

**Pentathlon Ireland AGM 2023**  
**June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Held at Irish Sport HQ,**  
**National Sports Campus, Abbottstown, D15**

**Attendees:** *See Appendix 1*

**Apologies:** Suzie Cave, Rob Downes, John Hargaden, Danielle Moore, Tim O'Brien Andrei Fedotov, Martina McCarthy and Rhona Radford had hoped to join in via Zoom but they were in Poland at the European Games and experienced technical difficulties.

**1. Welcome:**

- George Maybury, Chairperson of Pentathlon Ireland, welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending.

**2. Minutes from 2022 AGM.**

- The minutes from the 2022 AGM were emailed to members in advance and there were no queries.
- *Therese Costello* proposed approval of 2022 Minutes  
*James Kennedy* seconded approval

**3. Chairperson's Report:** *See Appendix 2*

George Maybury presented the Chairperson's Report.

**4. Financial Statements:** Available on Pentathlon Ireland website

[www.pentathlon.ie](http://www.pentathlon.ie)

- Paddy Boyd presented the financial statements as our Treasurer (Rhona Radford) was unable to attend as she was away in Poland. She had hoped to join the meeting via Zoom but was also unable to do so due to technical difficulties.
- 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, Paddy simply highlighted key matters from the Accounts as follows:
  - Our 2022 High Performance funding was €286,667 and this funding is secured until end of 2024 – (Olympic Cycle). We received NGB Core-funding of €10,000 from Sport Ireland for 2022 which is a reduction from last year of €20,000.
  - Our hire cost of the Modern Pentathlon Centre from the National Sport Campus is €25,778.50.
  - Overall, the Association made a loss of €2,518 for the year 2022 whilst a Sport Ireland Covid Grant received in 2022, has been deferred to 2023 to assist in new discipline OCR replacing Riding which was confirmed by UIPM in February 2023.
  - At the end of the year there were no major outstanding liabilities as full funding was received within calendar year and liabilities paid.
  - We have over the Covid years accumulated a surplus. Sport Ireland have allowed us to carry this surplus over for use in 2023.
- On behalf of the Board, Paddy thanked Sport Ireland, the Olympic Federation of Ireland and our other sponsors for their support during 2022 and expressed the hope that we will continue to get this support through 2023 and the coming years to secure the future success of the Association and sport.

- Paddy also thanked our auditors, O’Gorman Brannigan Purtill & Co Ltd, for their efficiency in carrying out the audit and for assisting us with the audit.
- The accounts were formally adopted:
  - *Geoff Liffy* proposed
  - *James Kennedy* seconded

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

- *Niav McNamara* proposed authorisation for Directors to determine the remuneration of the Auditors
- *Therese Costello* seconded this

#### **6. Anti-doping Report: See Appendix 3**

Paddy Boyd presented the Anti-doping Report.

#### **7. Elections to the Board**

- George Maybury – *Therese Costello* proposed and *James Kennedy* seconded
- Therese Costello – *George Maybury* proposed and *Geoff Liffey* seconded

#### **8. AOB**

- Niav thanked Fiona and Jimmy Collins for their help in building the Indoor Obstacle Rig. Without their help, we would have had to spend a lot more and would also have been waiting a lot longer to get it built. Niav also thanked them for their generosity in covering the labour costs involved in building the rig. They are currently building some other obstacle equipment for Pentathlon Ireland and we are very grateful to them both.
- Paddy mentioned that we are currently facing some challenges as an organisation:
  - The sport of Modern Pentathlon is not yet confirmed for the 2028 Olympics but UIPM are lobbying hard in the background. We should know after the IOC meeting which is supposed to be held in September.
  - We have applied to Sport Ireland to build a wood-chipped running track and an obstacle course out the back of the Pentathlon Centre. If we are confirmed in the Games, we will be going ahead with that.
  - The increased level of Governance is very onerous on small sporting bodies and we have been trying to cope with all Sport Ireland’s guidelines particularly regarding gender balance requirements.

#### **9. Close**

- George Maybury closed the meeting by thanking everyone who attended and wishing everyone well.

