

Leinster Inter County Report 2015-2016 Season

Ten counties participated in this year's competition, with 29 teams in total. As has been the case for the past number of years, Offaly and Carlow were absent. However, with a seemingly vibrant underage community in Carlow badminton, perhaps we may hope to see them return to inter-county badminton in the coming years.

We faced the usual challenges in securing halls at a reasonable cost, something which has become more difficult with each passing year. There was an issue with Grade 3 in particular, where we had booked a hall which then became suddenly unavailable only a few days before competition, as another party offered more money for the use of the hall. As a result, we were forced to use a hall which we now know to be unsuitable for future daytime use due to lighting issues (Rathdown hall in Glenageary).

There was also the usual problem with delays in the return of scoresheets, which leads to a delay in confirming qualifiers and publishing results. One team failed to submit a player declaration sheet, which was seemingly not picked up by the zone manager on the day, something which we need to be more careful about in future.

Finally, we had the perennial problem of withdrawals. This year, Wicklow and Kildare each withdrew one team, in grades 3 and 2 respectively. Neither withdrawal caused any major difficulties, though we did have to change the format of the competition in grade 2 as a result.

Finals day ran relatively smoothly, although play was delayed as a result of players competing across two different grades. This affected grades 1-3 and led to delays in the Grade 1 round robin in particular. With many counties having small panels, however, it's hard to know how we can combat this problem without losing entries. So it's likely something we'll just have to manage as best we can.

PJ Cooney ran the competition with his usual efficiency, despite being under enormous pressure. It's a fairly thankless task which he has taken on year after year. Perhaps someone might like to give him a well-earned rest! Thanks to Joe Byrne for taking team photos on finals day and to Leinster President Tommy McGrath for awarding the prizes. Also thanks as ever to those who helped to run the qualifiers in the various zones.

Please see attached the results from this year's qualifiers, semi-finals and finals. The winning teams went on to represent Leinster in the BI All-Ireland Inter-County competition in Limerick on 2nd April. We had two winners and three runners-up and all can be very proud of their performances. Dublin prevailed in Grade C and were also runners-up in Grade E. Kilkenny staged a very determined comeback to snatch grade D from the jaws of defeat. While Wexford and Meath were runners-up in grades F and G respectively, meaning all our Leinster teams came home with medals.

Full results can be found here:

<http://www.badmintonireland.com/sport/matches.aspx?id=EAE582D4-2453-42E0-81C8-840D339284EA>

Final Results

<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>	<u>Grade 5</u>
Dublin 6-1 Meath Laois 4-3 Meath Dublin 3-3 Laois (final game was not played)	Kilkenny 5-2 Laois	Dublin 4-0 Kilkenny	Wexford 5-1 Dublin	Meath 4-0 Louth
<u>Final Standings</u> Dublin: 9 Laois: 7 Meath: 4				

Semi-Final Results

<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>	<u>Grade 5</u>
Dublin 4-2 Kildare Kilkenny 4-3 Meath	Dublin 4-1 Meath Wexford 4-0 Wicklow	Louth 4-3 Westmeath Meath 4-1 Longford

Qualifiers

Grade 2	<u>Final standings</u>
Laois 5-2 Meath Kilkenny 4-3 Dublin Laois 5-2 Dublin Kilkenny 5-2 Meath Laois 4-3 Kilkenny Meath 5-2 Dublin	Laois: 14 Kilkenny: 12 Meath: 9 Dublin: 7
Kilkenny and Laois advanced to the final	
Grade 3	<u>Final standings</u>
<u>St. Laurences</u> Dublin 5-2 Kildare Kilkenny 4-3 Wexford Wexford 5-2 Kildare Kilkenny 5-2 Kildare Dublin 4-3 Kilkenny Dublin 4-3 Wexford	Dublin: 13 Kilkenny: 12 Wexford: 11 Kildare: 6
Dublin and Kilkenny advanced to the semi-finals	
<u>Rathdown</u> Kildare 5-2 Louth Meath 5-2 Louth Meath 4-3 Kildare	<u>Final Standings</u> Meath: 9 Kildare: 8 Louth: 4

Meath and Kildare advanced to the semi-finals

Grade 4	
<u>Carlow LTC</u> Wexford 4-3 Dublin Dublin 5-2 Kildare Wexford 6-1 Kildare	<u>Final Standings</u> Wexford: 10 Dublin: 8 Kildare: 3
Wexford and Dublin advanced to the semi-finals	
<u>Kildalkey</u> Meath 6-1 Louth Meath 5-2 Wicklow Wicklow 6-1 Louth	<u>Final Standings</u> Meath: 11 Wicklow: 8 Louth: 2
Meath and Wicklow advanced to the semi-finals	
Grade 5	
<u>Dundalk</u> Longford A 4-3 Louth Longford A 5-2 Dublin Louth 6-1 Dublin	<u>Final Standings</u> Longford A: 9 Louth: 9 Dublin: 3
Longford A and Louth (as best runner-up) advanced to the semi-finals	
<u>Carlow LTC</u> Kildare 4-3 Wicklow Westmeath 4-3 Wicklow Westmeath 4-3 Kildare	<u>Final Standings</u> Westmeath: 8 Kildare: 7 Wicklow: 6
Westmeath advanced to the semi-finals	
<u>Kildalkey</u> Meath 7-0 Longford B Westmeath 5-2 Longford B Meath 5-2 Westmeath	<u>Final Standings</u> Meath: 12 Westmeath: 7 Longford B: 2
Meath advanced to the semi-finals	