

IRISH PÉTANQUE ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20 Feb 2010 at 31 Herbert Park, Bray

1. PRESENT: Denis Nightingale (Pres. in the chair), Jim Ryan (Hon.Treas) George Davidson (Hon.Sec) John O'Grady, Richard Elvin, Humberto Tavares, Sue Ryan, Pierre di Pizzo and Hilary Murnane (arrival just after the Election of Officers)

2. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS: Denis welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked John O'Grady and his wife for the use of their home and the catering arrangements which had been made for the event.

3. APOLOGIES: Apologies received by the Hon.Sec, prior to the meeting, were from John and Julia Murray, Paul and Tricia Murray, John Hennessy, Wilma Dunbar, John McCloy, Gavin Walker, Pat McCarthy and Hilary Murnane (who arrived). An apology for Jack Di Pizzo was given at the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE 2009 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 highlighted;

6.1 (i) The increased, but somewhat artificial membership numbers, which included individuals who joined for the purposes of the 2009 Celtic Challenge (CC) when Ireland, as hosts, were required to field 4 additional 'triples';

(ii) The results of IPA competitions;

(iii) Ireland's encouraging 2nd place in the 2009 CC;

(iv) The superb work by Jim Ryan (who attracted significant sponsorship) Sue Ryan (Tournament Director) and the members of Frankfield PC generally, in all matters associated with the organisation of the 2009 CC and ;

(v) A creditable performance by the Irish team in the 2009 European tournament at Nice, but which was insufficient to secure a place in the 2010 World championships;

6.2 At a Club level, the Hon.Sec reported:

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

(ii) The death of David McHenry, long term member of North Down and the IPA;

(iii) That the Cahir PC remains dormant;

(iv) The welcome emergence of the Park PC in Dublin, as a viable and affiliated club;

(v) That 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;

(vi) Concern that the Sligo PC website had 'disappeared' and that no contact had been made to the Hon.Sec for some time; and

(vii) That the Hon. Sec had been contacted, during the year, by a representative of a group of players in Wexford. The Hon.Sec has provided information and contact names and other germane material. It remains to be seen if things develop more formally there.

6.3. The IPA Council did not meet formally during the year, with business being conducted adequately by email.

6.4 The Hon.Sec's report concluded that stagnant membership and apathy towards National and International matters remained intractable issues.

6.5 The representatives of the Bushy Park and Frankfield clubs reported healthy situations in their respective organisations.

6.6 Thanks were extended to the Hon.Sec for his comprehensive report.

7. DISCUSSION ON THE HON.SEC'S REPORT:

Richard, John and Pierre gave an overview of the European competition in Nice, where a place in the first 24 would have secured entry to the World championships in 2010. Unfortunately, there were strong opponents in their group, including France, and, while not disgraced, their reward was only 1 win against Norway.

8. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2009:

8.1 The Hon.Treas. provided a detailed account of income and expenditure for the year, including separate figures for the Celtic Challenge. A bank balance of €3,709, represented a modest loss for the year of €112. Indeed, a modest improvement would have been the outcome, if not for the loss of € 357 from the Celtic Challenge. It was agreed that the Association was still in a relatively sound financial position. Membership, including club affiliated, stood at 70.

8.2 Following discussion, a revised Schedule of Fees for IPA membership and competition entry was agreed. The revised Schedule is appended to these Minutes.

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

9. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE IPA CONSTITUTION

9.1 The proposed changes at (a) to (c) below had been circulated prior to the meeting.

(a) In the event that an individual's application for membership is refused, he/she will have the right to appeal within 28 days of notification of refusal. Any appeal must be in writing to the Hon.Sec (email is acceptable) and must be received by the due date. The receipt of an appeal will be acknowledged. The IPA Council will give no consideration to any appeal which does not satisfy the aforementioned conditions;

(b) Any person whose application for membership has been refused, either initially, or on foot of an appeal, will not be able to apply again for membership until 3 years have elapsed from the date of notification of refusal;

(c) In the event that an individual's membership is cancelled for a breach of membership rules, he/she will have the right to appeal within 28 days of notification of membership cancellation. A member must wait a further 2 years from the date of notification of loss of membership before being able to reapply for membership.

