

Ireland Lacrosse

Annual General Meeting

Friday, 8 April 2016

7-9pm, Room L024 (Sutherland School of Law), UCD

Minutes

Ireland Lacrosse CEO Michael Kennedy (MK) opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

1. Minutes of the AGM of 10 April 2015 and Matters Arising (*circulated*)

It was noted that full documentation for the AGM (including the minutes of the previous meeting) was posted on the Ireland Lacrosse website and through various Ireland Lacrosse social media channels. The minutes of the previous AGM were approved.

2. Reports from the Ireland Lacrosse Board of Directors

- a. **Chief Executive Officer (and Secretary)** – MK reported that the men’s U19 team would be making its debut at the world U19 championships in 2016, and that development of a women’s U19 team is planned for participation in the 2019 women’s world U19s. MK also reported on the successful bid to host the 2020 men’s world U19s at the University of Limerick. MK also reported on the major review of the national team coaching staff appointment process that was undertaken after the 2014 men’s world championships in Denver, and this process was then run for the men’s senior team and men’s U19 team which are both participating in major tournaments in 2016, and will be used going forward. The new process provides for greater transparency in how such appointments are made.
- b. **Financial Director** – MK reported on behalf of John Frame, noting expansion of insurance coverage for all Ireland Lacrosse members to now cover public liability, personal injury and travel insurance. JF is also developing the annual report and will make this available in due course (see item 6 of the agenda).
- c. **Membership Director** – Colm Murphy reported on ongoing communication with members and club captains regarding member registration and membership dues payments. CM has also been instrumental in handling the uniform/apparel/equipment needs for the men’s U19 team. CM was also on the Staff Selection Panel for both the men’s senior team and men’s U19 team, and was also an assessor at the U19 tryouts.
- d. **Director for Coaching Development** – MK reported on behalf of Sean Bodie. It was noted that SB has produced a coaching manual, and that the Level One coaching course was delivered in May 2015, with the next course due to be delivered on 14 May 2016 at UCD (see item 5 of the agenda).
- e. **National Teams Director** – MK reported on behalf of John Cavanaugh. It was noted that JC was chair of the Staff Selection Panel for appointment of the men’s senior and men’s U19 teams. JC also attended the women’s EC2015 tournament in Nymburk, Czech Republic with the women’s senior team, and will be attending the world U19s in British Columbia, Canada in the summer of 2016.
- f. **Women’s Director** – Aisling Casey reported on behalf of Katelin Billups. It was noted that KB has been acting as the first point of contact for all information relating to our women’s programme, and then has communicated onwards to other key individuals involved in the women’s game.
- g. **Women’s ILL Co-ordinator** – Evanna Murphy reported on the work undertaken to manage the women’s league.
- h. **Men’s ILL Co-ordinator** – MK reported on behalf of Arthur Cullinan on the work undertaken to manage the men’s league.
- i. **Development Director** – ACasey reported on the extensive work undertaken to start promoting schools lacrosse. This included attendance at the PEAI conference in Dundalk in October 2015, where ACasey ran workshops which were focused on youth development and on instructing school teachers on how to teach lacrosse. ACasey also noted the arrangements made to facilitate both loans and sale of equipment to schools (MK added that

Ireland Lacrosse holds a stock of equipment and this can be purchased directly from Ireland Lacrosse through MK).

- j. **Indoor Lacrosse Development Director (Web Administrator)** – MK reported on behalf of Sean Gibson. It was noted that Ciaran Boylan was the in-country person responsible for managing the indoor league. It was also noted that SG has been instrumental in establishing the European Box Lacrosse Championships tournament, the first iteration of which will take place in the summer of 2017 in Finland. This has been achieved in his capacity as indoor co-ordinator for the European Lacrosse Federation (ELF). It was also noted that the Ireland Lacrosse website was recently re-designed.
- k. **Communications and Marketing Officer** – MK reported that Ciaran Boylan had been appointed to this position in 2015 but that no substantive work had been undertaken with respect to it, and CB had already had significant responsibilities in relation to the indoor league.

3. Elections to Ireland Lacrosse Executive Board positions

- a. **Chief Executive Officer (and Secretary)** – Michael Kennedy was nominated, seconded and elected.
- b. **Financial Director** – John Frame was nominated, seconded and elected.
- c. **Membership Director** – Colm Murphy reported that he wished to step down from this position. It was agreed that this position would be amalgamated with the Communications and Marketing Officer, and that an Ireland Lacrosse internship position be created which would include responsibilities associated with management of membership, communications and marketing. This internship position would be further scoped out, and also linked with existing internships associated with our national teams.
- d. **Director for Coaching Development** – Sean Bodie was nominated, seconded and elected.
- e. **National Teams Director** – John Cavanaugh was nominated, seconded and elected.
- f. **Women’s Director** – Katelin Billups was nominated, seconded and elected.
- g. **Women’s ILL Co-ordinator** – Evanna Murphy was nominated, seconded and elected.
- h. **Men’s ILL Co-ordinator** – Arthur Cullinan was nominated, seconded and elected.
- i. **Development Director** – Aisling Casey was nominated, seconded and elected.
- j. **Indoor Lacrosse Development Director (Web Administrator)** – Sean Gibson was nominated, seconded and elected.
- k. **Communications and Marketing Officer** – It was agreed that this position would be amalgamated with the Membership Director position as per item 3c above.
- l. **Any additional or new positions**
 - i. **National Indoor Lacrosse League (NILL) Co-ordinator** – it was agreed that this non-Executive position should be formalized further to assist in the promotion of the indoor league. This would be communicated to SG as Indoor Lacrosse Development Director to undertake the required actions.

