



LUGE IRELAND
Miltown
Oldcastle
Co. Meath
A82 AP58
Ireland

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF

THE IRISH LUGE FEDERATION

8 JANUARY 2025

MINUTES

PRESENT:	Brendan Desmond (BD) – President Malgorzata Grzyb (MG) – Secretary Martha Desmond (MD) – Treasurer Kevin Cooke (KC) – Director Elsa Desmond (ED) – Athlete Derek Moss (DM) – Athlete Patrick Zimmermann (joined at 21h40) – Athlete’s Parent
APOLOGIES:	Connor Campbell (CC) - Performance Director Sean Donoghue (SD) – Athlete
LOCATION:	Virtual (via Zoom)

The meeting commenced at 21h30.

1. OPENING REMARKS

All attendees were welcomed to the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Irish Luge Federation (ILF).

2. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

ED provided an update on the 2023/24 season noting that Lily Cooke (LC) came 27th at YOG and 38th overall at the European Continental Cup. ED finished 26th overall in seniors. Sean Donoghue made his debut at the Nordic Cup, where ED and LC also debuted in the women’s double.

Looking ahead to the 2024/25 season, ED is currently 29th in the World Cup, which is on track for Milan Cortina. LC finished 22nd and Finnian Zimmermann (FZ) finished 6th in the European

Continental Cup. The development team of SD and Derek Moss will be competing at the Nordic Cup.

3. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

MD provided an update on the ILF financial status, noting that the accounts are now audited, as ILF is a limited company in Ireland. A loss was recorded for the year 2023, resulting in no corporation tax liability.

MD presented the financial accounts for the year ending December 2024. The primary source of income for 2024 was a grant from Sport Ireland, which was received in two tranches totalling approximately €7,000. This funding was used to cover travel and subsistence expenses. Sport Ireland funding is available again this year, and applications have been submitted for continued support.

Additional income was received through subsidies from races, with €250 per race paid to ILF by FIL.

Expenditures for the year were entirely related to travel and subsistence.

4. FUNDRAISING AND SPONSORSHIP

KC provided an update on fundraising and sponsorship initiatives. He reported that funding opportunities are available from Dublin Airport, with applications opening in spring. Each sport can apply for a €5,000 grant. Additionally, KC is in discussions with Skoda Ireland about having Luge added to their Brand Ambassador programme.

KC highlighted the challenge of reaching the right decision-makers but is optimistic about securing a sponsorship deal.

MD has begun searching for a kit sponsor to provide team uniforms for all athletes.

ED is looking to secure an official Irish Luge domain to increase the professionalism of email communication with sponsors and reduce the likelihood of emails landing in spam folders.

DM mentioned that his uncle is the CEO of an Irish engineering company and will approach him to explore potential sponsorship opportunities.

5. OFI UPDATES

MG gave an update on the Sport Ireland funding applications, noting that two applications were submitted in November 2024, requesting €6,160 and €4,000. The results of these applications are still pending.

In compliance with OFI requirements, a Nominations Policy and a Nomination Appeals Policy have been drafted for Milan Cortina and are currently under review by OFI. Once finalised, these policies will be uploaded to the website.

A long list of potential team members, including athletes, coaches, and support staff who may require accreditation, needs to be submitted to OFI by the end of February.

OFI is organising a planning meeting/call on 28 January to update on Team Ireland's plans for Milan Cortina.

Ticket requests for Milan Cortina have been submitted to OFI, who have acknowledged receipt. The requests are now awaiting confirmation from the Milan Cortina organising committee.

There were no updates regarding the potential ice facility in Ireland, which remains a slow-moving project.

KC attended the OFI EGM on 5 December 2024 and had the opportunity to meet with Lochlann Walsh (new President) and Peter Sherard (CEO).

6. FIL UPDATES

MD shared a summary of the FIL Congress held in June 2024, hosted by the US Luge Federation in Lake Placid. The event provided valuable networking opportunities, including discussions with the Norwegian Federation about a double sled for ED and LC. There was also a conversation with the Romanian Federation about the future of their partnership, which has not been as fruitful as anticipated and has subsequently come to an end.

Several key decisions were made at the Congress, including amendments to the race format for World Cup events (such as reducing the number of athletes from 30 to 20 after the first run) and a strong move toward standardising sleds, though the specifics of the implementation are still not clear.

FIL is also actively promoting natural track sledding as a means of introducing new participants to the sport and offering additional race opportunities.

A new mixed relay event was introduced, allowing athletes from different countries to compete together. This is particularly beneficial for smaller nations that are unable to field full teams. ED has been paired with an athlete from Japan for this event.

The Russian Federation's bid to rejoin FIL was unanimously rejected by the Congress.

The next FIL Congress will be held in Finland in June 2025.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ED announced that LC has been selected for the OFI's Dare to Believe programme, which aims to promote Olympic sports to schools. LC plans to visit schools after the winter season to engage students in the sport.

MD expressed hopes for an in-person AGM in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 22h15.