



President's Report 2018

As I have come to the end of my Presidency I would just like to say what an honour it has been to serve as your President for the past 6 years. Could I say a very big thanks to everybody who has helped me during my term as President of Leinster Branch.

The past year has again been an extremely busy one. I attended functions and made presentations on your behalf at various competitions which included, League and Cup Finals, School Junior, Senior and Inter County Events. Two events which stand out in my mind are the Dublin Schools League and the Inter-County Finals. It's a pity that there aren't more events at intercounty level as it is a great opportunity to meet and play against players from other counties that you would normally have a chance to meet and compete against. It was also great to see a big increase in the number of schools participating in the Dublin schools' competition this year.

I must congratulate the Leinster Senior team for doing well in all competitions this year and on their promotion to Premier Division in the Badminton England Inter County Competition.

On the international front it has been another great year for Leinster players. Nhat Nguyen and Paul Reynolds continue to challenge at the highest level in Europe.

I would like to say a very special thanks to Roy Cobbe, our Chairman and our Honorary Treasurer Kevin Mc Grath. Kevin and Roy work very well together and work extremely hard for the best interests of Leinster Badminton. I would also like to say a very big thanks to all the members of the Leinster Executive. Their time and commitment to Leinster Badminton cannot be questioned.

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 extend a big thanks to all members of those committees and all our volunteers for their tireless work over the past year. We always need people to get involved at club, county and branch level.

Umpires

A huge thank you to Tom Mc Grath and his team of umpires and referees. I know that they are being asked to umpire a lot more events than previously and as always, they bring an air of professionalism and commitment to these events.

Vice presidents

A big thanks 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 when 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 county this season. On behalf of the Branch we thank the YACs through its Chairman, David Hogan for all the time and effort they have invested in badminton this year. Under his leadership, Leinster have a programme of tournaments and team events for all standards and ages that caters for every young player in the province and in a way that develops the player and motivates them to play our sport at a competitive level.



Could I also congratulate South West Leinster SWL on their 70th anniversary and thank Lesley Cobbe their President on a wonderful social evening and prize giving. It is great to see that badminton is alive and well throughout the whole of Leinster and long may they continue with their success.

Special Olympics

I would like to extend my thanks 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 Dollard for all her help and guidance over the past year and all the staff in both centres, they work away in the background keeping the wheels turning and ensuring everything is in order.

In conclusion I would like to say a very special word of thanks to Breda Connelly who has always been there for me to give me her advice and help whenever I requested it.

Finally a very special thanks must go to my wife, Barbara and my family for their support and understanding over the last six years as Leinster Branch President.

This concludes my report for this year and my tenure as President.

Tommy mc Grath

Leinster Branch President 2012-2018