

# Irish Ice Hockey Association



## Minutes of Meeting

**17<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

|                            |  |         |
|----------------------------|--|---------|
| <b>Meeting:</b>            | Annual General Meeting (AGM)                     |         |
| <b>Present:</b>            | Cliff Saunders (CS)                              | Chair   |
|                            | Dean Kelly (DK)                                  | Minutes |
|                            | Mark Bowes (MB)                                  |         |
|                            | William Fay (WF)                                 |         |
|                            | Mick Higgins (MH)                                |         |
|                            | Maira Lyne (ML)                                  |         |
|                            | John Hogan (JH)                                  |         |
|                            | Kevin Kelly (KK)                                 |         |
| <b>Location:</b>           | Radisson Hotel,<br>Dublin Airport,<br>Co. Dublin |         |
| <b>Apologies:</b>          |  |         |
| <b>Meeting Start Time:</b> | 14:00  |         |
| <b>Meeting End Time:</b>   | 21:10  |         |

## **1. Meeting Introduction, Meeting Rules & Guidelines and evacuation procedures.**

CS welcomed all to the meeting and explained the rules and guidelines. He also explained the evacuation procedures.

## **2. Welcome by chair and introduction of group of officers and the observer.**

CS again welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced both himself and the others at the top table. CS then stated that a minute's taker was needed and he asked those in attendance if anyone would be interested in recording the minutes for the meeting. Peter Bohan then stated that he felt that for a meeting of such importance, for any national governing body, a minute's taker should have been appointed prior to the meeting. Peter Bohan stated that it was a total disgrace that this was being left until the meeting itself. CS then replied that they had decided to wait until the AGM in order to allow it to be open to the members. CS then asked Brian Clery whether he would record the minutes. Brian Clery declined to record the minutes. It was again put to the members in attendance. MH then suggested that DK record them. DK declined but then agreed to record the minutes when nobody else volunteered. DK was appointed as the minute's taker.

## **3. Apologies**

CS stated that Robert Dooley was unable to attend the meeting for personal reasons which had come up at the last minute just prior to the start of the meeting.

CS stated that the IIHA's Women's Development Officer, Ashley Moore, would be unable to attend the meeting as she was away in Vierumaki, Finland representing Ireland at the 2008 IIHF Women's Development Camp. Both Catherine O'Reilly and Jana Gerkena were accompanying Ashley Moore.

CS stated that Sean Gibson was unable to attend the meeting as he was also out of Ireland. He was representing Ireland in lacrosse.

CS also stated the Kilkenny City Storm apologised for their absence but they were unable to attend as they had previously committed to an inline tournament.

## **4. Minutes of previous AGM and matters arising.**

CS stated that there were some issues with the minutes from last year's AGM. CS and KK said that Sean O'Riordan and Mats Ajnesjo had some issues and asked them what the issues were. Sean O'Riordan stated that he believed that at the previous AGM that there were seven people elected as Directors of the association. He asked for it to be clarified. CS mentioned how he had seen an email regarding this and stated that his own recollection was that people were only asked if they were interested in becoming Directors of the association. Sean O'Riordan again stated that he believed that an election had taken place and that information had been requested from himself and others by KK. He enquired as to why they were asked for information if they had not been elected as directors.

DK stated how he was at the previous AGM and that an election did not take place. He stated that he was also one of the people who had raised their hands showing his interest in becoming a Director of the association. He also stated that he was never under the impression that an election had taken place and that the people who raised their hands were not informed that they would be Directors of the association.

KK then stated that the information which he had asked for was so that background checks could be done on the people. KK stated how objections were made against certain people who raised their hands to become a Director and that the only person whom did not have an objection made against him was MH. Sean O'Riordan stated that the email he had received from KK requested specific information and how he was under the impression that he had been elected as a Director and that it was wrong that he

was not contacted afterwards to inform him he was not a Director. KK then reiterated that the information was so that background checks could be done and that he and all others should have been contacted by the Executive Committee to inform them that they would not be Directors. KK stated how he agreed that it was wrong that he and others had not been contacted afterwards to inform them that they would not be Directors.

Pat Kelly then asked how many Directors there were and who appoints them. CS explained that originally there were three Directors and it was to be expanded at last year's AGM. Pat Kelly suggested that each club have a representative. CS said it was a good suggestion. MH said that is for the feedback sheets. CS then clarified that it was not an election. Sean O'Riordan said that KK had said that it was some sort of an election. KK replied and said that he did not say that some sort of an election had taken place and that no election happened. Robbie Byrne then said that this should be discussed at a later time and date and the Directors should be sorted out then as this was just taking up time. Robbie Byrne then asked whether there was anything in the constitution about how Directors should be elected.

Mats Ajnesjo then stated that he and Sean O'Riordan were nominated and others only raised their hands. KK replied by saying that Mats Ajnejsjo and Sean O'Riordan were not nominated.

CS then asked for the minutes to be approved. Philip Darcy approved the minutes and the other members in attendance approved the minutes.

AGM Minutes of Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> August 2007 approved.

Will Fitzgerald then suggested that the AGM should be recorded by either audio/video to avoid any such problems again or any inaccuracies.

## **5. Reports**

### **5.1. Officers**

#### **5.1.1. PRO – Sean Gibson**

CS told the members in attendance that Sean Gibson was not present and asked if he left his report with anyone. He did not give his report to anyone and CS then asked KK if he may have it. KK checks to see if he may have it. In the meantime, Gerard Roche reads his report.

#### **5.1.2. Web Development Officer – Gerard Roche**

Gerard Roche read his report and stated that the biggest problem with iiha.org is the lack of content. He stated how it is not his job to source content. He also tells the members in attendance how the financial statements have been published on the website and that various sections have been added in the past year. He stated that it was decided the Hydra System would be used for the statistics, despite objections, and that it failed. Gerard stated how it remains installed and is ready to use. He stated that the archive was the most visited section on the website and that more content was needed. He also stated that the home page needed to be improved, that statistics needed to be introduced and that the archive also needed improvement. He also talked about an IIHA Banner and stated that this would appear on all teams' websites and would allow the IIHA to gather more sponsors and generate more revenue for all the teams.

