

# IRISH PÉTANQUE ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**28 Feb 2009 St Peter's Parish Hall, Bray**

**1. PRESENT:** Denis Nightingale (Pres. in the chair), Jim Ryan (Hon.Treas) George Davidson (Hon.Sec) John O'Grady, Richard Elvin, Sue Ryan and Pierre di Pizzo ( delayed ).

**2. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS:** Denis welcomed everyone to the meeting, expressed regret at the small turnout and thanked John O'Grady and his wife for the accommodation and catering arrangements which had been made for the event.

**3. APOLOGIES:** No apologies were offered other than those received by the Hon.Sec. which were from Humberto Tavares, Carole Castles, John and Julia Murray, Paul and Marie Maidment, John Hennessy, Wilma Dunbar, Paul and Tricia Murray and Hilary Murnane. **Note:** Subsequent to the meeting, the Hon.Sec received an apology from Bridie Nicholson.

**4. MINUTES OF THE 2007 AGM :** Proposed by Sue Ryan and seconded by John O'Grady, the minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings.

**5. MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising which were not included on the AGM Agenda.

**6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HON.SEC:** In summary, the Hon.Sec's report ( appended to these Minutes ) highlighted

(i) Reduced IPA membership and the artificiality of figures which included family members who do not participate in IPA matters;

(ii) The reasonable support for IPA competitions and the relative success of those who have only recently joined IPA ranks;

(iii) Lapses in behaviour at an IPA competition;

(iv) The resignation of David Beck, a long term member and officer of the IPA;

(v) Poor Irish performance at the 2008 Celtic Challenge ( CC ) in Scotland; and

(vi) A creditable performance by the Irish team finishing 33<sup>rd</sup> in the World Championships in Senegal.

6.1 At a Club level, the Hon.Sec reported that:

(i) The North Down club was continuing to enjoy steady membership and support for its competition programme;

(ii) North Down and IPA members Wilma Dunbar and David McHenry were experiencing degrees of ill-health sufficient to preclude playing and easy mobility;

- (iii) The Cahir club remains dormant; and
- (iv) Despite continuing to provide material regularly to representatives of Galway and Cabinteely clubs, the Hon.Sec has received nothing to indicate the state of things at either location.

6.2 Sue Ryan reported that the Frankfield club was doing well, playing regularly with a membership of around 20 and delighted to be involved in the running of this year's Celtic Challenge.

6.3 The Hon.Sec's report concluded that, while the hosting of the 2009 CC had provided an impetus this year, there remained a parochialism, manifesting itself in a lack lustre attitude to national events and International events which required travel from 'home'. In addition, despite the number of playing venues in Dublin, the absence of a viable, affiliated club from the area remained a conundrum.

**7. DISCUSSION ON THE HON.SEC'S REPORT:** There being no matters arising which were not on the subsequent Agenda, the Hon.Sec was commended on the breadth and detail of his report.

**8. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2008:** The Hon.Treas. provided a detailed account of income and expenditure for the year. This showed a bank balance of €3,821, representing a very modest loss for the year of €58. As can be expected, a number of items showed 'ups and downs' from last year, however, the loss of an affiliation fee and membership fees from a 'Dublin' club were very apparent. It was agreed that the Association was still in a relatively sound financial position. Membership stood at 67, which was a reduction of 23 on the previous year.

8.1 Given the changing relationship between the Euro and Sterling, the Hon.Treas. presented a revised Schedule of Fees for IPA membership and competition entry. The revised Schedule, agreed by consensus, is appended to these Minutes.

8.2 The Hon.Treas. was commended on the detail and clarity of his report..

**9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** No alternative proposals having been received prior to the meeting, the President, Hon.Sec, Hon.Treas and other Council members were re-elected, with the exception of Council member Wilma Dunbar who had instructed the Hon.Sec that she wished to retain IPA membership, but not to serve on the Council.

9.1 The Election outcome, therefore, proposed by Sue Ryan and seconded by Richard Elvin was:

President: Denis Nightingale

Hon.Sec. George Davidson

Hon. Treas. Jim Ryan

Other Council members: John O'Grady, Bridie Nicholson, Pierre di Pizzo, Humberto Tavares and Richard Elvin.

