

Pentathlon Ireland AGM 2019
November 27th, 2019
Irish Sports HQ, National Sports Campus, Dublin 15

Attendance: See Appendix 1 attached

Apologies: Grace Culhane, Mark D'Aughton, Maggie Heaslip, Jamie McCallum, Stephanie Wilding.

1. Welcome:

- Paddy Boyd introduced John Foley, Chair of Pentathlon Ireland who welcomed everybody.
- John thanked the Board, particularly Jim, Niav and Rhona for all their hard work.
- John highlighted how 2020 would be a big year for PI with the Olympics. He also stated how important our Development programme is for the future of PI.
- John reaffirmed his commitment to PI and stressed that he will continue to work hard on behalf of PI. He stated his obligation to the future of PI to see that we continue to harness the interest and talent on offer to us.
- He stated that PI recognise that the talent is there but we must ensure that we nurture it.

2. Approval of the Minutes from 2018 AGM.

- The minutes from the 2018 AGM were circulated in advance and there were no queries.
- *Marie Bailey proposed approval of 2017 Minutes*
- *Natalya Coyle seconded*

3. Approval of Reports: (Appendices 2 & 3 attached)

- John welcomed Martina McCarthy and Andrei Fedotov to the PI Team.
- The attendees applauded Natalya's achievement in qualifying for the Olympics and John highlighted the achievements of the other HP athletes and reaffirmed his commitment to supporting all the HP athletes in every way that we can.
- John said he was delighted about the direction that we are taking. He is excited about our new Strategic Plan and about the future of PI.
 - *George Maybury proposed approval of Chairperson's report*
 - *Michael O'Brien seconded*
- Secretary – Niav McNamara read her report
 - *Jim Bailey proposed approval of Secretary's report*
 - *Catherine Mullarkey seconded*

4. Financial Statements (Appendix 4 attached)

- Rhona Radford read the auditor's Report and highlighted key matters from the Accounts
 - *John Foley proposed adoption and approval of Treasurer's Report and accounts*
 - *Sive Brassil seconded*

5. Authorisation for Directors to determine the remuneration of the Auditors

- *George Maybury proposed authorisation for Directors to determine the remuneration of the Auditors*
- *Geoff Liffey seconded*

6. Membership subscription rates for 2020

- Rhona Radford introduced the proposed subscriptions for 2020 – these were circulated to the members in advance of the AGM.
 - Family 2 adults + 2 U18 €100
 - Competitors U18 €25
 - Competitors Adults O18 €50
 - Competitors Students O18 €30
 - Associate members €30
- Due to increased costs, particularly insurance, we have no choice but to increase the Membership subscription rates. This is the first time we have ever had to increase them. These still represent great value for money, particularly when compared to membership in other sporting organisations.
- There were no queries from the attendees.
 - *George Maybury proposed approval of Subscriptions for 2020*
 - *Helen O'Neill seconded*

7. Strategic plan

- Paddy Boyd presented the Strategic Plan.
- The clear message arising on our Strategy day was that Pentathlon is a HP sport and our mission is clearly to support that.
- Paddy pointed out that it was good to now have a clear strategy to guide us.
 - *James Kennedy proposed approval of the Strategic Plan report*
 - *George Maybury seconded*

8. Anti-doping Report

- Paddy Boyd presented the Anti-doping Report.
- This has become a huge issue in modern sport.
- It is very important to be clean and to be seen to be clean.

9. Elections to the Board

- *The candidates introduced themselves briefly*
- As the number of candidates is less than or equal to the number of vacant positions, a ballot was not necessary and the candidates were deemed elected.
 - *All nominations were proposed by Geoff Liffey*
 - *Seconded by Michael O'Brien*

10. Special Resolution:

- “That the draft Constitution of the Company, circulated to members and presented to the meeting by the Chairman, be and is hereby adopted as the Constitution of the Company in substitution for the existing Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.”
- We have applied to the Revenue Commissioners for approval of the new Constitution and it has been approved subject to this permission being received
 - Proposed by James Kennedy
 - Seconded by Jim Bailey

11. AOB

Matters raised by attendees:

- We should offer free membership to people on their first taste of PI. Níav pointed out that this already happens with youth events but that we would be more than happy to extend this to adult events.
- Contracting Andrei longer than he is currently contracted would be essential in order to hold on to him. Andrei is a world class fencing coach and, as such, he could be targeted by other countries. Paddy pointed out that he is contracted to PI until at least March 2021 and that we value his contribution greatly.
- Information was supposed to be provided to athletes regarding criteria about how to get selected on the HP programme and about selection procedures – Paddy will circulate a document regarding this shortly.