The members in attendance were then asked whether there were any questions.

Will Fitzgerald said that it was a good idea but the IIHA Banner should be adaptable to the different teams' websites so that it fits in with the current teams' website designs.

Robert Flanagan then explained that some teams had problems filling in their .pdf team sheets as they did not have the appropriate software. KK then asked why did the teams not print it out and then fill it in with pen or send an email saying that they had a problem with filling in the form. Keith Daly then asked whether the information could be included on player registration forms and recorded then.

Gerard Roche and KK then stated that the biggest problem was that there were no emails or feedback from anyone about this and that nobody enquired for help.

Gerard finished his report.

MH then read Sean Gibson's report. There were no questions. MH finished reading Sean Gibson's report.

### **5.1.3. Child Protection Officer – Moira Lyne**

ML read her report and stated that KK had tried to do a lot of work with the Junior Development Programme. She stated that it did fall apart but that it was no fault of KK but it was then that she started to work on child protection. ML stated that she had held an open night at the IIHA Office in Sports HQ which was attended very well. She met both Seanna Conway and Geraldine Unsworth at this meeting after they had already contacted her and expressed an interest in becoming involved in child protection. ML then stated how the IIHA was still not recognised by the Irish Sports Council and how the IIHA have been trying to become a member. ML stated that John Treacy, of the Irish Sports Council, said he would send on information to help with this but had still not sent on the information. ML also stated how the IIHA needed money and that Michael Flanagan would help with this. She also stated how children's development is a key to the Dundalk Ice Dome's business and how MB was operating the Hero's Programme without the Executive Committee's approval. She said that MB was sneaky and conniving. ML also stated that with the help of others the Child Protection Policy had been completed and that she had it but the IIHA still needed a Child Protection Officer. She then stated that the IIHA had two people who had completed a level three child protection course.

The members in attendance were then asked if they had any questions.

MB then said you claim I've represented the IIHA under false pretences. He then asked ML what the Hero's Programme is. He stated that it was a programme that helped children to take part in sports that otherwise they would not have been able to. He then said that the equipment that ML was talking about was in Vancouver and that they offered to send Bulgaria and Armenia equipment and it was paid for by the IIHF. He asked can we do this for Ireland and stated that the equipment hasn't moved.

KK then said that Mark should have contacted the IIHA but instead he had contacted Tony Griffin and cc'd Aeidamar Sally on the email and now there is hundreds of thousands of euro worth of equipment just sitting in containers. MB then stated that he had never misrepresented the IIHA to anyone.

Pat Kelly then stated that the Dundalk Bulls have never gotten any equipment. He stated that the Dundalk Bulls are nothing to do with the Dundalk Ice Dome and that the Dundalk Bulls are setup and totally independent of the Dundalk Ice Dome. A few people from the crowd then shouted that he said nothing about the Dundalk Bulls. Pat Kelly then said that KK said that Aeidamar Sally was on the email. KK then replied that yes he did say Aeidamar Sally was on the email but to his knowledge she did not reply and KK also stated that he did not say the Dundalk Bulls were involved. Aeidamar Sally confirmed that she did not reply to the email. Pat Kelly then said that he just wanted it clear that the Dundalk Bulls have nothing to do with the equipment.

MH then stated that he would like to take the opportunity to point out what MB had said about never misrepresenting the IIHA. Mark said that he did not say that and asked why anyone should take note. MH said that it may come up later so it should be kept in mind. DK then said that MB did say that and said that he had taken down in the minutes what MB had said and DK stated MB had said that he never represented anyone under false pretences. MB stated that was not what he said and DK then stated that was what he had down for the minutes. MB then stated that he wears two hats, that one was an IIHA hat and that one was a Dundalk Ice Dome hat and that it was very hard to take one hat off. KK then asked MB why he didn't go through the IIHA. KK then stated that instead MB sent the email to Tony Griffin.

CS then asked if we could move on.

ML finished her report.

#### **5.1.4. Chief Medical Report – Dr. Peter Ting**

Dr. Peter Ting read his report and stated that this was his first AGM as he was unable to attend the AGM the previous year. He stated how he was the Medical Officer during the 2007 IIHF World Championships Division III held in Dundalk, Ireland. Dr. Peter Ting stated that Murray Costello, of the IIHF, was very impressed with him and that Murray Costello said he would put Dr. Peter Ting's name forward for the IIHF Medical Council. Dr. Peter Ting then stated that both he and Joe Clifford did a good job at the 2007 IIHF World Championships Division III held in Dundalk, Ireland. Dr. Peter Ting then stated that his last act as Medical Officer was the drug testing of six Team Ireland players. He stated that it took two months to get the results back from the hospital and that all results were negative. He also stated that for the 2007 IIHF World Championships Division III held in Dundalk, Ireland he got equipment to use and that it was still in the Dundalk Ice Dome. Dr. Peter Ting then stated that he would like to resign as the Chief Medical Officer.

The members in attendance were then asked if they had any questions.

Liz Higgins stated that Dr. Peter Ting approached Murray Costello and that it was not the other way round. Dr. Peter Ting stated that yes that was true and that it was he who approached Murray Costello. Dr. Peter Ting then read out an email from Murray Costello in which Murray Costello asked both CS and MB about Dr. Peter Ting. Dr. Peter Ting then said that nobody had told him about this email until the end of May. He then stated that he was resigning for personal reasons and not because of this email.

MH then said that he would like to thank Dr. Peter Ting on behalf of Team Ireland.

KK then stated that Dr. Peter Ting was undervalued and that he should stay. KK then asked whether the drug testing was legitimate and random. Dr. Peter Ting said that he received an email with the players' names. KK asked Dr. Peter Ting if he was involved in the selection of the players. Dr. Peter Ting said no.

Joe Clifford then stated that Dr. Peter Ting would be a loss and said he should stay. Joe Clifford also stated that Dr. Peter Ting was one of the best doctors he had ever worked with.

WF then urged Dr. Peter Ting to stay and asked the members in attendance to convey their support of him staying by a show of hands. The members in attendance, by a show of hands, conveyed their support of Dr. Peter Ting staying.

Dr. Peter Ting finished his report.

