

Pentathlon Ireland AGM 2020
November 10th, 2020
Held via Zoom due to Covid19 Pandemic restrictions

Attendance: See Appendix 1 attached

Apologies: Maggie Heaslip, James Kennedy

1. Welcome:

- Paddy Boyd opened the meeting by explaining the procedures involved in the meeting – how to ask questions via chat etc. He also confirmed that virtual meetings are allowed under the Companies Act. Sheena confirmed that we had the quorum necessary to proceed.
- John Foley, Chairperson of Pentathlon Ireland, welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending.

2. Minutes from 2019 AGM.

- The minutes from the 2019 AGM were circulated in advance and there were no queries.
George Maybury proposed approval of 2019 Minutes
- *Philip Coffey seconded approval*

3. Chairperson's Report: See Appendix 2

- The challenges that faced us in 2020 were discussed.
- We managed fine based on our funding but we will need to seek outside funding in future years.
- John congratulated all of our athletes – from the youngest up, our parents, our coaches and staff for all of their hard work and commitment in a difficult environment.
- He announced the Board resignations and that Philip Coffey had joined the Board.
- He asked the athletes to think about proposing a member to the Board as this slot is still vacant.
- Governance – we are 75% compliant and we will be fully compliant by mid-2021. Philip and Geoff are supervising the Board in this. John stressed how important this is.
- John thanked the coaches for all their hard work. He paid particular praise to Tom for all of his work with the Development Committee and the LA Squad and to Martina and Andrey for their dedication.
- He stressed again the importance of our youth athletes – they are our future.
- John welcomed Alisha to the coaching staff and thanked her for her efforts.
- The improvements to the Pentathlon Centre were outlined.
- The new squad set-up was discussed.
- The highlights of the last 12 months were discussed, including Arthur's and Sive's excellent performances in World Cup 1. We have one person qualified

(Natalya) for the Olympics and two more (Arthur and Sive) with a good chance of qualifying.

- John thanked Niv and Rhona for all their hard work with the LA Squads and all the other athletes.
- Sponsorship – this is something that is very close to our hearts. John has taken this over and would like another Board member to assist him. He feels that there are opportunities for us to get sponsorship once the restrictions are lifted.
- Online training provided during the lockdown as much as possible. Well done to everybody for their perseverance. It is extremely important that we continue the momentum.
- John thanked everyone again for their hard work – the athletes, parents, coaches and the Board.
- Hopefully with a vaccine on the horizon, competitions will restart next year. We need to show Sport Ireland that we have a squad that can qualify for future Olympics. John stated that he is particularly happy with how our squads are progressing and that he looks forward to working with the rest of the Board to drive this forward.
- He referred to the recent UIPM communication announcing the new format being proposed and stated that he believes that Laser-Run could become a stand-alone sport in the Olympics in the future.

4. Financial Statements: See Appendix 3 attached

- Rhona Radford presented the financial statements.
- In line with the Companies Act 2014 which does not require the financial statements to be read out only that they be laid before the Company at its AGM, Rhona simply highlighted key matters from the Accounts.

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

- *Niv McNamara proposed authorisation for Directors to determine the remuneration of the Auditors*
- *Geoff seconded authorisation*

6. Anti-doping Report: See Appendix 4 attached

- Four carded athletes in Sport Ireland's registered testing pool (now three after Eilidh's retirement).
- These athletes have to update whereabouts and be available for testing pretty much any time.
- 21 out of competition tests were conducted in the last 18 months with no positive results.
- Our athletes are also subject to tests while away at camps and competitions.
- Sport Ireland's e-Learning programme covers all the key topics in anti-doping that athletes and athlete support personnel need to be aware of. All of the carded athletes have completed this and it has been commended to the other members of the team.

7. Elections to the Board

- *Our new member to the Board, Philip Coffey, introduced himself briefly and John welcomed Philip and thanked him for his work.*
- As the number of candidates was less than or equal to the number of vacant positions, a ballot was not necessary and Philip was deemed elected.
 - *Philip's election was proposed by John Foley*
 - *Seconded by George Maybury*

8. AOB

John invited any questions / observations

- Performance and compliance: It was pointed out that there are two sides to the equation, the performance and the compliance. Performance is being looked after by the coaches and the athletes and the Board are taking care of compliance.
- Funding: The Chairperson said that one of the issues in 2021 and 2022 is how funding is going to go. Once the Olympic Games is over, it will be important to try and get some money from sources other than Sport Ireland e.g. sponsorship.
- UIPM proposed new competition format:
 - The question was asked which member of the Board is going to the UIPM Congress and requested that we vote against the new format proposed by UIPM.
 - Paddy pointed out that Congress has been postponed until November 2021.
 - He forwarded the UIPM communication regarding the new format to all the athletes and is currently awaiting responses. When he receives these responses, the Board will discuss this matter.
 - UIPM will discuss this proposal with the International Olympic Committee next month and the final date for submissions for National Federations is 20th November. It was therefore agreed that the Board will meet about this as soon as possible so that we can review and revert to UIPM with one voice. John asked could we discover what the other National Federations thought about the new format.
- Athletes' Representative: Alisha Mullen nominated Tim O'Brien as the representative to the Board. Paddy confirmed that the Board will discuss this at their next meeting.

9. Close

- John Foley closed the meeting by stressing once again that the most important people are our athletes. He thanked them for hanging in there and wished the best of luck to all three of our squads.
- He confirmed that the Board will continue to represent them and to seek ongoing funding and finished by asking everyone to stay safe and well.

Appendix 1 – List of Attendees

Appendix 2 – Chairperson’s Report

Appendix 3 – Financial Statements

Appendix 4 – Anti-doping Report