

## **PRE-PLAYOFF MEETING MINUTES, CHICAGO GAELIC PARK, MAY 18, 2002**

The Pre-Playoff meeting was called to order in the meeting room at Chicago Gaelic Park at 10:20 AM. The Chair, John McDevitt, asked for a minute's silence and a prayer in memory of Geoff Butler and Sean Gannon, former Chairs of the NACB, and of Batt Knightly, father of NACB Registrar Chris Knightly.

Joe Begley, Chair of the Chicago Central Divisional Board, welcomed the delegates to Chicago.

The Roll Call of delegates from the 11 Divisions & 7 NACB Officers was as follows:

NACB Chairman: John McDevitt  
NACB Vice-Chairman: Tommy Dolan  
NACB Treasurer: Mickey Coyne  
NACB Registrar: Chris Knightly  
NACB Public Relations: Eamonn Kelly  
NACB Youth Development Officer: Absent  
NACB Secretary: John Keane  
Arizona (Phoenix) Division: John Challoner  
Boston Northeast Division: James Grealish  
Chicago Central Division: Joe Begley  
Denver Division: Absent  
Florida Division: Noel Walsh  
Midwest Division: Eileen Maloney  
Northwest (Seattle) Division: Absent  
Philadelphia Division: Eamonn Tohill  
Southern (Atlanta) Division: Paul McQuaid  
Southern California Division: Kathleen Gardiner  
Western (San Francisco) Division: Malachy Higgins

Total: 16 Votes

Sharon Jarbeau, Chair of the Northeast Camogie Association, asked that she be given a vote, but the consensus of delegates was that only Divisions were entitled to a vote. It was also agreed that while only delegates could vote, the many others present would be entitled to speak on any issue raised.

The Chair explained that as a result of a review of the Finances, a Revised 2001 NACB Financial Report was being submitted which showed that the end of 2001, the balance should have been reported as approximately \$15,000 rather than the \$32,000 that was reported. It was stressed that no NACB money was missing or misused in 2001, but the discrepancy came about because of a serious accounting error and unpaid bills from 2001.

The Report of the Playoff Restructuring Committee and the Trial Playoff Restructuring Proposals were submitted for discussion and for a vote. After considerable discussion and argument, with many delegates wanting the Report addressed at the meeting as promised, and several others insisting that the Pre-Playoff delegates did not have the authority to adopt any of the Report's Proposals, the Chair ruled that the Report's recommendations could only be adopted at an NACB Convention. Consideration of the Report and its Proposals was therefore postponed until November's Convention.

A report was given on how the Playoffs were moved from Philadelphia to Chicago, with discussion of the fact that Denver was considered as a replacement when Philadelphia withdrew. The issue of potential problems for some players traveling to the Playoffs was discussed.

The Chicago Central Division turned over a check for \$10,000 to the Treasurer as the Host Fee for the 2002 Playoffs. The NACB was asked to keep the \$10,000 already deposited by the Philadelphia Divisional Board as a deposit for a future Philadelphia Playoff.

Harry Costelloe of the Chicago Playoff Committee addressed in detail the Playoff Host List of Minimum Requirements and a commitment was made to provide the items listed.

The issue of Referees for the Youth Board Playoffs was discussed with emphasis on getting Referees from the Junior Divisions to referee Minor Games.

On the issue of buses for players and spectators, Harry said that all travelers by air should plan on using Midway Airport as the hotels would provide free transportation to and from Midway, but adults who require the Host Playoff Committee to provide bus transportation from Midway or O'Hare airports will be charged \$20 each r/t.

He outlined arrangements for the hotels and the numbers of rooms reserved for the various Divisions as well as the field layouts, etc., and handouts were provided to the delegates listing the hotels, showing the field layouts, etc. 14 buses have been tentatively booked to transfer people for free from the hotels to Gaelic Park and back.

All players and spectators will be charged the full admission fee to the games - \$10 Friday, \$15 Saturday, \$20 Sunday, \$35 weekend pass.