#### **5.1.5. Women's Development – Ashley Moore**

CS stated that Ashley Moore was not present and had left her report with Seanna Conway. Seanna Conway read Ashley Moore's report and apologised on behalf of Ashley Moore for her absence.

The members in attendance were asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Seanna Conway finished reading Ashley Moore's report.

#### **5.1.6. Team Ireland – Mark Bowes / Mick Higgins**

MB stated that MH did the majority of the work as he became a player/coach. MB stated that the IIHA knew the team would be under pressure as the teams were better than the previous years. MB stated that the budget for Team Ireland was over by €3,000 and it was approved by the Executive Committee. MB finished speaking and handed over to MH.

MH said that he had no notes prepared on this and stated that Team Ireland this year wasn't a great success. MH stated that the team was under prepared and that there was more money available than when the team travelled to Mexico in 2005 and that Team Ireland was over budget this year. MH also stated that a member of the Executive Committee travelled with the team but no room had been booked for her to stay in. MH also stated that on the way home, the team arrived in the airport to leave

Romania to find that one player had missed his flight because he was not told of the time of his flight. MH then stated that he was embarrassed to report these details to the members but the players did the best they could.

The members in attendance were asked whether they had any questions.

Robbie Byrne said that the trip sounded as if it was a bit of a disaster and he asked whether it was the same team that managed Mexico. MH said that some of the staff was involved in the trip to Mexico.

MB stated that the players were his only concern and that there was nothing they could have done for ML. MB stated the team arrived at the hotel to find that there was only room for 20 players and 6 officials. MH stated that MB told him in the airport that there wasn't a room for ML. Philip Darcy asked why one of the players didn't double up. MH said that he was going to double up and MB said he would have slept on the floor to give ML a room.

Will Fitzgerald stated that the question he had was how far in advance from the championships was planning started. He stated that if it is done early enough then it is possible to stay within the budget. He stated that all of these guys have Team Ireland at heart but that we need to plan now for next year and prepare in advance. Will Fitzgerald also stated that it was a major boo boo for a member of the Executive Committee not to have a room. He then stated that it was lesson learned so it was time to come up with a plan now.

Stephen Cooper then asked who would be picking the team next year. CS stated that Jim Tibbetts was still the coach and that he had one year remaining. CS also stated that Team Ireland was put on the side this year. Stephen Cooper said the Executive Committee should appoint a date to have the team picked by. He said that he wanted to go to Romania but he was contacted with too short notice and was unable to get off work and he was disappointed by this. CS said that he was unable to speak for Jim Tibbetts as he wasn't present but the preparation is something that could be improved on.

Robbie Byrne asked where the funds for Team Ireland came from. CS said that the funds for Team Ireland came from the heart of the membership. CS stated that it was around €5,000 each year. Robbie Byrne asked whether any money from the raising of money in Smithfield had been put into Team Ireland. Robbie Byrne also asked whether it would be the same for the women. CS stated that the funding would be different for the women as the funding was different for each programme.

Niall McEvoy then stated that there was no Junior Development and that there was no U-18 Irish National Team.

MH then finished speaking.

### **5.1.7. Referee-in-Chief – William Fay**

WF read his report. He stated how when he started he didn't have any experience so he went and learned the rules. He stated that his eventual aim is that no on-ice officials should be players and currently only one on-ice official is not a player. He stated that the IIHA held two level one on-ice officials courses. The first was at the start of the season when EIHA Officials ran a two day course. The second was at the end of the season when Ian Shaver ran a course. WF pointed out that Ian Shaver was in attendance at the AGM. WF also stated how he was in contact with a former Elite League referee, Peter Cunningham, who currently lives in Northern Ireland. WF stated that Peter Cunningham had already assessed forty percent of the IIHA's on-ice officials and would continue to assist in evaluating the IIHA's on-ice officials.

WF then spoke about some of the goals and challenges facing the development of referees in Ireland. He stated how an ultimate goal would be to some day have an IIHA referee officiate in an IIHF competition. He also stated that an aim would be to get more young people involved with officiating ice hockey in Ireland, especially junior ice hockey. WF stated how one of the challenges facing officials in Ireland was the education of off-ice officials. He stated that off-ice officials needed a better understanding of the rules and a key to improving this was better communication between the on-ice officials and the off-ice officials. WF then stated that one of the successes was that the fixture list grew and on-ice officials were provided for this expanding fixture list. He stated that this included providing

numerous on-ice officials for games which took place in Northern Ireland. WF also stated how he was in favour of introducing the 4-man system for next season. He stated that it would be more expensive for the teams but it would ensure more consistent officiating as there would be referees at both ends of the ice.

WF also stated that he sent out a bulletin to all teams last September which detailed some key points for teams to take notice of. He said that KK helped in producing this bulletin. He stated that he aimed to send out a more updated bulletin at the start of next season. WF also stated that something which he would look at introducing next season was expenses for referees. He mentioned that in the UK, referees are paid a certain amount for each mile they have to travel to games. He said this was called the "mileage rate." He stated how some officials expressed that it wasn't fair that if a referee is travelling from Dublin to Dundalk he should be paid the same as if the referee lived in Dundalk or vice-versa. WF stated that the "mileage rate" would help solve this. WF then stated that the highlight of the past year for himself was having Alan Smith over to officiate games. WF stated how Alan Smith is a top referee in Denmark and how he had helped several of the IIHA's on-ice officials with various aspects of officiating. WF stated that Alan Smith was a referee whom all of the IIHA's on-ice officials could aspire to be like.

The members in attendance were asked if they had any questions.

Robbie Byrne stated that he felt that there would be an inconsistency with the 4-man system. WF replied that there would be less inconsistency because if one referee missed something, the other referee would be able to call it.

WF was asked if whether there was a conflict of interest with being both the Referee-in-Chief and the Vice-President at the same time. WF stated that it depends on the growth of the association and that in other countries the Referee-in-Chief was also the Vice-President and it works fine. He stated that as the association grows it could become a problem. WF and Robbie Byrne discussed the 4-man system for a few seconds before Barry O'Hanrahan stood up and stated that WF was the fairest referee the entire season and that WF stuck by his guns.

