



Report of Board of Irish Squash Federation Limited

held at 12 noon on December 4th, 2011 at Sport HQ, Parkwest, Dublin 12.

Present

Shane Broadberry (Coaching Secretary), Roland Budd (Senior Convener), Gerry Connaughton (National Children's Officer), Ed Dunne (President), Henry Gillanders (Junior Secretary), Rory Gillen (Treasurer), Dermot MacNamara (Database), Frank Marks (Ulster), Paul Nugent (Leinster, for David Corbet), John O'Connor (Past President).

Cathy Quinn (Operations Manager).

Apologies

David Corbet (Leinster), Gavin Doherty (Chairman), Frank Donnelly (Masters Secretary), Steven McMurray (Tournament Secretary), Joseph Ruddy (Refereeing Secretary).

Not attending

Edwin Brennan (Connacht), Eddie Murphy (Munster).

In the absence of Gavin Doherty, Ed Dunne took the chair.

An **Agenda** had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting of October 9th, 2011

The minutes of the meeting of October 9th had been circulated in advance and were taken as read. The approval of the minutes was proposed by Ed Dunne and seconded by Frank Marks and carried by assent.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Approval of minutes of meeting of October 23rd, 2011

A Board meeting had taken place at Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club during the Leinster Open. The minutes being unavailable, their approval was deferred to the next Board meeting.

5. Confirmation of no conflicts of interest

While this item was not specifically addressed, no conflicts of interest were volunteered, and none emerged in the course of the meeting.

6. Garda vetting forms

Gerry Connaughton reported that the form had been completed by all but 2 of those present. The remaining forms are to be completed and sent to Gerry Connaughton for submission to the Garda Vetting Office before Christmas.

7. Sub-committee updates

Membership sub-committee

Reports on the *Database* and on *Membership* had been circulated in advance of the meeting.



Dermot MacNamara expanded on the *Database* report. A second ezine has been issued and, with the help of an intern, good progress is being made on a member email address database. Each individual member must volunteer their email address. In respect of the website, concerns regarding font size and other technical bugs are being addressed.

Cathy Quinn expanded on the *Membership* report. Irish Squash membership payments are awaited from a number of clubs. Clubs from Ulster are not mentioned on the summary provided, but have all paid. Irish Squash will contact each club with payments outstanding again, and details of clubs with payments outstanding will be sent to provinces this week.

The collection of membership payments should continue to be done *via* clubs. There would be too much administration if Irish Squash were to try to collect from individuals. However, it should remain possible for a person to subscribe individually.

Rory Gillen suggested that payment by direct debit might be explored. The Membership sub-committee will consider this for next season.

Fundraising sub-committee

A report on *Fundraising* had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Ed Dunne expanded on the *Fundraising* report. The sub-committee met on November 15th and agreed details of the Irish Squash Junior Development Fundraising Draw. Prizes have been secured and were discussed. The squash-related prize should feature more prominently. 5,000 tickets are to be printed. It is intended that provincial associations and clubs should be contacted as potential sources of ticket sellers. It is proposed that each seller should receive 20% of the proceeds of their ticket sales. The draw is to be launched at the National Championship. Tickets will also be available online through the website from the week of December 5th. Irish Squash has applied for the relevant permit *via* Clondalkin Garda Station.

There is to be a fundraising auction between the ladies' final and the men's final at the National Championship. The lots which have been secured for auction were discussed. Paul Nugent offered to obtain a Munster rugby shirt.

It was proposed that there might be an annual fundraising draw. The sub-committee is to consider Frank Marks' suggestion that ticket sales be included in membership subscriptions.

The importance of support for the draw as a fundraising vehicle for Irish Squash was emphasised. Rory Gillen indicated that he would publicise the draw among his list of email contacts and suggested that others might consider doing likewise.

Development sub-committee

A report on *Development* had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Cathy Quinn expanded on the *Development* report. The sub-committee met on November 17th. World Squash Day was a great success, though it saw the first outing for the inflatable squash court, which proved less easy to handle than had been hoped. Irish Squash has yet to be invoiced for the 2 inflatable courts, one of which was ordered on behalf of Ulster Squash. Ulster Squash wants to return its court as it seems too difficult to handle. Frank Marks confirmed that Ulster Squash will cover such costs as may arise in relation to the return.



Appropriate venues for use of the inflatable court are probably shopping centres or particular events. Henry Gillanders mentioned a contact in Dundrum Shopping Centre; this is to be explored in 2012.

The Development sub-committee had drafted and submitted a 'Women in Sport' application for 2012 (circulated in advance of the meeting).

Shane Broadberry raised the need for female involvement on the Board. While suggestions have been made in this regard none has proved successful so far. A 'Women in Sport' sub-committee has been proposed, which would involve representatives from each province and would champion the game among women.

8. National Coach – contract approval

It was agreed that Irish Squash should have a National Coach. A proposal had been circulated and was considered. Frank Marks sought further detail, including actual coaching hours, against which the proposed costs might be measured. A more detailed budget is required. Frank Marks was concerned that the Irish Squad sessions were being held in the UK. Ed Dunne explained that this was cost effective and provided access to good facilities and a stronger pool of players.

