



Cork Constitution Football Club

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday 26th May 2016.

Peter Good – President, chaired the meeting which was attended by 34 members all of whom signed the register of attendees, which is appended to these minutes.

ITEM I: Apologies:

Der O'Riordan, Frank O'Connor, Brendan Hyde, Peter O'Leary, Brian Hickey, Kenny Murphy, Finian O'Driscoll, Jack Dinan, Ray Hennessy, Anthony O'Leary, Brian Humphries, Liam Casey, Pat Moynihan, Kevin Flanagan, Brian Ludgate, Noel Lucey and Dan O'Connell.

ITEM II: Deceased members :

A minutes silence was observed in honour of those members and friends who passed away since the last AGM.

ITEM III: Minutes :

The minutes of the AGM of last year , 26th of May 2015 , having been online for the last two weeks as is now the custom , were approved by the meeting and signed by the President .

ITEM IV: Honorary Secretary's Report : John O'Mahony

Fellow Members, It is an indication of how well the club is being run in that there are so many apologies - no controversy anticipated !! The club has adhered to its own and the IRFU regulations . There were 19 Executive meetings during the year and Management group meetings every four to six weeks . These structures have served the club well and are constantly honed and refined to the clubs advantage . The minutes of these meetings are recorded and are available on file as both hard and soft copy in the club office . For the record , Edmund van Esbeck has been given the complete minutes of my time in Office as Secretary .

It is my intention to issue a generic thank you to the membership for all the help I have received throughout the year except for a few people I feel obliged to mention. Fiona Burke, as always, has been a rock on whom many depend. Fiona is an invaluable, utterly dependable and ever pleasant gem in this club. The new defibrillator has contributed to the extension of our Presidents life expectancy.....not alone here at regular AIL match attendance but also in Latvia where it was plugged into the bikes power source along with the radio, tuned into Cork Cons match report !! Peter has had an outstanding year which he well deserved . It was a highly successful season both on and off the pitch . The glittering array of silver on display is testament to that . Peter is incapable of being anything other than a passionate , heart-on-the-sleeve lover of Con.. It was great fun working with Peter and never a dull day out. Bertie Smith too finishes a year in which , as you would expect , he composed himself with dignity and decorum . Like Peter , he was a credit to himself , his family and his club . Unlike Peter he had an altogether more fractious season .

As this is my final address to you as Hon. Sec. , my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all for the courtesy and assistance . Despite the rumours doing the rounds , I am not Dolphin bound to coach their Senior side Thank you .

ITEM V: Club Captains Report : James Ryan



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I'd like to begin by thanking Brian Hickey , Paul Barr and Paul McCarthy who , together , did a great job in coaching the side this year . To Kenny Murphythe club would be lost without him !! Thanks too , to Johnny (fitness), Alan (Physio), Tom (doc.) and Deccie and all the members of the club for the effort throughout the year in keeping the clubhouse and gym and grounds at the highest standard.

Peter Good has been a magnificent President . Thank you. Also, best wishes to Jerry Holland for next season . Congratulations to the J2's on a great season and to the u/20's a wonderful All Ireland success – your systems are key to the future well being of this club .

Review : our season started poorly with two defeats and two draws before it was kickstarted by a great win away to Clontarf. It then became a mixed bag of wins and losses up to Christmas yet always within reach of the top four. Post Christmas saw a run of six consecutive wins , with bonus points , against Belvo. T'nure (x2) , UCD , Ballynahinch and a vital victory over Galwegians to achieve second place on the table . That ensured a home semi final to Young Munsters . A handy four weeks football followed with us retaining the Munster Senior cup, the Bateman cup and narrowly losing out to Clontarf in the AIL final in a thriller in the Aviva. After a poor start , we finished the season strongly and on our day , we are the best team in the country . I was particularly proud of the effort shown throughout the season by our players . My thank to them . It has been an honour to Captain this great club .

Thank you. James Ryan .

ITEM VI: Director of Rugby's Report (to follow). Jerry Holland

ITEM VII: Statement of accounts and Hon. Treasurers report : Jim Murphy

The Hon. Treasurer , Jim Murphy presented his accounts for the year to the meeting . Afterwards , he took questions from the floor regarding same . The accounts are not available online but, on appointment with the Hon. Treasurer, any member who has a fully paid up subscription may view same. A full financial statement is attached to the hard copy of the minutes .