Sean Pepper then stated that his brother Mark Pepper was also a good referee and that there were some biased referees with some bad calls. Sean Pepper also stated that he thought the goal judges did a good job and that some referees were too slow to get down to see whether it was a goal or not. WF stated that he felt that things could be improved with an off-ice officials' course.

WF finished his report.

#### **5.1.8. IIHL & IIHL Development Division – Mick Higgins**

MH read his report. He stated how over 300 players participated in the leagues last season and that five teams competed in the IIHL and nine in the IIHL Development Division. He stated that there were over 900 goals scored in over 100 games. He also stated that there were over 2,000 penalties in minutes recorded. He stated that the standard was so much better than the IIHA thought but the improvement did leave some unbalanced results. He stated how the IIHA's main aim is for the players rather than the spectators. He stated that we should get the product right first.

He then said he would like to say thank you to various people. He said thank you to DK, WF and that he was surprised at WF's appointment as Vice-President. MH also said thank you to Tony Kinsella of the Dundalk Ice Dome and all of his staff. MH then stated that he had met with Tony Kinsella last Wednesday and that he was told that he was premature in his announcement that the IIHA had ice time. MH stated that the IIHL would be curtain raisers to the Celtic Cup. MH also said thank you to the Executive Committee and that there were few of them and all their work was behind closed doors. MH also said thank you to Robert Dooley for looking after the financial affairs and all questions will be or have been answered.

MH then stated that he would walk away from hockey rather than assist others in the expense of the IIHA for their benefits.

The members in attendance were then asked if they had any questions.



Gordon Ferguson then asked MH if he could expand on what he had mentioned about professionalism. MH stated that he has no proof so he could not expand but he had been told that two teams did plan to act professionally. MH then stated that all he could give were the rumours and he also stated that he was against any professionalism.

MH finished his report.

**Mick Higgins then took over recording the minutes while DK read his report.**

### **5.1.9. IIHA Administration Officer – Dean Kelly**

DK read his report. He stated that when he returned from Canada he started to assist in organising off-ice officials. He also stated that he helped out with stock checks of IIHA equipment as well and that he assisted MH in rescheduling games.

DK stated how the IIHL teams had decided prior to the season that when a team was not competing on a particular weekend, they would provide the four off-ice officials and that the IIHL Development Division adopted this as well. DK stated that this worked at first but not particularly well towards the end of the season as some teams found themselves going up to Dundalk every weekend. He then stated that his suggestion for next season would be that the Home Team for all games would provide these four off-ice officials. DK stated that this would be easier on everyone as everyone would know in advance when they needed to provide the off-ice officials and if a game was rescheduled the Home Team would know whether to cancel or reschedule the off-ice officials. DK also recommended fining teams that do not provide the four off-ice officials.

DK stated that only one game in the IIHL was outstanding but it did not affect the standings. DK stated that a statistics system was needed for next season and the reason that the statistics took so long to publish this season was because they were done by hand. DK did state that two people had volunteered for next season to record the statistics.

DK then read his report on the stock checks and stated that several pieces of equipment had gone missing and that it was unknown who or where the equipment had gone as it had been used by everyone.

The members in attendance were asked if they had any questions.

Sandra O'Reilly then stated that she did not think it was fair to say everyone had used the equipment or to say that everyone was responsible for the equipment going missing as not everyone did use that equipment. She also stated that the equipment should have been controlled better and kept better track of. DK responded that what he meant by everyone was someone from each club had used the equipment and that she was right and the equipment should have been controlled better but DK said that he did not know why the equipment was allowed to be used without being controlled better and kept track of.

Dean Kelly finished his report.

**MH finished recording the minutes when DK finished his report. DK resumed recording the minutes.**

### **5.1.10. IIHA Merchandise & Sales – Robert Dooley**

As previously stated, Robert Dooley was not in attendance. Nobody had Robert Dooley's report so CS spoke about the IIHA Merchandise & Sales. CS stated that a lot of jerseys were sold especially in Canada. He stated that over €12,000 was raised through jerseys sales.

KK asked CS what happens with jerseys that are sold in the Dundalk Ice Dome. CS stated that they were a different type of jersey and that he believed the majority were all gone. CS then stated that no more RBK replica jerseys would be ordered. CS also stated that there were some outstanding issues with these jerseys. He stated that the Dundalk Ice Dome had still not paid the IIHA. CS stated that money was outstanding from the Dundalk Ice Dome to the IIHA. He clarified that the IIHA was owed

money from the Dundalk Ice Dome. MB then asked whether there was a contract. KK then asked MB if he was saying it was not true. CS then stated that the jerseys were sold and we still haven't received any money. Barry O'Hanrahan then asked whether that was anything to do with the members. MB then stated that the lesson is that you put it in writing and not a handshake. KK stated that was not what you do. MB then stated that the Dundalk Ice Dome has in excess of €200,000 worth of stock. KK then stated that he was talking about Team Ireland jerseys and that Tony Griffin and CS made this agreement. KK stated that a deal was done to get these jerseys in and he asked why the IIHA had not received the money. MB said that this was a deal with Tony Griffin and CS so let them deal with it. MB also stated that Robert Dooley had asked several times why there were no contracts and this was a perfect example. CS then stated that there was no contract because the jerseys were ordered first. Evelyn Kelly then stated that players just wanted to play and Mark you got the jerseys so pay the money. She also asked MB why it was not happening. MB then asked why she was directing this at him.

CS then stated that he would fix it as he made the deal and it was outstanding. CS finished the report.

Tea break called at 16:33 pm.

Meeting returned at 16:57 pm.

CS then handed over the chair to MH while CS read his report.

## 5.2. Executive

### 5.2.1. President – Cliff Saunders

CS read his report. CS welcomed all of the guests and introduced the IIHA's legal advisor, JH, and he apologised for only introducing him now. CS stated that it was a hard and frustrating year but over the months we saw improvements in the standards. CS wished all of the teams the best of luck and stated it's their credit that other teams joined. CS also congratulated the Dundalk Bulls and Dublin Wolves on winning the IIHL League and Playoffs and the IIHL Development Division League and Playoffs respectively. CS also stated that the Dundalk Bulls would as a result be playing in the IIHF's Continental Cup next season.

