NICSSC MINUTES

Meeting: Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Venue: Mac Suite 1, Pavilion Stormont

Attendees: Billy Gamble (Chairman), Bertie Ellison (Vice-Chairman), David Ferguson, Colin McWhirter, Dennis Millar, Tom May, Jim Savage, Michael Murray, Brian Murphy, Cliff Radcliff, Philip Anderson, Caron Alexander, David Reilly, George Magill, Nic Leitch, Stephen Sherwood, Shaun McMorran, Michael Curran, Val Russell and Robert Kane.

Other Attendees: Gerry Kelly (NICSSA CEO) and Tracy Smyth (Business Change Manager).

1.Apologies

Apologies were received from Kieran Devlin (Operations & Facilities Director), Elizabeth Tohill, Paul McAreavey and Brian McFetridge (Accountants); and Michael Carson (Treasurer).

2. Minutes of 2024 AGM

The Chairman asked members if they agreed with the content of the minutes of the 2024 AGM. All members present agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the 2024 AGM.
The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Tom May and seconded by David Reilly.

3. Matters Arising

Tom May raised the following issues:

- **Prepaid Cards**: He asked Gerry Kelly to explore the introduction of prepaid cards for members, suggesting they could be used as gift cards for friends and family to help drive additional footfall in the restaurant. Gerry explained that the current membership system does not support prepaid cards; however, the service provider is in the process of upgrading their platform. NICSSA has requested that the development of functionality to support prepaid cards be included as part of these upgrades.
- **Internet Access**: He advised that the current service prohibited access to certain sites and asked if this could be reviewed. Gerry advised that as NICSSA are part of the government IT system, access to some sites would be prohibited due to security and unfortunately this could not be changed.
- **Monday Night Closure:** He asked Gerry Kelly to review the current situation regarding Monday night closures, with a view to reopening the bar to accommodate a number of sports club members. This suggestion was supported by Michael Murray, who highlighted that member responded positively to seven-day-a-week access and services. Gerry Kelly reiterated that, historically, the bar attracted no more than three or four members on Monday nights, operating at a financial loss, and therefore reopening was not currently viable. However, he advised that there are plans to open the bar on two Monday nights in May and June as a trial to assess whether the demand translates into actual attendance. A discussion followed on ways to support attendance, including enhanced staff training and improved advertising. It was

agreed that the position would be reviewed again following the outcome of these two trial openings.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a brief overview of the club's performance during the year. The Chairman outlined that the new caterers were an asset to the organisation with extremely positive reviews from users. Other business areas performed well which was reflected in hosting 392 events throughout the year across 13,700 delegates. In closing, Mr Gamble thanked the Management Committee, for their support throughout the year and personally thanks all those who managed the facilities.

5. Annual Accounts – 31 December 2024

Gerry Kelly provided an overview of the Social Club's financial performance for 2024.

He reported that the club recorded an operating deficit of £26k for the year, a significant improvement compared to the £69k deficit in the previous year. Mr. Kelly attributed much of this progress to the arrival of the new caterers in October 2024, which had helped boost bar income. He expressed strong satisfaction with the new catering team.

Looking ahead, Mr. Kelly noted that further improvements to the club's financial position was expected in 2025. This would be supported by the introduction of a monthly rental income from the caterers, now that their initial rent-free period had ended, as well as by the full repayment of the Tenants' loan.

He also advised that staff were exploring options for a new Tenants' loan to fund a series of small capital improvements to the building. However, he emphasised that this initiative was still at an early stage, with ideas and options currently being developed.

6. Election of Members of the Management Committee

The Chairman advised members that the NICSSA Council had proposed that, Billy Gamble continue as Chairperson, for the incoming year.

Mr. Gamble also added his personal thanks to all the management committee and wanted to acknowledge their commitment and continued service to the club.

The Chairman then advised members that the following nominations had been received for the Management Committee for 2025-2026:

Billy Gamble	(Chairman)
Nic Leitch	(Tennis Club)
Shaun McMorran	(Rugby Club)
Sandy Webb	(Hockey Club)
Gillian Lynas	(Hockey Club)
James Savage	(Bowling Club)

These representatives were proposed by Steven Sherwood and seconded by Tom May.

7. Appointment of Auditors

The Chairman advised the AGM of the commendable work carried out by PGM throughout the year and during the recent audit.

The Chairman then advised members that, in line with the Association, the Management Committee would be re-appointing PGM Accountants for the incoming year. The proposal to re-appoint PGM as the Club's auditors was proposed by Cliff Radcliff and seconded by Shaun McMoran

8. AOB

The Chairman asked members if there were any questions or comments from the floor. Tom May advised that he had 4 matters to raise:

8.1 Deposit for Bookings

Mr. May asked staff to look into taking deposits for bookings that could be fully refunded if cancelled on time. He advised that this would help to deter no-shows. Gerry kelly advised that he would look into this and how it would work in terms of SAGE and financial reporting and management.

8.2 Vaping

Mr May advised that some members were continuing to vap in the bar, Gerry kelly advised that he would speak to the bar staff to ensure that this is monitored, and members advised vaping is not permitted in the building.

8.3 Parking

Mr. May raised concerns about members parking in disabled places without display/did not hold a blue badge. Again, Gerry advised that he investigate this issue.

8.4 Non-Payment

Finally, Mr. May recounted an incident where he encountered a group of boys attempting to use the Playball facilities without paying. Gerry explained that this was not an isolated incident, as he had spoken to several individuals who had been using the facilities regularly without signing up and paying for an annual membership. He emphasised that this not only resulted in lost revenue for the Club but also posed serious insurance risks in the event of an accident, as these individuals were not members.

A discussion followed regarding the issue of nonpayment of subscriptions by members of Clubs playing at the Complex and agreed that this situation could not continue for the reasons outlined. It was determined that a full investigation was necessary. It was also noted that a precedent had been set in the past when a sports club was banned for a year due to similar issues, and that this policy would be enforced again if necessary.

Mr Gamble, The Chairman in wrapping thanked members for attending and closed the AGM.