

Irish Ice Hockey Association



Minutes of Meeting

Sunday 18th July 2010

- Meeting:** Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Present:** William Fay (WF) Chair
Mark Bowes (MB) and Martin Grant (MG) Minutes

Dean Kelly (DK)
Jonathan Dunne (JD)
Wayne Hopkins (WH)
Aigars Brencis (AB)
Seanna Conway (SC)
Vytautas Lukosevicius (VL)
- Location:** Fairways Hotel,
Dundalk,
Co.Louth
- Apologies:** Kevin Kelly (KK)
- Meeting Start Time:** 14:38
- Meeting End Time:** 18:02



1. Meeting Introduction, Meeting Rules & Guidelines and evacuation procedures.

WF welcomed all to the meeting and explained the rules and guidelines. He also explained the evacuation procedures.

2. Welcome by chair and introduction of Executive, Directors, Observers and Minute takers

WF again welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced both himself and the others at the top table. Representatives from the Olympic Council of Ireland (OCI) and the Irish Sports Council (ISC) were also welcomed along with the IIHA solicitor John Hogan. WF introduced MB and MG as the minutes takers of the meeting.

3. Apologies

WF stated that Kevin Kelly was unable to attend the meeting for personal reasons.

4. Approval of 2009 EGM Minutes and matters arising

WF asked the members if there were any issues with the minutes from the EGM. Cliff Saunders stated that he sent email saying that there were no votes cast at the EGM and that it was a spoiled vote. WF said that it can be dealt with in the motions that were proposed later on. WF then asked for the minutes to be approved by a show on hands based on a majority. The minutes of the 2009 EGM were approved.

5. Status of Incorporation

WF then introduced the next motion on the agenda. This included a motion put forward by the Executive Committee and Directors to amend the Memorandum & Articles of Association as necessary and to receive final and explicit approval from the members to incorporate the association into a new company limited by guarantee (not having a share capital). Although, the members have voted for this to happen on several occasions, the current Executive Committee and Directors believe that this topic must be discussed one final time.

DK takes to the floor and explains this motion. He explains the point and states that the IIHA isn't incorporated as of yet and that an email sent to members explains this.

Barry Higgins stated that he did not receive an email in relation to this issue. DK takes to the floor again and updates the members on this matter. DK addresses the floor, explaining a sentence change in the M&A to exclude 'Northern Ireland'. DK then shows this change to clarify for the members on a big screen for everyone to see. DK explains that this is a housekeeping change and that the change won't affect any leagues, national teams etc and the IIHF Statutes and Bylaws must be followed.

Mick Higgins asks does this mean that players from Northern Ireland will need an ITC to play.

DK replied and said that yes and that this is how it has always been.



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Mick Higgins stated that it is €500 per player for an ITC.

DK said that he was aware and that it's not set in stone but that IHUK and the IIHA would waive a fee, leaving the cost at 300CHF.

Cliff Saunders expressed his concerns, stating that there is a ten year history between players north and south of the border and that this change would be segregating and implying that players who are Irish in Northern Ireland as British.

DK took to the floor and explained how this affects eligibility.

Cliff Saunders said that if a player sits out of ice hockey for two years and if he is born on Falls Roads, he is Irish.

DK states that he did not mention citizenship.

Cliff Saunders said that he wasn't disputing this but that he wanted it in writing that the IIHF recognise the Good Friday Agreement (GFA).

Mick Higgins stood up and stated a name called Fred Meredith.

Jim Pepper said that there is nothing stopping a citizen rescinding their British Citizenship and becoming an Irish Citizen.

DK asked if he could clarify the change so that the meeting can move forward. DK stated that the change has nothing to do with the eligibility of national teams, leagues etc. DK also stated that the sovereign state of Ireland does not include Northern Ireland. DK stated that this was a mistake and that it needed to be changed so the IIHA can be incorporated.

Cliff Saunders stated that he didn't want sovereignty and that changes will stop players from Northern Ireland playing for Team Ireland.

DK said that the IIHA clarified all issues with the Northern Ireland Office and that they supplied letters to the IIHA.

