



Minutes of the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
of Canoeing Ireland - 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019

National Sports Headquarters, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

**1. President's Opening Address**

The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Canoeing Ireland was opened by the President, Paul Donnelly at 2.20pm. The following Board members were present and were introduced by the President to the attending members – Paul Donnelly (President), Brian Ogilvie (Honorary Secretary), Aisling Conlan (Honorary Treasurer), Leigh Blackmore (Executive Member) and Bryan Fennell (Leinster representative). Moira Aston (CEO) was also in attendance.

A minute's silence was held for members who had passed away during the year.

The President welcomed all members to the AGM.

**2. Apologies and Correspondence**

The Honorary Secretary, Brian Ogilvie informed the meeting that no apologies were received and that no correspondence was received.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda for the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The following Agenda for the meeting which had previously been circulated to members was proposed by Pdraig Minnock (Meelick Eyrecourt Kayak Club) and seconded by Ivan McDonald (Mullingar Harbour Canoe Polo) and approved by the meeting.

1. President's opening address.
2. Apologies and correspondence.
3. Adoption of the Agenda for the 58th Annual General Meeting.
4. Adoption of Standing Orders for the 58th Annual General Meeting.
5. Confirmation of the Quorum for the 58th Annual General Meeting.
6. Minutes of the 57th (2018) Annual General Meeting.
7. Presentation and adoption of the Board Report & Review.
8. Presentation and adoption of the draft Audited Accounts for 2018.

- 8a. Response to member's queries.
- 9. Motions received.
- 10. Nominations and election of members to the Board of Directors.
- 11. Appointment of Auditor.
- 12. President's closing address.

#### **4. Adoption of Standing Orders for the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Under rule 10.7, the standing orders are adopted by the Board.

#### **5. Confirmation of the Quorum for the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The Honorary Secretary, Brian Ogilvie confirmed that 29 members were present at the time when the meeting proceeded to business. This exceeded the 20 members of which 5 were member clubs present in person required for a quorum.

#### **6. Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> (2018) Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> (2018) Annual General Meeting which had been circulated to Members were proposed by Ciaran Farrell (Kilcullen Canoe Club), seconded by John Chapman (Tullow Kayak Club) and approved by the meeting without amendment. There were no matters arising.

#### **7. Presentation and Adoption of the Board Report and Review**

The Board Report to the 2019 AGM which was circulated in advance of the AGM was presented to the members by the President Paul Donnelly.

The Board Statement to Membership was read out by the President:

"It has been a strong year of positive change with good progress made in delivering our ambitious strategic plan, implementing additional resources, restructuring and seeing a continued growth in members and clubs.

It has also been a transition between CEOs and the Board especially would like to thank Paddy Boyd whose leadership has helped transform Canoeing Ireland during his tenure in the position. We wish him all the success in his new ventures. Moira Aston commenced as the new CEO in December 2018 and is already having a positive impact in this challenging and exciting role.

In May 2017, the Board issued a statement to the membership outlining how Canoeing Ireland was working with Sport Ireland to set out a sustainable pathway for the future. This required demonstrating a unity-of-purpose to achieve progress in an agreed project plan that included a fit-for purpose governance structure and procedures, a sound long-term strategic plan, elimination of the financial deficit and the staged introduction of a suitable management and staffing level. In 2019, we

have accomplished many of these deliverables and Canoeing Ireland is in a much stronger place now than it has been in recent years. The opportunity for the Board is to capitalise on what has been achieved and to continue to develop a more robust and member-centric organisation. Most importantly, we need to regain the trust of our members.

Canoeing Ireland has commenced the second of its three-year recovery strategy of Stabilization, Consolidation and Growth. While the first two areas remain an on-going and important element of this process, the focus for 2019 is on growing the organization through a three-pronged approach of enhancing Clubs, building Collaborations and enabling Competitors in line with the strategic plan 2017-2020.

Our membership is the reason for our existence, and clubs are a principal focal point for members. Last year we conducted a number of consultation with clubs and members to understand what is working and what isn't. This year the Board is reviewing ways and initiatives by which to assist and facilitate clubs to progress, while addressing any barriers which may prevent or impede such developments. This ranges from a new member's pack, a redesigned functional web-site, standardisation of the membership year, reintroduction of membership cards, revised insurance terms, better and more open communication through publications such as Flowstate as well as improvements in coaching and training supports.