Action: SG to determine appropriate course of action to facilitate further definition of NILL Co-ordinator role.

4. Ireland Lacrosse 2016-2017 – draft schedule & planning (*circulated*)

ACullinan submitted the following report in writing in advance of the AGM:

Although I was not formally appointed at last year’s AGM I was the 2015/2016 Men’s League Coordinator. I would like to say a sincere thank you to Matt Doncel, Simon Johns, Jake Morris, Bonagee, John McKeague, Luke Murphy, Evanna Murphy, the rest of the clubs committee and the executive board for all their help running the league this season. Knock on wood for tomorrow but I am happy with how this season has progressed and have listed what I think are my main successes and main failures:

Successes:

- *Time keeping this season was greatly improved with the majority league events starting and finishing on time.*
- *The refereeing course in January introduced a number of new referees who will hopefully get more experience next season.*
- *Moving all Dublin gamedays to UCD brought costs down on Dublin and the prawns. Many thanks to Matt and Nadine from UCD who were fantastic all season in booking these pitches.*

- *Despite the fact the men's committee never once had a full meeting communication was excellent. Communicating through facebook worked perfectly fine for most matters.*
- *I compiled feedback on the most recent men's national team tryouts to improve the process which also fed into the conversation on the national team selection policy.*

Failures:

- *I tried to introduce paying referees' expenses early in this season but this was rejected almost unanimously by the club's committee. I still think that players who give up their time to assist with running these games should be compensated and that this could help increase the numbers of referees. I think my proposal for reformatting the league may be persuasive in bringing this about next season.*
- *The Waterford gameday was a failure that I take responsibility for. It cost too much and ultimately did nothing to help grow a club in Waterford.*

Moving forward:

- *I believe that my proposal on reformatting the league will help the league become more professional and better facilitate the growth of lacrosse in Ireland.*
- *I also think that more members have to get involved in the organisational side of our sport in order for the game to develop more quickly. Not unlike the fact that the most likely players on a pitch to complain about referees are also the most unlikely to referee a match themselves, we have too many members who voice their annoyance with how Ireland Lacrosse operates yet are unwilling to put themselves forward for positions of responsibility. Our motto is "i dteannta a chéile" (together as one). In order to grow our sport we must all be willing to contribute more than just attending matches.*

The proposal that was submitted as part of the documentation for the meeting was discussed at length, with input from several of the club captains. It was agreed that reform of the league was indeed needed, but that there is some additional fine tuning of the proposal required to evaluate whether the changes are workable and sustainable. Availability of referees was the most significant challenge, with a discussion about trying to make arrangements to cover the costs for all referees. It was also noted that, likewise due to the limited availability of women's umpires, it would be difficult to implement a reformed league schedule and format for the women's league in 2016-2017. It was agreed that further discussion was needed around the proposed changes for the men's league, and that this needed to take place in particular after the new club captains have been voted in, as they will be the people involved in the league in 2016-2017. It was agreed, therefore, that the Clubs Committee would discuss the proposal in greater detail with a view to agreeing a schedule for 2016-2017.

Action: ACullinan to continue discussion through the Clubs Committee with a view to agreeing the league format and schedule for 2016-2017, and this will be communicated to all members through the club captains in due course.

With a view to identifying a potential source of income to cover the costs associated with payment to referees and umpires, and in light also of the dissolution of the Membership Director position, and with a view to streamlining the Ireland Lacrosse membership registration process, it was agreed that all players will now complete the online Ireland Lacrosse Membership Form (<http://main.irelandlacrosse.ie/new-membership-form/>). Some minor amendments to the form will be made to enable an individual to designate which club they belong to. This will make it possible to have a single consolidated list of all Ireland Lacrosse members – and the listing of these can then be sent to the club captains each year for verification. While it was also proposed that payment would be processed through this individual membership (e.g. €35 per member), this was not agreed – rather, all players will be required to complete the online membership form, but payment will be arranged by the clubs in the traditional way (ie lump sum from the club to Ireland Lacrosse in January of each year).

