



## **Leinster Badminton AGM 2015/16 Season: Chairman's Report**

### **Introduction :**

First of all I would like to thank the President and all the Executive Committee for their support for me in my first year as Chairman and for all their hard work during the last year. During the year we co-opted Kevin McGrath to the committee as Honorary Treasurer and I would like to sincerely thank him for the Trojan work he has done since taking on the role. I would also like to thank Siobhán, our General Secretary, for her help and patience with me – I would like to wish her all the best as she goes on Maternity leave, she will be missed, but we are delighted to welcome Betty Luttrell who will be taking over the position in her absence. I would also like to thank the Trustees for their support, particularly Brian Herman who has always been available for advice, and has been called upon to do a lot of work during the season.

### **Leinster Committees:**

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the various sub-committees that work voluntarily within the many different sectors of Badminton.

Pat Furlong (Chairman) and the CAC committee

David Hogan (Chairman) and the Youth Activities Committee

Both the Leinster Badminton Centre Committees – Baldoyle and Midland

The individual County Associations and all the Leinster Leagues Committees

The Leinster Masters Working Group

The Court Officials Group

There are many dedicated volunteers that give countless hours of their time and work without reward for the benefit and growth of badminton throughout Leinster and it is very much appreciated by the Leinster Executive.

### **Finances:**

Since Kevin has taken over as Treasurer he has been making changes to the financial structures in order to simplify and improve the running of Leinster Badminton. He will be taking you through the financial statement later.

Mike Cronin our auditor will be here this afternoon and he will answer any questions you may have for him. I would like to thank Mike for all his help and advice through a very challenging period in the Branches history.

### **Achievements & Activities:**

It has been a phenomenal year for Leinster teams and players - the full extent of Leinster Achievements is outlined in various other reports but I would like to mention some particular highlights and thank those involved:

Our Senior team competed in the English Inter County Championships where they did extremely well in reaching the play-offs. They had some wonderful results all year, but unfortunately just missed out on promotion. I would like to thank the Senior Team Manager, Siobhán Grehan, who took on the role again after a gap of a few years and did a wonderful job. I would also like to thank the selectors, Cheryl Evans and Seamus Halpin for all their work.

Well done to the Inter Pro Winners: Leinster Premier, Leinster Grade A and also to BI Inter Counties Winners, Dublin in Gr C and Kilkenny in Gr D.

The YAC's Committee, chaired by David Hogan, do wonderful work with Juveniles, and some of the highlights this year were Leinster wins in the Celtic Challenge at U13 and U15, Leinster U17, U15 & U13 teams winning the All-Ireland Interprovincials in March, and of course the wonderful results at European U17 level – a gold medal for Nhat Nguyen in the singles and bronze medals for Nhat and Paul Reynolds in the doubles, a great achievement indicating that the future of Leinster Badminton is bright. This could not be achieved without the dedication of the committee and squad managers, and they have our sincere thanks for all their work.



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Leinster Branch in association with Badminton Ireland also held a very successful Badminton International in November in the Watershed, Kilkenny, between the Irish team and a Spanish selection. This was a very successful event and was very well attended, with some terrific badminton on display. Many thanks to all who helped organise and run this event.

### **Premier League:**

This year Leinster Branch launched a new Premier League for the top players. This was the brainchild of Joe Byrne, who along with Dave Murphy, Vinod Pillai and Seamus Halpin put an immense amount of work into getting this off the ground. This League has proved to be a great success, with some wonderful badminton being witnessed by the large crowds in attendance. We would like to develop this concept even farther next year. Many thanks to all our sponsors for this event, and especially to our main sponsor, Turkish Airlines.

### **Leinster Masters:**

This year has also seen the rejuvenation of the Leinster Masters – many thanks to the Working Group who have been very busy, holding squad training sessions with coaching from Pat Marron. Congratulations to Mark Topping who won a Gold Medal in the O50 MD playing with Graham Henderson and to Cheryl Evans who won a Silver Medal in the O55 LS in the 100<sup>th</sup> All England Masters.

### **Stepping Down:**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those stepping down from the Executive Committee, Breda Connolly and Jenny Ní Mhaoileoin, for their hard work and support. I would particularly like to express sincere thanks to Breda, who after many years uninterrupted service is stepping down as our rules require she takes a well-deserved break.

### **Sponsors:**

Many thanks also to all our various sponsors, especially Yonex, whose financial support helps us to improve badminton around the province.

### **Honorary Life Members:**

This year we have two honorary life memberships being awarded for the exceptional work they have done for badminton as a sport and the Leinster Branch, they are Avril Dungan and Jim Callan. The presentation will take place at the end of the A.G.M.

### **In conclusion:**

Last year when I was elected as Chairman of Leinster Branch I said it was an honour. It **has** been an honour to serve as Chairman of the largest and most successful Branch in the country – the on-going success of the Branch would not be possible without the outstanding work of all the volunteers in the province. We have wonderful volunteers – but not enough of them, and the numbers would appear to be decreasing year by year. I would encourage all players to get involved in your local area as much as possible, as to keep the sport going we need a major increase in people to get involved at Club, League and County Level.

***Roy Cobbe***

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Chairman Leinster Badminton