

## Leinster Senior Team

The 2016-2017 has so far been a very successful one for the Leinster Senior team in Division 1 of the English Inter County Championship. Once again the team is through to the Division 1 playoffs. For our first weekend in November we travelled to Leeds Beckett University. First up was Staffordshire a team promoted from Division 2. Leinster secured a 6-5 win. In the afternoon's match we faced a very strong Leicestershire team and we fell to a 2-9 loss. This team had among their players a certain "Anthony Clarke" However this would turn out to be the team's only loss in Division 1 North.

The second weekend we made the journey to Derby, a new venue for us in the ICC. Leinster were out to do business this weekend and no better way to start than an 9-2 win over Worcestershire. We continued our winning ways with an impressive 7-4 win against Lancashire a team that played in Premier last year and included both current and ex English internationals Tom Wolfenden, Harry Wright and Ian Palethorpe. After the second weekend Leinster moved from 7th to 2nd in the table.

The final weekend in March saw us return to Derby for a two day 3 match group finale. First up Saturday was Yorkshire 3 and in similar fashion to last season an 11-0 win was secured. The afternoon match was against the Scottish team Lanarkshire. The players dug deep and came away on the right side of some tight 3 set matches and the prize an 8-3 win. This left Leinster in 2nd place at the end of the day with a 4 point cushion over 3rd placed Lancashire and with every chance of a playoff place a possibility. A lot of tired bodies were fed and then an early night had to replenish the energy reserves for a vital match against Yorkshire 2 on Sunday morning. The tone was set from the very first match with Leinster securing a very tight 3 setter, thus dampening the spirits of the Yorkshire team. Leinster were not to be denied and came away with a 7-4 win and a place in the playoff's secured.

The playoff's will be held in the National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes on the weekend 13/14 May with the opposition being Leicestershire, Middlesex and Hertfordshire with the top two teams being promoted to Premier Division.

Overall it has been was a very successful season for the senior team, one in which a number of our younger players got to taste the action for the first time and were an integral part of team.

My thanks must go to fellow selectors Seamus Halpin & Cheryl Evans for their help throughout the year.

Squad of players involved

Men: Nigel Boyne, Mark Brady, Mark Cobbe, Eddie Cousins, Dan Magee, Owen Marron, Sam McKay, David Walsh,  
Women: Sara Boyle, Clodagh Dunne, Kate Frost, Pauline Glennon, Jennie King, Pauline Glennon, Norma McIntyre and Moya Ryan.

Siobhan Grehan  
Senior Team Manager