

Pentathlon Ireland AGM 2018
October 17th, 2018
Irish Sports HQ, National Sports Campus, Dublin 15

Attendance – See Appendix 1 attached

Apologies – None

1. Welcome

- CEO, Paddy Boyd, introduced himself, welcomed the attendees to our 17th AGM and opened the meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes from 2017 AGM

- Minutes from 2017 were issued within 21 days prior to the AGM so they can be taken as read and were formally approved.

Approval of Minutes from 2017 AGM: *Approved by: Ronan Dodd*
 Seconded by: Helen O’Neill

3. Secretary’s Report – See Appendix 2 attached

- Niav McNamara read her report

Adoption of Secretary’s Report: *Approved by: Susanna Cawley*
 Seconded by: Kate Coleman

4. Treasurer’s Report – See Appendix 3 attached

- Rhona Radford read the auditor’s Report and matters from the Accounts

Adoption of Treasurer’s Report and accounts: *Approved by: Niav McNamara*
 Seconded by: James Bailey

5. Chairperson’s Report – Appendix 4 attached

- John Foley read his report

Adoption of Chairperson’s Report: *Approved by: Susanna Cawley,*
 Seconded by: Michael O’Brien

6. Election of Executive positions:

- *Chairperson:* The election of John Foley was *proposed by* James Bailey and *seconded by* Susanna Cawley

7. Other elections to the Board:

- None

8. AOB

Matters raised by attendees:

The exact details of the proposed plan for 2019-2020 were discussed

- a) Did the Board intend to hire 'just' a pure fencing coach or a Pentathlon High Performance Coach?
 - The Chairman answered that, as with everything, we have to find a way to fund our requirements and that we can't just rely on funding from Sport Ireland (SI) but that the Board are meeting early next week to discuss the issues

- b) Regarding the proposed hiring of a Performance Lead / Director (PL) to coordinate and 'lead' the High Performance Programme; would this individual have a Pentathlon background?
 - The Chairman answered that the PL would not necessarily have a Pentathlon background and that High Performance Directors move sports all the time and he gave some examples of when this has worked successfully in the past.
 - The opinion of some of the attendees was that the PL should have a Pentathlon background.
 - An attendee commented that it is important that the new PL caters for the needs of all the athletes.

- c) Was the Board depending on receiving a 10% to 15% increase in funding from SI to enable us to hire a Performance Lead and a Fencing Coach.
 - The Chairman answered that we had received verbal assurances that we would be receiving this increase so we will go ahead and advertise as soon as possible.

- d) An attendee asked if the description of the job roles, responsibilities, etc. are within the control of the Board.
 - The Chairman said yes that the Board do have control but we obviously have to work with SI and that someone from SI would probably be on the interview panel.

- e) From whom did the Board get the advice to hire a fencing coach?
 - The Chairman answered that obviously the 2 senior athletes had been consulted and had requested this.
 - The CEO went on to state that what the Board is trying to do is to put in place a support team that will get the best out of all the athletes. We are quite restricted in the things that we do because of our reliance on funding from SI. Per head PI does considerably better than other organisations so we have to take other considerations into account. It may be that the solutions that come out of this may not suit everyone but you have to rely on the Board now to represent you.

- Both the CEO and Chairman stressed that one of the keys to securing funding for the future is by winning medals. The key is to put in place a sustainable long-term plan. One of the attendees pointed out the value for money that SI has got from all the medals won by PI.
- f) What was the time frame on hiring a Pentathlon Coach?
 - The Chairman answered that the Board would be meeting as soon as possible to finalise the exact details of the plan and we would be moving forward as quickly as possible.
- g) Was there a possibility that SI might withdraw all funding (“cut off the money taps”) if the ‘interview panel’ did not pick the ‘SI-approved coach’ for PL role?
 - The Chairman answered that this would not happen.

In addition:

- h) One attendee pointed out that athletes and parents expect to pay something and were not averse to doing so.
- i) The various ways that the Board hopes to raise funds were also discussed, including sponsorship and the hosting of: Corporate Events, Public Laser Run Events and International Training Camps. The Board are also about to welcome a new member who has a background that will be very helpful when seeking sponsorship

Final remarks

- The Board were thanked by attendees for all their hard work and commitment.
- The former Chairman, James Bailey, welcomed the CEO, Paddy Boyd, and the new Chairman, John Foley, and said that they were a great addition to the Pentathlon Ireland team.
- The meeting closed with a round of applause from all attendees in recognition of the huge success achieved by all our athletes at all levels this year.

Appendix 1: List of Attendees

- James Bailey
- Marie Bailey
- Kate Barrett
- Paddy Boyd
- Susanna Cawley
- Kate Coleman
- James Coonan
- Ronan Dodd
- John D. Elliott
- John Foley
- Mike Healy
- Maggie Heaslip
- Niav McNamara
- Catherine Mullarkey
- Michael O'Brien
- Tim O'Brien
- Tom O'Brien
- Helen O'Neill
- Leah O'Neill
- Isobel Radford Dodd
- Rhona Radford

Appendix 2: Secretary's Report – Niav McNamara

- It was a year dominated by brilliant results across the Board and of course the Laser Run World Championships. A big thank you to all our volunteers who made it such a big success.
- Our Laser Run journey began with the Fingal Family day out at Swords Castle in late September. Other public Laser Run events included ones at Greystones, Flavours of Fingal and two schools events at Newbridge House and Morton Stadium. Thousands of children attended each of these school events.
- The Laser Run schools programme continued throughout the year and it was very successfully managed by Tom O'Brien and Sheena Carroll. Fingal, Dublin City and Cavan Councils all ran successful schools programmes.
- Membership numbers this year rose to over 130 – up from 110 last year.
- Board meeting attendance was over 78% - 15 Board meetings plus numerous Laser Run meetings
- Governance: we are on the journey of the Governance code and have the Governance template 80% completed. We have most of our codes and policies in place and intend to complete the rest by the New Year.
- Training camps – an extremely successful International training camp was held in April. We held 4 busy Youth training camps in the Spring but none over the summer due to lack of coaches and also the scarcity of free dates in which to hold camps – we are arranging a 2 day training camp over the mid-term break and hope to arrange another one for the Christmas break.
- Fencing training continues on Monday and Wednesday evenings as well as Saturday mornings.
- Laser Run training days were held every Saturday from mid-August to end September.
- Pentathlon Ireland now have 2 members on Horse Sport Ireland's new Advisory Councils:
 - Emma Bailey was successfully appointed to the High Performance Sport Advisory Council and,

- Andrew Coonan was successfully appointed to the Equestrian Sport & Recreation Advisory Council
- I will now pass you on to our treasurer, Rhona Radford.

Appendix 3: Treasurer's Report – Rhona Radford

Treasurer's report 2017

Auditors' Report from the financial statements was read.

2017

Items to highlight from the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 include:

Our 2017 High Performance funding was €260,000. We received NGB Core-funding of €20,000 from Sport Ireland for 2017 which was in line with the prior year and the current year.

We have teamed up again with Irish Fencing Federation to engage Radu Andrei on a schools fencing programme for the 2017/2018 term for the benefit of Pentathlon Ireland and Fencing Ireland.

During 2017 we had full-time employees Darragh Cunningham CEO March to December, Dr. Walid Sayed High Performance Director June to December, part Time Office Administrator Sheena Carroll April to December. We also engaged coaching personnel such as horse riding coach and running coach.

Our hire cost of the Modern Pentathlon Centre from the National Sport Campus remained the same as 2016 at €23,435.

Overall the Association made a surplus of €9,367 for the year 2017.

At the end of the year the largest part of our outstanding liabilities relates to the hire of the Modern Pentathlon Centre which as paid for in the Spring of this year.

I, on behalf of the Board, thank the Sport Ireland, HSI, OCI, and our other sponsors for their support during 2017 and hope we will continue to get this support through 2018 and the coming years to secure the future success of the Association and sport.

Auditors

I also thank our auditors, Niall Byrne & Co, for their efficiency in carrying out the audit and for assisting us with the audit.

I propose the members leave the current auditors in place and leave the arrangement for the auditors' fee for the Board.

