

# Irish Ice Hockey Association



## Minutes of Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> August 2007

|                            |                                                    |         |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Meeting:</b>            | Annual General Meeting (AGM)                       |         |
| <b>Present:</b>            | Kevin Kelly (KK)                                   | Chair   |
|                            | Brian Clery (BC)                                   | Minutes |
|                            | Tony Griffin (TG)                                  |         |
|                            | Mark Bowes (MB)                                    |         |
|                            | Keith Daly (KD)                                    |         |
|                            | Mick Higgins (MH)                                  |         |
|                            | Cliff Saunders (CS)                                |         |
|                            | Jim Tibbetts (JT)                                  |         |
| <b>Location:</b>           | Radisson SAS Hotel<br>Dublin Airport<br>Co. Dublin |         |
| <b>Apologies:</b>          | None                                               |         |
| <b>Meeting start time:</b> | 14:15                                              |         |
| <b>Meeting end time:</b>   | 18:45                                              |         |

## 1 Matters & Actions arising from previous meeting

Not applicable.

## 2 Outstanding issues from previous meeting

Not applicable

## 3 Minutes of Meeting

KK welcomed all to Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Ice Hockey Association (IIHA). KK explained timetable for the day, how the AGM would be conducted and pointed out evacuation procedures. Voting rights were explained and who was entitled to vote in the committee selection. KK then ran through the current executive committee members (CS, MB, MH, TG, JT & KD) with some background into how they were chosen. KK asked all those who wanted to ask a question to ensure they identified themselves so they could be included in the minutes.

KK then handed over to CS the current President of the IIHA.

### 3.1 Welcome address from IIHA President and General Secretary

CS welcomed all to a long over due IIHA AGM. Thanked all for turning up and asked all present to ask questions. CS then handed over to MB the General Secretary of the IIHA.

MB welcomed all to the IIHA AGM. MB spoke briefly about the history the sport had in the country now standing over 20 years. He recognised the commitment all had put into the sport and spoke about the issues and the need for resolving them. MB spoke about the recent success the IIHA had and refereed to the World Championships that were held recently in Dundalk Ice Dome. MB finished by complementing the work ethics the IIHA had built up with the IIHA.

### 3.2 Recent Activity Reports

#### 3.2.1 Dublin City on Ice (Smithfield)

KK spoke about everyone who worked there over the two year period. Explained how the IIHA got involved. The IIHA agreed a fee of with Dublin City Council (DCC) of €60,000 for year 1 in Smithfield and €80,000 for year 2 in exchange for services provided. Some members of the IIHA were paid and KK gave example of professional skating teacher. The IIHA goals was to increase the finances of the association, provide Ice Hockey for members and promote the need for a full permanent ice rink in Ireland whilst serving the needs of the patrons of Dublin City on Ice (DCOI) . There was media exposure provided. KK informed all that there were over 280 people who worked over the 2 year period. Sessions were provided for staff and friends while staff were given voting rights in the IIGA. KK then showed the DCOI accounts – they showed for year 1 €60,000 received from DCC with wages coming to €6725 and expenses of €2000. This left a profit of €1,275. For year 2 DCOI gave the IIHA €10,000 from their expense fund to ensure we had enough staff on board. KK finished by asking if anyone had any questions and their was none.

#### 3.2.2 2007 IIHF World Championships Division III

CS took over and thanked KK. CS spoke about level of hard work that took place both before, during and after the World Championships. CS felt that when it was announced at the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Annual Congress it was a huge victory for the IIHA. Dundalk Ice Dome then agreed to host the event and agreed it would be ready. CS informed all that prior to the championship taking place the IIHF sent over a team to review the progress and with the exception of some minor issues the championship was ready to take place. CS was disappointed that Armenia could not attend. The average attendance was 750 people per game and two of the Irish games were broadcast on Setanta television with over 53,000 people tuning in to watch. CS thanked Team Ireland for their achievement and all who attended. He then asked KK to show a DVD from the World Championships. Once the DVD was finished CS asked all if there were any questions.

Liz Higgins spoke and said that reports coming back from anyone she spoke to were excellent. CS thanked Liz Higgins. CS then finished by thanking Dundalk Ice Dome for hosting the event and also all those who contributed. There were no further questions from the floor.