9.2 Following discussion, the proposed change at (a) above was agreed. There was general consensus that the 3 year and 2 year time lapses specified at (b) and (c) above respectively, were tantamount to 'bans' and this was not something which should be enshrined in the Constitution. In the event, the present Constitution allows the IPA Council to reject applications and there is, therefore, a facility to reject applications from an individual on a continuing basis, should the Council deem it necessary. It was considered, therefore, that (b) above was unnecessary and that (c) above was acceptable, subject to the removal of the second sentence.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

10.1 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 Bridie Nicholson, who had not been in contact with the Council for the last year.

10.2 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, Pierre di Pizzo, Humberto Tavares and Richard Elvin and Sue Ryan.

10.3 Hilary Murnane joined the meeting at this point.

11. CELTIC CHALLENGE (CC) 2010:

11.1 The CC Selection Panel confirmed the composition of the 4 triples teams, in no particular order, as

- (a) Pierre Di Pizzo (Ireland Team Captain) Humberto Tavares and George Davidson;
- (b) Jim Ryan, Jackie Broderick and John McCloy;
- (c) John Hennessy, Pat McCarthy and Gavin Walker; and
- (d) Vincent Belingard, Mickael Demortier and Jack Di Pizzo.
- (e) Substitute: Sheila Broderick.

11.2 In the absence of Denis Nightingale, Jim Ryan will be acting President at the CC.

11.3 The Hon.Sec will arrange for the acquisition of polo shirts and sweat shirts for those members of the team who are representing Ireland for the first time.

11.4 The Hon.Treas. will follow up the need for photos, for submission to the Welsh PA and publication in the Celtic Challenge programme.

12. CALENDARS FOR 2010 and 2011:

12.1 It was agreed that, in order to facilitate clubs and members in planning their own competition programmes and participation respectively, Calendars should be prepared a year in advance. Consequently, Calendars were discussed and agreed for the current year and 2011. The 2009 Calendar formed the basis, taking account of the now bi-annual/alternate year nature of the European and World championships. The finally agreed Calendars are appended to these Minutes.

12.2 It was agreed that the Hon.Sec write to the Dublin City Council asking for permission to use Bushy Park on the dates specified in the Calendar.

12.3 In respect of 'uniform', it was agreed that existing polo shirts and sweatshirts should be used by those participating in the Jersey competition in June of this year.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

13.1 Insurance: John O'Grady enquired if it would be possible to provide an Insurance 'certificate' to clubs to confirm, inter alia, that a particular club was covered by the IPA policy and the extent of cover. Jim Ryan agreed to so provide.

13.2 Honorary/Life membership: George Davidson proposed that the IPA introduce an Honorary/Lifetime class of membership, as a form of recognition to those who had made a significant contribution to Petanque in Ireland. The proposal was seconded by Jim Ryan and welcomed by consensus. In addition, it was agreed that such membership be conferred on Charles Clarke and Wilma Dunbar, both of whom have given sterling service to Irish Petanque, and have continued their membership of and interest in the IPA, despite curtailment of their involvement as players due to health problems.

13.3 Qualification for Euro/World C'ships : It was agreed that, although the Euro and World organising bodies may require qualifying teams of 4 members, entries for IPA

qualifying competitions should be limited to the names of the main triplete, with the fourth member being chosen following qualification. Discussion on this was occasioned by the fact that, in 2009, a team had submitted 4 names in their entry to the IPA qualifying competition, potentially depriving 2 other entrants from accessing the 'spare' player as a third member to complete their triplete.

14. TO DO – (Hon.Sec)

- (a) Amend the Constitution to reflect (i) the changes agreed at Para 9.2 above and (ii) the introduction of the Honorary/Lifetime category of membership agreed at Para. 13.2 above.
- (b) Write to Dublin City Council re: use of Bushy Park for IPA competitions.
- (c) Arrange for the acquisition of 'uniform', as agreed at Para. 11.3 above.
- (d) Issue AGM Minutes, Hon.Sec's report on 2009, Revised Constitution, Revised Fee structure and Calendars.
- (e) Notify members of Honorary Lifetime membership status.
- (f) Amend IPA competition policy to reflect the agreement at 13.3 above.

15. TO DO – (Hon.Treas.)

- (a) Provide insurance detail as agreed at Para. 13.1 above.
- (b) Request photos as required (Para 11.3 above)