Mick Higgins asked DK if you were ok with this situation why did Robbie Brown travel. DK said that this matter would be discussed under another topic, but the IIHA met with the IIHF to clarify the dual citizenship issue and that the IIHA can argue this with the IIHF. DK also stated the IIHA was never the NGB for ice hockey in Northern Ireland.

DK also stated that people were mixing up eligibility to play for Team Ireland with ITC's and that the IIHF require people from Northern Ireland to hold an ITC to play in the IIHA's leagues.

Keith Daly said that this was crazy and that kids are being penalised in effect. SC stated that this has always been the case but that rules were not always followed. Cliff Saunders said that opportunity was taken from kids. Keith Daly added that 80% of ice hockey players here are from the North and that the correction is fine but that more clarification is needed.

WH asked if Keith needed clarification on the wording that needed to be changed. Cliff Saunders stated that the Team Ireland has a ten year history with Northern Ireland players and that it should be our way and not the IIHF's way.

DK stated that we are not changing anything in relation to eligibility bylaws but that the IIHA sent the IIHF the IIHA's M&A and they requested us to change the wording and explained why they requested this. Cliff Saunders said that he disagrees and if it's not broken, don't fix it.



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DK explained to the members once again that the IIHA sought clarification from the IIHF on the matter and that they said this would not change nor affect ITCs and player eligibility. DK added that the OCI were satisfied by the IIHF's response and that the IIHA sought this in writing.

WH read a letter from the President of IHUK to the floor about this matter. WH said that the meeting is getting off the point and asked if the meeting could discuss incorporation and deal with these issues under discussions and motions later on in the meeting and that the meeting should stick to the agenda. WH asked how did the floor feel about this and a majority said that they agreed.

WF stated that this word, as small as it is, has a huge impact which is directly linked to greater issues in the M&A.

DK stated that IHUK have sovereignty over ice hockey in Northern Ireland. DK said that we need to change the wording of our M&A because another member association has sovereignty over Northern Ireland. DK also said that if we didn't remove the word from the M&A, that the members would be back here in 60 days.

Mick Higgins said that if we changed the wording we will run into more problems and said that we should have a Northern Ireland representative on boards. Mick Higgins also said that the IIHA are waving away rights. DK asked Mick Higgins if he was stating that the IIHA are the NGB for Northern Ireland. Mick Higgins said did you hear me say that, but that a way can be found. Mick Higgins said that the M&A is in place to serve us and not the other way around. DK clarified that the M&A does not govern eligibility. Mick Higgins said that this could decimate the IIHA.

WF said that we are fighting these issue with the IIHF tooth and nail but that incorporation is the issue we are discussing at the moment. Mick Higgins then asked WF what conversations did he have with people from Northern Ireland. Evelyn Kelly stood up and asked if she could speak for a moment. WF said that she could. Evelyn Kelly said that the wording needs to be changed because the IIHA isn't the governing body for Northern Ireland and that she can't understand why the meeting cannot move on.

WF agreed and stated that as DK has said, we were tasked with this at the EGM and that the IIHF say that we can't be the NGB of another sovereign state. Mick Higgins asked WF if he had consulted players about the matter. WF said that this change does not affect players and that nothing changes. WF also stated that they were tasked with going back to the IIHF about this matter.

WH said that any player under the age of 18 won't have to pay for ITCs. WH said that anyone who wants to play for Ireland will have to transfer by way of an ITC and sit out for two years and that these are the rules in place and set out by the IIHF. WH added that the IIHA are fighting these issues with the IIHF. Mick Higgins said that WH was wrong. SC asked who from the IIHF said that you don't need an ITC. DK stated that he met with the IIHF and they confirmed that players will need an ITC. Cliff Saunders said that the President of the IIHF said that players don't need an ITC and that the IIHF have it on file. DK asked Cliff Saunders if he had the agreement in writing from the IIHF. Cliff Saunders then said that the IIHF are trying to get the IIHA to put it in writing.

Keith Daly said that we should move on with the meeting and that we should remove the wording in question.

