



OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF IRELAND – NOW IS THE TIME FOR CHANGE

If not now, when?

January 2017

Colleagues,

I have been nominated as a candidate for the position of President of the Olympic Council of Ireland by my Federation, Basketball Ireland and I am asking for your support by voting for me on the night of February 9th at the OCI EGM.

We all know that Basketball is an Olympic sport and that Basketball Ireland took part in the European Olympics in Baku in 2015. However, I know I am an outsider in the Olympic Council of Ireland as I have never been a member of an OCI committee.

I present that as both a strength and an asset as I believe what the OCI needs in 2017 more than anything else is change, reform and new thinking.

Both of the other candidates for this position belong to the old guard of OCI. Willie O'Brien for 20 years and Sarah Keane for over two years. Yet as members of that guard neither of them ever pursued reform and neither of them ever pursued effective questioning of the status quo during their tenures. To my mind if either of these candidates are elected to the role of President it does not bode well for the radical improvements necessary in the OCI. No changes were made before, why would they be made now?

With this need for change in mind I present to you my sports administration and business C.V. as evidence of my consistent ability to revive and lead organisations.

If you, my fellow decision-makers in the Olympic Federations, desire a new direction, unified on future policies and ensuring fair distribution of resources across all members then I ask for your support.

I know that meetings have taken place between a small number of Federations who have agreed to support each other in order to carve up key positions between them. I want no part of any such undemocratic process.

I know that six or seven Federations met and thereby excluded the other 27/28 Federations. This may be described as politically astute or clever electioneering. What it definitely cannot be described as is a process of Openness, Transparency & Accountability, which are what is needed to revive the OCI.



However, I will happily work with these important organisations if they see their way to supporting me in my candidature.

If elected, I propose-

- To ensure that the OCI becomes totally compliant with Company Law and proper Governance recommended structures
- To improve internal OCI structures with the agreement of OCI members
- To tender a mid-year report to all Federations giving updates on the work and plans of the Officers and Executive Committee
- To listen to all OCI Federations and support them in their needs
- To prudently propose the release of funding to member Federations if and when available. On this point, I was stunned to learn from the Honorary Secretary's letter during the summer that the OCI had at least €750,000 to spend on legal fees, consultancy fees and public relations fees. This quantum of money should not be going to consultants. It should be distributed to the NGBs that need it to help develop their Olympic sports and Olympic athletes.
- To bring forward initiatives and ideas that support OCI federations in their promotion of their sport and improve the image of the OCI
- To improve relationships with Sport Ireland and Government Departments
- To play a full part as members of the international Olympic movement

I have reached out to many of you already and I would sincerely welcome a conversation by phone or in person with each and every one of you.

Please feel welcome to contact me on 087-764-6141 or bobyrne@basketballireland.ie.

I want to assure you that my candidature is not a bid for profile or power. It is an honest offer to serve the Federations of the Olympic Council of Ireland.

I ask you with all sincerity for your support.

Best Regards,

Bernard J. O'Byrne

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