

IRISH PÉTANQUE ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

18 Feb 2012 at Parish Hall, Bray.

1. PRESENT: John O'Grady (Pres. in the chair), Jim Ryan (Hon.Treas) George Davidson (Hon.Sec), Richard Elvin, Humberto Tavares, Pierre di Pizzo, Junette Bostrom and Pat Kennedy.

2. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS: John welcomed all present to the meeting. He thanked everyone for their support during the year, particularly the North Down, Frankfield and Park PCs for their hosting of the various Annual competitions. He commented favourably on Troon PC's hosting of the 2011 Celtic Challenge, notwithstanding the disappointingly poor 4th place performance by the Irish team. On a much more positive note, he referred to the Irish team's superb performance in the 2011 Euro C'ships, qualifying Ireland for the 2012 World C'ships in Marseilles. Special mention was made of Jack Di Pizzo's outstanding performance in the shooting competition. Thanks were extended to the Hon.Sec and Hon.Treas. for their continuing contribution to the workings of the Association.

In closing, John reminded us that he was not available for re-election to the Presidency, given that he intended to reside in France for the foreseeable future.

3. APOLOGIES: Apologies were recorded for Paul and Marie Maidment, Denis Nightingale, Wilma Dunbar, Gavin Walker, Ciaran McFerran, John Hennessy, Carole Castles and Hilary Murnane.

4. MINUTES OF THE 2011 AGM : Proposed by Richard Elvin and seconded by Patt Kennedy, the minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings.

5. MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HON.SEC: In addition to issues already covered in the President's opening remarks, the Hon.Sec's report highlighted;

6.1 (i) The relative stability and/or increased membership of affiliated Clubs;

(ii) The results of Annual competitions, but the 'patchy' nature of interest;

(iii) The entrance of new members into IPA membership, within a slightly decreasing membership overall;

(iv) Some optimism from new membership and the hosting of this year's Celtic Challenge on home soil (North Down);

(v) The minimal or non-existent feed-back from 'pockets' of players at Cahir, Sligo, Galway, Cabinteely and Wexford; and

(vi) That the IPA Council did not meet formally during the year, with business being conducted adequately by email.

6.2 No subsequent discussion arose and there was general acceptance of the Hon.Sec's report.

7. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2011:

7.1 The Hon.Treas. provided a detailed account of income and expenditure for the year showing a bank balance of €3,523, representing a loss for the year of €203. It was recognised some adjustment to the figures was required iro an item for 2011 Celtic Challenge presents, and that the anticipated costs of hosting this year's Celtic Challenge in 2012, with limited sponsorship, is likely to make in-roads into our otherwise reasonable financial position.

7.2 Membership, including club affiliated, stood at 68.

7.3 The Hon.Treas, agreed to confirm with the relevant CEP and FIPJP organisations, if the fee payments recorded in our 2011Accounts cover the current or previous years, since current year cover is critical to Ireland's participation in the 2012 World C'ships.

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

8. CLUBS: Club representatives had already provided 'position' reports to the Hon.Sec. for his report, and there was nothing further to add.

9. ELECTION OF IPA OFFICERS/COUNCIL

9.1 Our President was persuaded that, despite his impending absence from the country, it would be possible for him to exercise the duties of the post for another year. Anticipating other election results, this would preserve the current preferred position where the main affiliated clubs have one representative within the 3 key posts.

9.2 The election result, based on general agreement was:

President: John O'Grady

Hon.Sec: George Davidson

Hon.Treas. Jim Ryan

Council Members: Denis Nightingale, Humberto Tavares, Richard Elvin, Pierre Di Pizzo, Junette Bostrom and Patt Kennedy.

9.3 The election outcome observes the requirement of Para. 8.3 of the IPA Constitution that no single Club will have a majority on the Council.

10. CELTIC CHALLENGE (CC) – NORTH DOWN 2012

10.1 Prior to the AGM, the Hon.Sec. had distributed a schedule showing the various organisational, financial, playing and catering etc. issues, some of which had already been addressed, some for decision and some for further contact/research before decisions could be taken. Following discussion, the schedule showing the up to date position, including responsibility for further action, is attached.

