have produced these athletes. He pointed out that the HP Director had been working closely with clubs to produce these athletes and he thanked clubs for their work here.

The President informed attendees that a Strategic Review of RI is going to be developed over the next few months and that input from clubs will be very important.



The President thanked the Board of Directors and particularly retiring Directors, Carol-Ann Smyth who did a huge amount of work on the A&R committee over the last 6 years, TJ Ryan, who gave his views and opinions on how the sport could be developed and Paddy Boyd who was appointed to guide us through 2022 in terms of the work that the Board had to do. He also thanked Paul Kavanagh who was Treasurer and said that he was a breath of fresh air and that he hoped he continues on committees. He thanked Ailill O'Reilly for his expert guidance.

1. The Chair went back to matters arising from the minutes and handed over to Ailill.

AO'R said that after he was looking at the constitution that went back to the CRO and that he noticed some edits that needed to be made. AO'R advised that the rules be updated to be in line with corporate governance terms as well as under the Companies Act and said that when this is complete it will be put back before the Board after a consultation process.

The Chair then thanked Ailill for his work.

Proposed by Athlone BC and seconded by Neptune RC

3. Grant Thornton Audit and Report.

The Chair handed over to John Murphy of GT.

JM said that they had commenced their work on 23 Jan and that they had finalised our draft set of accounts which were reviewed by A&R committee and finalised for the Board to sign. He said that they were issuing a clean audit report with no issues. He also pointed out that extra grants had been received but costs had gone up resulting in a deficit of €80 thou in accounts but that the most important thing in an organisation like RI is the cash balance at the end of the year. He said that this was 2.9 million last year as opposed to 2.3 million the year before and that 2 m of this is allocated to a particular project.

He thanked Alec Moffet and the CEO for all of their hard work as well as the members of the A&R committee.

Proposed by Lagan Scullers and seconded by Cork BC.

John M lets people know that GT are available all year if anyone needs any assistance.

The Chair thanks John and notes John's A&R committee recommendations.

4. Safety Advisory Committee update.

Pat Kiely thanks everyone for letting him talk about safety and explained that people are talking about safety which is good for our sport. He told of an analysis of our iRow safe



reports and pointed out that the club with the largest amount of incidents reported was Lee RC, with no major incidents and that the fact that they are reporting just shows how important safety is to that club. He asked clubs to please log more safety reports.

He pointed out that in their analysis they saw many different types of incidents and that the report would be released to clubs this week and thanked all of the clubs who had completed the safety audit.

He stated that safety launches, drills etc all add to the safety of our sport and that iRow SAFE is not about pointing fingers, it's about making the sport safer. He advised that a new safety manual was due to be issued to clubs in the next few weeks.

Pat thanked the Safety Advisory Committee and everyone who had contributed.

Athlone BC thanked Pat Kiely for all of his help.

The Chair thanked Pat and his support staff for all of their work

5. Nominations of and election of eligible Directors.

The Chair pointed out that we formed new 5 constituencies last year and that there were nominations from 4 of those as follows.

David Hussey, Coastal

Connacht Ulster, Martin Hogan

Munster, Pat Kinsella

Northern Ireland, Barry McWilliams.

The Chair pointed out that it was disappointing that we don't get female nominations and asks someone to propose and second the appointments.

Cork BC proposed and GRC seconded.

The Chair then congratulated the Directors on their appointment.

The Chair gave a brief background on the appointment of Independent Non-Executive Directors and thanked Carol-Ann for her work as well as pointing out that the Board had to nominate two females given the gender balance on the Board. He confirmed that the Board ratified two Directors at its meeting on the previous Wednesday.

The Chair then gave a short synopsis of both of the new INEDs qualifications and explained that the members of the Nomination Committee were Carol-Ann Smith, Aoife Habenicht and himself along with some oversight from Ailill O'Reilly.

Ailill pointed out that if you have been involved in rowing you cannot be considered independent. He said that the INEDs should be independent and that the rules need to be updated to define what constitutes independent.



The Chair read out the new constitution of the Board and said that it would work with the Leinster Branch for a new Director.

6. High performance update.

Cancelled for personal reasons.

7. Appointment of Company Auditors for 2023.

CAS said she is very happy with Grant Thornton and the Chair thanked the A&R Committee.

Proposed by Fermoy RC and seconded by Castleconnell BC.

The Chair thanked all of the staff of RI and the CEO and said that our strategic review would allow us to shape the future of RI. He thanked Ailill and the Auditors and outgoing Directors and also thanked Paul Kavanagh, TJ Ryan and especially CAS for all of the hard work since their respective appointments.

The Chair thanked all of the clubs for attending and thanked RI sponsors.

8. EGM for fixtures.

The Chair said that this might take place in Cork around the National Championships but that an update would issue.

Thanks Liam O’Gorman for joining the meeting.

The Chair then adjourned the meeting.