**Minutes of Irish Squash Board Meeting**

**Date:** 10 June, 2012 **Venue:** Sport HQ, Parkwest

**Chairperson:** Gavin Doherty (in absentia) / Meeting chaired by Dermot MacNamara

**Attendees:** It was confirmed that a quorum was present and the meeting was called to order.

**Apologies:** N/A

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Dermot Mac Namara then opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of AGM, 12 June 2011**

The approval of the minutes of the AGM of 12 June 2011 was proposed by Ed Dunne, seconded by Rory Gillen, and carried. There were no matters arising.

1. **To consider for adoption the Report of the Board for the 2011/2012**

*President’s Report:*

Ed Dunne gave an overview of the 2011/2012 season and outlined his hopes for the 2012/2013 season. In particular, ED commented on:

* + The Irish Women’s team in placing second at the European Championships;
	+ The hope to increase the prominence of the All Ireland clubs in the coming season;
	+ The fund raising initiative and success of the raffle in raising €6k for junior development;
	+ Thanked the Sponsors of the Irish Squash Open, Cannon Kirk Homes and Gillen Markets;
	+ Commented on the appointment of Hadrian Stiff as Irish National Coach and the positive feedback that has been received from the top ranking male and female players;
	+ The number of new coaching courses that were rolled out during the year;
	+ Schools squash was highlighted as an area that needs to be targeted and developed;
	+ Madeline Perry and Arthur Gaskin’s achievements were highlighted;
	+ Pam was thanked profusely for her trojan work over the past 14 years in the office.
	+ All board members from the 2011/2012 season were thanked for their efforts, while a particular thank you was offered to those who were moving on from the board. All people who volunteered in squash in Ireland were also thanked.

A member of the Connacht Squash Board commented that he felt the level of communication from the Irish Squash Board was poor during the season and queried why the minutes from Board Meeting were no longer posted to the website. The board acknowledged that communication could be improved. However, one of the main reasons for the decrease was a function of the reduced staffing in the office.

*Junior Secretary*

Provided an overview of the season and highlighted his goals for the coming season which included: increasing the participation rate; improving the level of competitive matches in tournaments; increasing the quantity of squad sessions. It was noted that Sutton Lawn Tennis Club has invented the wheel in relation to junior squash development and this system should be used as a template by other clubs.

*Tournament Secretary*

Comments provided by ED. It was noted that the level of medical certificates provided by players continues to be an issue and it has hoped there will be an increase in the number of ladies participating in tournaments in the coming season.

A member of the Connacht Squash Board requested that people use the tournament software in the coming season and offered to provide people training if required. He was thanked for the offer to train people but it was noted that the use of the tournament software is at the discretion of the tournament director and the province where the tournament is held.

*Hadrian Stiff (National Coach Report)*

Provided an overview of his own background and outlined his aims as National Coach, which included:

Increase the level of communication and integration between provincial and national squads.

Look to increase participation in clubs and open dialogue between clubs, provinces and Irish squash.

Provided specific targets for Irish Junior and Senior teams in the coming years.

A member of the Junior Development Committee queried how the aim of a 32 man draw in a Junior Tournament will be achieved? It was commented that it will be a slow process and will require an increase in the number of development officers operating in the provinces. It was noted that 3 years may be an optimistic target but focus and targets are required.

The treasurer of Irish Squash commented that the board need to deliver on the development officer front. While another commented that Irish Squash is one of the few sports that does not have a development officer.

*Coaching Secretary*

Thanked coaches and volunteers for their efforts throughout the year and commented that he would like to improve communication with coaches in the coming year. Outlined his goal to increase the number of coaching courses that are rolled out.

No other reports were commented on. However, were included in the board report and there were no matters arising.

*Board Report Approval*

The approval of the board report for 2011/2012 was proposed by Rory Gillen, seconded by Ed Dunne, and carried.

1. **To consider for adoption the Audited Accounts for year ended 31st December 2011**

An overview of the accounts was provided by Mr. Tony Hennessy (auditor). The current financial difficulties faced by Irish Squash were highlighted and it was noted that €40k deficit would render Irish Squash insolvent.

However, Mr. Hennessy commented that he was satisfied the Irish Squash Board are addressing the situation, despite the need for some difficult, unpalatable decisions, and as a result should be close to break even by year end. Notwithstanding the above, it was noted that the Board needs to closely monitor the situation.

In addition, the auditor commented that the incoming board should focus on increasing the level of subscriptions.

Overall, the auditor commented that he was comfortable that Irish Squash would continue as a going concern.

The approval of the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011 was proposed by Ed Dunne, seconded by Shane Broadberry, and carried.

1. **To Elect the Officer of the Board**
* President: Ed Dunne
* Chairperson: Dermot MacNamara
* Hon Secretary: Vacant
* Hon Treasurer: Rory Gillen
* Coaching Secretary: Shane Broadberry
* Junior Administrator: Henry Gillanders
* Masters’ Secretary: Vacant
* Refereeing Secretary: John O’Connor
* Tournament Secretary: Steven McMurray
* Senior Convenor: Roland Budd
* National Children’s Officer: Vacant
1. **To record the name of the representative on the Board designated by each Provincial Association**
* Leinster Representative – TBC
* Ulster Representative – TBC
* Munster Representative – Eddie Murphy
* Connacht Representative – Edwin Brennan

Each new director (officers and provincial representatives) agreed to act as a director of Irish Squash and their application was approved.

Resignations of Board Members who resigned or were not re-elected were approved.

1. **To appoint a registered Auditor**

A. F. Hennessey & Co. were re-elected as registered auditor (proposer John O’Connor; seconded Eddie Murphy).

1. **To receive reports from the Provincial Associations**

The provincial reports were included in the overall Board report and there were no matters arising.

1. **A.O.B.**

Pam Lawlor was proposed for Honorary Life Membership following her 14 years of service in the squash office by Brian Mahon, seconded by John O’Connor and carried.

1. **Short statement from the new president**

Ed Dunne thanked the outgoing Board. He also thanked everyone who supported him in the run up to the AGM. He said that one of his main focuses this year were:

* + Increase in the number of people playing squash;
	+ Increase the prominence of the All Ireland clubs in the coming season;
	+ Fundraising to be progressed and continuing to be an area of focus;
	+ Schools squash was highlighted as an area that needs to be targeted and developed;

He extended an open invitation to all members to come forward with any ideas that they may have on how to improve Irish Squash.

Signed: Date: