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22 June, 2023.

Dear Club President / Secretary,

RE: Tennis Ireland CLG Extraordinary General Meeting, EGM, Thursday 8 June 2023

I am writing to thank you for your involvement, at whatever level it was, in the process which led to new Articles of Association for Tennis Ireland being adopted by an overwhelming majority at the EGM held on 8 June. Club delegates voted by a margin of 10 to 1 (100 votes to 10) to adopt the proposed changes.

As I said in my last letter, I am confident that the changes made will enable our beloved Sport to be led in an organised, efficient and practical way and I want to acknowledge the extent to which the size of the vote demonstrates your trust in that. Thank you.

It's been a long road to get here. But I believe it was a worthwhile one to travel.

Involving, as it did, extensive consultation at all stakeholder levels, the process left us in no doubt that in order for our organisation to be fit for purpose in 2023, we needed a new structure to enable inter-branch cooperation, along with a smaller Board, to run the overall national effort. Those conclusions led to the recognition within the new Articles of the already well-functioning Inter-Branch Forum and to a reduction in the number of Directors from 15 to 10.

So we move ahead now, with that new Board, and also of course, with our new CEO Kevin Quinn.

Kevin has had quite the start in Tennis Ireland. Having joined only a very short number of months ago, he was thrown straight into the middle of the discussions about this new structure. However, the need to come to grips with such potential changes so early in his tenure has meant that he has already met and chatted with very many of you, building strong relationships at all levels. That can only benefit both him and us and we wish him well as he continues to work with us.

Consistent with the new Articles, I, as President, am standing down as a Director and Kevin, as CEO, will not be a Director. Each of us will, nonetheless, attend and contribute to Board meetings, as required. The number of Directors entitled to be appointed by each of Leinster, Munster and Ulster will reduce by one (with Leinster having the right to appoint two Directors and each of Munster and Ulster having the right to appoint one Director). The entitlement of Connacht to appoint one director remains unchanged. The Board will also have five Portfolio Directors, one of whom will be Chair.

As I said before, we believe these changes are what is required to enable Tennis Ireland to operate in a lean, agile and responsive manner and once again, I want to thank you for your part in supporting them.

Ours in a wonderful sport, and with our new structure in place, we look forward to growing, promoting and enjoying tennis, for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

John Ryan
Tennis Ireland President

Directors:

Caroline Murphy
Clifford Carroll
Ciara Jennings
David O'Beirne
David Spillane

Eddie Ronayne
Jerry Sheehan
John Ryan
Letty Lucas
Liam O'Donohoe

Paul O'Connor
Tom Shelly
Rosamund Thompson

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