

**The Annual General Meeting of Irish Girl Guides CLG General Council
was held as a Hybrid meeting via Zoom link and in Irish Girl Guides National Training Centre
on
Saturday 07 September 2024 @ 3pm**

- PRESENT via Zoom** Margaret Dunne, Cate O'Connor, Julie Stephens, Sinead Crilly, Mena Timoney, Aisling Claffey, Ellen Collins, Aine Divilly, Irene Byrne, Paula McQuillan, Kathy Walsh, Maureen Murphy, Jessica Woods, Jenna Goodwin, Laura Kirwan, Shirley Lidiirth.
- PRESENT in NTC** Deirdre Henley, Amanda O'Sullivan, Jillian van Turnhout, Lorraine McHugh, Jenny Gannon, Roisin Mills, Siobhan Stoneham, Fiona O'Connor, Eidin Burns, Dara Callanan, Emer O'Sullivan, Helen Concannon, Sheila Linden, Fiona Walsh, Marian O'Reilly, Siobhan Coppinger, Ciara O'Reilly, Sally Smith, Caroline Flanagan, Annamarie Lawlor.
- GUESTS** Staff: Karina Early, Christopher Jablonski and Celia Melcus. LSA Awardees; Linda Peters and Margaret Corr, Honorary Ambassador Sheila Naughton.
- APOLOGIES** Evelyn Hayes, Una Wafer, Sarah O'Donovan, Sylvia Richardson, Amy McAuley, Hazel Convery, Maureen Dillon, Dilys Lindsay.
- WELCOME** The President, Deirdre Henley welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then introduced the Chief Commissioner Amanda O'Sullivan, CEO Lorraine McHugh and Fiona O'Connor National Treasurer. She made a special welcome to Long Service Awardees Margaret Corr and Linda Peters and also to our Honorary Ambassador Sheila Naughton.
- Deirdre stated that the agenda had been sent to each member with their invitation to the IGG CLG Council meeting. Since no further items had been received, she took the agenda as having been approved. This was agreed.
- MINUTES** The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and approved by show of hands for signing by Deirdre Henley.
- ANNUAL REPORT** The President called upon Lorraine McHugh, CEO to present the Annual Report for 2023.
- CEO Lorraine McHugh began by commenting that while she was tasked with facilitating the production of the Annual Report for 2023, what she gained from the experience was a sense of gratitude and the realisation that she is part of something dynamic. To her, Guiding and IGG as a youth organisation has something extra special in terms of what the adult Leader gives to its youth members. Lorraine noted that readers will hopefully enjoy the story of Guiding, as demonstrated by the number of National and Regional activities, many which were held in person for the first time in years. Also noting how our membership numbers continued to rebound from pandemic lows.
- She explained the annual report began by reminding us that IGG's vision, mission, and people are at the heart of why Irish Girl Guides continues to be a Guide-centred organization with young people and leadership at its core. It went on to explain, how IGG operates and is structured. It reviewed IGG's previous strategy that facilitated young people's sense of belonging and shaped the girl in her journey, including supportive contexts and life skills that will have a lasting impact. Lorraine clarified the report goes on to introduce IGG's new strategy, centred around outcomes for the girl, outcomes for the volunteer, and outcomes for the organisation itself. She noted as a CEO, having operational objectives for each area has been useful to keep the focus on how each area is interconnected, united, and interdependent.
- The rest of the report tells the story, through narrative and images, of the highlights of each area of the girl, the volunteer, and the organisation, including National and Regional events, training days, camps, warrants and qualifications achieved, participant numbers, awards including long service awards, Interest Badges, conferences at home and abroad, social events, international travel, a piece on the new Honorary Ambassador, a report on PR and social media, including publications, and a very big piece on the huge achievement of moving to and opening up for all, the new Irish Girl Guides National Training Centre.
- Lorraine continued that the report describes the 2023 context of our partnerships, memberships, sponsorships, and funding relationships, and connects in what these external relationships bring to youth members and to volunteers in terms of their development and growth. The report closes with a full report on IGG governance outcomes and overview, including policies and guidelines, as well as risk management. It outlines the people in

IGG leadership and the staff in support of this leadership.