In relation to other areas within the club , Jim wished to particularly thank (1) Rose Dunne for her immense contribution to juvenile finances , (2) Pat Twomey and Dave Power – the main gate can be a cold/wet spot on certain days , (3) Dermot O'Leary , a superb job in the bar in a year that saw no GAA games or Dolphin matches to assist sales , (4) Clodagh and Erica , for the sales drive in the club shop and Declan McGinn , Frank O'connor and Anthony O'Leary for their efforts in "Strictly" , Cheltenham and the Business of Sport lunch , respectively .

ITEM VIII: Report by the Chairman of the Management Committee. Michael Daly

The role of the Management Committee is to support the President and the Executive Committee in the general management of the club. The Committee met on a regular basis during the last year and a number of recommendations were brought to the Executive for approval.

In addition to the other reports there are a number of items we would like to highlight.

Munster Senior Club of the Year 2016

This award is based on the performance of the club both on and off the field in all sections of the club.

Some of the judging criteria noted are

- Player / Child Welfare
- Player & Game Development
- Facilities Development



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Our club is run by a large number of volunteers who all contributed to achieving this award. On behalf of the Management Committee I would like to thank all our volunteers for their hard work and say well done to all.

Budget Control – Critical Areas

A report on our accounts will be given by our Honorary Treasurer but there are some areas on which we would comment.

Income

Last year we expected a reduction in our income from the telecommunication masts, the lack of a 'Dolphin' match and the lack of GAA matches. Fortunately the mast income held this year and the other reductions were offset by extra income from the Business Lunch, the home semi-finals in the AIL & MJC and the Club International.

You will see from the accounts that a number of our fundraising items are 'one offs' or 'limited life' so we will continue to need the support of all members to help maintain our income by extra sponsorship and special fundraising events. Another critical area is the membership income which has decreased in recent years.

The use of our facilities for functions or parties is an area where there may be potential for additional income but we probably need a strong kitchen partners to develop this trade. This is under review, suggestions are welcome.

Our main sponsors were unchanged but there were some new hoarding signs and smaller sponsors which have given an increased income. On the other side we have lost the support of a few hoarding sponsors.

Expenditure

We have tried to keep a tight control on our spending and our costs are generally in line with the budget without the need for the full contingency figure. The rugby costs are down on budget mostly due to savings on the playing gear and medical expenses

There is an increase in the Ground / Pavilion costs, the main extra is the Planning costs and Professional fees for the upgrading of the floodlights which were not in our budget figures for the season.

Budget 2016/17

This will be submitted to the Executive for approval at the start of next season.

AIL Entry Criteria for 2015/16

The IRFU introduced new Entry Criteria which had to be complied with to apply for entry to the All Ireland league. While we have generally met the requirements we have now had to finalise a 'Handbook' available for audit by the IRFU. The requirement to host an annual player and parent forum for the adult, youth and juvenile sections has been put back to next season. We are waiting for guidance from the IRFU on a number of topics including

- Irish Rugby's Core Values
- Insurance, Concussion and Medical issues
- Anti-doping education

Planning 2014 – 2020

Summary of Proposed Action Items

During the 2014 / 15 season meetings were held with representatives of the different sections of the club to plan for the year 2020. A number of proposals were tabled at last year's AGM, it should be noted that there has been progress in adopting some of these proposals, such as

Roles



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Appoint a 'Players Parents' Officer on an annual basis

AIL Entry Criteria

Equality Statement, Code of Conduct & a Health and Safety Policy Statement

Grounds

Replace the existing floodlights on all pitches, now scheduled for summer 2016

Mahon

Secure a long term Sporting Lease on the CCC pitch, hope to complete before next season

Social Media

While we may not be leaders in this field it should be noted that we now have an active Facebook page and Twitter giving match information.

Rugby

Progress was also made on a number of the rugby proposals which are referred to in the Director of Rugby report.

125Th Anniversary

To celebrate our anniversary the club are going on pre-season tour to Canada and have also engaged Ned Zan Esbeck to update the club history for the last 25 years. Other events need to be considered.