## Appendix 1 – List of Attendees

### **In person:**

Paddy Boyd

Therese Costello (also proxy for Caolan Costello)

Barbara Hargaden (proxy for Jamie Hargaden)

George Maybury

Niav McNamara

### **Via Zoom link:**

Niamh Cherry

Philip Coffey

Fiona Collins (proxy for Jed Collins)

James Kennedy

Geoff Liffey

### **By proxy**

Jed Collins

Caolan Costello

Jamie Hargaden

Catherine Mullarkey

**Appendix 2 – Chairperson’s Report**  
**Delivered by George Maybury, Chairperson, Pentathlon Ireland**

Firstly, I would like to welcome you all to Pentathlon Ireland’s 2023 AGM. Whether you are attending in person or have joined us via the Zoom link, we are very happy to have you here so thank you for joining us!

I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is George Maybury and I have been a member of the Board of Pentathlon Ireland since 2019. As I’m sure you all know, our former Chairperson, John Foley, stood down from his position in April when he was appointed to become Chairperson of Sport Ireland. Following an internal election, I was nominated by my fellow Board members to take over as Interim Chairperson for Pentathlon Ireland. As no other candidates put their name forward, my position as Chairperson will be ratified tonight when we discuss the make-up of the Board later.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, John, for his hard work whilst on the Board and for his guidance through what at times, were stormy waters. I would also like to wish him the best of luck in his new role.

I would also like to say thanks to a number of other people tonight:

Firstly, to our dedicated athletes who stick at it in good times and bad. You have our respect and support at all times.

Secondly, I would like to thank our Coaching Team. To our Performance Director, Martina McCarthy, who is after all, only paid by us to work one day a week but puts so much more time in than that – your hard work and expertise are genuinely valued. To our Head Coach, Andrei Fedotov, who puts the hours in on a daily basis to guide and steer all our athletes, whether they be Seniors, Juniors or Youths, thank you for your professionalism and dedication. To our running Coach, Evan Scully, our Obstacle Coaches, Aoife O’Moore and Scott Phillips, and our stand-in coaches, Hanna D’Aughton and Tim O’Brien, I say thank you. You all make up a super coaching team and your commitment to our athletes and to the sport of Modern Pentathlon in Ireland is much appreciated.

I would like to thank Sport Ireland and the Sports Institute who have again this year supported our athletes and coaching team extremely well.

Next, I would like to thank our staff, our CEO, Paddy Boyd and our Development Manager and Administrator, Niav McNamara, for the professional way that they run Pentathlon Ireland on a daily basis. It is not always easy, particularly with a completely new discipline being introduced but they never give up and I thank them for that. As part-time staff, they both go above and beyond in their duties.

Finally, a big thank you to the members of the Board for their hard work and enthusiasm and for all that they do to develop and support the sport of Modern Pentathlon in Ireland.

**Board Meetings and Attendance**

- Since last year’s AGM, we have held 4 Board meetings (normally every 7 or 8 weeks) with an 80% attendance record.

## **Membership**

- Membership of PI this year is 44, which is down slightly from last year's figure of 47.
- We hope to grow this number when we have completed our outdoor obstacle rig and can attract athletes from different disciplines rather than just from our traditional feeder base of the Irish Pony Club.
- We have recently held meetings with Campus staff about them referring some athletes from their Academies to us and we hope that this will help us to introduce some new athletes to our sport.

## **Governance**

- The Board has continued since the last AGM to place a strong emphasis on good Governance and it remains a standard agenda item at all Board meetings.
- We continue to refresh our risk register for the organisation and to review it quarterly.
- We completed the external Board review that we mentioned at the last AGM and were very happy with the results.
  - High level of satisfaction with how the Board are operating with a 79% satisfaction rating overall.
- As part of our commitment to good Governance and Board management, Niav and I both attended BoardMatch's recent "Better Board Recruitment" Webinar series in May. These practical webinars provided the tools and tips needed to implement and advance board recruitment processes. There were 3 talks in total:
  - Succession planning
  - Reviewing the skills on your Board
  - Finding Volunteer Board Members
- We are committed to meeting Sport Ireland's gender mix target of 40% while continuing to ensure that the make-up of the Board contains the skills necessary to manage Pentathlon Ireland. We are currently working with BoardMatch Ireland to recruit 2 new Board members.