WF asked IIHA solicitor John Hogan if he wanted to speak to the meeting. John Hogan agreed and he stated that he can understand peoples' concerns but that some of the concerns are totally irrelevant. John Hogan explained that if the meeting voted against the change in the wording of the M&A that the IIHF wouldn't recognise the Association any longer. Cliff Saunders then stated to leave the wording as it as. John Hogan stated that if this matter wasn't solved it would bring the Association back three years. Mick Higgins said that a solution to the problem could be found if the Association argue a case so that players could avoid paying fees for another year. John Hogan suggested that a sub committee be established to argue this topic with the IIHF. Jim Pepper pointed out that permission needed to be



sought from IHUK if Irish kids wanted to train in the Odyssey Arena and that Northern Ireland is governed by IHUK and the Republic of Ireland is governed by the IIHA. Will Fitzgerald said that the IIHA would have to do all in its power to help assist players here and that we needed an executive team to fight the statement from the IIHF that players needed to be protected. Will Fitzgerald added that he would be willing to be involved in such a committee. John Hogan said that Will Fitzgerald made his point very well and that it was a good idea. Will Fitzgerald added that a special case needs to be made and fought again. SC said that the IIHA could take this matter to CAS and explained that the IIHA do deserve a special provision in relation to this issue. WF asked John Hogan if the IIHA was putting itself at risk if we didn't incorporate. John Hogan replied stating very much so. Mick Higgins said that we can stay as we are and fight this matter. John Hogan said no way should the meeting do this, that we would be putting the Association at risk of not being recognised and stated that the meeting should go to a vote on the motion. WF asked if the meeting was ready to vote. A majority said that they were ready to vote. WF asked the members to vote by raising their hand in favour of the motion. MB and MG counted the numbers and 26 members were in favour. WF then asked members who were against the motion to raise their hands. MB and MG counted the numbers and 6 members were against.

WF said that the motion was carried by 26 votes in favour to 6 against.

6. Guest Speaker

WF thanked John Hogan for his valuable assistance and he called on guest speaker Mick Cummins to address the meeting and move onto the next topic on the agenda.

Mick Cummins thanked WF and the meeting for their time and he addressed the floor. Mick informed the meeting that Genevieve Veldhuis a member of the IIHA, a very good friend of his, his family and a friend of everyone involved in ice hockey had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. Mick Cummins, in addressing the meeting became emotional and said that someone so young at the age of 26 to be struck by cancer must be an awful experience. In closing, Mick Cummins explained Genevieve's history and her involvement in the sport here in Ireland and asked the meeting could he organise a fundraiser to help gather funds for Genevieve's vital treatment. At this point the room applauded. Jim Pepper asked if a committee for fundraising group was going to be formed. Mick Cummins said that everything happened so quickly and to keep an eye on the IIHA website for details and information on such fundraising events. WF thanked Mick Cummins for his time addressing the meeting on this emotional issue and added that his and everyone else's thoughts and prayers was with Genevieve and her family at this tough time and wished her a successful recovery.

7. Presidents Report

WF said that he just received a text message from Tony Kinsella, Director of the Dundalk Ice Dome. WF said that Tony Kinsella would like a message to be passed onto the meeting if it was possible. WF read the text from Tony Kinsella to the meeting, which he stated that Planet Ice would try their best to reopen the ice rink in Dundalk in August and that he was thankful for everyone's support.

WF then read his report.

Will Fitzgerald asked WF if the Irish Sports Council (ISC) was giving the IIHA any assistance in terms of guidance and advice. Will Fitzgerald also asked if the IIHA would get caught in a loophole and if the ISC gives advice to the IIHA. WF said that Maire Ahern of the ISC said guidelines for joining the ISC had been revised and that the ISC set out clearly in its application form what the IIHA was required to have in place and that a sub committee will deal with National Governing Bodies (NGB's).

Cliff Saunders said that the IIHA applied for membership before and asked if the criteria to join were eased. Maire Ahern of the ISC said that the committee has changed some of its criteria and she acknowledged that the IIHA's previous application to join had failed. Maire Ahern also said that Mr. Saunders can look at the Irish Sports Council website for the new criteria for application if he wished.