## **10. CELTIC CHALLENGE ( CC ) 2009:**

10.1 The Hon.Treasurer provided a statement of projected income and expenditure for the event. Due mainly to the Hon.Treasurer's own efforts, sponsorship of €2,500

had been attracted. Expenditure was estimated at €3,720, the bulk of which comprised dinner, mementos and brochures, leaving an estimated deficit of €1,220.

10.2 A number of matters arose requiring the following action:

- (i) the Hon.Sec will write a letter of thanks to the Cork City Council ( main sponsor ) enclosing a statement of projected expenditure as it had requested;
- (ii) at the behest of the Hon.Sec, the President and Hon.Treasurer agreed to access the Pen–y–Coed trophy website to review items which might serve as mementos and notify the Hon.Sec accordingly;
- (iii) the Frankfield club will be asked to re-consider its idea to provide mementos;
- (iv) the Hon.Sec. to purchase 7 \* sets ( see penultimate and last page of Minutes ) of embroidered IPA polo shirts and sweatshirts ( most recent quotation £162 in total );
- (v) the Hon.Sec to enquire of Pen-Y-Coed if ( as previously intimated ) they wished to sponsor the event in return for eg. brochure and website exposure;
- (vi) the President, Hon.Sec and Hon.Treasurer will liaise to ensure that the schedule of games to be included in the Brochure synchronises with other match/scoring related material being considered for use;
- (vii) contingency planning re:Irish team composition, requires early, unequivocal confirmation from those who qualified for Ireland A and B and those named as substitutes, that they are still available for the 2/3 May 2009. (Hon.Sec. to contact all concerned) and
- (viii) all Irish team members will be reminded that the team uniform comprises Chinos trousers ( Green ) as sold by Dunnes Stores.

10.3 A number of other matters were agreed:

- (i) the IPA President will take responsibility for the provision of presents to the visiting Presidents;
- (ii) Derek Jones from the Welsh PA, who has confirmed that he is attending the at his own cost as a spectator, will be asked to act as Umpire and Scorer, with attendance related costs covered by the IPA; and
- (iii) when sending out AGM related material, the Hon.Sec. will impress on Irish CC participants the need for speedy resolution of accommodation needs with Sue Ryan; and
- (iv) no 'band' will be engaged for the Sunday night dinner.

## **11. CELTIC CHALLENGE ( CC ) 2010:**

Given our past experiences with lower levels of interest when the CC is outside Ireland, it was considered prudent that the Hon.Sec should contact all known Petanque players to gauge interest in competing next year in Wales. The response will inform decisions on the team selection process and qualifying competition.

## **12. CALENDAR FOR 2009:**

A draft Calendar for 2009 was considered. The various events and timings were based on knowledge of forthcoming events and the actual pattern from 2008, and a number of venues were open for discussion. In addition, account needed to be taken of (i) the fact that the World Championships are now held on a bi-annual basis ( and will not be held in 2009 ) and (ii) European Championships ( the results of which will inform invitations to the next 'Worlds' ) are a novel event for the IPA calendar. The Hon.Sec will issue the agreed Calendar asap. to facilitate eg. action by potential interested parties in the European Championships. The finally agreed Calendar is appended to these Minutes.

## **13. IPA MEMBERS' BEHAVIOUR**

It was accepted by all present, that instances of less than the required standard of behaviour had occurred during the IPA competitions at Sligo in September last. Only one individual had defaulted, affecting the atmosphere and the running of the event. Since no action was taken by IPA officialdom during or since the event, it was agreed that the time lapse precluded any action, punitive or otherwise, against the individual now. Nevertheless, it was agreed that all IPA members would be contacted, with a view to re-iterating the need for appropriate behaviour at all times and the powers of the IPA Council, in the event that acceptable standards were not kept.

## **14. INSURANCE:**

14.1 The current IPA insurance premium of €663 runs from 1 April, and is arranged through the Hon.Treasurer. There being no alternative proposals, the matter of renewal is left to be dealt with by the Hon.Treasurer. who will inform the IPA Council of the outcome of any deliberations with the Insurer.

