



Leinster Badminton Chairman's Report 2016/2017

I have reached the end of my two year term as chairman of Leinster Badminton. The past season has been hectic and very successful for LB with huge success on the court. We started the season with the Olympics and will we ever forget the "Full Evans". Scott did really well and did so much to promote the game in Ireland, not just Leinster. We wish him continued success and of course we follow the progress of Nhat and Paul among others who no doubt will qualify for Olympics in the future. Leinster players have been doing well in the BI graded events all year and when it came to the Inter Pros Leinster took all 7 titles. This was a massive achievement demonstrating the high level of talent at all ages and levels. Well done to all. I'm not sure if a province has taken all titles before but to take them all is a great achievement. Well done to the Dublin and Westmeath teams that won the All Ireland Senior County titles and the Dublin and Kildare Juvenile teams that won all the underage titles.

Our senior team continues to do really well in the English Inter counties qualifying for the play-offs again this year and we wish them all the best in that. This of course would not happen without the excellent management of the team by Siobhan Grehan and the help of selectors Cheryl Evans and Seamus Halpin.

Our under 13 and 15 teams have retained the Celtic Challenge trophies which is a terrific achievement and would not happen without the dedicated work done by the YACS committee which does so much to nurture and develop the talents of all the young players in the province .

While I'm on the subject of thanking those that give of their time so freely to promote the cause of Leinster badminton by organising or running events I want to mention some others that do great work as well. If I forget anyone I apologise.

My thanks go to - Pat Furlong and the CAC committee for running all the senior Leinster Inter County events; to The Premier League committee for continuing to develop the Premier League which has become a major event in Irish Badminton; the volunteers that give up their holidays to run the fun events in our centres that give enjoyment to so many at all levels; the D&D committee, the SWLBL committee and all the local county committees that run leagues and championships. Without the wonderful work done by all these committee's badminton in Leinster would not be as healthy as it is.

My thanks to the CEO and staff of Badminton Ireland for their help, I feel relations with BI are really good at the moment which is as it should be and can only be good for the game in Ireland.

I would now like to thank a very hard working executive committee for all their work behind the scenes during the season. Our President Tommy attends all the events and I know he enjoys the role of doing the presentations at them all and I thank him for that. The hardest worker on the committee is our Treasurer and the amount of work he does is phenomenal. He is constantly trying to find ways to save the Branch money and get better value. The results of his efforts are very evident in the accounts. I really want to thank him very much for what he does and I would find my job much harder without all his help. Thanks Kevin.

Seamus Halpin is stepping down from the executive as he has served the four years and now has to take a break for a year. Thanks Seamus and I know you will stay involved and hopefully you will be back on the executive soon. At last year's AGM we wished our General Secretary all the best on her maternity leave and I would like to congratulate her on the birth of her daughter. While she has been out Betty Luttrell has been acting General Secretary and I would like to thank her very much for all she has done for the past year. She has had to deal with

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staff changes, introducing on-line court booking in Whitehall as well as all the day to day running of the branch. A huge task that she has done very well and I thank you Betty for everything you have done and are doing.

My thanks to our Trustees Brian, Har and Declan for their help and support during the season.

My thanks to our various sponsors for their continued support especially Yonex and Turkish Airlines.

As you will see from the agenda we have before us at the AGM a proposal from a developer to purchase part of the site at Terenure to build 7 houses. There will be a presentation at the AGM with all the details. The executive has looked at this and all the issues associated and feel that this is an opportunity to sell the part of the site that is never used and use the funds to develop both of our halls, clear our loans and use some of the money saved from paying back the loans to develop the game around the province.

This year we have one Honorary Life Membership being awarded and that is to Breda Connolly for her exceptional work for Leinster badminton and indeed for all she has done for Badminton Ireland as well. The presentation will take place at the end of the AGM.

In Conclusion

It is a huge honour for me to be Chairman of Leinster Badminton and I hope the work I have done has in some way helped to develop the game in this part of the country and if re-elected I will continue to work for the benefit of all the players in the province. I could not do this without the help of so many people in the province and would ask for your continued support and help.

Roy Cobbe

Chairman Leinster Badminton