



Minutes of the 55th Annual Delegate Meeting
of Canoeing Ireland - 8th October 2016
National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin.

1. President's Opening Address.

The 55th Annual Delegate Meeting of Canoeing Ireland was opened by the President, Paul Donnelly at 3.20pm with all Board members present – Paul Donnelly (President), Ike Jacob (A/Hon Secretary), Adrian Shanahan (A/Hon Treasurer), Colm Slevin (Executive Member), Evan Roberts (Munster Rep), Sean McIntyre (Non-Olympic High Performance Rep), Keith Bickford (Recreational Rep).

The President welcomed all delegates to the ADM and looked forward to a fruitful meeting.

M. Clinton (SLCC) raised the decision of the Board to extend the nomination deadline for Board positions and the late circulation of the draft Audited Accounts for 2015. The reasons for these technical breaches of the Memorandum and Articles of Association were explained to the meeting by the President and A/Hon Secretary and the delegates approved the continuance of the meeting despite these technical deficiencies.

2. Apologies and Correspondence.

The President informed the meeting that there were no apologies or correspondence received.

3. Adoption of the Agenda for the 55th Annual Delegate Meeting.

The following Agenda for the meeting which had been previously circulated to Delegates was proposed by the President, seconded by the A/Hon Secretary and approved by the meeting:

1. President's opening address
2. Apologies and correspondence
3. Adoption of the Agenda for the 55th Annual Delegate Meeting
4. Adoption of Standing Orders for the 55th Annual Delegate Meeting
5. Confirmation of the Quorum for the 55th Annual Delegate Meeting
6. Minutes of the 54th (2015) Annual Delegate Meeting
7. Presentation and adoption of the Board Report & Review
8. Presentation and adoption of the draft Audited Accounts for 2015
9. Adoption of proposed new Constitution & Rules
10. Motions received
11. Nominations received for election to Executive Committee
12. Nominations received for election of Regional & Technical members of the Board.
13. Motion to confirm Canoeing Ireland conformation with the Sport Ireland, Anti-doping rules:

“That this ADM accepts and ratifies acceptance of the Sport Ireland Anti-doping policy and procedures. According to these, under the strict liability rule, members are responsible for any substance that may be found in their bodies”

14. Appointment of Auditor and Solicitor.

15. AOB

16. Presidents closing address

4. Adoption of Standing Orders for the 54th Annual Delegate Meeting:

The draft Standing Orders which had been circulated were summarised by the A/Hon Secretary and discussed.

N. Tallon raised the issue of Ballot Papers containing the delegate's name not being consistent with a secret ballot. It was explained that this was custom and practice but papers could be re-issued without the inclusion of the delegate's name.

It was proposed by M. Clinton, seconded by P. Murphy and resolved that *“In the case where only one candidate has been proposed then they will be declared elected only if they receive a majority of the total votes available at the meeting when the vote is taken”*.

The amended Standing Orders were proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by R. McClure (KACC) and adopted by the meeting.

5. Confirmation of Quorum

The A/Hon Secretary confirmed that 32 delegates were present which represented a quorum.

6. Minutes of the 54th (2015) Annual Delegate Meeting.

The Minutes of the 54th Annual Delegate Meeting had been previously circulated to Delegates. There were no matters arising and the minutes were proposed by J. Kelly (KCC), seconded by K. Kohls (WWKC) and approved by the meeting.

7. Presentation and adoption of the Board Report & Review

The 2015/6 Board Report and Review was read to the Meeting by the President. Matters arising:

- a. The report was welcomed as a comprehensive, informative and frank review of the year's activities and the many positive developments outlined were commended.
- b. Questions raised regarding reasons for Board resignations and corporate issues highlighted in the report were addressed by the Board
- c. The status of the proposal to dispose of the sprint start buckets was discussed. The decision of the Board in 2014 to purchase without written confirmation that they were to be commissioned, installed and maintained at no cost to the organization, which later turned out to be unfounded, was criticized. A number of delegates requested that options for retaining the buckets be explored. It was explained that following a detailed review, the non-affordability of further costs necessary led to the Board's decision but that this would be reviewed by the incoming Board before disposal would be confirmed or otherwise.
- d. Non-publication of Board minutes on the website was raised and difficulties experienced were outlined by the A/Hon Secretary who pointed out that the new Rules proposed that this requirement be replaced by a quarterly report to the membership on Board proceedings.

