

NCFFI Annual General Meeting- Report 2011

By Eoin Schweppe - Public Relations Officer

Saturday the 22nd of January saw the NCFFI's AGM take place in Sports HQ, Park West, Dublin. Given the turbulent year that the outgoing executive committee had to endure, it was great to see such a large turn-out. Delegates attending travelled from all four provinces of Ireland to decide on the future of the NCFFI.

After the election of officers, the committee returned with the largest committee for decades with no fewer than sixteen members. One of the most poignant appointments was Mr Oliver McGauley to the position of President, a position which was left vacant since the sad death of the late Ned O'Farrell in July 2009.

Oliver is from Newry, Co. Down and is a member of Camlough and District Angling Club, he has a long and proud history with the NCFFI, and most recently he stepped in at late notice to manage the Irish National Team in 2009. Oliver's history and some of his achievements with the NCFFI and Coarse Angling include:-

- Hosting Ireland's first ever Winter League in 1972 on the Newry Canal.
- Helping to turn the NCFFI into a thirty two county body, recognised in both jurisdictions for being the only Federation or organisation dedicated to Coarse Angling and to the rights of coarse anglers, which is still the case over forty years on.
- He has represented Ireland as an angler, manager and as delegate at many of the CIPS Congress's.
- He managed the National Team from 1976 to 1989 and saw Ireland's greatest angler Bobby Smithers win Ireland's only Gold Medal in 1984.
- He hosted the World Championships on the Newry Canal and on the River Erne in 1982 and 1992 respectively.

Personally I feel it is inspiring and great to see someone of Oliver's standing to be given the position of President.

The AGM also saw the return as Pat Dalton as Chairperson, Pat was originally elected to the position Chairperson at the SGM in October 2010 and it was good to see the Waterford & District Angling Club member stay on in the position. The election saw Pat's fellow club member move from the position of Treasurer to take up the position Secretary that was vacated by Tommy Lawton who returned to the position of Munster Delegate. Other additions to the committee were John Connolly to the position of Treasurer, Jack Tisdall as Ulster Delegate and Danny Quinn on to the committee.

This leaves just two positions left to be filled which will be hopefully done during the year.

The other major appointment on the day was Mark Theedom to the position of National Team Manager; Mark received his appointment with great delight and to a large round of applause from

all in attendance. No time has been wasted by Mark in setting dates and venues for all the qualifiers to be run off this year, and a full listing is available on the NCFFI web site along with regular news updates and a list of member clubs event dates.

One of the other major and progressive decisions made at the meeting was to set affiliation fee for a Junior Club to just 30 Euro per club and 3 Euro per member (for more information on this please contact Der Casey or Pat Dalton).

The majority of the rest of the meeting was taken up with overdue and necessary amendments to both the Constitution and Protocol Documents.

The NCFFI would like to thank Declan O'Connor of the Edenderry Coarse Angling Club for all his hard work and efforts on the NCFFI committee and wish him all the very best for the future after he decided not to put his name forward for re-election.

All-in-all the AGM was a great success ensuring the NCFFI will continue to be one of the most progressive, inclusive and active angling federations on the island of Ireland today.