



## Leinster Masters Working Group Report 2016-2017

The Leinster Masters working group had its first meeting of the season September 2016 after some of the committee returned from the Europeans in Slovenia and was charged with the express aim of driving Masters in Leinster.

There are 6 members on the working group Breda Connolly, Sylvia Campion, David Gannon, Imelda Breen, Seamus Halpin and Willie Stevenson.

The group held several meetings throughout the season and monitored the players entering the various Masters events – Connacht, Leinster, The Nationals and Ulster. Unfortunately, Munster were unable to hold a Masters event this season.

Unfortunately, the Leinster Masters 'B' Event did not come to fruition due to the lack of entries and the committee needs to build momentum and interest for this event in 2017 to ensure that the event remains on the Calendar and develops the Masters Players and potential masters players within Leinster going forward.

In November and January, two squad training sessions were arranged by the committee and open to all Masters where Pat Marron and Owen Marron put all those who attended through their paces. An enjoyable day was had by all and numerous new masters' players availed of the training opportunity.

In February teams were picked to represent Leinster at Over 40 & Over 50 age groups at the annual Inter-provincials. Players were chosen based on their results in Masters Events and thereafter their availability. The working group also held a practice night for all those selected for the Interprovincial events, which was extremely well attended.

Both teams were successful this year winning two extremely closely fought events, with both the 40+ and 50+ teams winning on a margin of sets only.

A number of players have also played in overseas Masters Events with Mark Topping the quarter finals in the Europeans in Slovenia in the Mens 50+ and Willie Stevenson and Sylvia Campion reaching the last 16 in the 45+ mixed and Sylvia making the last 16 in the 45+ ladies doubles. Mark Topping, Willie Stevenson, Sylvia Campion, Shane Guildea, Siobhan Grehan and Nigel Boyne representing Leinster with some excellent results in the All England Masters, with Mark Topping winning a Silver in the 50+ Mens Doubles and Nigel Boyne making the semi-final stage of the 40+ singles event. In Scotland earlier this year, Imelda Breen was runner up in the 40+ Women's Singles with a number of other Leinster Players, including Kevin Donnelly, Brian Dignam and Alan Colgan representing themselves and Leinster well in the 40+ Doubles and Singles Events.

The Masters Season has just concluded with the 2017 Forza Irish Masters Open and the success of the Leinster Players across all age groups is significant with many Leinster Players winning back to back titles and taking home the gold in two events or more. Results of all the events are as follows:

<http://www.badmintonireland.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=D13B7AB5-DDDC-4D91-B0F2-0FA47D5D9CD6>

In conclusion, Masters Events are becoming more and more popular, and with the introduction of the 35 year age group, this has added a new dynamic to the definition of Masters in Leinster. We are grateful to Leinster Branch and the General Secretary for their continued support of the Masters Events

Sylvia Campion

For Leinster Masters Working Group