

Irish Squash Federation CLG

Minutes of 19th Annual General Meeting



Date: 26th May 2024 at 12.30pm

Venue: Irish Sport HQ, NSC, Dublin 15 and virtually

Chairperson: Rosie Barry (RB)

Attendees in person: Rosie Barry (RB), Anne Costello (AC), Lee Healy (LH), John Dineen (JD)

Attendees virtually: Brendan Murphy, Gerry Callanan, Damien Stafford-Shaw, Dara O'Flynn, David Lawlor, Dónal Kelly, Eoin Ryan, Eugene Walker, Garret Buckley, Geoff Wales, Gerry Galvin, Christine Mooney, Karam Singh, Keith Moran, Noel Storey, Lisa Murray, Maureen Duke, Neal Pollock, Paul Bree (PB), Rachel McNulty, Rose Hynes, Sarah Cosgrove and Ann Sheppard.

Hosts: Paul Nugent (PN) and Scott Graham (SG)

Apologies: None received

Proxy Votes None received

1 **Notice of Meeting**

The notice of the meeting was read by AC which was circulated in accordance with the Memo & Articles.

2 **Attendance and Apologies**

Attendance was noted, RB informed the meeting as to who was attending in person. No apologies were received.

3 **Minutes of 2023 AGM of Irish Squash Federation CLG**

Minutes of the meeting were approved.

4 **Matters arising from Minutes**

There were no matters raised arising from the minutes.

5 **Minutes of the EGM held on 25th March 2024**

Minutes of the meeting were approved.

6 **Matters arising from Minutes**

There were no matters raised arising from the minutes.

7 **Report of the Board for 2023/24**

RB thanked the administration team for the work that they put into the report. No matters arising. Report adopted.

8 **Adoption of accounts for year ended 31-12-2022 (restated) and 31-12-2023**

CM explained that during the year, it was realized that the grants received were not accounted for correctly and the 2022 accounts had to be restated. Grants now go into the deferred income account now. Irish Squash remains in a healthy financial position currently. There were no queries on the accounts for years 2022 or 2023. The restated 2022 accounts and 2023 accounts were adopted.

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9 Election of officers to the Board

There were six elected positions available for election at this AGM. There were four candidates for these positions. Information on all the candidates were circulated before the meeting and at the meeting, each of the candidates gave a presentation about themselves. John Dineen and Lee Healy gave their presentations in person and Christine Mooney and Noel Storey gave theirs online.

The following officers were deemed to be elected to the Board of Directors as per Nomination forms received by 3rd May 2024

Vice President – John Dineen (proposed by CM & seconded by LH - 21 votes in favor, no votes against)

Honorary Treasurer – no nomination received

Honorary Secretary – Christine Mooney (proposed by JD & seconded by RB - 21 votes in favor, no votes against)

Up to 3 additional directors –

- Lee Healy (proposed by Eddie Murphy & seconded by Tony Cronnelly - 22 votes in favor, no votes against)
- Noel Storey (proposed by Peter O'Halloran & seconded by Paul Conroy - 21 votes in favor, no votes against).

The new board has a quorum of 5 so it can operate. The Nominations Committee will work on the skill gaps for the independent directors, who will be approved and co-opted by the board and then they will be put to the membership at the next general meeting.

10 Appointment of Auditor

OSK are the current auditors and were reappointed as auditors by the meeting (proposed by AC and seconded by JD)

11 Reports from Provincial Associations

Reports were enclosed in the Annual Report presented to the meeting. Report taken as read and adopted by the meeting.

12 To receive report from the CEO

The CEO's report was enclosed in the Annual Report presented to the meeting. SG gave a verbal report to the meeting also.