### 3.2.3 Vierterumaki, Finland 2007

TG spoke about Viererumaki in Finland that took place earlier on in 2007. He explained to all present that it was a coach's camp – an ice hockey school of excellence. Every two years the IIHF hold this development camp. TG said that Ireland go every two years and this year two players from Dundalk went. TG went on to explain that normally the best 15/16 year olds get to go but it was felt that these new players would get a lot out of the development camp. TG then asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Claire Prendergast asked from the floor how do children get picked. TG explained that two best players from each country should attend and this will be the case moving forward. MB then spoke about previous players who had attended and what they had obtained from the trip.

Liz Higgins then spoke from the floor and offered the use of the VCR they had from a previous camp if anyone wanted to use it.

Will Fitzgerald from the floor asked if teams could be taught by players who have attended these development camps. TG said this was an excellent idea. KD reminded all present that Viererumaki was not just for players. KD expects more people to attend in two years time.

Claire Prendergast from the floor asked if it was possible to consider sending players under 15/16 years of age over citing under 10's who need similar experience. TG explained that the camp in Viererumaki is for the age group of 15/16 year olds and that sending a 10 year old would have no benefit. KD spoke about other camps available throughout Europe that could accommodate other age groups.

TG asked all if there were any further questions and there was none on this topic.

### 3.2.4 Team Ireland 2007

JT thank TG and spoke about a great year that had just finished for Irish Ice Hockey. Spoke about how far the association and Ice Hockey in Ireland had come. JT was proud of the silver medal Ireland had obtained in the World Championships and being head coach for Team Ireland. JT then spoke about concentrating on other areas of Ice Hockey in Ireland with pressure being applied to the IIHA and coaches to contribute as much as possible to the sport. JT spoke about new clinics that will be taking place that will help players improve. JT then stated that he wants to develop Irish players as much possible and would prefer not to bring in foreign players with Irish passports to play. JT offered his assistance anywhere in the interest of the sport in Ireland. JT then asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Patrick McCabe asked about coaching clubs. TG spoke about each club sending coaches to clinics for the league. TG asked Patrick to come up if he was interested and information could be passed on.

KD asked for plans on 2008 season ahead and Team Ireland. JT informed KD that there will be games against Spain and other exhibition games. JT explained that preparation for the World Championships is down to budget. JT expressed an interest in a weeks training camp with games in Canada.

Dean Kelly asked about the selection process for Team Ireland and if the team would be full of North Americans now that Team Ireland had progressed. JT replied that the future is not to waste money on the national team. JT stated the final decision is down to IIHA policy. CS spoke and understood where Dean was coming from suggesting there would be a cap of four foreign players at best effort. CS finished off by stating that a strict policy would have to be put together to allow all players a chance to play.

O'Connor Lynn asked what the exact policy is on foreign players considering there doesn't seem to be a lot of home grown players playing on the national team. He gave examples of players who could have played at the expense of foreign players. KK advised that none was available to his knowledge and an official one will have to be devised. This will be raised as a task for the new committee.

Liz Higgins spoke and informed all that JT had invited some of the emerging young players to train with Team Ireland.

Will Fitzgerald spoke about bringing in 4 to 5 players would help Team Ireland. Will understood that the best team would have to be played if Ireland where to continue it is success. TG agreed and stated that the future with Irish Ice Hockey is the under 10's.

Claire Prendergast spoke and stated that the future of Ice Hockey in Ireland looked healthy and that the Ice Dome in Dundalk had given all a great opportunity to play against each other and learn.

JT asked all if there were any further questions and there was none on this topic.

### 3.2.5 IIHA Financial Status Report

**Revenue & Expenditure accounts back to 2002:** CS spoke next and brought up a slide showing accounts for the association. CS informed all that the association does not get any funding from government sources and all monies have been self earned. Jersey sales have helped the association break even and that the World Championships have helped jersey sales increase. Majority of funding goes towards travel in particular World Championships. Without Smithfield on Ice it would have been very difficult to send Team Ireland to the World Championships. This years World Championships was a strain on the finances of the association with profit only amounting to €9,000. In total there is €13,965.83 in the association. CS finished by stating that funding is needed from government bodies to help the association achieve its goals. CS then asked id there were any questions from the floor.

Willy Fay asked if the category of travel was all Team Ireland expenses. CS replied that travel to congress also falls under this category. KK also pointed out that the IIHF also gave money to the IIHA for travel expenses.

