



Rugby League Ireland Annual General Meeting

held on
Sunday January 25th, 2025
via video conference

Minutes

Present:	RLI Board John Tyerman, Clifford Newton (Treasurer), Rachel Morton, Diane McIlhagga, Jim Reynolds (Chair). Note; the position of Secretary is vacant due to the earlier retirement of Sive Neary and recent retirement of the interim Sec. Steve Hogan.
In Attendance:	
	Members; Broncos – Rachel Morton, Belfast Eagles – Peter Robson (Anti-Doping Officer), Cork Bulls – Rod Bachelor, Dublin City Exiles – Alan Cuffe, Galway Tribes – John Tyerman, Longhorns – Aaron Beirne. Body of Affiliated Match Officials – Paul Causby, Body of Affiliated Coaches – Ged Corcoran. Other Officers and guests; National Child Officer – Jason Craughwell, RLI Wheelchair Head Coach – Phil Roberts; Craig Best – Chair RLI Masters, Susan Spain – Wheelchair Team Manager, Julian Power – Cork Bulls

Agenda Item	Topic
1. Welcome, Apologies, Declaration of Conflict of Interest. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.	On behalf of the Board of RLI, the Chair Jim Reynolds, welcomed the Members, Officers, guests, and his fellow Board members to the company AGM for 2024 (2023 accounts). First agenda item was the presentation of the 2023 AGM Minutes for approval. Approval was proposed by Peter Robson of the Belfast Eagles, seconded by John Tyerman of Galway Tribes. The Minutes were duly approved by all in attendance. There being no other matters arising, the meeting proceeded to the Board reports.



2. Officer and Board reports

Meeting Chairman called for the Board reports;

Anti-Doping

Peter Robson, RLI Anti-Doping Officer, reported that there were no doping checks requested nor necessary during 2024. He reminded all members of the responsibility of all to be aware of the WADA list of banned substances and medications, to be vigilant, and to ensure that all new and existing players are made aware or reminded of their commitment to the RLI Anti-Doping policies.

Peter informed the meeting that he was now retiring after many years as the RLI Anti-Doping Officer. On behalf of the meeting the Chair thanked Peter for his long service in the role and expressed the appreciation of all in RLI.

Safeguarding

Jason Craughwell, RLI National Children's Officer, reported that there were no reported incidents during 2024. Jason advised that he had conducted an audit of the Clubs and Pathway operations pre-season and was satisfied that all those that were in positions that required Safeguarding training per statute were all compliant and the same was true for Garda/Police vetting.

Insurance

Thomas Hynes continues to manage the RLI insurance coverage including Public Liability and Catastrophic injury. Thomas reports that coverage cost has only risen slightly, in line with inflation. He reported that there were no claims in 2024.

Board report on 2024

The Chair, Jim Reynolds, gave the 2024 annual report on behalf of the Board.

Jim opened the report stating that RLI had many highs during 2024 but sadly one very significant low. Very sadly in April we lost one of the stalwarts of RL in Ireland Tony Dale. Tony was a player, coach, mentor, friend to many in RLI going back to our early days. Tony help set up the Athboy RL Club along with Mike Aughey and they adopted the badge of the local Union Club, a longhorn cow. The club split with the new one adopting the name and symbol of a longhorn which Tony was also very proud of. Encouraging youth to take up the game was a lifelong mission for Tony and until very recently he could be found at our Pathway training sessions. In honour of Tony and fitting for his mission, the RLI U19's will be playing a special one-off International V Wales U19s for the 'Tony Dale Cup' put up by his lifelong friend and our Senior Men's Head Coach Ged Corcoran.

The mission of RLI is to govern the sport on the island of Ireland balancing priorities between the immediate and the future. To run Domestic competitions, develop representative teams, and increase participation with versions of our sport. We are coming to the last part of our Five Year Plan that we developed with all of our stakeholders and launched back in 2021. Through all these years we have been in step with the priorities of Sport Ireland our main supporter optimising their direct support.



	We now have a new Government just announced and with that a new Ministerial team for Sport. It will be a priority in 2025 on to develop as close a relationship as we can with both Ministers O'Donovan and Mc Conalogue. Not to steal any of Ged's thunder of his separate on field performance report, we have had a great year of performance highlights. The U16 and U19s Pathways teams just continue to develop as with their dedicated coaches and managers. Our Men's Team had winning games against the Netherlands and Scotland. Our Senior Women played Wales and away to Greece with a loss and a win, qualifying for the inaugural Women's World Series in Toronto. Our fast growing Wheelchair Team had a tremendous Celtic Cup Tournament winning it outright and accepting an invitation to play France away. A significant development was the very first Wheelchair Domestic game priming next season's full Wheelchair Domestic League. The RLI Masters have had a very busy year, improving their Governance and policies culminating in a new Constitution and mirroring RLI policies and procedures. This focus has resulted in huge growth in participants and hosting the first ever Masters Eurofest. RLI's main competition is our Domestic Men's and Women's Leagues and through working with other European countries it is evident that they all are suffering as we are in maintaining participation levels since COVID. However, for 2025 we have had some new expression of interest from new Clubs and recognition must go to John Tyerman for his efforts here. Congratulations to Dublin City Exiles and the Longhorns our 2024 RLI Women's and Men's All Ireland Champions. I will finish with extending my own and the Board's huge thanks for a great 2024 to you our Members, the coaches, the Match Officials, Committee Members, the Club administrators and officers, team managers, physios, the FARC members, pitch markers, independent volunteers, and all who give their time.....thank you. Pathway and Men's representative Teams Report Ged Corcoran, Senior Men's and Pathways Head Coach, gave a separate presentation on the great progress and performance of these groups in 2024.
3. Financial Statements and reports	The Treasurer, Clifford Newton, presented the 2023 Financial Statements and proposal to renew Woods and Co as our Auditors for the 2025 accounts. Clifford informed the meeting that there were no extraordinary items in the accounts nor auditor comment. He did point out that it was necessary to bring in the assistance of an external accountant to get the accounts finished in reasonable time. Clifford advised that this arrangement will be necessary again for 2025 as his own business is expected to get busier. There being no questions on the accounts, it was proposed to approve the accounts and retain Woods and Co as auditors for 2025. Motions proposed by; Paul Causby Seconded by; Alan Cuffe The motions were carried unanimously.



4. Voting, Nominations and appointments	Resolutions to vote for Board Nominees. Position; Company Secretary Name; Susan Spain Nominated by; Banbridge Broncos Seconded by; Galway Tribes Vote taken; Susan was duly elected by the Members unanimously Position; Member Elected Board Member Name; John Tyerman Nominated by; Galway Tribes Seconded by; Body of Match Officials Vote taken; John was duly elected by the Members unanimously
Meeting closure	There being no other motions or resolutions the Chairman thanked all attendees for their attention in the matters of the RLI 2024 AGM and expressed the thanks of the Board for giving up their time to attend and contribute. The meeting closed.