14.2 Members of the Bray club, currently playing at Bushy Park, were apprised of the coverage of the policy and related criteria. Discussion highlighted again the need to ensure that in the event of 'club' insurance cover being invoked, then the Insurers are likely to expect the hallmarks of a properly constituted club to be apparent ( eg. a Constitution, appointed officers, regular, minuted meetings )

## **15. FIPJP/European Federation**

15.1 Given that the FIPJP has confirmed that the World Championships will now only take place every 2 years ( next 2010 ) and that invitations to those C'ships will be based on performance in continental championships ( 2009 under the auspices of the European Federation in our case ) the implications for IPA membership of both organisations and qualification for either or both of their competitions were discussed.

15.2 Since the FIPJP had already confirmed that IPA affiliation would be reduced from €350 pa to €100 pa, it was agreed that so long as the affiliation fee for the European federation ( still to be confirmed ) was €250 or less ( ie. the composite fee was no more than we currently pay for FIPJP affiliation alone ) then the IPA would affiliate to both organisations. In the event that the composite fee was more than €350, then a Council decision on membership of either or both would be required.

## 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None

This concluded the formal business of the 2009 AGM.

## 17. TO DO –

Para 10.2 (i) the **Hon.Sec** will write a letter of thanks to the Cork City Council ( main sponsor ) enclosing a statement of projected expenditure as it had requested;

Para 10.2 (ii) the **President** and **Hon.Treasurer** to access the Pen–y–Coed trophy website to review items which might serve as mementos and notify the Hon.Sec accordingly;

Para 10.2 (iii) the Frankfield club will be asked to re-consider its idea to provide mementos ( **Jim/Sue Ryan** );

Para 10.2 (iv) the **Hon.Sec.** to purchase 7 sets ( see last page of Minutes ) of embroidered IPA polo shirts and sweatshirts ( most recent quotation £162 in total );

Para 10.2 (v) the **Hon.Sec** to enquire of Pen-Y-Coed if ( as previously intimated ) they wished to sponsor the event in return for eg. brochure and website exposure;

Para 10.2 (vi) the **President, Hon.Sec and Hon.Treasurer** will liaise to ensure that the schedule of games to be included in the Brochure synchronises with other match/ scoring related material being considered for use; and

Para 10.2 (vii) contingency planning re:Irish team composition, requires early, unequivocal confirmation from those who qualified for Ireland A and B and those named as substitutes, that they are still available for the 2/3 May 2009. (**Hon.Sec.** to contact all concerned)

Para 10.2 (viii) all Irish team members will be reminded that the team uniform comprises Chinos trousers ( Green ) as sold by Dunnes Stores ( **Hon.Sec** )

Para 10.3 (i) the **IPA President** will take responsibility for the procurement of presents to the visiting Presidents;

Para 10.3 (ii) Derek Jones from the Welsh PA, who has confirmed that he is attending the event at his own cost as a spectator, will be asked to act as Umpire and Scorer, with attendance related costs covered by the IPA ( **Jim/Sue Ryan** ); and

Para 10.3 (iii) when sending out AGM related material, the **Hon.Sec.** will impress on Irish CC participants the need for speedy resolution of accommodation needs with Sue Ryan.

Part 11 - the **Hon.Sec** should contact all known Petanque players to gauge interest in competing in the Celtic Challenge next year in Wales. The response will inform decisions on the team selection process and qualifying competition.

Part 12 - The **Hon.Sec** will issue the agreed Calendar asap.

Part 13 – it was agreed that all IPA members would be contacted, with a view to reiterating the need for appropriate behaviour at all times and the powers of the IPA Council, in the event that acceptable standards were not kept ( **Hon.Sec** )

Part 14 - the **Hon.Treasurer** will inform the IPA Council of the outcome of any deliberations with the Insurer.

\* 7 sets ( see names below ) becomes 8, since the rapidly growing Jack di Pizzo requires bigger attire.

Names and sizes: Fergal Hogan (L) Conor Smith (L) Jackie Broderick (L) Tom O'Keeffe (XL) Tim O'Neill (XL) Paul Murray (L) Tricia Murray (M) Jack di Pizzo (M)