Action: MK and SG to work on amendments to the Ireland Lacrosse Membership Form (<http://main.irelandlacrosse.ie/new-membership-form/>) to make it possible for a person to designate which club they belong to, and all club captains to require their players to complete the form, commencing in September 2016.

a. **Éire training – 27-28 April, 6-9pm, UCD** (*circulated*)

It was noted that these two training sessions were open to all men players and that all men players are strongly encouraged to attend. They will be run by Rich Carter (Assistant Coach of the Irish men's senior team) and Doug Shanahan (former World Championships MVP and Teewarathon Trophy winner).

b. **Ken Gallucio Cup 2016 eligibility and team entry fee (€650 per team)**

MK reported that the ELF, which sponsors the Ken Gallucio Cup tournament, has cracked-down on player eligibility. The rules now stipulate that only players who are actually registered players for that team can participate with that team in this tournament (in other words, no ringers). The NGB (ie Ireland Lacrosse) is required to verify the rosters of the participating teams before they are sent to the ELF. MK also reported that the normal process for payment of the €650 registration fee is that Ireland Lacrosse pays this fee on behalf of the participating teams in advance in order to secure a place in the tournament, and then the teams must pay this fee back to Ireland Lacrosse in advance of the event (which is taking place on 10-11 September 2016) – this has been done again as per usual this year.

c. **Summer activities**

MK outlined some ideas to help develop additional summer activities – this included possible summer camps for kids, which is a key strategy for further promotion of youth lacrosse. An application for funding has been made to the Irish Diaspora Engagement Fund to link members of the Irish diaspora (ie people of Irish ancestry living outside of Ireland) who are part of our national teams to come and deliver summer camps. A decision on the application for funding is due to be made at the end of April / early May. It was also proposed that summer scrimmages could be held and advertised through various schools to help promote the game.

5. **Coaching Development – Level 1 Training course (Saturday, 14 May 2016)** (*circulated*)

Details of the next Level 1 coaching course were announced – this will take place in the Red Room at UCD on Saturday, 14 May from 10-4pm and it will be delivered by SB, ACCasey and MK.

a. **Garda Vetting**

MK reported that, through Ireland Lacrosse's membership of the Federation of Irish Sport, there is a streamlined Garda Vetting service available through which coaches can be Garda vetted. Applications were made available, and these should be completed and submitted to MK by any interested candidates.

6. **Financial Report**

MK reported on behalf of John Frame that the annual Financial Report was still in development. As and when this is available, it will be circulated to the club captains through the Clubs Committee.

Action: JF to submit annual Financial Report to the Ireland Lacrosse Secretary (MK), who will distribute this to the Clubs Committee.

7. **Vision for Ireland Lacrosse 2016** (*circulated*)

MK noted that this document is useful as a reference document insofar as it provides an overall picture of the range of Ireland Lacrosse activities.

a. **Youth development – schools programme / summer camps**

It was noted that this is a critical area of activity that requires further work in order to continue to promote the game.

b. **FIL & Olympic recognition update** (*circulated*)

This document outlined the current status of the application by the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) for Olympic recognition.

8. National Team Player Eligibility

It was noted that this proposal has been in development for several months, and that a sub-committee of the Ireland Lacrosse Executive Board consisting of John Cavanaugh, Sean Gibson, Sean Bodie and Arthur Cullinan had been tasked to work on the proposal. There was extensive discussion on this, however, as no members of the sub-committee were present to discuss the proposal or respond to queries, it was agreed that decision/approval could not be obtained at the AGM. It was therefore agreed that an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) should be convened to address this proposal with a view to approving a new Policy on National Team Player Eligibility.

Action: JC, SG, SB, ACullinan to liaise to agree a date for an EGM to discuss the proposal, and to arrange to publicise this amongst the members.

9. National Team tournaments *(for noting)*

These events were noted by the members, with some additional comments.

- a. 2016 Men's World U-19 Championships – 7-16 July 2016, Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada
- b. 2016 Men's European Championships – 27 July-6 Aug 2016, Godollo, Hungary
- c. 2017 FIL Women's World Cup – 13-22 July 2017, Guildford, Surrey, England. The tryouts for this team will take place from 28-30 October 2016 in Dublin.
- d. 2017 European Indoor Championships – 8-15 July 2017, Turku and Kaarina, Finland. The tryouts for this team will take place from 28-30 October 2016 in Dublin.
- e. 2018 Men's World Championships – 12-21 July 2018, Manchester, England. It was noted that this tournament will now take place at the Hough End playing fields, rather than on-campus at the University of Manchester, as previously planned and as was previously the case for the 2010 men's world championships.
- f. 2019 Women's European Championships – TBC
- g. 2019 Women's World U-19 Championships – TBC. MK noted that as soon as the date and location for this event was announced by the FIL (this had been due in January/February 2016) then the process to appoint a Head Coach for an Irish team to compete in this event would be undertaken.
- h. 2019 Men's World Indoor Championships – 19-28 September 2019, Langley Events Centre, British Columbia, Canada
- i. 2020 Men's World U-19 Championships – 9-18 July 2020, University of Limerick, Ireland. MK presented the video that was submitted as part of the bid for this event.
- j. 2020 Men's European Championships – TBC