

Leinster Youth Activities Report 2017/2018 Season

2017/2018 season started with a lot of confusion re the New Age Group implemented by Badminton Ireland. This caused a bit of confusion and upset, but like always the YACs got on with it, adapted and embarked on what was an action packed and very successful season for the Youth of Leinster Badminton.

YAC's aim is to promote badminton for all ages and standards across the Province. The entries to the B Tournaments and the Leinster Open/Closed events were up from last Season and there have been several new clubs introduced into the Dublin Juvenile league. The Tournaments were extremely well attended with players from all corners of the Province and Island.

The YACs have now an Under 11 Squad and this season Liz Dinan took a crew of Under 11s up to an invitational event in the Rackets Club in Lisburn. Leinster had hosted the event the previous season. By all accounts this was a fabulous day for the players. A great introduction to Badminton for both players and parents.

The Westside Tournament goes from strength to strength thanks to the efforts of the Kildare County Association hosted in Kilcullen.

Team Events were all very successful this season:

- Leinster hosted the Under **13 Celtic Challenge** in the Terenure Badminton Centre. The Leinster Team were pipped at the post this season. But with a very young and inexperienced team 2nd place is very impressive. A big thank you to the 2 coaches, Owen Marron & Kirsty Kelly and manager Jean Kelly. A huge thank you to the ladies and gentlemen of the YACs who put on a fabulous show for the travelling Teams.
- Leinster travelled to Galway for the Under **15 Celtic Challenge**. Leinster again, retained the title in what was a very competitive competition. Thank you to the hosts Munster/Connacht for a great weekend. Thank you to the Manager, Ita Marron and coaches Niall Gannon & Pat Marron
- Leinster took the Under 13 & Under 15 titles at the **BI Juvenile Inter Provincials**. The Under 17 Team hugely depleted as the event clashed with Notts made a valiant effort v Munster but sadly came in 2nd for the event.
- The **Nottingham Team** this year exceeded all expectations again taking the 7th Spot from a field of 34 Teams. The coaches Pat Marron, Sian Williams & Niall Gannon were so proud of the Team. A huge thank you goes to my background staff, especially Ita Marron on housekeeping.

The Success of all the Leinster Teams is due to all **the Coaches** involved with the Squads, I thank them for their time, dedication and passion for Leinster Juvenile Badminton.

The **Underage Inter-Counties** were very successful with entries in all age groups up from last season. Louth made a come back this Season and Kilkenny and Kildare are always so strongly represented.

Following on from the Success of the Leinster Inter County's, Leinster again took all 4 titles at the Badminton Ireland Inter County Competition. Kildare County taking the Under 13 & Under 17 and Dublin County taking the Under 11 & Under 15, a flip from last season.

Leinster Branch Juvenile Leagues 2017/18

Juvenile Leagues had a very successful season thanks to excellent teamwork. There were a total of 96 teams (72 mixed, 21 boys and 3 girls) 528 players add in the subs and you have over 600 players in the clubs. There were 19



sections in the League, 18 League Finals and 8 Cup finals played. 2 fabulous days, with huge support from family and friends. Very well done to Muriel Moles and Damien Lucas and the committee.

Congratulations must go to all the **Leinster Players** who represented Ireland in International Competitions.

Leinster hosted a New U/13 Juvenile Tournament in Vicarstown, Portlaoise, this was a great success and we hope to include it again in the calendar for the next season.

Leinster Schools Finals continue to grow from strength to strength each year which is very encouraging for the growth of Badminton in Leinster.

This report is only a brief outline of the Season 2017/2018. My thanks go to Niall Gannon and Joe Byrne who continually update the Leinster Youth Badminton Facebook page, keeping us all updated with reports & Photos.

I would like to thank the entire Youth Activity Committee and all who played their part in making Juvenile Badminton possible this season. These volunteers give their time and expertise freely and consistently. The coaches, managers, administrators, umpires, referees, parents and the players all remain fully committed to Leinster Badminton and long may it continue.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their continued support and investment in Juvenile Badminton in the Province. The future of Leinster Badminton is in the Youth.

David Hogan
YAC Chairman