

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Official Leinster Supporters Club
Old Wesley Rugby Club, Donnybrook, Dublin 4
17th August 2022**

Present from OLSC committee:

Bebhinn Dunne President
David Ryan Treasurer
Mary Carroll Secretary
Alan Mooney, Eoin Kilkenny, Laura Lysaght, Liz Power

Present from Leinster Rugby

Marcus Ó Buachalla, Kevin Quinn, Eamon DeBurca

For the first time, a hybrid meeting was held. Season Ticket Holders who had pre-registered, were able to attend virtually on Zoom. It should be noted that members attending virtually have the same rights as those in the room in terms of raising questions and voting

Welcome and introduction was done by Bebhinn Dunne and approval of 2021 minutes was proposed by David Ryan and seconded by David ward.

Presidents Report

A brief synopsis of the presidents report (copy attached) was given including highlights of what happened during the year. As well as thanking the sponsors, these included the presentation to Hazel's family on behalf of the OLSC, Presentation to Rob Kearney, coaches Q&A, season ticket campaign, Rhys Ruddock legends T-shirt, Leo the Lion toy launch.

Treasurers Report

The treasurer's report (copy attached) was presented by David Ryan (treasurer) Who gave a breakdown of the current financial status of the accounts. The accounts were proposed by Laura Lysaght and seconded by Eoin Kilkenny

Leinster Rugby Address

Kevin Quinn spoke on behalf of Leinster rugby and thanked all supporters and committee members for their support throughout the season. While this was not the end to the season that had been hoped for, there were plenty of positives in terms of players performances etc financially it had been a slow start to the season due to covid restrictions but currently Leinster resources and staff are almost back to full quota. There will also be a full fixture list this season.

There are plans to have an area available in the RDS for Leinster rugby and the OLSC including an indoor area

Kevin also spoke about the the success of the sea of blue especially in Marseille where although the team were re directed they saw some of it and were aware of the fantastic turnout by supporters

The RDS development is still in the pipeline And as soon as there are any further developments we will be advised

Committee election

Alan Mooney and Liz Power retired from the committee this year and the remaining five members stood for re election as well as two new members William Montgomery and Audrey Heavey. This being the quota of seven required, this committee was voted in by a unanimous show of hands in the room and on zoom

Bebhinn Dunne and Eoin Kilkenny both applied for election as president and in this regard both gave speeches as to why they should be given the position. A secret ballot was taken and voting was done on zoom the result of which Bebhinn was announced as the president for the coming season

Motions Tabled

There were three motions tabled in relation to numbers which may serve on the committee or be co-opted on as required. These three motions as detailed in attached document were proposed by David Ryan seconded by Laura Lysaght and unanimously agreed by a show of hands. As these motions were officially carried. The Constitution will be Amended to reflect these changes of 5.1 5.3 and 5.4

A motion was raised to reinstate the actual season ticket card which members required both to avail of blue benefits and to keep. Kevin Quinn advised that the ticket office is open at all matches and tickets can be printed there at anytime or emailed to season ticket holders who may not have access to print them

The possibility was discussed of perhaps having an opt in choice to avail of an actual season ticket perhaps with a €5 charge. A vote was taken which resulted in the majority of people being in favour of the season tickets cards being reintroduced. As the motion was officially carried, Leinster Rugby will look at this again

AOB

A Question was raised in connection with inclusivity regarding the recent decision by the IRFU in relation to transgender players not being allowed to play womens rugby

Marcus Ó Buachalla addressed this issue and advised that Leinster rugby understood the anger and disappointment of supporters, however the IRFU have followed World Rugby guidance, as have other national unions, in addition to following their own research, which they commissioned in 2020.

Inclusivity remains of key importance to Leinster Rugby and the IRFU and the situation will be monitored continually should further research emerge.

Leinster would be also advised that the blue room is currently not in use but with the proposed new area for Leinster rugby and the OLSC it is hoped that this will incorporate events of such nature

A request for reinstating the season ticket card had been submitted for AOB but was dealt with as a motion

There being no further questions, the meeting ended.

The 2021/22 Season was a challenging season for all involved due to the continuing restrictions due to COVID 19, the change in the format of the tournaments and managing events around that. However, it was fantastic to get supporters back to games both home and away during the season. Whilst it was a very successful season it wasn't the dream end that we had all hoped for and that will have been hugely disappointing for all involved.

Presidents Report AGM 2022

2021/22 Events:

As already mentioned we were somewhat limited in what we wanted to do last season, yet we did successfully run great events with the help of Leinster Rugby, volunteers and our sponsors during the year.

Special Legend T-Shirt Presentation:

In order to remember our special friend and committee member Hazel who passed away in 2021 we launched a Legends t-shirt #sparkyhaze in her honor. The t-shirt was presented to her family and friends at the Christmas game in The AVIVA. This was a very moving and fitting event for a true legend, kindly arranged by the team in Leinster Rugby. We also made a presentation of the Legend T-shirt Board to Fergus McFadden at this game.