Mats Ajnesjo asked for a breakdown on the miscellaneous item of income. CS was unable to provide a full breakdown and pointed out that this would be looked at by the new financial officer whose many new tasks would be to review the association's accounts.

Robbie Dooly asked CS to go through how the association went about trying to obtain funding and the approach they used. CS replied with brief overview.

CS asked all if there were any further questions and there was none on this topic.

**KK then broke meeting up for coffee at 16:05 asking all to return by 16:30.**

**KK resumed meeting at 16:30 and continued where meeting had left off prior to coffee.**

**IIHA Assets & Stock:** CS briefly spoke about the current assets the association owns and plans to sell on some of the equipment. CS asked if there were any questions from the floor and there was none on this topic.

**Future / Expected Income & Expenditure:** CS spoke about expenditure and that only income currently is through IIHF, merchandise and member subscriptions. At present the IIHF gives roughly €5,000 to €20,000 a year to be used against travel - team Ireland \ congress etc. Jersey sales also contribute and CS expected €4,000 to €5,000 in jersey sales this year. CS also mentioned €5,000 the IIHA received from Setanta Sports for the World Championships. CS finished and asked if there was any questions from the floor which there wasn't.

### 3.2.6 IIHA Arena Project

CS spoke about equipment the association had purchased to reinvest into the IIHA own rink. Once Smithfield on Ice was over Dublin City Council did not show any interest in assisting the association find a venue of their own. CS said the association is still pursuing a site for an Ice Rink. Sports Campus Ireland is still going ahead and representatives from the project attended the World Championships. CS informed all that the Government has changed the Campus to a limited company and the current business plan is to have an ice rink with a timeframe of 4 to 5 years. CS finished and asked if there was any questions from the floor which there wasn't.

### 3.2.7 IIHA Merchandise Sales

KK brought up slide showing statistics for sales with 5 to 10 jerseys being shipped out every week. Current cost per jersey is €25 with the association selling the jersey on for €60 leaving a profit of €35. KK informed all that 95% of jersey sales go to North America. KK asked that someone should take this over full time. Profit can be increased if looked at constructively looking at other avenues of sales - local shops etc. KK asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Robbie Dooly asked if all logos are trade marked. CS explained the process and the cost involved to cover the whole world was too expensive - €27,000 in total. Sean said that there could be a possibility that it would only cost €10,000 and it should be looked at.

KK asked if there were any further questions and there was none.

### 3.2.8 2007 / 2008 Irish Ice Hockey League (A & B Division)

MH spoke about the future of Ice Hockey in Ireland and the IIHA league. MH mentioned the Dundalk Arena and the surrounding areas that would be getting behind the league. MH expected 10 to 11 teams with 5 teams currently enlisted to the A league. MH asked that as many people as possible assist where needs be. MH asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Will Fay asked where the referees will be obtained from. MH informed Will that players were presently being trained in Dundalk Ice Dome to referee. Each team must submit 2 people to become referees in order to join the league.

Robbie Dooly asked about gate receipts at games and the percentage clubs will receive. MH answered that the clubs will be receiving money from gate receipts but it will be for the A League only and the money will go into a pool of which the clubs will get an equal amount at the end of the season.

## 3.3 IIHA Constitution

KK went through draft copy certain areas of constitution. KK asked all to proof read outside the realms of the meeting and asked if there were any changes or issues to notify the IIHA by 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007. One change in the constitution was that the trustee will be changed to director. KK asked if there were any questions \ changes from the floor.

Will Fay asked if it was possible to go for a position on the executive if not a member of a club and KK replied yes.

KK then asked if all present and capable of voting under the IIHA guidelines were for a limited company. All present agreed. KK then asked if all present were happy with the different structure of committee and all agreed. KK asked all present if the executive can make changes to the constitution and all agreed.

KD asked KK if it was ok to make changes and approve the constitution without all reading it. KK said that they had sought legal advice and that this was ok. Sean O'Riordan spoke and also backed up KK.

KK put forward another proposition in relation to the constitution which was if all present were happy with the structure of the constitution. All present agreed. KK then asked if there were any further questions from the floor.

Robert Dooly asked what will happen if the league becomes professional. KK said that this will not happen for some time. MB also spoke that if it arose the IIHA would look at this.

KK then asked if all agreed with structure of the constitution and all agreed.