On the Banquet, the Host Committee proposed that only the winning teams be required to purchase a table of tickets and the delegates accepted that proposal. Both Finalists in every competition will give a check to the Host Committee on Saturday evening, and the losing finalist will receive their check back after the final on Sunday. Banquet tickets are \$60 each – open bar, etc.

On the Camogie competition, questions were raised about rules, etc. It was agreed that a meeting would be held after June 1 via conference call to iron out any issues.

A tour of the grounds was arranged for all the delegates to check out the fields, dressing rooms, etc.

The 2002 Playoffs Draw took place. For each competition, agreement was reached and a commitment was made regarding which Divisions would send teams to compete. It was agreed that Chicago would provide two teams for the Men's Senior Hurling; that San Francisco would enter their Intermediate Football winner in the NACB Senior Football competition with their Intermediate runner-up in the NACB Intermediate competition; that the Midwest and Chicago would not be permitted to enter two teams in the Junior "A" Football Competition; that the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team in the Midwest would be that Division's representative in the Men's Junior "B" competition (later changed by the NACB to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team); that Washington DC would be permitted to enter the Junior "B" Football Competition; and that the Chicago Camogie runner-up would be the fourth team in the NACB Camogie competition as Philadelphia would not have a Senior Camogie team. Washington DC asked for a Junior Camogie competition but as there were no Junior Camogie teams affiliated, that wasn't possible. On a majority vote, it was agreed that there would not be seeding of teams in the draw.

See attached copy of the completed draws for: Men - Senior Hurling, Senior Football, Intermediate Football, Junior Hurling, Junior "A" Football, Junior "B" Football, Ladies - Senior Football, Junior Football, Camogie.

A written report on the GAA Congress and the International Dimension Committee meeting in Dublin was distributed. It was announced that, effective May 18, the NACB had a permanent representative on Central Council and the Chair stated that Eamonn Kelly was our Central Council delegate until the NACB Convention in November when the delegates there would elect the NACB Central Council delegate for the coming year.

Féile Peil na nÓg was discussed and Minor Board delegates present complained that only San Francisco had been given the option of sending an underage team to Ireland (This was later clarified by Tim Flanagan who was able to demonstrate that in February all the Minor Divisions had been made aware of the opportunity to send teams to Ireland).

The International Competition was discussed and the issues surrounding which players qualify, transfers, etc. were explained. Tommy Dolan is the NACB Tour Manager. Trevor Kane of Chicago is the Men's Team Manager, with selectors Kevin McGuinness of San Francisco, Martin Kerr of Boston & Sean Breen of Philadelphia. Bertie Penny of San Francisco is the Women's Team Manager, with selectors Breda Hanley of Chicago, Kieran Cox of Boston & Sean Breen of Philadelphia. All Divisions were invited to submit names of individuals who should be considered for selection.

Copies of Rule Books for Men's Football and Hurling, for Ladies Football, and for Camogie, were distributed free to all Divisions, and copies of the Official Guide were made available at a fee of \$6. Coaching CD-ROMs for Hurling and Football were also distributed free to all Divisions. Copies of the rule regarding the "Blood Substitutions" were also distributed - see attached.

The Chair addressed the issues surrounding the handling of the 2001 NACB Finances and the agreement that was reached with the former NACB Treasurer to settle the matter. Danny O'Donnell had been suspended since March 18 and the suspension was lifted on May 17 under an agreement whereby he simultaneously resigned as Chair of the Chicago Central Division. The NACB Officers affirmed that there was no evidence of any deliberate misreporting or misuse of NACB funds during his term as Treasurer in 2001. All Divisions were notified that in future any NACB bills must be submitted to the NACB Treasurer for payment no later than October 15 in the current year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM and the Divisional Board hosted lunch in Gaelic Park for all delegates.

Le fíor-mheas,



Seán Ó Catháin  
Rúnaí, 2002