

LBBUI – COUNTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – 2015/16 CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Firstly it is hard to believe that the season is almost over and secondly I am glad to report that the season has been a good one again, with our Inter-Counties, Inter-League and the Individual Championships all running without any major problems.

The continual success of these competitions is due to the efficiency and hard work of the Managers in charge of each section and the people that support them:

Inter-County: P. J. Cooney who also got a lot of support from Jenny Ni Mhaoileoin.

Inter- League: Roy Cobbe and I would think he is well supported by Shirley and the Cobbe family.

Inter- County: Paddy O’Connell and the Zone Organisers and support from Tom Roche.

I understand that entries for the Inter-County and Inter-League were roughly the same as last season but Paddy advised that the entries for the individuals were substantially down this season.

It must be kept in mind that the County Affairs Committee was, to the best of my recollection, set-up in 1981 (My God I was only a young 35 year old then – so the next Chairperson of CAC had better beware that it ages you very fast) and it was at a time that there was little or no badminton available to the grass root players around the province. There was an inter-league for the top grade leagues only, there was no Leinster Inter-County or Individual Championships. There was BUI inter-county competitions at three grades and these were excellent competitions with massive entries in the three grades. Over a short few years CAC offered Provincial competitions to players at all levels and we have closely monitored the changes over the years and adapted where necessary.

It appears that both the Inter-County and Inter- League competitions are now well established where they are being run on the Leinster Calendar but Paddy O’Connell has suggested that we look at when the Individual Championships are being held as there is a substantial amount of high quality competitions happening at around the same time. This is something for our Counties to think about and we will put it on the agenda to be discussed at our AGM in the Autumn.

The other issue raised by P. J. Is the increasing cost of halls for inter-county events, this will also be on our AGM Agenda.

Looking at the results from the BI Inter-Counties it appears that the grading is beginning to work out pretty even but of course there will always be the exceptions for various reasons.

On behalf of all involved in CAC I would like to express our thanks to all who help make our competitions a success, Leinster Secretary and Committee, Terenure and Baldoyle Hall Staff, Umpires Committee and all the people from the Counties and Leagues who work so hard in the interest of their own players.

Personally, I would like to thank Walter Rountree for stepping in and running our AGM last year when I was not available due to a family illness and to all whom expressed their sympathy on the sad passing of my step-son Nicky last October at the age of 34 – RIP.

Finally, I would like to wish all the sections involved in Leinster Badminton a very enjoyable and successful 2016-17 season.

Pat Furlong

13/4/2016