CS then stated that in January the IIHA announced it would develop the sport and made various appointments. He said that for once we were ahead in all of these plans. CS then stated that the IIHL stood to our players for fitness and endurance when the Senior Irish National Team travelled to Romania. He stated that the team would be travelling to New Zealand next season and the championships would take place April 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. CS then stated that in May, four members of the Executive Committee attended the IIHF Annual Congress. CS stated that René Fasel returned as the President of the IIHF and that René Fasel was a huge supporter of Irish Ice Hockey. CS stated that the Good Friday Agreement goes against IIHF by-laws and the IIHA have asked for a re-write of the rule. He stated that the Division III status was under threat for numerous years and the IIHA would continue to watch this status.

CS also confirmed that the IIHA had applied to enter a team into the 2009 IIHF World Women's Championship Division V and that the IIHA had also applied to host the 2009 IIHF World U18 Championship Division III B.

CS then stated that he returned from congress and noticed a different attitude of hostility and it was not incompetence. CS stated that the IIHA's General Secretary made some criticisms. CS stated that an IIHA employee's CV was sent to the Dundalk Ice Dome. He stated that the Dundalk Ice Dome had no right to see this. CS stated that the Dundalk Ice Dome gets its fund from the players. He stated that fees for ice hockey in Canada are expensive and the players were told to be offended at a fee of €50. CS said thank you.

The members in attendance were asked if they had any questions.

Barry O'Hanrahan asked CS how come he was not able to present the trophy to the Dublin Wolves at the IIHL Development Division Playoffs. CS stated that he and the other members of the IIHA Executive Committee were away at the IIHF Congress and they had arranged for this to be done at the awards dinner. Barry O'Hanrahan then stated that his team was never asked for a deposit for the awards dinner. CS then stated that the Dundalk Bulls were one of the only teams who paid their deposit.

Pat Kelly then asked to get past this animosity towards the Dundalk Bulls as everyone only wanted to play hockey. Pat Kelly stated that the Dundalk Bulls receive no financial support from the Dundalk Ice Dome. Pat Kelly stated that the Dundalk Bulls were prepared to work with the IIHA but not if the Dundalk Bulls were only going to receive animosity. Pat Kelly also stated that the Dundalk Bulls were catering for a large number of teams. CS then stated that the IIHA was not welcome.

Will Fitzgerald then stated that we were playing ice hockey in a monopoly with only one ice rink. Will Fitzgerald then stated that it was difficult for the Dundalk Ice Dome to make money and that everyone is going to have to pay more money. Will Fitzgerald stated that we are going to have to look at promoting a new facility with the Irish Sports Council and he stated that it was important to have a second ice rink so more slots are available.

Philip Darcy then stated that certain teams were paying different slots at different prices. CS said that was locker room talk. Philip Darcy stated that fees are different for different teams and it was unfair. CS stated that teams should get their ice time fees in writing like Keith Daly did with the Flyers I.H.C.

CS also stated that the IIHA have brought a lot of money to the Dundalk Ice Dome from the clubs. Pat Kelly stated that the Dundalk Ice Dome have serious overheads and needed to make money. CS stated that he could accept that.

Ross Killen then asked if it was a long term goal of the IIHA to increase the number of ice rinks. CS stated that back in 1999 the IIHA put out a feasibility study in place for this. CS stated that 250 pages were presented to the Irish Government but they were not interested. CS stated that the Irish Government did not see what an ice rink could bring. CS stated that he had spoken to the Minister of Sport and CS said he could see his interest gaining and there was more support of the idea. CS said that there was no timeframe. Ross Killen then asked whether an ice rink would make money if it was built in Dublin. CS stated that it was hard to say in the current economic climate.

John Bickerstaff then asked whether the IIHA would sanction games for the Belfast Junior Giants in Dundonald International Ice Bowl, Belfast. CS stated that yes the IIHA would. John Bickerstaff then asked whether the Good Friday Agreement would affect players playing for Ireland. CS then stated that the IIHA was going to support this and that the IIHF support us on this. CS stated that René Fasel helped his people on the legal team to understand our situation.

Barry O'Hanrahan then stated that he welcomed everyone whether they were from the north or south.

Aeidamar Sally then asked if there was not enough money to host the 2009 IIHF World U18 Championship Division III B would Ireland still enter in a team. CS said yes.

CS finished his report.

### **5.2.2. General Secretary – Mark Bowes**

MB read his report. He stated that he was saddened as the three directors of the Dundalk Ice Dome were in debt. MB stated that if they couldn't sit down and work out these problems then they shouldn't be there. MB stated that the IIHL was the flagship and was run very well despite no documents or structure. MB stated that the IIHA Executive Committee's time was taken up with the leagues and discipline. He stated that as it stands, the federation doesn't have the resources to run the league and we had various volunteers. MB stated that those volunteers should be allowed to vote. MB also stated that the equipment should be used and should not be sitting in a container in Ashbourne. He stated that there was no proper structure for the equipment and he also stated that there were no officers and no junior development officers.



MB stated how he was delighted to see that Catherine O'Reilly was taking part in the IIHF's Women's Development Camp in Vierumaki, Finland. He stated that we have watched the Women's game grow under Mr. Walter Bush. MB stated that the IIHA needed to employ coaches. MB stated that at the IIHF Congress he was delighted to announce that a women's team would be competing in the 2009 IIHF World Women's Championship Division V.

MB also stated that north/south relations were dear to his heart and that we must work together. He also asked why the North has always developed and stated that it was because they had junior programmes in place. He stated that he now believed it was the time to tighten our relationships with the North. He stated that the Dundalk Bulls have a fantastic junior programme. He also stated that he did not expect the barrage of criticisms.

He stated that there was no agreement with the IIHL leagues and that his understanding was that the deal was that the IIHL would be the undercard to the Celtic Cup. He stated that Tony Kinsella is awaiting CS to reply and recognise the Celtic Cup.