Appendix 4: Chairman's Report – John Foley

1. Employment restructuring – Interim CEO and new Chairperson
2. Fantastic year full of brilliant results

Seniors

- a. Ireland have 2 pentathletes in the top ten in the world with Arthur Lanigan O'Keeffe ranked 3rd and Natalya Coyle ranked 6th.
- b. For the first time ever, Ireland won individual medals in Pentathlon World Cup competitions. In a historic weekend in Sofia, Bulgaria at the end of May, Arthur won Gold and Natalya won Silver. Arthur followed this up with a super Bronze in Kazakhstan in June.
- c. Together with Sive Brassil and Eilidh Prise, Natalya was also part of the Ladies team that took the Silver Medal at the European Championships in Hungary in July.
- d. Sive Brassil and Eilidh Prise both qualified for finals in 2 World Cups and the World Cup Final itself as well as the Finals at the European Championships. Sive also qualified for the Final of the World Championships.
- e. Kate Coleman Lenehan qualified for one World Cup Final and secured a super Silver Mixed Relay Medal with Mike Healy in Hungary in May.
- f. In his first year in Senior Competitions, as well as picking up a Silver Mixed Relay medal with Kate, Mike Healy competed in 2 World Cups and acquitted himself well.
- g. Mike and Eilidh became the first Irish Pentathletes to represent Ireland at the World University Championships in July coming 14th and 6th respectively in the Individual competitions and just missing out on a podium place by finishing 4th in the Mixed Relay.

Youths

- h. At the Youth Level, Tim O'Brien and Isobel Radford Dodd achieved a first final appearance for Ireland in the European Cup Under 19 Czech Open in Prague in May.
- i. Leah O'Neill took home a well-earned Silver medal from the Under 17 section of the Olympic Hopes competition in Prague in October.
- j. Many of our Youth Pentathletes also scored notable successes at various Fencing and Tetrathlon Competitions both nationally and internationally.

Laser Run

- k. Team Ireland had an extremely successful Laser Run World Championships winning 5 medals. In the individual competitions, there was Silver for Tom O'Brien in the Senior Men's and also Silver for Kate Coleman Lenehan in the Senior Women's. Kate and Tom joined forces the next day to win Bronze in the Mixed Relay competition.
- l. There was also a Team Gold for the Senior Ladies team of Kate, Eilidh Prise and Grace Culhane. Grace also picked up a Team Silver in the Under 19 competition with Grace Costello and Leah O'Neill.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate all our Pentathletes on their successes in what has been a tremendous year for Pentathlon Ireland. The future is indeed shining very brightly!

3. Laser Run World Championships
 - 28th to 30th September, Trinity College Dublin
 - Very successful
 - Highly commended by UIPM
 - Featured on RTE news and other media
 - 28 Countries
 - Over 400 athletes
 - Over €400 raised for Laura Lynn – Ireland's only Childrens' Hospice
4. NY Epee Competition
 - 33 competitors
5. Nationals
 - Split into 2 divisions this year
 - Horse Riding not included – this may change next year
 - We did not invite other nations to compete this year so numbers were down but the competition was still fierce and of an extremely high standard.
6. Profile building – TV coverage of World Cup successes and the Laser Run World Championship. The success of the Laser Run Schools programme.
7. Developing Pentathlon in Ireland
 - a. Growing Membership – currently 130+ (last year 110)
 - b. 4 Domestic training camps since last AGM and 1 International Training camp.
 - c. School Fencing Programme continues
 - d. School Laser-run Programme with schools from Fingal, Dublin City and Cavan Councils all taking part.
 - e. Public Laser-Run events were held in Fingal at Swords Castle, Greystones, Flavours of Fingal, Morton Stadium in Santry etc.
 - f. Fencing every Monday and Wednesday evening and Saturday morning with numbers growing all the time.
 - g. Brian Boru / Radu – continuing to bring on the younger ones.
 - h. Our Partnership with Fencing Ireland continues to grow as many of our Youth Pentathletes continue to participate in their Trailblazers fencing programme and 5 of these Pentathletes successfully represented Ireland in the Youth 5 Nations fencing competition in Cardiff in August.
8. Board membership
 - a. I would like to thank the following Board Members who stood down this year: Jim Erskine, David Lowe, Kevin Neary, Brendan Walsh for their hard work and commitment.
 - b. We are delighted that we will soon be welcoming a new Board Member.