Secondly, the Board is exploring new opportunities for partnerships with bodies and state agencies where there are mutual and synergistic objectives to expand activities and promote paddlesports. As a National Governing Body, there is great potential for collaborations with other organization which will in turn leverage existing resources and funding.

The third focus for the Board this year as part of its growth strategy is to put supports, processes and policies in place to expedite athlete performance in all disciplines. With the recent appointment of Jon Mackey as High Performance Director, structures are being implemented to deliver sustainable and progressive impact. This last year has seen exceptional performances and results at an International level and we would like to congratulate all our athletes who have competed so well in all disciplines throughout the World and in particular, to those who have supported and assisted them to their success.

As a community, we have made good progress and continue to develop for the better. 2019 will bring new challenges, but equally new possibilities. The Board look forward to embracing these opportunities in a year that will see the 60th anniversary of the Liffey Descent."

An overview of the strategic plan and discipline reports followed.

The report was proposed by Leo Duff (Athy Rowing & Canoe Club), seconded by Michael O'Farrell (Kilcullen Canoe Club), approved and adopted by majority vote.

## **8. Presentation and Adoption of the Draft Audited Accounts for 2018**

The Honorary Treasurer, Aisling Conlan presented the 2018 Draft Audited Accounts which had previously been circulated to members.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mark Clinton, seconded by Kris Kohls (Canoeing Ireland), approved and adopted by majority vote. No members abstained from voting.

## **8.1 Response to Member's Queries**

No member's queries were received.

## **9. Motions Received**

The Honorary Secretary confirmed that no valid motions were received from members.

A motion nominated by Kilcock Polo Club and Mulingar Canoe Polo to introduce a new membership of Associate Member for parent and other volunteers was deemed invalid as it is the responsibility of the Board to determine and set criteria for membership categories and membership fees (Rule 5).

Following a discussion on the requirement for an Associate Membership, the Board committed to reviewing the proposal and reverting to the nominating clubs.

## **10. Nominations and Election of Members to the Board of Directors**

**a. President:** Brian Ogilvie was nominated by the Board and elected by majority vote of the meeting.

**b. Honorary Treasurer:** Aisling Conlan was nominated by Tullow Kayak Club, seconded by Wildwater Kayak Club and elected by majority vote of the meeting.

**c. General Executive Member:** Leigh Blackmore was nominated by Clonmel Kayak Club, seconded by Thomastown Paddlers and elected by majority vote of the meeting.

**d. General Executive Member (1-year Term):** Lynda Byron was nominated by Wildwater Kayak Club, seconded by Laois Kayak & Canoe Club and elected by majority vote of the meeting.

**e. Dublin Representative:** As no nomination was received, the co-option of a Dublin Representative was passed to the incoming Board.

**f. Munster Representative:** As no nomination was received, the co-option of a Munster Representative was passed to the incoming Board.

**g. Connacht / Ulster Representative (1-year Term):** As no nomination was received, the co-option of a Connacht / Ulster Representative was passed to the incoming Board

**h. Olympic Discipline Representative (1-Year Term):** – As no nomination was received, the co-option of an Olympic Discipline Representative was passed to the incoming Board

**i. Non- Olympic Discipline Representative:** Luke Logan was nominated by the Marathon Committee and elected by majority vote of the meeting.

**j. Training, Coaching and Accreditation Representative:** As no nomination was received, the co-option of a Training, Coaching and Accreditation Representative was passed to the incoming Board

## **11. Appointment of Auditor**

On proposal by the Board, Taxbright were appointed as auditor. The Board was granted permission by the members to change the auditor if required. Proposed by Mark Clinton, seconded by Ciaran Farrell (Kilcullen Canoe Club), and approved by majority vote.

## **12. President's Closing Address**

Paul Donnelly thanked the members for their attendance and contribution to the 58<sup>th</sup> AGM. He wished the incoming Board Members all the best in their roles.

As Paul concluded his term as President of the organisation, the Board and members thanked him for his commitment and the wealth of knowledge which he brought to Canoeing Ireland as he executed his duties with energy, passion and integrity. The members gave Paul a whole-hearted round of applause as he signed off for the last time as President. Canoeing Ireland would like to recognise Paul's leadership and guidance during his term and we wish him well.

The meeting concluded at 3.20 pm      Minutes recorded by Honorary Secretary, Brian Ogilvie

Immediately following the AGM, a presentation on insurance cover and a question & answers session was facilitated by Jonathan Brown, O'Driscoll, O'Neill Insurance.