

Leinster Senior Team 2015-2016

The 2015-2016 was a very successful one for the Leinster Senior team in Division 1 of the English Inter County Championship. For our first weekend in November we travelled to Sheffield EIS. One could say we didn't get off to the best of starts losing to Leicestershire 2-9 with some very close three setters not going our way. However this would turn out to be the team's only loss in Division 1 North. In the afternoon match we regrouped and reversed the morning's result with a 9-2 win against Yorkshire 3.

The second weekend we made the journey to Nottingham a venue familiar with many of the players as it is where the U17 inter county event is held each year. Leinster were out to do business this weekend and no better way to start than an 11-0 win over Yorkshire 2, the table toppers after the first weekend. We continued our winning ways with a 9-2 win against Worcestershire in the afternoon. I am sure there are not many Leinster teams that have achieved an 11-0 win over Yorkshire and it certainly was a sweet victory for all the team.

The final weekend in March saw us travel to Wolverhampton for a two day 3 match group finale. First up Saturday was Derbyshire and a 7-4 win tucked in the bag. The afternoon match was a tight affair against the Scottish team Lanarkshire and nothing would suffice but a win to keep the play offs a possibility. Leinster were now in the habit of winning and duly secured a 6-5 win. A lot of tired bodies were fed and then an early night had to replenish the energy reserves for a vital match against Mid Glamorgan (Welsh team) in the morning. While the players were getting on with their job on court I was keeping a close eye on the results in the other matches. However I should not have been worried as the playoff was in our own hands as the team chalked out another win and with it a place in the playoffs (8-3).

The playoff's were held a few weekends ago in Leicestershire with the top two teams from Division 1 North (Leicestershire & Leinster) and Division 1 South (Hampshire & Sussex) battling it out for promotion to Premier. Alas it was not to be for Leinster this time and despite a number of very close matches we just couldn't come out on the right side of the three set matches. However there were a lot of positives to take from the weekend one of which was how competitive we were in all the matches and we were that far off success.

Overall it was a very successful season for the senior team, one in which a number of our younger players got to taste the action for the first time and were an integral part of team.

My thanks must go to fellow selectors Seamus Halpin & Cheryl Evans for their help throughout the year. A special word of thanks to Siobhán Dollard who arranges our flights, accommodation and various correspondences and which all makes for smooth logistics for the team.

Squad of players involved:

Dan Magee, David Walsh, Mark Brady, Sam McKay, Eddie Cousins, & Owen Marron. Jennie King, Pauline Glennon, Fiona Glennon, Aisling Ryan, Norma McIntrye, Kate Frost, Lucie Corcoran & Sara Boyle.