- e. The large escalation in cost of the Grant Thornton report was raised and the reasons explained to the meeting.
- f. The organisation's relationship and standing with Sport Ireland was raised and it was outlined that the Board were maintaining regular contact with SI who had been very supportive of the Board's programme of governance and organizational reform. This had resulted in many positive improvements. It was stressed by a number of members that the Board needed the support of the membership in building the framework necessary to advance and strengthen the sport.
- g. It was agreed that an increased and supported involvement of volunteers and junior paddlers was key to growth and that initiatives to build and strengthen such involvement should be a priority for the incoming Board and the technical committees.

The adoption of the Board report was proposed by R. McClure (KACC), seconded by G. O'Callaghan (PKC) and approved.

8. Presentation and Adoption of the Draft Audited Accounts for 2014

The A/Hon Treasurer presented the 2015 Draft Audited Accounts which had previously been circulated to Delegates and clarified that the delay in circulating resulted from the management of the process and not from any failure on the part of office staff, our Accountant or Auditors.

Questions were invited from the floor and the following queries were raised:

- a. Movement from €4k surplus in 2014 to €70k deficit in 2015 – explained that this arose to a degree from dealing with some long-outstanding sprint team liabilities and a number of other factors. The A/Hon Treasurer undertook to circulate a report outlining the main issues involved and stated that we were in a much stronger financial position in 2016.
- b. The increase in membership despite the absence of a corresponding increase in membership fees - explained that the membership increase was Aug 2015 to Aug 2016 whereas the fee income was for the financial year ended 30/12/15. The A/Hon Treasurer agreed that a report on the demographic make-up of membership and membership revenue would be circulated by the end of November 2016.
- c. Provision for bad debts – explained that this related to legacy sprint athlete contributions over which there was doubt concerning ability to recover.

The Draft Audited Accounts were proposed by J. Kelly (KCC), seconded by P. McCormack (NKCP) and adopted by the Meeting.

9. Adoption of proposed new Constitution and Rules

A report had been circulated to Delegates outlining the need for the introduction of the new Constitution and Rules which had also been circulated in advance. The following amendments were tabled and decided upon:

- a. Constitution Art 17 - Notice period for calling an AGM: Proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by T. Egan (SLCC) *"that the notice period be changed from 28 days to 35 days"*. The motion was not passed.
- b. Constitution Art 24 - Poll: Proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by R. McClure (KACC) that the words *"or nomination"* be inserted after the word *"motion"* in line 1 and after the word *"resolution"* on line 5. The motion was carried.

- c. Constitution Art 35 - Board: Proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by A. Shanahan (KACC) that an additional sentence be added to state "Failure to comply invalidates their appointment as Director of the company and their membership of the Board". The motion was carried.
- d. Rule 4 – Membership: Proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by D. Farrell (SCPCC) that the following sentence be added – "No person or club shall be admitted or remain a member of Canoeing Ireland unless approved by the Board". The motion was carried.
- e. Rule 6.7 – Obligations of Members: Proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by I. Jacob (LKC) that the following be added after the first sentence "without first pursuing the matter through the internal process". The motion was carried.
- f. Rule 13.1 – Motions: Proposed by D. Farrell (SCPCC), seconded by P. Murphy (KACC) that the words "or a bloc of ten Individual Members" be added after the words "Member clubs" on line 1. The motion was carried.
- g. Rule 14 – Extraordinary General Meeting: Proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by I. Jacob (LKC) that an additional Rule 14.3 be added to state: "The Hon Secretary shall make available to any member requesting an EGM the numerical value of 10 percent of the total voting rights of all the Members for the purpose of complying with Rule 14.2". The motion was carried.
- h. Rule 15.10 – Board Operations: Proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by S. McIntyre (WWKC) that Rule 15.10 will state: "The CEO will attend all Board meetings at the discretion of the Board but shall not be a member or have a vote".
- i. Rule 15.13 – Board Operations: Proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by G. O'Callaghan (PKC) that an additional sentence be added to state: "Failure to comply invalidates their membership of the Board". The motion was carried.
- j. Rule 16.3 – Executive Committee Operations: Proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by S. McIntyre (WWKC) that Rule 16.3 will state: "The CEO will attend all meetings of the Executive Committee at the discretion of the Committee". The motion was carried.
- k. Rule 27.3 – Alteration to Rules: Proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by G. O'Callaghan (PKC) to insert "....by acknowledged e-mail or other verifiable electronic means...." after "sent by registered post," on line 3. The motion was carried.
- l. Rule 27.7 – Alteration to Rules: Proposed by M. Clinton (SLCC), seconded by I. Jacob (LKC) to replace "two-thirds" with "60%". The motion was carried.