MB stated that the posts on faceoff.ie were disheartening. MB stated that he would like to see representatives from each club to form a new committee. MB stated that he resigned because he couldn't find a common ground and disagreed. MB stated that the aim of the Friends of Irish Ice Hockey organisation was to help. He stated that they had a special emphasis on junior development. He stated that this initiative gives the IIHA no reason why we cannot earn hard cash. MB stated that Mr. Jim Geraghty suggests having fundamental and basic committees to run the association. MB also stated that Mr. Jim Geraghty suggested having positions in place because if you did not have these positions you could not go forward. MB also stated that you could not have the IIHA Executive Committee making these decisions. MB stated that the IIHA structure was agreed in principle and implemented but it was not signed. He stated that with the new structure, the Executive Committee would be able to oversee the IIHA and stop the bullshit. MB said thank you.

The members in attendance were asked if they had any questions.

DK stated that those volunteers were allowed to vote. MB said that was great.

KK asked who owns the Celtic Cup and he also stated that it sounded like blackmail. CS stated that the Celtic Cup was an idea originally from the IIHA but it fell off the radar. CS said that we have been in discussions about it but he doesn't know who owns it.

Mareia Flood then stated that there were a few schools who wanted to get involved in junior development but there is no junior development programme for them to get involved in. CS responded that it was in place but fell apart and that KK would be able to answer. KK explained that the IIHA are not running the Learn To Play programmes. He explained that the IIHA tried to set up a House League to allow children from Dublin, Dundalk and Belfast play games against one another but all the players would be mixed up and just be called after colours. He stated that this fell apart as junior hockey was politicised by some people. He stated that the IIHA was going to commit €5,000 to this House League but things fell apart and the IIHA were told that they were not welcome. He stated that it was originally DK's idea and that he had done up a structure for the House League based on that idea. KK also said that the Executive Committee had agreed to spend the same amount of money on junior hockey as would be spent on senior hockey.

Sean Dooley then stated that he had put his name forward to help out with junior development. KK said that he had sent Sean Dooley's name onto the Executive Committee. KK stated that he had sent on various names to the Executive Committee.

Peter Bohan then stood up and stated that this was a charade. He said the entire meeting was a charade and that he did not want his son associated with a national governing body that is in disarray. He stated that he appreciated MB's honesty and then left the meeting.

KK then asked MB if he lied. MB said no you do not lie Kevin.

MB finished his report.



### **5.2.3. Provisional Vice-President – William Fay**

WF read his report. He stated that there was no point in reading his report and that he agreed with what Peter Bohan had said. He said firstly he'd like to apologise to KK and stated that he does not blame KK for his resignation. He said that there was confusion over the email in which he resigned. WF stated that we needed to have structure and that we are surrounded by people who are smart and the sport is only suffering. He stated that we still do not have recognition by the Irish Sports Council. WF stated that Sean Dooley was the best man for junior development as he has seen him working in Dundalk.

WF then mentioned Seanna Conway and her request to participate in the IIHL. CS stated that would come in under topic nine.

WF then said he would like to thank the volunteers. He mentioned the Peppers, the Floods and the students of DkIT.

The members in attendance were asked if they had any questions.

Will Fitzgerald said that it feels like a funeral in here. He stated that it is salvageable and that everyone is guilty but we should draw a line in the sand and step over it. He reiterated that it is salvageable.

WF finished his report.

### **5.2.4. Director of Playing Operations – Moira Lyne**

ML read her report. She stated that the appointment of a Child Protection Officer would take place shortly after this AGM. She then stated that there were times when she felt that the Executive Committee worked as a team but after the IIHF congress things changed. She stated that one member in attendance had verbalised some of the things which the players had written on their questionnaires from Romania.

She also stated that whenever Robert Dooley needed documentations to back up figures, CS had documents. She then stated that MB tried to buy the IIHA equipment for €1,500 for the Dundalk Ice Dome even though the equipment was valued at €10,000.

She then stated that KK had kindly sponsored the guest speaker's airfare in order to have him at the AGM.

The members in attendance were asked if they had any questions.

Robert Flanagan asked ML what any of what she just said had to do with her role as Director of Playing Operations. He also stated that he had never met her. CS stated that ML had been present at some of the IIHL games. Beni McAllister then asked if the IIHL Development Division meant nothing.

Moira finished her report.

### **5.2.5. Treasurer – Robert Dooley**

As previously mentioned Robert Dooley was not in attendance at the AGM. KK read Robert Dooley's report.

In the report, Robert Dooley stated that €35,000 was accounted for at the previous year's AGM and that he had been able to account for the €3,000 that was outstanding at the previous year's AGM.

A suggestion which Robert Dooley made in his report was that the IIHA should hire a sports management company to help with the IIHA's development.

Robert Dooley's report was read into the record. All agree that Robert Dooley did a great job including Keith Daly who asked to be added to that list.

The members in attendance were asked if they had any questions. KK did point out that he would not be able to answer any questions on behalf of Robert Dooley.

Pat Kelly stated that he did agree with Robert Dooley's suggestion that a sports management company should be hired.

KK finished reading Robert Dooley's report.

## 5.3. Directors

### 5.3.1. IIHA Director – Kevin Kelly

KK read his report. He stated that he had started to write his report several months ago and that it ended up being 120 pages long so it had to be edited and he started again. He stated that he had not been given full access to all of the minutes. KK then went on to explain the role of an IIHA Director. He stated that an IIHA Director had no decision making powers and only had an over seeing capability. KK then said that if anyone asks him a question he will try to answer to the best of his ability or direct them to the person who will be able to answer the question.

KK reminded everyone that the IIHA is a not for profit organisation but there were some individuals within the association trying to glad-hand with what they saw as the elites of the hockey world. KK stated they thought it was their God given right to control Irish ice hockey and that they believed they were international hockey moguls. He stated that this was quite sad. KK also stated that he wanted the IIHA challenged over more things by its members.

KK then went on to say that the most important person in the history of Irish ice hockey so far was not CS, MB, Tony Griffin or even himself but it was Robbie Byrne. This was received with a round of applause. KK said that Robbie Byrne had successfully ran the junior programme in Phibsborough, Dublin for a number of years unassisted with occasional help from others. KK said that the reason Robbie Byrne was so important in the history of Irish ice hockey was because nobody was excluded based on skill and the aim was just to allow children the opportunity to play ice hockey. KK then went on to say how Robbie Byrne had helped so many people and that none of us would be here today if it was not for Robbie Byrne. KK said that he was saddened that even Robbie Byrne had been the subject of rumours so some people could benefit for either profit or some kind of political power.