Lorraine concluded that the annual report encompasses some but not all of the story of the Irish Girl Guides and as such, she sincerely pays tribute to all of the Leaders who turn up at their Unit meetings every week, and those who attend standing and other committee meetings. The report reflects on this success. She also thanked IGG staff in both the National Office and the Regions who supported IGG's Leaders, and who contributed to the success of 2023 as a great year for Guiding.

Adoption of the annual report was proposed by Sheila Linden and seconded by Siobhan Coppinger.

ACCOUNTS

Fiona O'Connor, National Treasurer presented the IGG CLG accounts for 2023.

Fiona O'Connor began by setting the context on the financial statements: IGG transferred the assets and liabilities from our unincorporated organisation to the CLG with effect from 1 July 2022, so the numbers presented in these accounts relate to the second half of 2022 and then the full year in 2023.

The directors' report starting on page 5 lists the directors who served during the year and who were either appointed or resigned up to the current date. The changes in 2023 / 2024 relate to the changes in regional commissioners. It also highlights some of the main numbers from the financial results for the year. The numbers for the various outdoor centres into the accounting for the company in 2023, so these can be seen throughout the accounts.

On the income side, IGG saw some increases in membership fees when compared to 2022. The YSGS grant from the DCEDIY also increased a little, IGG received a number of grants during the year as listed in note 4.1 on page 21. The largest of these were the Irish Aid grant from the Dept of Foreign Affairs, the Hi Digital Programme grant from the Vodafone Ireland Foundation and a capital grant from the DCEDIY which was used for various IT projects. Janssen continued to sponsor our Lego programme in 2023. The organisation also received a grant from the Community Foundation of Ireland – Toy Show Grant – at the end of 2023 but because it was linked to spend in 2024, it will be reflected as income in 2024.

The detail of the expenses during the year are in the notes to the accounts and are largely in line with the trends from 2022. Irish Girl Guides reported an overall loss of €40k for the year.

In the Debtors, there was a large grant receivable at the end of 2022. This related to one of the instalments of the Sports Capital Grant for work in the NTC. This money was received early in 2023 and allocated against the cost of developing the NTC. The NTC building is owned by our Trust company, so shows as a fixed asset in their accounts. Money flowing between the two companies is recorded in intercompany accounts on both sides.

Bank balances at year end were up on prior year, the majority of the large building works payments having completed at the start of 2023. Almost half of the overall funds on hand are held at the regional level for the running of programs.

In creditors, there was a large amount of deposits on hand at the end of 2023. These relate to trip deposits for events such as Roverway where initial payments were received in 2023 for 2024 trips.

Note 20 on page 29 shows the movement of the company reserves and note 20.1 shows a breakdown of amounts we have in designated funds for future spend. We added to the fund for international camps in preparation for the Orbit camp in 2025.

The income and expenditure for the distribution centre and the outdoor centres are shown in appendix I and II. Both recorded losses for the year.

Appendix III shows how the YSGS grant was spent during the year and is as per our report into the Dept.

Fiona concluded that the financial statements have been approved by the Board and are ready for signing by Auditors.

AUDITORS AND ACCOUNTANTS

It was presented to the Council by Fiona O'Connor that RBK Accountants will continue as Auditors for IGG CLG for the coming year. This was proposed by Roisin Mills, seconded by Fiona Walsh, and agreed by all

AMENDMENTS TO

Amanda OSullivan, Chief Commissioner on behalf of the Executive Committee (Board), presented the

IGG
CONSTITUTION
AND BYE LAWS

following proposed amendments to IGG's Constitution and Bye Laws which had been sent to Council members in advance of the meeting. Amanda noted the recent postponed EGM and thanked council members for their feedback and work on this.

Special Resolutions*

The following special resolution shall be considered and, if thought fit, passed:

2(a) That the Constitution (Memorandum and Articles of Association) of the Irish Girl Guides Company Limited by Guarantee be amended and replaced with the Constitution (Memorandum and Articles of Association) marked 'Proposed IGG Constitution, August 2024'.