On the proposal of the President, P. Donnelly, seconded by J. Kelly, the new Constitution and Rules were approved by the meeting subject to the amendments at (a) to (l) above.

10. Motions received

Motions received from Salmon Leap Canoe Club had been dealt with by way of amendments to the new Constitution and Rules.

11. Nominations received for election to the Executive Committee

There were five nominations received for the four Executive Committee positions:

- a. Ike Jacob: Proposed by Ribbontail Paddlers Canoe Club, seconded by Trim Canoe Club
- b. Brian Ogilvie: Proposed by Laois Canoe & Kayak Club, seconded by Clonmel Canoe Club
- c. Colm Slevin: Proposed by Limerick Scout Academy, seconded by Limerick Canoe Club

- d. Noel Tallon: Proposed by Liffey Valley Kayak Club, seconded by Celbridge Paddlers Canoe Club.

Noel Tallon withdrew his nomination. The remaining four candidates were individually elected to the Executive Committee by a unanimous votes of the meeting.

12. Election of Regional and Technical members to the Board

- a. **Leinster Representative:** Frank Murphy proposed by Balto Kayak Club, seconded by Kilkenny Aqua Canoe Club – elected by unanimous vote of the meeting
- b. **Connaught/Ulster Representative:** Paul Pierce proposed by Galway Kayak Club, seconded by Kilkenny Aqua Canoe Club - elected by unanimous vote of the meeting
- c. **Munster Representative:** Evan Roberts proposed by Phoenix Kayak Club, seconded by West Cork Kayak Club - elected by unanimous vote of the meeting
- d. **Dublin Representative:** Brendan O’Brien proposed by Celbridge Paddlers Canoe Club, seconded by Thomastown Paddlers Canoe Club - elected by majority vote of the meeting
- e. **Olympic High Performance Representative:** Neil Fleming proposed by the Canoe Slalom Committee. As the nomination had not been seconded by the Canoe Sprint Committee, the co-option of an Olympic High Performance Representative was passed to the incoming Board.
- f. **Non-Olympic High Performance Representative:** As no nomination had been received, the co-option of a Non-Olympic High Performance Representative was passed to the incoming Board.
- g. **Recreational Representative:** As no nomination had been received, the co-option of a Recreational Representative was passed to the incoming Board.

13 Motion to confirm Canoeing Ireland conformation with the Sport Ireland, Anti-doping rules

It was proposed by the Board and unanimously approved by the meeting, *“That this ADM accepts and ratifies acceptance of the Sport Ireland Anti-doping policy and procedures. According to these, under the strict liability rule, members are responsible for any substance that may be found in their bodies”*

14 Appointment of Auditors and Solicitors

On a proposal by the Board, the meeting unanimously approved the appointment of OSK as company Auditors and Bruce St. John Blake & Co. as company Solicitors

15 Any other business

P. Spence proposed that the Brexit situation should not affect relations and movement of paddlers between North and South of the country and proposed a vote of appreciation for the tremendous work carried out by Pete Boyle of Belfast Kayak Academy on the development of the Canoe Polo Pool in east Belfast and on developing proposals for a water park at Knockbracken in south Belfast. The sentiments of both proposals were unanimously approved by the meeting.

16 President’s closing address

Paul Donnelly thanked delegates for their attendance and contribution to the meeting. He looked forward to working with the new Board in the coming year in developing our sport in all its forms and commended the work of our staff and volunteers who will be vital in bringing our new strategy to life. He paid tribute to Benny Cullen, Training & Development Manager for the dedication and enthusiasm he brought to his roles over his career with Canoeing Ireland and wished him well in his new employment.

The meeting concluded at 7pm.

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