KK then went onto say that in January he was informed of an attempt to takeover the IIHA by some individuals. KK stated that he had received an email that was sent by Tony Griffin to Jim Tibbetts, Sean O'Riordan, Mats Ajnesjo and Dr. Peter Ting which detailed how to control and take over the Executive Committee for the benefit of a few clubs and not them all. He stated that some individuals were aware in advance of resignations and had been planning in advance. KK stated that Tony Griffin had Dr. Peter Ting ready to run against William Fay at this AGM. KK also stated that MB confirmed that a deal did take place while some of the Executive Committee were in Canada at the IIHF Congress.

KK also stated that €10,000 was owed to the IIHA from the Dundalk Ice Dome from jersey sales and that there were no replies to any enquiries about this. KK also stated that Executive Committee information was leaked and it was being used to undermine to the IIHA. KK declined to go further into this. He then went on to state that Team Ireland money should be re-directed into junior development and Team Ireland should fund itself. He also stated that we should ask the Dundalk Ice Dome to come and talk in order to sort out an agreement.

Pat Kelly then said that he objected to the mention of the Dundalk Bulls. CS then said that due to lateness, KK needed to fast track his report. Aeidamar agreed that the Dundalk Ice Dome did not want registrations. KK then read out a message from Dr. Peter Ting from June. In the message, Dr. Peter Ting stated that they had wanted to use him to get rid of the present Executive Committee. KK also stated that rumours had been spread about himself and about his family in order to discredit him. KK also stated that he just wants what is right for the association and that whenever he has a disagreement with CS, CS will still move forward and work with KK.

KK finished his report.

## **6. Approval of Draft Memorandum & Articles of Association dealing specifically with:**

### **6.1. Number of Officers**

JH stated that he attended five meetings with the Executive Committee and that they had decided to push on with incorporation but needed to go through the members first. He stated that the structure of the IIHA involves a two tier system consisting of 3 Directors or Trustees and an Executive Committee of five people. He also stated that elections for four of those positions on the Executive Committee would take place today at the AGM. He then asked the members in attendance if that was their understanding. The members said that was their understanding..

JH then stated that Directors do not have a term but are only removed for legal basis. Pat Kelly then asked whether Directors are paid. JH replied no. John Bickerstaff asked if Directors were shareholders. JH replied no and stated that members would only have a €1 liability. Pat Kelly then asked whether it would be a good idea for Directors to have a term. JH then stated that was something for the members to decide. KK stated that CS and MB did the Director's section. CS then stated that Directors were just oversights and they police the Executive Committee. CS also stated that they wanted people with a history of working with the association to be Directors. Pat Kelly then asked why we should have Directors if they have no function. JH stated that it was a legal requirement. He also stated that it was an unusual structure but that's how it is. KK and various people in attendance said the Directors had no power. Pat Kelly said that he could accept that. Keith Daly then stated that we have no power over Directors and there should be a term of office because it is about doing a good job for the members. Will Fitzgerald made various points about who should be a Director and reiterated Keith Daly's point that there should be a term. JH stated what the members agreed last year was different to what some members knew. JH then stated that the three Directors would remain but the members accepted the following *"Directors for company law purposes – can be removed by members in case of misconduct, details of grounds for removal to be confirmed by the Executive Committee when filing the new memorandum and articles of association."*

JH then stated that voting rights would only be to those who are fully paid up members going forward. Aidamar Sally then asked whether children under the age of eighteen would be able to vote. CS and KK replied no. JH said that children under the age of eighteen do not have a right to vote but he recommended that parents become members and children's voices can be heard that way. JH then stated that once the company is set up then the association can set up all the required committees.

### **6.2. Voting Rights**

The motion was put forward that no club would have more than one representative on the Executive Committee. The members were asked to vote on this and they voted in favour by a show of hands. JH then stated that the voting system for the association was member voting.

### **6.3. Qualification for Board Membership**

JH then stated that as it currently stands, in order for members to put their names forward for the board, they must have a minimum of two years membership. Some members enquired whether it would be better to have a minimum of one year membership. The members were asked to vote on this and by a show of hands decided that in order for members to put their names forward for the board, they were required to have a minimum of one year membership.

## **8. Guest Speaker**

The guest speaker was Michael Flanagan. He introduced himself and started to read his speech. He stated that he was from Waterford and missed the GAA game today to be at the AGM. He stated that he left Ireland to live in Chicago and he played hurling there but hurling in Chicago stopped after 9/11.



He said that he then took up ice hockey as a replacement for hurling. He then stated that the members needed to take up the top table and take charge. He stated that the members needed to do the stuff that needed to be done and that the members are the pioneers.

Michael Flanagan stated that he had never heard of Friends of Irish Ice Hockey. He went on to say that if you do not have the documents and structure you will not get the funding. He stated that he has friends who are businessmen who are willing to help the IIHA but only if the IIHA has a business plan. He stated that a company in Limerick want to sponsor the IIHA but they want our development plan and our business plan. He said that the Executive Committee needs to put in place these committees to get these things done. He stated that the IIHA needs to market properly and give to the grassroots. He stated that he just wanted to help Irish Ice Hockey and he quoted that it is “the sell of our sale that determines our direction...”

He said that the future of hockey is all of Ireland playing ice hockey and that it wasn't the Canadians who invented ice hockey but it was the Irish who invented it. He said that they had tried to play hurling on ice. He said that the IIHA needs ambitious targets and to have a good structure, we have to look at the youth and increase the quantity and quality of coaches. He also said that we need to provide guidelines and a framework for the development of the sport. He said that synthetic ice was very useful and could be a way to grow the sport. He said it was important to develop a grassroots programme. He also said that Tidy towns might be a way to develop the sport as in winter things die down so the towns may be interested in doing ice. He said that the IIHA needs to cater for disabled children and the IIHA needs to fund these programmes and find sponsorship. He also stated that we needed to certify our coaches for different levels.