12. Presentation to Jim Bailey

- John thanked Jim for all of his work and commitment to Pentathlon in Ireland.
- Jim was a founding member of PI and has worked hard to promote the sport of Pentathlon in Ireland ever since – over 20 years.
- On behalf of all in PI, John presented Jim with a gift and a Certificate of Honorary membership.
- Jim accepted these and said how much he has enjoyed his time with PI. He added that Pentathlon is a great sport and he feels the future will be bright.

Appendix 1 – List of Attendees

- Jim Bailey
- Marie Bailey
- Paddy Boyd
- Sive Brassil
- Sheena Carroll
- Kate Coleman
- Natalya Coyle
- Andrei Fedotov
- John Foley
- Jessica Giulietta Rainer
- James Kennedy
- Arthur Lanigan
O'Keefe
- Geoff Liffey
- George Maybury
- Martina McCarthy
- Níav McNamara
- Catherine Mullarkey
- Alisha Mullen
- Michael O'Brien
- Tom O'Brien
- Tim O'Brien
- Helen O'Neill
- Rhona Radford

Appendix 2 – Chairpersons Report – John Foley

Highlights:

Team

- High Performance support team enhanced – Andrei Fedotov
- Natalya qualifies for 2020 Olympics through 8th at Europeans
- Silver Medal WC1 (Natalya)
- Arthur 8th and Sive 14th at World Cup 4
- Eilidh Prise – 24th at World Cup 3
- Tom O’Brien – competed in various competitions and continues to participate actively in the High Performance Programme
- Kate Coleman and Tim O’Brien – 18th in World Championship Mixed relay
- Mike Healy – has returned to training with the High Performance Programme after illness.

General

- Board strengthened through new members
- Strategic Planning
- Governance work – policies updated
- Finances stabilised

Appendix 3 – Secretary’s Report (Niav McNamara)

Board Meetings and Attendance

- Since last year’s AGM, we have held 12 Board meetings with an 87% attendance record – up from last year’s attendance of 78% attendance.

Membership

- Membership of PI this year is 103 (when we include the 47 recent attendees at the Pony Club Talent ID Day).
- This is down from 130 last year. The main reason for this drop is that, unlike in previous years, we decided not to award membership to those who competed in the New Year Epee competition. We also did not award membership to those who participated in the Laser Run Schools programme.

Governance

- We took a more critical look at where we are on the Governance journey. We have the Governance template 66% completed which is good compared to other sporting organisations.
- Some of the things that we have accomplished in the last year are:
 - A full review of our Strategic plan.
 - A complete overhaul of all of our policies – these are now up on the Pentathlon Ireland website.
 - Anti-Bullying
 - Athlete Code of Conduct
 - Child Protection
 - Complaints
 - Disciplinary
 - Child Safeguarding
 - Photographing and Filming
 - Vetting
 - Recruitment
 - Social Media
- We continue to make progress and expect to be fully compliant by mid-2020.

Laser Run Schools Programme

- Our successful Laser Run Schools Programme continued throughout the year.
- 7 schools with 516 students participated in the 5-week programme.
- We also ran shorter programmes, one-off events and camps with approximately 300 participants.

- We engaged with three Local Partnerships to complete these programmes and events.
- Demand increases yearly which represents an opportunity for us to develop these programmes and events.
- A big thank you to Tom O'Brien and Sheena Carroll for all their hard work and enthusiasm and for making this programme so successful.

Youth / Development

- We held 4 successful training camps since the last AGM as well as a number of 1-day training days.
- We also held an extremely successful Pony Club Talent ID Day on 9th November with 47 attendees.
- Last Sunday we held a follow-up training day and 17 athletes signed up for this.
- Fencing and shooting training happens most Saturdays.
- We will be organising another 2-day training camp over the Christmas period and are looking at developing a Youth Squad to travel to international competitions next year.

Appendix 4 – Financial Statements & Treasurer’s Report (Rhona Radford)

Please see ‘Audited Accounts 2018’ in the Governance/ Policies section of the Pentathlon Ireland website.