Henry Gillanders and Shane Broadberry indicated they would prefer a mix of squad sessions in the UK and Ireland and also with a mix of juniors and seniors.

Frank Marks: Sport NI has funding for 'performance', but nobody in Ulster Squash is on a performance programme. Such funding might be obtained towards a National Coach.

For Juniors, Henry Gillanders would like squad sessions at different venues; Westwood is expensive and not ideal. There have been concerns re. juniors at Fitzwilliam in the past, but Rory Gillen will investigate FLTC as a possible future venue.

Ed Dunne will revisit the proposal and obtain further and more detailed information. This will be presented for decision at a meeting prior to the finals at the Nationals.

9. Proposal for new facility: current Clontarf site or other location

The possible creation of a national squash centre was discussed. The former Squash Ireland Clontarf site was mentioned. It is on the grounds of Mount Temple School. Another possibility might be the installation of courts and ancillary facilities in a warehouse-type building. A sub-committee is to consider the matter, and will include John O'Connor and Ed Dunne. Tom Cantwell is to be invited to join the sub-committee.

10. National Championship

John O'Connor provided an update. All players are to pay the entry fee this year. The event is being sponsored by Gillen Markets and the Board thanked Rory Gillen for this support.

11. Board Reports

Operations Manager's report: this had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cathy Quinn expanded on the report: the core grant is likely to be cut by c. 5% in 2012. The 2012



budget is to be reviewed with a view to identifying potential reductions in expenditure. A decision re. competition prize money was deferred pending review of the budget.

President's report: a list of items had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Some were dealt with under other agenda items, but Ed Dunne expanded on the following:

- ESF Junior Representative: Eoin Ryan has attended the relevant tournaments in recent years and would therefore be a good person to fill this position. Eddie Murphy is currently named in the role, but it is understood that he is less often at the tournaments and thus not as closely in touch with activities. It was agreed that Eoin Ryan would be a suitable candidate. The Irish Squash office is to contact Eddie Murphy to ascertain his view, and report the Board position. [Also mentioned in Junior report.]
- Dermot MacNamara and Shane Broadberry are working on the facilitation of online tournament updates.
- John O'Connor and Ed Dunne are to arrange the All Ireland Club Championships. Paul Nugent offered his assistance. Women's teams are to be of 3 players.
- The President's Prize is to be presented at the National Championships to the family of the late Jack Flynn.
- Ed Dunne thanked Ulster Squash and Thurles SC for their recent hospitality.

Finance report: spreadsheets setting out costs and revenues for 2010 and for 2011 up to the end of October; and setting out projected income and expenditure for November and December 2011 had been circulated. Rory Gillen drew attention to the efforts being made to reduce costs, and emphasised that this is an important aspect in the preparation of the 2012 budget.

Coaching report: this had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Shane Broadberry expanded on his report. He emphasised that each of the participants in the Irish Squash Club Coach pilot programme is aligned with a particular club; that the programme itself is in accordance with the National Coaching Framework Guidelines; that an equivalence table explaining the new qualifications will be produced; that CPD will be organised; and that a Coaching Seminar is being planned for late January.

Only those who have been vetted should be listed as coaches on the website (Cathy Quinn to check vettings with Gerry Connaughton).

Tournament Secretary's report: none received.

Junior Secretary's report: this had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Henry Gillanders expanded on the report, emphasising in particular the steps taken in cooperation with Joe Ruddy in dealing with issues regarding discipline and behaviour on court; the success of the Irish Junior Open; and the results of the meeting of the Irish Junior Committee held at the Irish Junior Open in Belfast. The Board approved the proposal that Hadrian Stiff and Paul Bell should be coaches to all junior teams, but it was emphasised that each team is to have its own coach from 2012. A manager (of appropriate sex) is required for each junior team. Persons taking on any such role need to be vetted.

Paul Bell has satisfied the UK Access Child Protection criteria. Hadrian Stiff has made a similar application and awaits approval.



Players from Ireland are to be organised to travel to tournaments together, as an 'Irish team'. The Welsh Junior Open (early March 2012) is to be used as a trial for this arrangement.

Referee Secretary's report: none received.

Masters Secretary's report: none received.

Provincial reports: reports in the form of minutes of meetings had been received from Ulster and Leinster, and had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

12. Correspondence

A proposal for a high performance programme for juniors, to be based at Sutton LTC, had been received from Eoin Ryan, and was circulated. The Board welcomed the initiative in principle but was concerned regarding various aspects including possible overlap with national junior squad sessions, which would of course have to take precedence. Ed Dunne and Henry Gillanders are to communicate the reservations of Irish Squash to Eoin Ryan.

13. Information Sharing

The Board congratulated Aisling Blake on her appointment to WISPA.

Rory Gillen had attended the WSF AGM on behalf of Irish Squash and presented a short report. The main value of attendance was as an opportunity for networking. Irish Squash will consider whether to attend in 2012, given financial constraints.

The meeting concluded at 3.00pm.

Next meeting

12 noon on February 5th, 2012 at Sport HQ, Parkwest, Dublin 12.