

Kendo na hÉireann AGM Minutes
11th October 2015

Attendees

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| 1. Carl Dorrington | 13. Orla O'Neill |
| 2. Mark Kawa | 14. David McGlynn |
| 3. Raul Fernandez | 15. Sergio Milani |
| 4. Mihailo Lalevic | 16. Esteban Blanco |
| 5. Michal Glowacki | 17. James Naughton |
| 6. Gerard Bridgeman | 18. Lionel Clause |
| 7. Patricia Czaplicki | 19. Cian Skelly |
| 8. Alan McNevin | 20. Oscar Breathnach |
| 9. Niamh Merry | 21. Kathryn Cassidy |
| 10. William Brennan | 22. Martin Kiosew |
| 11. Niall Greaney | 23. John Ordonez |
| 12. Matthew Cunningham | 24. Karolina Nowak |

Apologies from Jason Clouston who was unable to attend at the last minute due to work commitments.

Appointment of meeting chair

Kathryn Cassidy volunteered to act as chair and this was agreed.

Annual Report

Kathryn Cassidy gave an overview of activities this year, summarised in the attached Annual Report.

She noted the sad passing of Terry Holt sensei who had been a prominent figure in Irish Kendo over the years. She listed some of the events that had taken place during the year including the success of the Nationals in Galway, the Spring Seminar and the Irish performance at the World Kendo Championships. She reminded all members that they are part of the federation and they are essential to these successes.

Kathryn explained that Jason Clouston would be stepping down as Manager and Coach of the National Squad this year and that he had handed over this job to Martin Kiosew. She wished him luck in his new role.

On the issue of the increase in numbers there was a side discussion about promotion. It was suggested that the federation was not doing enough to promote kendo and that kendo was dying in Ireland. In response it was pointed out that this view is not borne out by the numbers as our membership is up significantly on last year.

Gerard Bridgeman called for promotion to be made part of the role of Vice-president as he was not clear on what that role entailed. Kathryn Cassidy explained that the board generally

share responsibilities and that most activities are generally considered the responsibility of the entire board and all members, rather than a single individual, but that a single person could act as a coordinator for a particular activity. Martin Kiosew clarified some of the work that the Vice-president had been involved in during the year, such as the development of Iaido and Jodo which was already bringing in more members.

It was proposed that an additional non-executive role could be created for PRO who would be responsible for driving this activity and Alan McNevin volunteered for this. Gerard said that he wanted it to be part of the federation rather than a volunteer, in particular part of the Vice-president role. Kathryn reminded the membership that all of the federation officers are, in fact, volunteers and the board members cannot be responsible for all activities.

The chair summarised the positions saying that there was an agreement that the Federation could do more on promotion, but disagreement over whether this should be the responsibility of one of the current board roles, specifically the VP, or a separate role. She said that this did not need to be agreed at AGM level and was a decision to make afterwards as we were out of time and it was not an agenda item.

It was suggested that we could look at the motivations of current members to better inform our efforts to promote Kendo. It was agreed that this could be one of the tasks undertaken by the PRO team/representative.

The report finished with a further appeal for volunteers for the non-executive officer roles and other activities within the federation.

The report was accepted by the members.

Financial Report

Martin Kiosew gave a summary of the current finances of the federation. Gerard Bridgeman and Michal Glowacki asked for a further breakdown of some of the expense items. Some clarification was provided on these and it was agreed that the emailed version of the report would include a more detailed breakdown. The report was accepted by the members.

Election of Officers

The following officers were nominated

President: Jason Clouston

Vice-president: Raul Fernandez

Treasurer: Martin Kiosew

Secretary: Kathryn Cassidy

As all were unopposed it was put to a block vote and all were returned.

Election of Non-Executive Officers

Kathryn Cassidy outlined the roles and asked for volunteers. The following nominations were received:

Anti-doping Officer: William Brennan and Patricia Czaplicki

Child-protection Officer: Oscar Breathnach. It was pointed out that the child-protection officer would be required to undertake child-protection-officer training, and Oscar indicated that he would be happy to do this.