10.2 The Hon.Sec explained that the total grant-aid available from North Down BC should be sufficient to meet all, or most of, the CC costs, however, the bulk of aid was dependent on media, particularly TV coverage, which was 'speculative'.

11. POLICY ON IPA REPRESENTATION AT EUROPEAN (EURO) AND WORLD EVENTS (WORLDS)

11.1 During the year, following the Irish team's successful performance at the 2011 Euro C'ships, thereby securing a place for the country of Ireland at the 2012 World C'ships, there had been a broad exchange of email correspondence around the issue of whether or not the successful team should automatically represent Ireland at the 'Worlds' as opposed to eg. a unique qualifying competition for the Worlds. Current IPA Competition policy did not cover this situation, and this set the context for a draft revised IPA Competition policy which had been circulated for consideration prior to the AGM.

11.2 The essence of the draft revision was that a team which performed sufficiently well at the Euro C'ships to secure a place for Ireland in the subsequent Worlds, would be given first choice to attend the Worlds. Paras 10.1 to 10.3 of the draft revised policy were discussed and agreed, subject to the caveat that the Council remains the final decision-maker as to composition of a representative team.

11.3 Policy as it might relate to 'Juniors' was raised, but full discussion was constrained due to a lack of knowledge/appreciation of the legal situation. It was noted eg. that the Welsh Petanque Association which has a youth development programme has a Child Protection policy and Child Protection Officer, matters to which, to date, the IPA has never seriously needed to give consideration. It was recognised that, currently, Junior membership is a matter driven by Park PC alone, therefore, Richard Elvin agreed to pursue the immediate issues and report back to Council.

11.4 Para 10.8 of the draft policy, dealing with nationality issues was left in abeyance.

12. CALENDARS FOR 2012 and 2013:

12.1 It was agreed that the existing 2012 Calendar as it relates to IPA events should remain broadly as published but with:

- (a) the date of the Triples competition being moved on 1 week (to 21 April) to observe the usual date convention of 2 weeks before the Celtic Challenge;
- (b) confirmation of the venues for the IPA Doubles (Cork) Triples (North Down) and Singles (Dublin);
- (c) the inclusion of a Park PC event on Bastille Day (14 July) and
- (d) the moving forward of the 2013 Celtic Challenge qualifier to 6 October.

12.2 It was agreed that a 2013 Calendar be drawn up to mirror 2012 with venues to be agreed at the next AGM.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. It was agreed that membership and competition entry fees should remain unchanged.
- b. It was re-iterated, as reported under Matters Arising at last year's AGM, that Club Secretaries should report to the Hon.Treas. the names of fully paid up members of their Clubs.
- c. There was little appetite from among those present for an IPA 'Raffle' to attract additional income, however, Pierre Di Pizzo agreed to do some further research before reporting back to the Council.
- d. It was agreed that any IPA qualifier for the Women's Euro C'ships should be held on the same day as the 'Men's' qualifier.
- e. Following a verbal report from Richard Elvin on the nature/target audiences and results of outreach by Park PC in the local community, Richard agreed to explore further the possibility of producing training material with a view to improvement of performance within Club and IPA membership.
- f. There being no other business, the President thanked all those present for their attendance and conduct of business.

15. TO DO –

- 7667828. Para.7.3 Confirm current status with CEP and FIPJP (J Ryan)
- 2. Para 10 above - Take forward arrangements for hosting of the 2012 Celtic Challenge (CC) (G Davidson to co-ordinate – see CC Schedule attached)
- 3. Para 13.2 above – Club Secretaries to provide Club membership info. to the Hon.Treas. as soon as practicable.
- 4. Research 'raffle' and report to Council (P Di Pizzo)
- 5. Explore the provision of training material (R Elvin)
- 6. Issue 2012 AGM Minutes, 2012 CC Schedule, 2012 Fee structure and 2012/2013 Calendars (G Davidson)

