

MINUTES OF OLSC AGM HELD IN THE LAIGHIN OUT SUPPORTERS BAR - 22 JUNE 2013

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Aisling O'Connor, president of the Official Leinster Supporters Club (OLSC), opened the meeting at 3pm. She began by welcoming all those in attendance at what was the 6th Annual General Meeting of the OLSC. The quorum in accordance with the constitution had been reached.

The minutes of the 5th AGM, held in the Laighin Out on 7 July 2012 were then approved by all present.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Aisling O'Connor remarked that last season was one that all supporters can look back on with fond memories.

We said goodbye to some of our players including Jonny Sexton, Isa Nacewa, Jamie Hagan, Heinke van der Merwe, Andrew Conway, Tom Sexton, Fionn Carr, Mark Flanagan and Damien Browne.

Isa's departure was marked by the OLSC when we presented him with crystal engraved with a message from the supporters.

We also presented engraved crystal to Joe Schmidt. He has served us well and we wish him all the success he deserves with Ireland.

The OLSC Committee

The OLSC Committee went through some changes over the course of the season. Committee members Killian Byrne, David Cahill and Myriam Cahill stood down during the season and Aisling O'Connor thanked them for their work.

In accordance with the Club's constitution, the OLSC then co-opted two new members to the committee - John Martin and Brenda Lawrence.

Communication

The Club provided regular content for the official website, leinsterrugby.ie as well as match programmes and the Herald. The Club also continued to communicate to supporters through social media.

During the course of the season, Jarrod Bromley assumed the PRO role and provided content for leinsterrugby.ie, match day programmes as well as the Herald. Jarrod also provided all content for supporters' away guides and travel information throughout the season.

Alison Moore looked after all social media content, i.e. Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. This role also included taking photos and videoing events when required.

Facebook users have increased from 10,500 to 12,600 over the past season, while our Twitter followers increased from 9,000 to 13,400. We appreciate that not everybody uses social networking so wherever possible we publish information in ezines and on www.leinsterrugby.ie.

Twitter was again used this season to provide updates for untelevised away games (including pre-season games).

The Laighin Out

The development of the Laighin Out continued this season. We finally got a chance to put up plaques received from rugby clubs throughout the province as well as framed away guides the Club has produced over the years.

In addition, we held a record number of events in the bar this season, which included Q&As with Joe Schmidt, Brian O'Driscoll, Michael Bent, Andrew Goodman, Dominic Ryan, Eoin O'Malley, Ian Madigan, Sean Cronin Heinke van der Merwe and Isa Nacewa.

We also invited Shane Jennings to Laighin Out and presented him with his OLSC Legends T-shirt. On the same night we held a raffle in aid of Ronald McDonald House as Shane is a patron of the charity and we raised €805.00.

Other events in the Laighin Out included mulled wine and mince pies after the Zebre and Connacht games in December and we also invited Exeter Chief supporters to the Laighin Out in October for a welcome party where we provided complimentary snacks.

Keeping it blue

Flags were provided at key home fixtures as well as all away Heineken Cup fixtures. The Club also ensured that at least some flags are at every single away game in the Pro12.

This season the Club introduced blue berets and blue wigs to its merchandise lines and these items were very well received by supporters.

As per last season, the Club provided blue face paint, tattoos and hairspray to help supporters be blue throughout the latter end of this season. This was a success and the Club hopes to continue this for key fixtures next season.

OLSC Travel

It was noted that the Club is not a bonded travel agent so therefore is not allowed by law to sell packages that involve international travel. What the OLSC does however is put together package information and share with members. This aims to get information to supporters from various firms and then they can book what suits them.

The Club provided bus transfers to and from Bristol for the Scarlets away game in October. Given that Llanelli can be a difficult place to get to, we received good feedback regarding this service. A transfer bus to and from Bristol for the Exeter away game in January was also provided. The interpro buses continued to be popular with all three fixtures covered again this season.

European away games were served by away guides that included a growing number of discounts (including fast track security and food and beverage specials at Dublin airport new for this season). These take approximately eight hours each to produce (research, edit, design and layout) and provide a valuable revenue stream through advertising/branding to the club (the only cost is committee time). The OLSC produced its 26th away guide this season. We receive very good feedback on the guides which were viewed worldwide. Bank of Ireland sponsored the away guides and the OLSC thanked the Bank for their continued support in this regard.

Leinster Rugby around the world

Work for supporters abroad continued We researched TV times for every game, maintained a set of away bases and along with 'Blue Planet' which lists rugby friendly venues in over 55 cities around the world. During the season we also facilitated the posting of Herald calendars and trophy celebration posters.

SOSAD Ireland

This season the OLSC was given free rein to choose a charity to work with for the season and SOSAD was selected.

Peter Moroney set up SOSAD in 2003 when he lost his son Simon Moroney to suicide and he and his family have been working ever since for this great cause. They now have 6 branches throughout the country.

The OLSC held events and raffles for SOSAD and we are delighted to confirm that we raised a total of €6,197

On behalf of the OLSC, Aisling O'Connor thanked the team at Leinster Rugby who work with the Club - Keira Kennedy, Rachel Lynch, Ian Murray and Mark Quinn, as well as Sinead Coffey and Kevin Leahy of the ticket office.

The contribution of the volunteers was also marked - the work the Club does is very time consuming and volunteers help greatly on match day.

Aisling referenced the committee members stepping down from the OLSC – Alison Moore and David Gough and thanked them for the all the work done throughout this season and previous seasons served on the committee.

Aisling said that she had had a fantastic year as club president and wished the incoming committee the very best of luck for next season.

TREASURERS REPORT

The accounts were presented, it was confirmed that there was a surplus of €3607.08 to be carried forward to the new season.

There were no questions and the accounts were approved by a show of hands.

ELECTION OF OLSC COMMITTEE FOR THE 2013/14 SEASON

The president advised that five members have put themselves forward for election to the OLSC Committee.

Three new members, Gavin Doyle, Liz Power and Ginine Power along with returning members, Jarrod Bromley and John Martin were elected by a show of hands.

As was advised to members prior to the AGM, John Martin was the sole member standing for election for president and was thus elected to the office for a 12-month term.

MOTIONS

One motion was received: From the 2013/14 season any member who wishes to apply for president of the club must have served a previous term as an ordinary member.

This was passed by a show of hands.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A question was asked as to the possibility of getting Sky Sports in the Laighin Out. The president advised that this has been looked into in detail by the committee but at the moment the cost was prohibitive for the club and may only be used twice a year.

An inquiry was made as to the possibility of running overnight buses to interpro games. The president advised that the main demand for buses is from people who wish to travel on the day and that the cost of such trips would increase. The incoming committee advised they would look into this next season.

The possibility of implementing preferential ticket allocation for supporters who go to majority of games was raised. The president advised that this had been raised with Leinster Rugby previously but there were issues over how to ensure loyal supporters were catered for, also allocation for finals is often not up to Leinster Rugby.

CLOSE

With there being no further business to conduct, Aisling O'Connor brought the meeting to a close.