## **A summary of sporting events since 2022 AGM**

It has been a busy time for our athletes and coaches since we held our last AGM in September 2022.

As you all know, UIPM introduced Obstacle Racing as the 5<sup>th</sup> Discipline at the end of last year. It replaced Horse Riding at all levels except the Senior Level. After the Paris Olympics in 2024, Obstacle Racing will be introduced at Senior Level too.

This created challenges for our staff and coaches as, unlike in other "Pentathlon" countries, there is very little tradition of Obstacle Racing in Ireland. This meant that we were effectively starting from scratch. I'm glad to say that once we received the catalogue of obstacles from UIPM (on 31<sup>st</sup> January), we were able to establish relationships with World Obstacle Racing and with a gentleman called Scott Phillips who runs an obstacle training centre in the UK. Our Performance Director, Martina McCarthy – who is unable to be here tonight as she is currently with our team in Poland at the European Games – travelled to the UK with Niav McNamara to check out this centre. We subsequently sent our athletes over to the UK to train with Scott on two occasions and Scott is coming to Dublin on 12<sup>th</sup> July to do a training session with our athletes here. We were also helped by the Campus staff who assisted us in finding an Ireland-based Obstacle coach – Aoife O'Moore – and by Gymnastics Ireland, who lent us some equipment.

After a difficult start with obstacle racing in a competition in Leiria, I'm delighted to say that the hard work of our athletes and coaches has paid off as our athletes have got to grips with

this new discipline and Jed Collins even won the Obstacle division at a recent competition in Barcelona.

As well as our athletes attending training camps in Paris (twice) and Cyprus, they have been busy competing around the world.

## **Seniors**

### Sive Brassil

- Sive had a great end to 2022 with two impressive results:
  - A career-best 8<sup>th</sup> place in the Senior European Championships in September
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place in an extremely competitive Championats de France in December, missing out on the Gold by one second.
- Sive competed in the first two World Cups of 2023 and then in the German Championships recently where she took 6<sup>th</sup> place.
- She is currently in Poland having competed in the European Games where she made the semi-final but fell just short of qualifying for the final.

### Suzie Cave

- Suzie joined us in the Autumn from Pentathlon GB and represented us for the first time in Lithuania in early April, coming 8<sup>th</sup> in their Championships.
- Next stop for Suzie will be the Swiss Championships in July.

### Tim O'Brien

- Tim hopes to return from injury later this year.

### Tom O'Brien

- Tom continues to train out of France and attended both training camps there as well as competing in the Championats de France in December.
- He had intended to compete in the recent German Championships but was forced to withdraw due to illness.
- He will next compete in the Swiss Championships in July.

## **Juniors**

### Hanna D'Aughton

- Hanna competed in the Junior World Championships in early October 2022 and turned in a good performance.
- A great result from Hanna when she made the finals of the German Championships in May and finished in 18<sup>th</sup> place overall, having just returned from injury.
- Hanna competed last weekend at the European Games.

### Ben Makin

- Ben also competed in the Junior World Championships last year and qualified for the semi-final as well as partnering Isobel Radford Dodd in the Mixed Relay.
- He also competed in the Championats de France in December.
- Ben went on to compete in Pentathlon GB's Winter Invitational event in January where he came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Juniors event and 6<sup>th</sup> overall and beat Joe Choong (Olympic Champion in Tokyo).
- Ben has since taken a step back from the sport of Pentathlon as his busy job does not allow him to train as much as necessary – we wish him all the best in the future.

### Isobel Radford Dodd

- Isobel qualified for the semi-final at the Junior World Championships and partnered Ben in the Mixed Relay.
- She made her Senior World Cup debut this year when she competed in World Cup 1 in Egypt, turning in a very impressive fencing display.
- She reclaimed her Irish National fencing crown when she won the Women's Épée competition at Fencing Ireland's Championships in April.
- Isobel competed last weekend at the European Games.