Seactain na Gaeilge Q&A in the Laighan Out:

In partnership with Energia and Leinster Rugby we ran the first 'in person' event for Seachtain na Gaeilge in the Laighin Out in February. Once again a big thanks to Sene Naoupu, Jack Dunne, and Marcus O'Buachalla who MC'd the event 'as Gaeilge'.

Image

Coaches Evening:

It was great to have this popular event back. We held a great evening for 100 supporters in the UCD Club in March. Mick Dawson, Leo Cullen and Tania Rosser were on the panel MC'd by Alan Mooney from the OLSC.

Retiring Players Presentations:

We were delighted to present Rob Kearney with a gift of Crystal on behalf of all the supporters pre match at the Connacht Play Off Game at the Aviva in April. We also plan to acknowledge the other retiring players, Dan Leavy, Sean Cronin, Dev Toner and our CEO Mick Dawson at an event next season

Legends T-Shirt LAunch and Q&A with Rhys Ruddock.

Our Legend chosen for the season was Rhys Ruddock, a true Leinster rugby stalworth. Due to many different issues and challenges during the year we recorded and hosted this event in UCD with Eoin Kilkenny from the committee as MC. It was great to be able to interview players face to face once more and we hope to be able to do this in the RDS going forward.

Season Ticket Renewal Campaign

We reached out to our volunteer network to help Leinster Rugby with this exciting campaign. It was hugely successful, the photos looked fantastic and have generated that interest in season Tickets that was needed post COVID Lockdowns. We invited all the volunteers who helped with this to the Coaches Evening where we unveiled the images. A big thanks to those all involved.

Merchandise:

We were delighted to announce the arrival of Leo Junior, a new addition (soft Toy Lion) to our list of merchandise for sale in the shop at the Laighin Out and online. He was only a very recent addition but sold out on each occasion he was restocked. The shop both in the Laighin Out and online continues to be hugely successful for the OLSC.

Charitable Work:

The Irish Cancer Society was our chosen Charity for the year, one which is very close to our own and many supporter's hearts. We were thrilled to raise 4k Euro for them. We achieved this through an online raffle for a signed Jersey, and Leinster Rugby Hampers which raised 3k and a further 1k from the sale of the Rhys Ruddock Legend t-Shirt.

Sea of Blue:

We ran several successful SOB's both home and away during the year. Thousands of Flags, Santa Hats, Clappers and Blue Sunglasses were given out at these fantastic events which we are extremely grateful to our sponsors Bank of Ireland and Laya. The Sandymount Hotel once more became our base for The AVIVA games, and we are extremely thankful to their help with storage, hanging banners and flags and providing a space. It was down to the great engagement and help from our sponsors, volunteers and supporters to make this happen. Particular reference to the following away games, Bath (SOB and March to the ground with the Team), Leicester, and Marseille where we had huge support in creating that amazing SOB that contributed to a wonderful pre-match event.

Commercial Partners Engagement:

We worked closely with Bank of Ireland and Laya this year to expand the offering and support for our match day activations. We worked closely with Laya on their successful 'A Beat Ahead' campaign, they supported us with the clappers which complimented that particular campaign. Aircoach once again supported us in taking our supporters to Ulster, Connacht(x2) and Munster. In the run up to the ERPC final in Marseille, we worked with Novaerus on their 'Fan in a Van' campaign, we reached out to a volunteer who agreed to travel to Marseille with Novaerus in a campervan and document the road to Marseille. This was a hugely successful campaign which was run jointly over Social Media, and captured the attention of so many far and wide.

Image

A BIG Thankyou

We'd like to give another mention to those who have helped us out through the 2021/22 season. All of our sponsors, a huge thank you to Bank of Ireland who sponsor our Dublin and away guides each season and provide the flags and sunglasses for the Seas of Blue. Laya for providing Face Masks and Clappers. Aircoach for coaches to away matches. Novaerus At McGreals for providing a great fan experience through Fan in the Van. Michael Donnelly from Woolly Mammoth Design, another OLSC volunteer who looked after graphic/layout design for us for the away guides, publication and social Media graphics. Our outgoing committee members Liz Power and Alan Mooney, thanks for all you have contributed over last seasons, and best of luck in what you take on next. We continued with virtual Q&A's up until restrictions eased in January, massive thankyou to all the players involved. Our Legend T-Shirt, big thank you to Rhys Ruddock for being our most recent legend, and to David Cahill for another great Legends T-Shirt design. To the staff in the RDS and Madigans, always willing to help us out at very short notice. The Leinster Rugby Team that we deal with regularly on different items throughout the season, in particular, Kevin Quinn, Eamon de Burca, Marcus Ó Buachalla, Gary Nolan, and Claire Kilcline. All the volunteers who kindly give up their own time to help with all our endeavors, week in week out, without them we would not achieve any of this.

Our OLSC Blue Benefit providers over the last season:

- Base Woodfired Pizza • Best Menswear • Dublin Airport Parking • Energia • Henshaw Eyewear
- KDK • Lemon and Duke • Lifestyle sports • OSLO • Richies Bike Store • The Bath • The Bridge
- The Landmark • The Merrion Inn • The Sleep Shop

Signed

Bebhinn Dunne
Bebhinn Dunne