If special resolution 2(a) is passed, special resolution 2(b) shall be considered and, if thought fit, passed:

2(b) That the Bye-Laws of the Irish Girl Guides Company Limited by Guarantee be amended and replaced with the Bye-Laws marked 'Proposed Bye Laws, August 2024'.

* Under Company Law, any alteration to either of the constitutional documents requires a special resolution. A special resolution is one which is passed by not less than 75% of the votes cast by the members of the Company, present and voting at a general meeting of the Company for which the required notice has been given.

Members of the Council were then asked to vote on the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bye Laws as outlined above via an online poll. Each of the above proposed amendments was approved.

RESIGNATIONS

Sarah O'Donovan, Helen Cahill, Jayne Crowley, Sharon Flynn, Stephanie Jones, Karen Gordon, Tereasa Corcoran, Gemma Logan, Josephine Cronin, Lorraine Keane, Emer Kelly, Shirley Lidieth, Alice O'Hare, Zoe Pratt, Irene Byrne, Martina Burke, Geraldine Kirk, Sarah Blake, Helen O'Reilly, Martina Burke, Emer Kelly, Fiona Duff, Ciara O'Sullivan, Aine Loughman, Jemma Lee, Yvonne Pope, Fiona Walsh, Carina Egan, Caroline Flanagan, Sandra Byrne, Grainne Redmond, Carmel McSweeney, Mary Kelly.

APPOINTMENTS &
RE-
APPOINTMENTS

Rose O'Shea, Caroline Flanagan, Rachel Doyle, Doris Magee, Liz Gillen, Elizabeth Walsh, Sarah Kate Gannon, Della McAvoy, Tracy Healy, Stephanie Jones, Tereasa Corcoran, Sinead Gannon, Charlotte O'Boyle, Grainne McCann, Ann Kavanagh Doyle, Lorna Prole, Marian O'Reilly, Stephanie Jones, Ann Doyle, Maria Reid, Alice O'Hare, Eidin Burns, Annamarie Lawlor, Cate O'Connor, Geraldine Kirk, Ruth Gillanders, Paula McQuillan, Lorraine Powell, Louise McBrearty, Siobhan Coppinger, Katie Keogh, Heather Burnett Niland, Mary Clooney.

Chief Commissioner Amanda O'Sullivan noted a key resignation and on behalf of the organisation presented outgoing Programme and Training Chair, Jenny Gannon with flowers and thanked her for her work over the last 6 years as Chair.

PRESENTATION
OF 50 YEAR
SERVICE AWARD

Lorraine McHugh, CEO introduced Margaret Corr and Linda Peters who were being presented with a 50-year service award. Lorraine gave an outline of their Guiding careers to date. President Deirdre Henley presented the certificates and award broaches while Chief Commissioner Amanda presented flowers to the awardees. Both recipients were congratulated on this milestone achievement by all present. Evelyn Hayes and Sylvia Richardson also achieved their 50 years of service award this year and will be presented with their pins at a later date.

GUEST SPEAKER

President Deirdre Henley welcomed Honorary Ambassador Sheila Naughton as the guest Speaker.

Ambassador Sheila Naughton began by congratulating our Long Service Awardees on their achievements and noted how lovely it was to see the celebration of women, particularly as role models for younger woman in inspiring them to keep achieving. Sheila went on to introduce herself as a Wicklow woman and conveyed that she wanted to share her story so members could get to know her better and see how she may link in with groups going forward.

She talked of living in Monaghan as some of her happiest times followed by Tipperary where she worked for Tipp FM. This was followed by a year at Newstalk. Sheila was also delighted to share that she just began a new

role this week as a reporter for Morning Ireland at RTE. She noted that working as a reporter for RTE was one of her life goals particularly by the age of 30 and shared she will be 30 next month all of which was met by cheers from the Council.

She continued by informing the group of her issues with mental health and her ongoing recovery from Anorexia, noting this as an area she is passionate talking about and would love to bring this experience of recovery to Irish Girl Guides

Sheila then shared her experience of attending the National Guide Awards last year and how she enjoyed the unique things she heard about each girl which is so important. She also visited a small group in Swords who were getting enrolled and enjoyed how natural conversations opened up when working in a small group like this Unit. This she sees her role as Ambassador and would like to visit more groups. Sheila continued that she would like to provide training in talking to the press or radio and is available via WhatsApp. She knows her Rota 5 weeks in advance and would like to meet more small groups at local level.