At the end of this RB asked if any questions. The following matters were raised: -

- Keith Moran queried the fact that the masters players feel left out. SG keen for Irish Squash to do what it can and would like to set up a meeting with the masters committee and is keen for the masters to be more aligned. RB noted that the coaching for the female master players is part funded by Irish Squash.
- Garret Buckley thanked all outgoing board members for their work. He feels that senior top players are not getting as much support from Irish Squash as they would like. RB noted that putting players in the media spotlight can only be good for squash. SG outlined that top players get funding through the new performance player grants scheme. SG is engaging with funding partners in an effort to secure investment in the Irish Squash high performance programme. IS already invests a significant amount into the high performance programmes and this is a limited scope to increase unless new funding sources are found. SG made reference to a high performance strategy which is being drafted. The board have approved a figure of €8k for the men's and women's teams to travel to the Worlds this year, this will leave a shortfall of approximately €20k for the players to raise.

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- Lisa Murray ('LM') thanked the board for their work. Lisa has an issue with women and safety, she has concerns that women need to feel safe, included and respected in sport. Lisa feels that the disciplinary policy is not good and wants a working group to look at safeguarding also specific changes on how to respond to comments made by Irish Squash people and asked for a time frame for this. RB thanked Lisa for her contribution and stated that she can only respond to her queries in general, rather than in relation to any individual case. The board and working groups avail of external expertise when drafting policies. Irish Squash employed a governance expert with legal expertise for policies and constitution. Irish Squash are compliant with the Governance Code for Sport. The Governance and Ethics Committee (GEC) deal with policies, they have Terms of Reference and they put policies to the board for approval. Sport Ireland have templates that are looked at by the GEC. GEC has a schedule which notes all policies, the date that they were approved and when they need to be reviewed (generally every 3 years). If a new policy is brought in that effects an existing policy, then the existing one will be reviewed at that time.
- Lisa queried regarding respect for women, she mentioned a petition that she sent in fifteen months ago and did not receive an acknowledgement. RB noted that any complaint must be made in accordance with the policies. During the discussion LM's microphone was briefly muted as the meeting was running on beyond the planned timeframe. LM's microphone was turned back on in a short timeframe.
- Rachel McNulty would like to see Lisa have a discussion with SG.
- Rose Hynes thanked the board and queried gender diversity on the board. SG noted that the constitution has a minimum of 40%. This will be taken into consideration when looking for independent directors etc. Currently the elected board has 2 females and 3 males which make it 40% female and 60% male. The previous board had a majority of females.
- Gerry Galvin thanked the board and queried when the Provincial Development Officers will be appointed. SG noted that two new Development Officers are in place and a third will be recruited shortly. The Club & Community Development Officer positions are directly funded through various government grants including Sport NI, Dormant Accounts, and Women in Sport. SG encouraged Gerry to reach out to the Development Officers, who are very willing to assist.
- Paul Bree – same question as Gerry Galvin, he doesn't think that Irish Squash can afford not to have them. SG noted that Irish Squash have 3 part time development officers who are new and getting up to speed with their roles. SG asked that PB contact himself or a development officer and they will help. PB would like to see a list of the Development Officers' duties. PB thinks that the Development Officers should be able to bring new life into a club that needs it. SG agreed and encouraged clubs to contact the Club & Community Development Officers if they would like assistance with establishing junior sections, developing programmes, applying for grants and so on.
- Keith Moran suggested that names and contact details of staff, with their roles, up on the website so as players can contact the correct person. SG highlighted that contact details are under the 'Contact Us' section of the website but noted that the current website is not particularly user-friendly. He mentioned that a new website is currently in development, and once live, he is confident it will be much easier to use and easier to find the information you are looking for.

13 **To transact any other business as determined by the board (received within 21 days' notice to the Hon Secretary)**

No motions were presented within the allotted timeframe.

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14 Short statement by Chairperson

Rosie addressed the meeting; Rosie feels that Irish Squash is in a good place. Globally squash is in a good place following the announcement of its inclusion in LA28 and the Irish Squash high performance focus will now be on the 4 year Olympic cycle. Irish Squash is responsible for promoting squash from grass roots to high-performance level as per the Strategic Plan. Funds must be spread over the various different aspects.

Irish Squash is an organisation which is fit for purpose, it is agile and continues to evolve. Irish Squash is focused on what is best for squash and all the members.

Rosie thanked all for attending the AGM, both in person and online. Rosie also thanked the outgoing board and looks forward to working with the incoming board.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.

Anne Costello
Outgoing Hon Secretary