***MINUTES***

***Meeting:*** *Annual General Meeting*

***Date:*** *Thursday 10h March 2022*

***Venue:*** *Mac Suite 1, Pavilion Stormont*

***Attendees:*** *David Ferguson (Chairman), Michael Carson (Treasurer), Billy Gamble, Jim Savage, Val Russell, Caron Alexander, Chris Heatley, Nic Leitch, Bertie Ellison(Vice-Chairman), David Reilly, Lynda Sloan, Colin McWhirter & Gillian Lynas*

***Other Attendees:*** *Gerry Kelly (NICSSA CEO), Kieran Devlin (Operations & Facilities Director), Paul McAreavey (Accountant) & Elizabeth Tohill (Accountant)*

***1. Apologies***

*Apologies were received from, Mr Dennis Millar, Mr Russell Moore and Mr Shaun McMorran.*

***2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM***

*The minutes of the 69th AGM (2021) were adopted by agreement of all present.*

*The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Lynda Sloan and seconded by Chris Heatley*

*There were no matters arising.*

***3. Annual Report 2020***

*The CEO, Mr Kelly reported on the key achievements of the Association during the year which were set out in the 2021 Annual Report. He confirmed that a full and more detailed copy of the Annual Report was available online for information.*

*In particular he highlighted that club grants and membership benefits totalling £73k were distributed throughout the year to affiliated clubs to support the delivery of activities for members throughout NI. This was in addition to the further development of the membership plus scheme to reflect the changes in the way members used their card and offers.*

*He reported that through the new member’s giveaway initiative a further £6.5k was provided to members, 751 Easter packs had been distributed to members at Easter and 515 Christmas packs were distributed to members at Christmas.*

*He also reported that the complex continued to host elite sports teams, such as Hockey Ireland Women’s team, the Masters Hockey tournament in August, IFA senior Men’s and Ladies Teams, as well as Stoke City for their pre-season training camp.*

*Under the WELL Programme the team delivered over 362 health promotion events during the year.*

*On the activities front the Association delivered 545 online exercise classes for members throughout the year. The promotion of three Steps2Fitness Campaigns which involved 1150 people participating in a walking challenge was reintroduced to support members in getting fit.*

***The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Mr Jim Savage and seconded by Mr David Reilly.***

*Ms Alexander wanted to acknowledge the work of the Association during what had been a difficult and challenging year and commended the efforts of all the staff.*

*Mr. Ferguson concluded by acknowledging the work of everyone involved in the work of the Association through a very difficult year.*

***4. Honorary Treasurer and Auditor’s Report***

*Mr Michael Carson, Honorary Treasurer provided an overview of the financial performance of the Association in 2021.*

*The following points were highlighted by Mr Carson.*

* *Income had increased and expenditure had dropped during 2021. Mr Carson acknowledged the work of the staff in keeping the operating costs down.*
* *The net result of variations in income and expenditure was a surplus of £111,000 for the year despite the challenging operating environment.*
* *The balance sheet showed that the Association’s fixed assets continued to depreciate and that the revenue reserve continued to grow.*
* *Bank loans are being paid off on time which puts the organisation in a good financial position to borrow in the future.*
* *In terms of expenditure, costs are tightly controlled and are on a downward trend year on year.*

*He also acknowledged member’s continued support throughout the year.*

***The accounts were accepted on the proposal of Mr Billy Gamble and seconded by Mr Chris Heatley***

***5. Election of Honorary Treasurer***

*Mr Michael Carson was re-appointed to the position of Honorary Treasurer on the proposal of* ***Mr Bertie Ellison and seconded by Mr Billy Gamble***

***6. Election of Auditor***

*PGM Accountants were proposed as the Association’s Auditors. Mr Ferguson thanked Mrs Elizabeth Tohill from PGM for her support during the year.*

***The appointment of PGM was proposed by Ms Lynda Sloan and seconded by Mr Billy Gamble.***

***7. Election of Members to Council***

*Council’s view was that, exceptionally* *due to some residual effect of the COVID pandemic on connecting with clubs, and in the interests of continuity and stability as the Association moved through a challenging period of major capital development and possible structural change, its current membership should continue for a further year.*

*Council’s recommendation to retain the existing regional and elected representatives (including the Pavilion-based clubs representative) for a further year (ie. to March 2023) was endorsed on a proposal by Colin McWhirter, seconded by Billy Gamble."*

***8. Motion***

***Proposal to increase subscriptions***

*Michael Carson briefly outlined the case for an increase in the membership subscription rate in July 2022. In setting out the context to the case he explained that in February 2020, just before COVID fundamentally changed the world as we then knew it, the Executive Board and Council approved the Treasurer’s paper for a 9p per month subscription increase – subject to agreement at the AGM.*

*Because of COVID and the imminent threat of lockdown, it was decided to withdraw the proposal to bring forward a subscription increase to the March 2020 AGM.*

*Since then, there have been more COVID lockdowns and a wide variety of associated restrictions. Lockdowns and other restrictions severely limited the benefit of using the Membership Plus card – a key benefit for many members. Thanks to the continuing subscriptions paid by our members, the HMRC Job Retention Scheme and stringent management of NICSSA’s costs, the financial position of NICSSA remained sound throughout this period. In both 2020 and 2021, NICSSA successfully repaid in full a number of loans, which further helped the overall financial position. It was therefore deemed appropriate that in 2021 there should also be no subscription increase.*

*Mr Carson concluded his presentation by proposing an increase in the membership subscription rate by £3.00 per annum (25p per month), from £5.87 per month to £6.12 per month with effect from 1 July 2022. The £20 annual rate for junior membership in the 16-18 age category will remain unchanged. The £10 subscription for under 16-year-olds will remain unchanged.*

***Mr Michael Carson proposed acceptance of the proposal which was seconded by Mr Colin McWhirter***

***9. Any Other Business***

*With no further business the Chair, Mr David Ferguson closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.*