Future Development Work

As mentioned already we will be proceeding with the upgrading of the floodlights on all three pitches this summer. This will require a €50,000 investment by the club in addition to a Sports Grant of €120,000.

When the lease on the Mahon pitch is granted we will have to take responsibility for the cost of the ongoing pitch maintenance and consider investing in

- Pitch quality
- Pitch security
- Changing facilities

An all weather pitch / 4G Artificial pitch

Conclusion

As you will see from the accounts the running of our club is similar to that of a €750k turnover business except that our costs are very finely balanced. The loss of any of our main income streams or a fall in membership income would seriously affect our ability to cover our costs. It is also very important that we have continuity of management personnel over an extended time to properly manage the club business. In an ideal world our Club could consider the employment of full time business staff but as the world is not ideal we will have to rely on the continuing efforts of the Management Committees and our many volunteers.

Finally our thanks should go to all our members who helped with the work of the management committee during the last season. Hopefully the same level of support will be available next season to ensure that the club can overcome the challenges and continue to operate in a successful manner both on and off the pitch.



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ITEM IX: Outgoing President's Address ... Peter Good.

To represent Cork Constitution as President has been a huge honour for me and my family. In that regard, I would like to thank Paula, Gordon, David and George.

Jerry Holland, as Senior Deputy President, has been invaluable as both a Director of Rugby and Deputy President, Jerry, I thank you for your help.

Anthony O'Leary as Junior Deputy President, I would like to thank him for all his support during the year and for his help with the very successful Business of Sport lunch.

Chairman, Michael Daly, ever-present in the club - Responsible for the day-to-day running of the club. Always at the end of the phone to give advice, Mick – thank you for all you do for this club.

Jim Murphy, again – can be seen most day in the club. We are so lucky to have you as our Treasurer Jim and thankfully the accounts seem to be in good order for the year.

John O'Mahony, Hon. Secretary for the past number of years, ever-present at matches and meetings.

John, I wish you luck in your new position in the club and I thank you for all your support during the past year.

James Ryan has been an exceptional Captain, always leading from the front. Congratulations James on a great year. You should be very proud of your team - both on and off the pitch.

To the Bar committee, chaired by Dermot O'Leary – another man who can be seen here on a daily basis. The Lunch Committee – my thanks to Brian Ludgate who, unfortunately due to ill health looked after the first half of the season and I'd like to thank Jack O'Sullivan for stepping in to look after the remainder of the season.

To the Juveniles - headed up by Des Murphy, very well done, on a season where the weather played havoc with some Saturday mornings. As always - a Saturday morning here is a hive of activity and thank you to Rose Dunne for all the work she does.

Our Youths Rugby - run by Ray Clarke – well done on bringing some silverware back to the club.

Thank you to all the Juvenile and Youth section coaches for giving your time to the club.

Once again - Pdraig Higgins (Fixtures), Greg Barrett (Munster Branch & IRFU) and Brian Humphries (Senior Munster Club Chairman) – thank you for your time spent looking after Cons needs at Branch and Union level.

Conor Clune and Rose Dunne – very well done again on the collection of subs.

Clodagh and Erica – every Saturday morning looking after the club shop.

Thank you to Frank O'Connor and his Cheltenham Race Day committee, and to Declan McGinn and his Strictly Con Dancing committee – well done again on these invaluable fund raising events for the club.

To Tony Roche for supply of speakers for the lunches – thanks Tony.

Our sponsors Kearys & Zurich & the Mater Private – Thank You.

To Fiona, Mick and Jimmy – Thank you for all your help during the year.

To Mick Dunne for his help on match days with food.

I am honoured to be a member of Cork Constitution Rugby Football Club – let alone be its President – Thank you for that opportunity.

ITEM X : Election of Officers for the 2016/17 Season.

- a. President : Jerry Holland . Proposed by Peter Good and Seconded by Charlie Hill .
- b. Sen. Dep. Pres. : Anthony O'Leary . Proposed by Jerry Holland and Seconded by Niall Murray .
- c. Jun. Dep. Pres. : John O'Mahony . Proposed by Ian O'Leary and Seconded by Walton Morrissey .
- d. Captain : TBA .
- e. Hon. Treasurer : Jim Murphy (incumbent)
- f. Hon. Secretary : Kevin Fielding . Proposed by John O'Mahony and Seconded by Pat O'Keeffe .
- g. Dir. Of Rugby : Niall Murray . Proposed by Jerry Holland and Seconded by Noel Walsh .