WF finished his report.

At 16:09 WF said that the meeting would take a ten minute scheduled recess and that the meeting would resume at 16:19.

At 16:19 the meeting resumed and WF asked JD to present the Treasurer's report to the meeting

8. Treasurer's Report

JD handed out a copy of the Treasurer's report to the meeting. He thanked Jim Pepper for raising six thousand euro in fundraising events. After a few minutes of the report being handed out, JD opened the floor for questions.

Cliff Saunders said that now the IIHA is established he didn't see any ITC fees for players leaving Ireland. He said that no ITC's have been claimed for players leaving the country and that the IIHA needs to establish a service charge to get money back.

JD said that he was aware of this and that he would have a look at this but that he doesn't remember seeing transfer requests for players leaving Ireland.

Mick Higgins asked JD could he have a breakdown of expenses for the Senior Ireland National Team of 2009. JD said that there were two costs involved which were flights and teams apparel. JD also stated that the 2009 account was approved last year.

Mick Higgins stated that this year only fifteen people travelled to Luxembourg for the IIHF World championships but yet there was six thousand euro more spent. JD said that the senior team was little cost to the IIHA because of IIHF funding.

Evelyn Kelly said that she was pleased to see a massive reduction in phone expenses and that she was encouraged by this and hoped the IIHA would continue this.

Will Fitzgerald asked if the sales in the accounts included merchandising. JD said that it included every penny that was lodged into the IIHA account. Will Fitzgerald said that the long term projections were overall sustainable figures and that teams should be complimented for their fundraising efforts.

Keith Daly asked for a breakdown of the €10,000 expense which JD stated. Cliff Saunders questioned the value of assets which JD said that there was a 20% depreciation of assets. Cliff Saunders asked where is the IIHA's zamboni, skates and boards. JD explained that the skates were rented to Mark Bowes which was the decision made by the executive but that Mark Bowes was unable to purchase the skates.

Sonya Mc Eneaney asked for a breakdown of costs for the Ladies trip to Sweden and said that not every girl that travelled paid or raised €700 and that no breakdown was sent to the team and the team wasn't happy about this. JD said that he was under the impression that the team was raising money for the cost of people travelling. Sonya Mc Eneaney said that for the future this needs to be clear. JD said that €700 was the cost per girl and that the team raised money. Sonya Mc Eneaney said that this doesn't matter. WF asked Sonya what would she like to see in the future. Sonya Mc Eneaney said that future clarification is needed. WF said that the IIHA can issue guidelines in relation to fundraising. Evelyn Kelly said that it's up to themselves as a team to raise money and that the IIHA should pool funds. WF said that moving forward there would be fundraising guidelines introduced and asked if the floor was happy with this. Mick Cummins said that the Kilkenny City Storm team set a rate to fundraise per a player for the team to travel to Canada and they stuck to that.

JD asked if the floor was happy and ready to approve the accounts. A majority of hands was shown and the accounts were approved.



9. IIHA Activities Report

DK thanked the floor and said that the IIHA activities report would be read out by himself followed by AB and WH. DK read his part of the report and the floor was opened for questions.

Michael Rogan said that the IIHA did an excellent job this season and he applauded them in taking over the IIHA with so many problems that they were faced with after taking office.

Will Fitzgerald said that officiating was a slight concern and that the Flyers IHC agreed to offer the teams ice time to officials at no cost to help improve officiating in Ireland. He also pointed out that the captains and assistant captains of teams are to be respected by officials as there were times when they have been ignored.

Mick Higgins said that he attended a meeting with the Dublin Rams about the club removing their team from the IIHL and said that officiating was a major concern.

DK asked if there were any more questions from the floor. No more issues were raised.

DK then asked Jim Pepper to read his summary of reports from the floor regarding Team Ireland U18's. Jim Pepper read his report and the floor applauded.

WH takes to the floor to continue reading the IIHA activities report. Mick Higgins pointed out that the microphone isn't working, which WH fixes. WH reads the report and then asked AB to take to the floor and talks about junior development, IIHA development and new positions to the IIHA staff.

