



Minutes of the OLTC Special General Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at the Clubhouse @8pm

Present:	Jim McCann (JM) Bridget Collins (BC) Adam McGlue Kevin Grimes Anne Louise Hicks Gillian McCrory Edwin Johnston Valerie Rowan	Geraldine Strain Michelle Laird Troy Prenter Gary Curry Geoff Hawkes Yvonne Aiken Thelma Fitzgerald Owen Fitzgerald	Apologies: Received from 29 members
-----------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------

1.	INTRODUCTION	ACTION
	<p>JM welcomed all attendees to the SGM and noted that the meeting was quorate.</p> <p>BC provided an overview of the objective of the meeting in relation to approval of changes to the Club Constitution and Articles of Association. The changes are to ensure the Club maintains its status as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) and follows guidance received from HMRC.</p> <p>BC noted members had received the proposed amended Articles of Association & Constitution via email in advance of the Special General Meeting, so all members including those who could not attend in person, had an opportunity to review and raise any questions. BC noted that no questions/comments had been received ahead of the SGM.</p>	
2.	ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION	
	<p>Omagh Lawn Tennis Club Limited was set up as a company limited by guarantee on 13th January 2025. As a limited company, it is required to have Articles of Association and BC noted that Jim McCann, Conor Loughrey and Bridget Collins are the directors of the company. The amendments were reviewed:</p> <p>Article 2. Objects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The objects have been updated to also incorporate 'other amateur racquet sports', which would allow the Club to potentially introduce the sports of Padel and Pickleball to Omagh and the local community. ▪ The objects have also been updated to re-emphasize the non-profit making nature of the Club and now specifies that no surpluses or assets will be distributed to members of third parties. 	

	<p>Article 21. Applications for members:</p> <p>To emphasis the Club's ethos of non-discrimination and to reflect the guidance of HMRC, article 21 has been updated and enhanced to reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership of the club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs, except as a necessary consequence of the requirements of Tennis or other racquet sport provided at the club. ▪ The club may have different classes of membership and subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis. The club will keep subscription levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating. ▪ The club committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the members. ▪ No member previously involved in the decision to refuse or remove membership may be part of any Appeal Committee. <p>Article 39. Dissolution:</p> <p>Dissolution had been included in the Constitution; however it had erroneously been omitted from the Articles, therefore article 39 has been added to the articles of Association, settings out the conditions of such an event.</p> <p>Elimination of articles 19 and 37:</p> <p>BC also noted that the articles in respect of Directors Remuneration and the Provision for employees on cessation of business, that had been included in the original Articles of Association, have now been removed as they were not relevant/appropriate for a Community Amateur Sports Club.</p> <p>No questions, objections or comments were raised and the proposed amendments to The Articles of Association were unanimously approved by all attending members.</p>	
3.	AMENDMENTS TO THE CLUB'S CONSTITUTION	
	<p>BC noted that the proposed changes to the Club's Constitution ensure close alignment with the amended Articles of Association i.e.:</p> <p>2. The Objects have been updated to mirror those of the Articles of Association.</p> <p>5. Structure section has been updated to note that the Club is now formally registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee and the company number have been added to the Constitution.</p> <p>6. Management Committee – the frequency of meetings has been updated to reflect that these should ideally be held every month and at least 10 meetings must be held every year.</p> <p>No questions, objections or comments were raised and the proposed amendments to the Club's Constitution were unanimously approved by all attending members.</p>	

4.	COURT PROJECT & GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE	
	<p>BC provided an update regarding the Club's application to FODC (Fermanagh & Omagh District Council) for the Strategic Capital Projects Grant, specifically in relation to the Court Improvement Project.</p> <p>As shared previously with members, there was a very tight six-week deadline in to prepare plans, obtain planning permission, get quotations and obtain supporting letters from up to twenty schools/organisations and community groups. This meant that it wasn't feasible to provide greater engagement and updates to members during that time, but this meeting serves to update members and gather further feedback.</p> <p>The grant is a significant opportunity, with £1 million available per year over 5 years (£300K max for one large project and seven grants of up to £100K). Successful applicants will be ineligible for further capital funding from the Council for 5 years.</p> <p>The Club applied for both the £300K and £100K grants & a minimum 10% match funding needed to be in place, which the Club already had.</p> <p>All statutory approvals had to be in place at the time of application and a significant amount of work was required to complete the applications and provide all the required supporting evidence. This was achieved through the endeavours of a Sub-Committee. JM noted special thanks to Bridget Collins & Eugene Corrigan for their efforts within this sub-committee.</p> <p>As a result of the strict criteria and very tight deadlines, only 8 organisations applied for the £300K grant this year, significantly increasing the Club's odds of success compared to future years.</p> <p>Applications were evaluated based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alignment with Council's strategic goals. ▪ Demonstrated community need and benefit. ▪ Value for money and environmental sustainability. ▪ Club's project delivery capability. ▪ Location in a priority/deprived area. ▪ Projects must be deliverable within two years. <p>In summary our application focused on the Club's Vision & Strategic Goals and their alignment to the FODC's strategic objectives:</p> <p>OLTC Vision: To be recognised as the best community racket club in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>OLTC Mission: Ensure sustainability and growth through inclusivity and accessibility for all ages and abilities.</p> <p>Key Strategic Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Membership retention & growth ▪ Improved court usability ▪ Sport diversification ▪ Climate change adaptability & mitigation ▪ Accessibility ▪ Community Focus 	

	<p>The grant proposal includes the following development plans:</p> <p>Facility Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A transparent, fabric canopy to cover two existing courts (Court 2 & 3) to allow year-round play. ▪ Covered padel court to diversify activities and attract new users. ▪ Outdoor pickleball area, hard court area will also be usable for social/community events. ▪ Solar panels & battery storage for energy sustainability. ▪ Car park resurfacing to improve safety and accessibility. <p>Community Enhancements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved visual appearance of the Court 1 through murals/signage. ▪ Expand further the existing programmes for SEN and disabled adults/children ▪ Older adult programmes to combat social isolation and improve wellbeing. ▪ Programmes to support the deaf/hearing impaired community, in partnership with local groups. ▪ Scholarships for economically disadvantaged individuals. ▪ Post-cancer recovery programmes, in partnership with Care for Cancer. ▪ Tennis and padel coaching development, supporting local coaching pathways with backing from Tennis Ireland and Padel Federation Ireland. <p>At present we await FODC's grant decision, which is anticipated late July or early August.</p> <p>There was a general discussion regarding the proposals and feedback was sought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concerns were raised over the potential look of the canopy and the risk of algae growing on it and it quickly becoming unsightly. This concern is recognised by the OLTC Committee, and should the Club be successful, it will be a critical part of the tender process that a self/easy cleaning solution would need to be provided. Additionally the canopy design/materials will become clearer during any tender process and more would be shared with members on this, if it is progressed. ▪ Some individuals expressed that they were not supportive of any canopy being placed over the external tennis courts at all. ▪ Other individuals felt the canopy would be an incredibly positive enhancement for the Club and members, ensuring greater usability all year round. ▪ The greater community engagement and support that could be provided, as a result of the covered courts, was also seen as a really positive initiative. <p>If the grant application is successful, a detailed project and communications plan will be developed and shared, and member engagement and feedback will be integrated into each of the planning stages.</p> <p>JM thanked everyone for their time and engagement in the meeting.</p>	
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--