### 3.4 Election of IIHA Executive 2007/2008 Season

KK explained to all present the structure and how the voting was to work. Each member of the association who was eligible to vote would get one vote and each club would also get one vote. Each elected member would stand for two years and then must stand down from that position. KK asked all present if they were happy with KK and BC adjudicating the voting and all present agreed. KK read out the names who wanted to stand for positions, they were:

**President:**

CS  
Sean O'Riordan

**Vice President:**

KD

**Finance Officer:**

Robbie Dooly

**General Secretary:**

MB  
Sean O'Riordan

**Director of Players:**

JT

KK then asked if anyone else would like to stand for any position. There was no response. Sean O'Riordan then informed KK that he wanted to withdraw his name from running for General Secretary and KK removed. KK then asked each person who was running for an uncontested position to speak briefly.

Robbie Dooly spoke about his involvement with the sport and efforts to setup an Ice Hockey club in UCD. KK then asked all for a show of hands to elect Robbie Dooly on the uncontested position of Finance Officer. Those entitled to vote showed hands and KK announce Robbie Dooly elected.

JT spoke next and gave a brief history of his involvement in the sport and the experience he had gained. KK then asked all for a show of hands to elect JT on the uncontested position of Director of Players. Those entitled to vote showed hands and KK announce JT elected.

MB next spoke and informed all he was delighted to get the chance to work again for the IIHA. KK then asked all for a show of hands to elect MB on the uncontested position of General Secretary. Those entitled to vote showed hands and KK announce MB elected.

KD spoke and gave a brief history of his involvement with the sport over the last 23 years and that he was proud to accept the position. He looked forward to the future of IIHA and working together with everyone for the benefit of the sport. KK then asked all for a show of hands to elect KD on the uncontested position of Vice President. Those entitled to vote showed hands and KK announce KD elected.

KK then moved onto the position of President of the IIHA which was contested by Cliff Saunders and Sean O'Riordan. KK asked both to give a brief overview of why they should be elected and a summary of their own involvement in the sport.

Sean O'Riordan spoke first. Over 12 years involved in the sport of roller hockey with setting up programs, policies etc and wants to get involved in the back office of the sport. Sean O'Riordan told all that transparency and accountability where key and people elected must deliver on there promises in all areas of the sport. He promised he work tirelessly over the next 12/24 months and keep all people involved in the sport updated and informed.

CS spoke next and said he had dealt with everyone over the last 24 years of the sport of ice hockey in Ireland. He was happy that the grass roots program he had started was at the level it was now. CS also spoke about the cross border relations he had established and efforts to get the whole island of Ireland playing together. CS finished off by wishing Sean O'Riordan the best of luck and thanked all.

KK then instructed all that the ballot would now take place and to make their way to the voting booth were BC would hand out one piece of paper per vote and pen to each person. The vote took place with CS and Sean O'Riordan abstaining. Members entitled to vote did so first and then clubs voted next. Once completed the count was performed by KK and BC. BC then announced the result of 12 for Sean O'Riordan to 24 for CS. BC announced CS elected as President of the IIHA.

### **3.5 Approval of Company Trustees (X 5)**

KK explained the reason behind the trustees. The trustee was to be increased to 7 and KK asked for names to be put forward. Dean Kelly put forward his name but it was decided given that Dean Kelly would not be in the country for the unforeseeable future this was not possible.

### **3.6 AOB - Any Other Business**

KK informed all given the time spent on the previous items that the meeting would be adjourned. All present agreed and KK stated that the remaining items on the agenda would be discussed at the first IIHA executive committee meeting. The remaining items are:

- I. Team Ireland - Senior, Junior, Women's, Inline
- II. Junior Development and Learn to Play
- III. Women's Development
- IV. Inline Hockey
- V. Fundraising - donations
- VI. Anti Doping Program

KK closed meeting 18:45.

## **4 Actions and issues from meeting**

- I. Put video of Virerumaki on web site - video offered by Liz Higgins
- II. IIHA to provide policy on choosing players to play for Team Ireland
- III. Newly elected finance officer to go through accounts and document further, query all accounts
- IV. Improve sales and look into trade marking of IIHA logo
- V. Continue on from point 8 on the AGM – meeting finished due to lack of time before they could be discussed  
Team Ireland - Senior, Junior, Women's, Inline  
Junior Development and Learn to Play  
Women's Development  
Inline Hockey  
Fund-raising – donations  
Anti-Doping Program – Policy for coming season and Budget