CHIEF
COMMISSIONER

President Deidre Henley invited Chief Commissioner to speak.

Chief Commissioner Amanda O'Sullivan began by stating what a great honor it is to be here at this year's annual general meeting of the Irish Girl Guides, the second AGM in the National Training Center particularly greeting those who have joined online. She noted that she is filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible work and dedication that all the volunteers have shown over the past year. This year has yet again been a testament to the resilience, adaptability and unwavering commitment to empowering young girls across Ireland. Irish Girl Guides faced challenges, embraced new opportunities and continued to inspire and nurture the leaders of tomorrow. Amanda continued; leadership is at the heart of what we do. It is about guiding with empathy, making decisions with integrity and fostering an environment where every girl feels valued and empowered. As we look ahead at the start of the guiding year for our Units let us embrace the spirit of new beginnings. Each new day brings fresh opportunities to innovate, inspire and make a difference. Our goal remains clear to provide a supportive and enriching environment where girls can develop the skills, confidence and character they need to thrive in our current society. Together we can continue to build a brighter future, one where every girl has the opportunity to reach her full potential.

The Chief Commissioner continued noting that this year we have achieved remarkable milestones with the development of a new website that will be launched in the next week; The largest CIGA contingent going to Roverway, with four National Contingent groups going to Pax Lodge, Adelboden and a voyage of discovery on the Tall Ships. Amanda noted an increasing number of youth members representing Irish Girl Guides on various external youth panels and this continues to grow. Our membership numbers have grown from last year's. On Thursday last we launched a new Leader recruitment campaign. She renews that we all need to continue to tell our guiding story at every opportunity so that we share what many of us would see as the best kept secret. Let's make this change and take on telling our story. *Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year. When you volunteer you vote everyday about the kind of community you want to live in.*

The Chief Commissioner continued with Amanda noting that today saw a vote to change the constitution. This is the culmination of three years' work; following feedback on part of the original proposal a decision was made to cancel the EGM and to amend the proposed constitutional changes. It was important to listen and respond to our members. The Board will continue to review the governance structure to ensure IGG has an active and strong Board who are fulfilling their responsibilities. An activity that has been developing over the past number of years has been the further development of partnership working which supports our Journey Programme. IGG will continue to support this development work with the introduction of partnership policy and a commercial sponsorship policy which will guide and support further partnership working and development. This work supports our strategic plan which was developed following stakeholder engagement. A future area of development is in our youth participation and Amanda noted she looks forward to supporting this development. She stated this is core to what we do in IGG and it is the strengthening of this that will occur going forward

Amanda highlighted that by the end of 2025 a new chief commissioner will be required to continue to support and lead the organization in its strategic and operational direction. Their recruitment phase will begin six months into 2025 so now is a great time to consider the succession planning for this role and to drive the organization forward in its next phase of development.

Amanda concluded by taking the opportunity to extend her heartfelt thanks to staff National and Regional in the support that they provide to the organization and leaders, to the volunteers at national and local level and all of

our supporters. She noted that the enthusiasm, creativity, determination, dedication and passion are the driving force behind the success of Irish Girl Guides. Amanda continued by saying as we move forward let us continue our work together to support one another and stay true to our guiding principles. Together we can achieve great things and make a lasting impact on the lives of girls across Ireland. She thanked all for being here today for their continued support *here's to another year of growth, learning and empowerment.*

The Chief Commissioner finished with a quote:

What did you do on your holidays? I spent my holiday getting dirty, smelly, wet and tired. I spent my holiday with my best friends, and I made more who share my outlook on life. I spent my holidays helping to promote a safe place for adventures and creating lifelong memories for girls. I am a volunteer. I am a Guide. You should try it; you might enjoy it.

CONCLUSION

President Deirdre Henley thanked all those who attended both in person and online. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, and refreshment provided.

Date:

20.09.2025

Signed:

Deirdre Henley

