

Presidents Report - AGM 2017

It's hard to believe that another year has passed since our last AGM. As your President, it is with great pride that I wear the green jacket and chain of office. The most enjoyable part of being president is meeting players and officials from all over the province.

The past year has been an extremely busy one. I attended functions and made presentations on your behalf at various functions, which included schools, junior, senior, league, cup and intercounty events. One event which stands out, in my mind, is the finals of the Dublin schools league. A big thanks must go to Lynn McCrave and committee and teachers for running this most important event. I feel we should all try and support this more.

Leinster Executive

From the outset I would like to say a very special thanks to Roy Cobbe, our chairman, and to our treasurer Kevin McGrath. Kevin took over as treasurer a little over 12 months ago and is doing a wonderful job trying to get Leinster finances back on track. I must say Kevin and Roy work very well together and work extremely hard for the best interest of Leinster Badminton. I would also like to say a very big thanks to all the members of the Executive. Their time and commitment to Leinster Badminton cannot be questioned.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to David (Murphy) and Seamus (Halpin) - members of the Executive who are stepping down. They have both worked tirelessly during their terms for the good of Leinster.

Volunteers

Leinster Branch have many committees who work away quietly in the background. It is because of these loyal and dedicated hard working people that Leinster Badminton is so strong today. I would like to extend a big thanks to all members of those committees and all our volunteers for their tireless work over the last year. We always need more people to get involved at club, county and branch level.

Executive Committee

I wish the incoming Executive Committee every best wishes and ensure them that they have my full support.

Umpires

A huge thank you goes to Tom McGrath and his team of umpires and referees. I know that they are being asked to umpire a lot more events now than previously and as always they bring an air of professionalism and commitment to these events. The majority of umpires in Ireland are from Leinster and are all volunteers.

Vice Presidents

A big thank you to my Vice Presidents, Jean Kelly and Mary Dinan, who have stood in for me on occasions and have always been more than willing to help me whenever I ask.

Leinster round up

As President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our young players who were selected for their province and their country this season. On behalf of the Branch we thank the Y.A.C.'s through its Chairman, David Hogan, for all the time and effort they have invested in badminton this year. Under his leadership, Leinster have a programme of tournaments and team events for all standards and ages that caters for every young player in the Province and in a way that develops the players and motivates them to play our sport at a competitive level.

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Some of the highlights of the Season were:

- Secondary Schools Competition:

Terenure College, St Mary Naas, Naomh Cormac and St, Brendan's Community College Birr all achieved Gold in the individual divisions in the All Ireland Schools Competition.

- Irish Juveniles:

The U13s and U15s both won the Celtic Challenge Trophies.

The Leinster U/17 competed in Nottingham this year and finished 6th, the highest rating achieved by Leinster in this competition to date.

Leinster took Gold in the four events in the Irish Juvenile Inter County Championships.

In the U13 National Championship it is worth noting the remarkable achievement of Sophia Noble who won Gold in the Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles

Our results in junior badminton, both this year and other years, are a positive reflection on the healthy state of the sport in Leinster at present; long may it continue.

On the National scene,

Leinster took all 4 senior titles in the Irish Interprovincial and took 3 out of a possible 5 Gold in the Irish Inter County Finals.

On the International front it has been a great year for Leinster players.

Nhat Nguyen and Paul Reynolds continue to challenge at the highest level in Europe.

In the Badminton England ICC Competition, the Leinster Team have qualified for the playoffs (due May 13th) and are now aiming for promotion to the Premier League.

Our congratulations must also go to Mark Topping who earned a Silver Medal in the All England Masters 50+ Men's doubles.

Special Olympics

I would like to extend my thanks and support to the organising committees for special needs and Special Olympics players. It is wonderful to see this group of players competing in the national and international stage and they bring enormous credit and enjoyment both to the players and the organisers and helpers.

I would like to thank our General Secretary and all of the office staff for all their help and guidance over the past year. They work away in the background keeping the wheels turning and ensuring everything is in order.

Thanks also to all the staff in both centres, Terenure and Baldoyle, for their continued hard work during the year.

That concludes my report for this year.

Tommy McGrath,
Leinster Badminton President.