He also said that after elite level we needed to focus on retirees in order to retain people. He said that both parents and fans should also sign up to a code of ethics and be a family sport by enforcing it. He went on to say that children needed quality experience through quality coaches and men and women needed somewhere to hang out. He then stated that the IIHA's role in development was to provide guidelines for how ice rinks should be built so everyone meets the standards. He also said that the IIHA needs to create standards.

CS then interrupted Michael Flanagan and explained that the Dundalk Bulls Ladies needed to leave in order to go to training so Michael Flanagan needed to finish his speech. Michael Flanagan said he did not have much more to add and finished his speech.

## 9. Motions & Questions

CS said that Seanna Conway had a question she wanted to ask.

Seanna Conway said that what had happened to her last year in not allowing her to play in the IIHL was discrimination. Seanna Conway stated that certain individuals said that women could not play in the IIHL and that they had said there was a vote. CS and KK said that there was no vote. KK then asked Seanna Conway who had said this to her. Seanna Conway said that Tony Griffin and Tony Kinsella had said that there was a vote. CS then stated that we have had women involved in the past. Seanna Conway then asked why women were being treated differently. She also stated that people had no right to sit around a table and say that they are worried about you.

Sandra O'Reilly then stated that her daughters were stopped from playing with the under sixteen's.

Mats Ajnesjo then said that there was a vote. KK said that if a girl is good enough to play they can play. Mats Ajnesjo then stated that they should be allowed to play and that they had sat and voted against women.

Aaron Murphy said that it wasn't a vote and that it was about a particular girl. He said that it was nothing about women.

Seanna Conway then said that it is not different if a woman is a goalkeeper or a player.

CS then said that if a club wants the woman to play then she can play. KK then said that if a girl is good enough then she can play. KK also said that if the coach says she is good enough then she can play. CS said that the association was not discriminating.

James Gallinger then stated that any player who is good enough should be allowed to play.

Andrew Flood then asked whether there was body checking in women's hockey in the IIHF. CS said no.

Keith Daly then asked to hear Dave Fitzpatrick on the matter. William Fay asked Dave Fitzpatrick to speak. David Fitzpatrick said that the IIHF have created a category for both the men and women in international hockey. Dave Fitzpatrick then said that when it comes to club hockey, the IIHF do not have a rule. He said that if the IIHF would say that if the player is good enough then she can play. He stated that the IIHF do not have a rule as they do not run the leagues. He then stated that if the player has the ability to play then give her the opportunity.

Beni McAllister then asked CS to once and for all clarify that women can play in the IIHL. CS replied yes.

## **10. Election of IIHA Executive Officer Positions:**

CS stated that there was to be no more than one representative from a club on the Executive Committee.

### **10.1. Treasurer**

Jonathan Dunne had no opposition so he was duly elected to the position of Treasurer. The members agreed.

### **10.2. Vice-President**

William Fay and Dean Kelly were the nominations for the position of Vice-President. CS stated that since Jonathan Dunne had been elected to the Executive Committee, DK would be unable to run as they were both members of the same club. DK stated that this was not the case and if he was elected he would have left the Flyers I.H.C. and joined a new club but rather he was withdrawing his name for the position of Vice-President for other reasons. Dean Kelly withdraws his name for the position of Vice-President. William Fay is duly elected to the position of Vice-President. The members agreed.

### **10.3. General Secretary**

Mick Higgins, Sean O'Riordan and Philip Darcy were the nominations for the position of General Secretary. Philip Darcy withdrew his name for the position of General Secretary.

### **10.4. Director of Playing Operations**

Moira Lyne and Patrick Jarratt were the nominations for the position of Director of Playing Operations.

A private ballot takes place for the two positions of General Secretary and Director of Playing Operations. CS interrupts and states that some of the nominations haven't had an opportunity to speak and they need to speak. Both Mick Higgins and Sean O'Riordan declined to speak. Patrick Jarratt decided to speak. He introduced himself and stated that he was an Irish Canadian and he plans to stay in Ireland for the foreseeable future. He said that he has played hockey his entire life and has been coaching since he was 19. He said that he was a level 1 coach. He said that he was a professional administrator and was the campaign manager for a successful civic election in Nelson, British Columbia, Canada. He also stated that the best teachers are those who love what they can do and he said he loves ice hockey. He also said that he wanted to give everything he could. Patrick Jarratt finished speaking. Moira Lyne declined to speak.

**The private ballot then took place. At 21:06 the scrutinisers received the votes.**

The scrutinisers declared that for the position of General Secretary the vote was as follows:

1 x Spoilt Vote



29 x Votes for Sean O’Riordan  
49 x Votes for Mick Higgins

Mick Higgins was elected to the position of General Secretary on the Executive Committee. Mick Higgins said thank you.

The scrutinisers declared that for the position of Director of Playing Operations the vote was as follows:

39 x Votes for Moira Lyne  
42 x Votes for Patrick Jarratt

Patrick Jarratt was elected to the position of Director of Playing Operations on the Executive Committee. Patrick Jarratt says thank you.

Elections finished.

## **11. Objectives and Development Plan for coming year**

CS states that we have gone through this throughout the day. Beni McAllister states that this year was fantastic and thanks everyone for that and then says let’s move forward.

## **13. Date of Next AGM – Proposal of Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup> 2009**

The members in attendance approve this date.

AGM finished at 21:10.

## **14. Actions & Issues from Meeting**

- i. The preparation for Team Ireland is to be improved upon.
- ii. CS would follow up on the outstanding money owed to the IIHA from the Dundalk Ice Dome from the sale of Team Ireland Jerseys.
- iii. The IIHA would sanction games in the Dundonald International Ice Bowl in Belfast.
- iv. A Child Protection Officer would be appointed following the AGM.
- v. The three Directors of the association would remain but could be removed by the members in case of misconduct.
- vi. No more than one representative from a club may appear on the Executive Committee.
- vii. Member voting would be used by the association.
- viii. In order to qualify to sit on the Executive Committee, a member would have to have a minimum of a year’s membership.
- ix. It was clarified that women were allowed to play in the IIHL.