Ashley Moore asked who are the people which will take the up the three new positions. WH says that the IIHA has already spoken verbally to the people involved and offered the positions to the people and afterwards the IIHA will notify members of the appointments via the IIHA website.

Mick Cummins asked about inline hockey. WH said that we have been talking to Robbie Byrne and other people from Kilkenny and Cork about inline hockey. Mick Cummins said that the IIHA should look into inline hockey especially because there is no ice available to us during the summer. WH said he and the IIHA acknowledges this and the benefits and ease of access in relation to inline hockey and said that that IIHA will get there.

Niall Mc Evoy asked will there be an Ireland U20's team this year. WH said that Ireland doesn't meet the minimum participation standards required to ice a team at IIHF World Championships events but that the IIHA have put a case forward to the IIHF in relation to this. WF said that the IIHA will have an U20s National Team whether or not they play in the IIHF World championships they would go elsewhere such as a tournament in Scotland. Will Fitzgerald asked what was the problem with the IIHF in relation to icing an U20's team. WF explained the minimum entry requirements which are set down by the IIHF and that the IIHF is in the process of arguing the IIHA's case and those members can be reassured that the Executive Committee is making representations on the IIHA's behalf. Will Fitzgerald suggested that there should be a reasonable expectation from the IIHF and if Ireland can ice a team and they can travel then the team should be allowed to compete. WF said that preparations were well underway to develop an Ireland U20's team. Mick Higgins asked if WF could speak with the microphone. Barry Higgins asked if the IIHA can ice both the U18's and the U20's at the same time. WF pointed out that World championship dates are different and confirmed there would be a team. WF asked if the meeting could move onto the next topic on the agenda, Motions and Questions.

10. Motions and Questions

WF said that there was a motion sent into the IIHA Executive Committee from Mick Higgins. Mick Higgins asked WF to read his email to the floor and that he would address the issues when WF finished reading the email. WF proceeded to read Mick Higgins email and addressed his points.



DK said that an email was sent to each representative from each team with notification of the AGM and guidelines and also that the notification was posted on the IIHA's website www.iiha.org. Mick Higgins said it was previously agreed that members would be contacted in writing as it was in the new M&A. Someone who didn't announce their name to the minute takers said what about someone who has no PC/Laptop/Internet access. DK said that the IIHA is and will try to improve the system. Cliff Saunders said that Robbie Byrne doesn't have a PC. Someone who didn't announce their name to the minute takers said that since last year he has one. DK again said that the IIHA will improve this. Cliff Saunders said that there were very few people at the meeting from Northern Ireland. DK said that several players and teams from Northern Ireland were all notified about the AGM. Will Fitzgerald said that it might be worth the IIHA investing in a 1year mail shot with single page membership by post. Amie McCabe said that the IIHA should put on registration forms a choice about their preferred notification of the AGM. DK said that he noted this. Mick Cummins said that he received four emails about the AGM. Will Fitzgerald said that he agrees with Amie McCabe's suggestion. DK said that he was also in agreement. Evelyn Kelly said that it was down to each team's management to inform players of the AGM. Mick Higgins said to move onto his next point which he submitted regarding financial report on the IIHA website prior to the AGM

JD said that it was never a requirement for him. Mick Higgins said that it would be nice to see them in advance. JD said that he was in agreement.

WH reads out Mick Higgins motions to the meeting. WH asked members to vote. There were 5 members in favour of Mick Higgins motion and 15 against. The motion was not carried by the meeting. Will Fitzgerald said that the IIHA should strive to have openness and transparency and that it will save the IIHA in the end. Mick Cummins said that he personally believes he received more information this year than ever. Cliff Saunders said that he only received 2 days notice of the AGM and that he didn't get any notification from any club representatives. DK said that the IIHA will work together to ensure a better system of notifying members of meetings and that a lot of the concerns from the meeting will be addressed for next year. Cliff Saunders said that the IIHA would get notification out early, preferably 21 days notice and that notification by email is cheaper and the best method. WH asked if there were any more questions. There were no more questions asked from the floor.

