

President Report - AGM 2016

It has been my pleasure to represent Leinster Badminton as their president for the past 4 years and it has given me great honour to wear the green jacket and chain of office.

Leinster Executive

From the outset I would like to say a very special thanks to Roy Cobbe, our chairman, and all the members of the Leinster Executive Committee for all their hard work and dedication to Leinster Badminton. Roy and his team have worked extremely hard in their efforts to steer the branch through very challenging times.

As we have three members of the executive committee stepping down this year I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thanks to them for all their hard work in the interest of Leinster Badminton. In particular, could I say a special word of thanks to Breda Connolly in recognition of her long and outstanding service to both the Leinster Executive Committee and as President of Badminton Ireland. She has given me enormous support and guidance during my time in office and I am sure she will continue to lend her full support and knowledge to Leinster Badminton in her new role on the Master's Committee.

Volunteers

Leinster Branch have many committees who work away quietly in the background. It is because of these loyal and dedicated hard working people that Leinster Badminton is so strong today. I would like to thank the many sub-committees and volunteers for all their work over the past year and for all their courtesy shown to the office of President.

Executive Committee

I wish the new incoming Executive Committee every best wishes and ensure them that they have my full support.

Umpires

A huge thank you goes to Tom McGrath and his team of umpires and referees. I know that they are being asked to umpire a lot more events now than previously and as always they bring an air of professionalism and commitment to these events. The majority of umpires in Ireland are from Leinster and are all volunteers.

Vice Presidents

A big thank you to my Vice Presidents, Jean Kelly and Mary Dinan who have stood in for me on occasions and have always been more than willing to help me whenever I ask.

Leinster round up

As President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our young players who were selected for their province and their country this season and on behalf of the Branch to thank the Y.A.C.'s through its Chairman, David Hogan, for all the time and effort they have invested in badminton and for so many years in the past. Under his leadership we have a programme of tournaments and team events for all standards and ages that caters for every young player in the Province who wishes to play our sport at a competitive level.

Leinster has won both Celtic Challenges - U/13 in Lisburn and U/15 in Scotland (Lothian).



Leinster also took all three juvenile inter pros in Baldoyle.

The Leinster U/17 team competed in Nottingham again this year and played 9 matches in all, winning 6 and drawing 2 and losing just 1 match to the event winners Buckinghamshire, who with 6 players from the England U/17 team were unbeaten through the 9 matches. The team ended the tournament being placed 10th out of 35 teams.

On the International front it has been a great year for Leinster players with Mark Kinnerk (Kildare), Niamh Gannon (Dublin) and Peter McDonald (Kilkenny) all being selected to represent Ireland in the upcoming U/15 quadrangular (April 28th).

Nhat Nguyen won an U/19 singles tournament in Portugal but this was eclipsed by his historic win in the U/17 European Championships in Poland. As well as winning gold in the singles, Nhat and Paul Reynolds won a bronze medal in the boy's doubles.

Our results in junior badminton, both this year and other years, are a positive reflection on the healthy state of the sport in Leinster at present; long may it continue.

Our congratulations must also go to Cheryl Evans, Silver Medal, and Mark Topping, Gold Medal, winners in the 100th All England Championships; an excellent result by both players.

Special Olympics

I would like to extend my thanks and support to the organising committees for special needs and Special Olympics players. It is wonderful to see this group of players competing in the national and international stage and they bring enormous credit and enjoyment both to the players and the organisers and helpers.

I would like to thank our General Secretary Siobhán and also to Amanda and Marie for all their help and guidance over the past year. They work away in the background keeping the wheels turning and ensuring everything is in order.

Thanks also to all the staff in both centres, Terenure and Baldoyle, for their continued hard work during the year.

That concludes my report for this year.

Tommy McGrath,
Leinster Badminton President.