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h. Chair. Of Manage. Committee : Michael Daly (incumbent).

ITEM XI : Election of Hon. Auditor and Hon. Solicitor .

Honorary Auditor : Eileen Keyes (incumbent).

Honorary Solicitor : Ray Shanahan (incumbent).

ITEM XII: President's Acceptance: Jerry Holland

It is a great honour for me to stand before you as President of this great club. I would like to thank Peter Good for nominating me as Junior Deputy President 2 years ago.

For the record I played U8's on the "Conetts" many years ago as my Grandfather was a Vice President of Con and his daughter (my mother) lived where Ford's offices are on the Boreennamana Road. Obviously my father had no say in matters in those days.

This club is steeped in history, with numerous Munster, International & Lions players, but off the pitch we have had great achievements with Tom Kiernan and Noel Murphy among others as President of the IRFU , with numerous Presidents of the Munster Branch , most recently the current President Bertie Smith who has represented the club magnificently during his year in office.

So I look forward to leading the club in celebrating 125 years of our existence next season and that will be marked by a tour to Canada in August and also our Centenary book is being updated and re written by Ned Van Esbeck to give a history of our 125 years.

When we talk about the history of the club we remember people that we lost recently who were very much part of this history. People like Jackie Crowley , Gerry Murray and Archie O'Leary helped to shape the history of this club and will be sadly missed , but it's those names that tells you something about the calibre of people in Cork Con and why we are so proud to be a part of it.

History will also show that Cork Con have been successful on the pitch, which is our primary aim, but this magnificent clubhouse is a testament to the hard work and dedication of a lot of people. In travelling to all the other clubs throughout the country the facilities here are second to none and you as members should be really proud of what you have achieved.

The work of the Management Committee under the Chairmanship of Michael Daly keeps a really close eye on all aspects of the club and in conjunction with the Executive runs the Club.

I hope everybody will enjoy next season and for all the volunteers that do such great work in the club , your commitment and dedication is really appreciated. To the players , coaches, committees and all members, I thank you for all your hard work and wish all a happy and enjoyable 125.

ITEM XIII: Rugby Organisation

Head Coach:	Brian Hickey
Assistant Coach:	Paul MacCarthy, Paul Barr
Manager:	Kenny Murphy



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Selector: Ralph Keyes
Team Secretary: Declan McGinn
Logistics: Don Mullins

J1 squad will be also under the Senior coaching and management team

J2 Management Team to be announced later.

U20 Tom Mulcahy and the rest of the coaching/management team to be announced later.

ITEM XIV: Appointment of new Vice Presidents.

It was reported that both Tom Cahill and Dermot O'Leary had been appointed to the club Executive and made VPs of the club at a previous meeting of the Executive.

Michael Daly proposed the appointment of Aidan McNamara as a VP of the club. It was seconded by Hugh Foley and passed unanimously.

John O'Mahony proposed the appointment of Don Mullins as a VP of the club. It was seconded by Peter Good and passed unanimously.

ITEM XV: Appointment to the Club Executive

Jim Murphy proposed the appointment of Clodagh O'Sullivan to the Executive. It was seconded by Dermot O'Leary and passed unanimously.

ITEM XVI: Subscription and Budget for 2016/17

It was proposed to hold the subscription at the same level as for the 2015/16 season and was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed to hold back the Budget for the coming season until later in the summer and to then present for approval to the Executive.

ITEM XVII: Any-Other-Business

Charlie Hill commented that he was 'gobsmacked' at the efficiency of how the club was being run and congratulated all on the Management Committee.

Stan Waldron congratulated the incoming President and wished him well for what would be an important season, it being the 125th Anniversary of the club. Stan asked what events were being planned and Jerry Holland responded that a Tour, a 125th Anniversary Book were being planned and the Management Committee were open to other suggestions. Stan agreed that the tour was a good idea.

The new President thanked all for attending and invited those present to the bar for a drink.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.