11. Date of Next Meeting

WF said that the meeting should set a date and place for next years AGM. WF said that August wouldn't be best if it can be avoided. WF said that the IIHA proposes July 17th as the date. Aaron Cuskeran said that the date might not suit players from Northern Ireland. JD confers with WF and said that after incorporation our financial year will start the following day. JD said that the IIHA should wait and see how long incorporation will take.

Mick Cummins said that the meeting should set a date. JD said provisionally the first week in July would be a good date. Will Fitzgerald said that early July would be best. WF asked how the meeting felt about July 3rd as the date for next years AGM. The date was passed by all in attendance. WF said that if anything changes the IIHA will inform members of the new date when notifying members of the AGM.

12. Any Other Business

Sean Pepper said that the IIHA should hold try outs for the Senior Team Ireland earlier in the year. Aaron Cuskeran said that the Senior Ireland National Team needs a home-grown Irish based coached and said that potential players were never notified of their selection. WH said that the Executive spoke to the coaching staff of teams and that the IIHA is prepared to improve this, that communication is on the list of things which the Association can improve on going forward. WH also said that this season will give us more time to plan and that General Managers of National Teams in a way were giving a free reign in the past as the Executive Committee was too busy with other important matters but that the IIHA is now spreading the workload and delegating important positions. WH said that this would give the Executive Committee more time to reach promises so that the IIHA can reach its targets.



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Mick Cummins thanked Mick Higgins for assisting him in his role as GM as he didn't know what to expect and that the IIHA should educate people when they are appointed to such positions.

Keira Keenan asked what process do people go through when going for General Managers and Coaching positions and if experts come in and help with decision making. DK said that the Executive make the decision and that the IIHA is currently improving its selection process.

Will Fitzgerald said that when there is change there must be a handover period and a time frame for this. Will Fitzgerald added that optimism needs to be felt amongst members and that the attendance at meetings must improve all round and acknowledged that the work done by the IIHA was much better than last year but that there was still a lot to do. Will Fitzgerald continued by saying that if the IIHA wants more bums on seat with voting cards in the room they need to work on awareness and that the holiday period of this executive will pass. Will Fitzgerald also said that he compliments the IIHA for the work they have done after taking over the Association in a bad shape. He and the majority of the room applauded.

WF said that he will resign his seat next year in accordance with the two year rule and the M&A. DK explained the M&A and next year's voting system in accordance with the rules. DK said that technically after incorporating the Association everyone is gaining another year and stays on in their positions apart from the President. DK said that everyone has a two year term but the President is up for election in a different year to everyone else on the Executive Committee. DK explained that the President is up for election in "odd" years (e.g. 2011) and everyone else is up for election in "even" years (e.g. 2012). However, at the AGM in 2011, the position of President will be for a two year term with the other positions only for a one year term in order to keep everything in line with the M&A. At the 2012 AGM, all positions except President will be up for election again and they will be for a two year term. DK clarifies that his and the others' positions will be up for election next year. DK added that the IIHA wasn't doing anything sly to gain an extra year. WH agreed. WF again clarified the system and said that the President's position is a two year position and the other positions are a two year term but elections take place on alternative years. Will Fitzgerald said that a massive clear out needs to be avoided and was in agreement with this proposal.

WF then asked the room to vote on this motion. The motion was passed with 25 votes in favour and 1 against.

Keith Daly said that he was totally confused. DK clarifies the issue to Keith Daly and the room and the motion was passed with Keith Dalys support. WH said that from today the M&A states that the Executive Committee doesn't want to take a 3 year term and that next year when voting comes around the positions will be up for election. WH said these rules allow continuity on the board.

Sonya Mc Eneaney and Amie Mc Cabe asked if the board would be wiped out. WF clarified the issues again to the room and all matters were cleared.

WF asked if there were any more questions that members wanted to ask. There were no questions asked.

13. Closing

WF then closed the meeting at 6:02pm, two minutes late of schedule and thanked the members in attendance.

The room applauded.