### **Youths**

#### Junior World Championships

- Robert Cherry and Caolan Costello moved up an age category to compete in the Men's Relay at the Junior World Championships, gaining great experience.

#### Baltic Cup

- Jed Collins and Jamie Hargaden flew the flag for us in Lithuania in October, becoming TV stars in the process when they bumped into Hector Ó hEochagáin and were filmed for his TG4 series.

#### Laser Run / Biathle / Triathle

- Martha Moore represented us in the Biathle / Triathle World Championships which were held in October 2022. Having performed well in the Championships, she capped her successful debut for Ireland by taking a 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Global Laser Run City Tour the next day.
- Martha took home a silver medal in the Under 15 Girls section at the British Laser Run Championships in April, only missing out on the gold by 2 seconds.
- Martha will be in Laser Run and Biathle action again this week at the European Championships and at the World Championships in August.
- Also competing in the European Championships this week is our new England-based athlete, Hope Lewis.
- I'm delighted to say that, for the first time we have a Para athlete who is being coached by Andrei in shooting. Kerri O'Loughlin plans to represent us in the Para section of the Laser Run World Championships in August.

#### Leweston

- Hanna D'Aughton coached our Youths team of John Asple James, Maeve Flynn, Peter Galligan, Emily and Grace Quinn and Patrick Williams at a training day and competition in Leweston in the UK over the St. Patrick's weekend. For all but one of these athletes, it was their first Pentathlon competition. All gained great experience and Patrick took a bronze in the Under 19 Boys event. I was told afterwards that the athletes had a great time, were "buzzing with excitement" and couldn't wait for the next competition.

#### Leiria Trophy, Portugal

- Robert Cherry, Jed Collins, Caolan Costello, Peter Galligan and Jamie Hargaden all competed in the Leiria Trophy in Portugal at the end of March and despite experiencing some problems in their first competitive taste of obstacle racing, they all performed well.
- Caolan, Jed and Robert took home the Team bronze in the Under 19 section.

#### European Cup, Barcelona

- Jed, Peter, Robert and Grace Quinn all competed at the European Cup at the end of April which resulted in PB's and a lot of valuable experience gained.

#### French Championships, Perpignan

- Jamie was our sole representative here, achieving a good result when he took 5<sup>th</sup> place.

#### U19 European Championships, Lithuania

- Caolan, Jamie and Jed put in super performances in Lithuania in early June. Aply coached by Tim O'Brien, all 3 athletes qualified for their first major championships finals. They all recorded PB's in the swim and much improved obstacle racing and laser runs.

Next up for some of our Youths will be the Swiss Open from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July followed by the Under 19 World Championships in Turkey at the end of July.

We wish all our athletes the very best of luck in their upcoming competitions. To our parents, our coaches and our staff, I say thank you and I'm looking forward to another great year in 2023/2024.



**Appendix 3 – Anti-Doping Report**  
**Delivered by Paddy Boyd, CEO & Anti-Doping Officer, Pentathlon Ireland**

- Pentathlon Ireland has one carded athlete currently in the Sport Ireland’s registered testing pool (RTP). Members of the RTP are required to file comprehensive whereabouts information, detailing their schedules and locations to enable unannounced out-of-competition testing. The carded athlete was in compliance with the whereabouts filing requirements during the year.
- Since the last report in 2022, under the Irish anti-doping programme, 2 out-of-competition tests have been conducted. There were no adverse findings recorded.
- Athletes attending international events are subject to in-competition testing under the auspices of UIPM or of the anti-doping agency in the host country.
- 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. Carded athletes have completed this and it has been commended to the other members of the team.
- Athletes attending major international events are required to complete the on-line International Level Athletes Education Programme delivered by WADA. Three Irish Pentathletes have completed this programme.
- On 28th January, Paul O'Donovan, Anti-doping Education and Values Manager, Sport Ireland delivered an anti-doping education talk to 14 of our athletes and 5 parents.