Coaching Officer: Kathryn Cassidy

The position of anti-doping officer was put to a vote and William Brennan was returned with an eleven to seven majority. It was pointed out that we would be happy to have more than one person collaborate on any given role and that Patricia was welcome to be involved in this.

The other two positions were unopposed and a vote confirmed their appointment.

Gerard asked about child-protection officers within clubs and Kathryn confirmed that each club should nominate a person responsible for child-protection issues. These people would work with the Federation child-protection officer and would also require child-protection training.

Motion on Supporting University Clubs

Niall Greaney and Matthew Cunningham gave an update on the NUIG club. They explained how they had promoted the club and that they had 281 people sign up initially. They have approximately 20 practicing regularly on Thursdays and around 8 on Fridays.

It was suggested that setting up University Clubs would be a great way to increase membership. It is not always necessary to have a member within the university in order to do so, but members with experience in Cork University and Trinity College Dublin confirmed that it was usually a requirement for these universities. It was suggested that we find out the policies of some of the different universities and the chair proposed that this be done on a case-by-case basis as the possibility of a new club arose, rather than agreeing to contact all universities at this point.

All members present congratulated Niall and Matthew on their success and agreed that it was important to support University clubs.

The motion to allow university members to have an official membership status which gives them essentially all rights but does not require any fees to be paid was put to a vote and passed by an overwhelming majority.

It was noted that we would not include these members under our insurance policy as the university covers insurance separately for them. It was also noted that the position in relation to IMAC would need to be clarified, but that we would try to ensure that they were included in IMAC membership.

Motion to remove the requirement to bring sensei from abroad for the Nationals

Martin explained that the requirement to bring a sensei from abroad for the Nationals was tying our hands and it was not always necessary any more. This provision came from a time when there was distrust between the clubs and also a lower level of Kendo within the federation.

The main arguments for this change were as follows:

- The sensei do not get a chance to do much during the nationals, except for refereeing the final matches and it is not a good use of resources.
- Money might be better spent on bringing a sensei over for a longer seminar.
- The requirement would tie our hands in a situation where we might not have the resources to bring a sensei.
- Removing the requirement would allow us to try new things, for example bringing a few young 5th dans instead of always needing someone of 6th dan or above.
- Removing the requirement does not mean that we will never bring a sensei, it just gives us more flexibility.
- Sensei does not have much chance to give feedback on the refereeing and running a referee seminar could do more to improve the refereeing level.

The arguments against the change were as follows:

- Removing this requirement would be tantamount to cutting all our ties with Kendo outside of Ireland.
- Our refereeing level is not high enough so we need to have a sensei present.
- Having a sensei present gives the event an air of importance that it might not otherwise have.

In spite of objections the chair insisted that the issue be put to a vote as we were over time. The motion was passed twelve votes to four.

Motion to change the bank account from Bank of Ireland

Martin explained the difficulties with the current Bank of Ireland account and it was agreed that we should change the account. Gerard Bridgeman asked that the new bank details be promptly notified to all clubs and members.

Update on IMAC

It was agreed that this would be delivered via email as we were over time.

Iaido & Jodo report

Raul Fernandez presented a brief report on the development of Iaido and Jodo in the federation. He mentioned the two seminars that had taken place for Iaido as well as the upcoming European Iaido Championships. He explained that we now also had Jodo practice in two dojos.

Constitution review - renewed call for volunteers

At last year's AGM it had been suggested that a committee be formed to look at an overall update of the constitution, but this had not been progressed. Kathryn will contact last year's

volunteers and send a renewed call for volunteers by email. It was stressed that no change would be made, the output of the committee would be a revised version of the constitution to be discussed at a future AGM.

Any other business

Michal Glowacki and Gerard Bridgeman asked that a plan for the coming year be circulated, and that the roles of the board officers and what each of them spends their time on be clarified.