

# Minutes of Irish Squash Board Meeting

**Date:** January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Parkwest

**Venue:** Sport HQ,

**Chairperson:** Michael J. Hynes, Chairman

**Attendees:** John O'Connor, President  
Eddie Murphy, Coaching Sec  
Frank Marks, Ulster Rep  
Tariq Zaki, Leinster Rep  
Dermot McNamara, Muster Rep  
Cathy Quinn – Operations Manager

Lee Healy, Junior Sec  
Gerry Connaughton, NCO  
Brian Mahon  
Rory Gillen, Hon. Treasurer  
Ed Dunne, Senior Convener

**Apologies:** Emma Toolan, Brian Williams

Visitor – Kieran Doherty (Ulster Squash) was invited to attend.

1). Approval of minutes (November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010)

Proposed – Ed Dunne

Seconded – Rory Gillen

2) Correspondence - Masters Letter of Complaint to Brian Mahon  
Leinster Squash replied to Irish Squash Letter – date to meet board members to be arranged.

### 3) Operations Manager Report

Report was compiled as per board report template. Rory would prefer if objectives were listed at top to make it easier to read / review.

Corporate / Media Database – apart from email listing that we have for media this information has not been inputted to Local Lotto.

### 4) Senior Convener Report

Ed proposed a junior to travel to Europeans with Senior Men's Squad for experience. He stated that it was normal practice in other countries to bring outstanding junior players to senior competitions in order to give them the experience of seeing what was involved at this level.

Board did not approve this at the meeting and a sub committee / working group is now in place to resolve this. Irish Squash need to be fair, transparent and equitable to all players and not single out individuals for special treatment or be seen to be preferential. This point was made by Lee Healy and further discussion is needed.

Sub Committee is Ed, Lee and Eddie.

Board agreed that the Junior Secretary – i.e. currently Lee Healy will in future have an input to the sub-committee in the process of selecting junior players for travelling

**Masters Report** – Report dealt with as per emailed version. No issues arose.

## 5) Junior Report

Lee made some comments in relation to board template – view was that it was management accounting style with KPIs and was noted that this system may work for the paid staff but not for volunteers which majority of the Board are.

It was agreed by the board that the template is for efficiency and is still work in progress. Cathy and Dermot to review and present another report.

Rory commented that we still need to streamline communication through the office and feels there is an issue with accountability.

Objectives for the year need to be highlighted at every meeting. He felt that more structure was needed at meetings.

However, it was pointed out by a number of members that open discussions at the Board were vital as important issues were often raised and the discussion provided a means of educating the members regarding the activities of Irish Squash. It was important that Board members have a broad knowledge of these.

BM pointed out that the Board has ultimate responsibility for all decisions.

[**Note by MJH:** This was confirmed to me by the Auditor on 13 January. The Office serves the Board, not *vice versa*.]

Dermot commented that template is to focus the role in each area.

**Junior Tournaments** – it was noted that the parents are very appreciative of the junior supplement that is being contributed by Irish Squash. The overall attendance of parents at tournaments and players at tournaments is down on other years.

**Selection Panels** will be finalised by Lee and John. Difficult to get managers to volunteer.

**Team Selection** will be made on the Sunday of the Junior Nationals.

**Eligibility to Play for Ireland** – All members on board involved with National Squads needs to familiarise and understand the policy which is on Irish Squash Website. This is Ed, Eddie and Brian.

**Development Squad** is key to future of squash. As noted above, Junior Secretary has to have an input here.

## 6) Coaching

**Coaching** – New Conference date is proposed for Feb 19<sup>th</sup>. Fitzwilliam to be confirmed and needs to be done by end of this week Jan 14<sup>th</sup> or venue will be changed.

**Coaching Courses** – Sligo was cancelled due to low numbers.

Leinster has to confirm dates which Tariq will do after meeting this week.  
Course in Galway at end of month has good interest – 12 names so far.

**Equipment** – Unsquashable are no longer supplier with Dunlop taking this on. Ulster Squash received a grant for equipment which Frank will give details of to see if Irish Squash can share in using some of these materials.

Eddie will circulate UK coaching course slides once he receives this.  
For information – England Squash have 70 full time staff and 13 Million BEP over 3 years to run English Squash.

**Masters Report** – request sub provincial rep by Leinster is Brian Williams.

**Home Internationals** – Brian to email Ed on this to confirm date with Fitzwilliam.

## 7) Provincial Board Reports

**Munster** – no report was received from Munster. Dermot was not present at time to give an update so Lee updated on memberships to his best knowledge.

**Leinster Report** – Clubs that have not paid are still playing leagues but have been deducted points. This was a decision made by Leinster squash and is in direct contravention of Irish Squash policy. Directive from board is that such clubs have to be suspended forthwith from playing in the Leinster League. Tariq will bring this to Leinster Board and revert.

Tariq also to arrange a meeting between representatives of Leinster Squash and Irish Squash – will revert with date.

**Connacht** – Report received no issues just amendment as Coaching Course in Sligo was deferred.

**Board Template** – still work in progress – Cathy and Dermot to review.

**Garda Vetting** – All Coaches, Junior Tournament Directors and Board to be vetted.  
Action – Gerry Connaghton and Squash Office.

### Succession Issues

Ed Dunne suggested that the Board should seek to extend the terms of office of the President and Chairman. The present board had an outstanding record of achievement and it would be a pity to truncate it at this point in time, as much remained to be done. At this stage, the President and Chairman departed and a discussion was held among the remaining Board members.

The Board members were, on the whole, strongly of the opinion, in the interests of Irish Squash, that the current Board should remain in position and specifically that the current President and Chairperson should remain *in situ*. It was agreed that an extension of two years to the terms of both the President and Chairman should be sought.

Different views were expressed as to how this might be achieved.

It is proposed to call EGM to seek to ratify a two-year extension to these posts.

[**Note by MJH:** The Auditor recommends that the terms of office of both the President and Chairman should not terminate at the same time. This could be accommodated by extending the term of the President by two years and that of the Chairman by one year]

## **AOB**

Frank Marks raised issues under AOB

1. The transplanted games in Belfast (it was noted that we had a transplanted World Champion).

Meeting concluded at 4.30 p.m..

Next Meeting – 12.00 p.m. on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – Sport HQ.