

## **LBBUI – COUNTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – 2017/18 CHAIRPERSONS REPORT**

The sign of a good season as Chairperson of any Committee is when there were no difficult or challenging issues to deal with and I can say that bar the odd email or phone call during the season it was literally a trouble free season. It was again a successful season and thanks to the hard work of our Competition Managers, P J Cooney – Inter-County, Roy Cobbe – Inter-League and Pat O’Connell – Individual Championships, all three competitions were run off on time, despite the usual late entries, withdrawals and of course the weather this year has not helped at all. I would again like to express my sincere thanks to Shirley Cobbe our Registrar who does Trojan work every year and has really mastered the art of controlling the Register. Many thanks again Shirley, because without your support, P J, Roy or Pat would not be able to run any CAC competitions.

I would also like to say thanks to LBBUI Committee and Staff, Hall staff at both Terenure and Baldoyle, umpires committee and all the county representatives that turned up at our meetings during the season.

Each of the managers have done up a report on their own competition and I would ask counties to read through them and also the results and see if perhaps some of your players could have done well in any competitions but were not entered or eligible due to not being registered with CAC. Looking through the results of the competitions it was good to see how close many finals had been and how many three setters there were. Our grading must be fairly accurate.

To take part in any CAC competition a player must be registered with CAC and have an agreed league grade and points, not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> November each year. So as a player if you would like to enter any CAC competitions in 2018 / 2019 you must be registered with CAC by 30/11/2018.

Also keep in mind, that the winners of our Inter-County and Inter-League competitions go forward to represent Leinster in the BI competitions – a nice reward for success.

I would advise clubs and counties to start early listing players that they would like to have available to enter competitions and make sure they are all registered on time.

Mentioning the weather earlier, I can remember exactly where I was when the snow started in 1982. We were at a CAC meeting in Terenure on that Thursday night and after the meeting about 11.20 pm we were in the bar and I could see little white things falling down by the windows, I turned and said to Gerry Coyne from Westmeath, I think it is snowing outside. Gerry ran out and back and shouted, hey lads there is four inches of snow on the ground and it’s snowing heavy. The bar was empty in about 30 seconds. I stayed in Dublin that night and got home the following Wednesday.

As I stated at our AGM last October, I will not be seeking re-election in 2018, I think it was either 1980 or 1981 that I got the job (unwanted) and after the twelve months I could see that our committee could do a lot of work for players in the counties, as most badminton events were Dublin based. The same as now, we had a lot of very good people on the committee who were willing to work to improve the lot of the country player. I was re-elected and I am proud of what we achieved over the years, with lots of hard work from so many people. It is good to realise, that there has been somewhere around four and a half thousand competition winners and the same for runners-up during that period and we also ran under age and veterans competitions for a number of years as well.

I wish to thank all those people who made it possible and to thank in advance those that are going to keep it going in the future. The only name I am going to individually mention is my side kick for many years, the late Michael Donnelly, a true gentleman. Even though he was a Cork man he was truly a converted Dubliner and I recall somebody saying to Michael at a meeting, “that Dublin people think the world ends once you pass through Naas” – this did not amuse Michael.

When Michael was League Manager, he was not amused at 11.30 pm on a Saturday night before the finals, he was in the bath and Eileen called him and said , a telephone call for you Michael, when he got to the phone, the captain of a team that was playing a qualifier that night, told him the match finished level on games and sets and they could not



agree on the aces and asked him who did he think won , his response was pretty abrupt and he ordered both teams to be in Terenure to play the whole match again at 8.30 am. When he rang me he was still fuming.

I would like to say I met a lot of very nice people over the years and I thank them for their friendship.

Lastly, a little true story, on the way home from Dublin one day my car broke down on the Dublin side of Arklow. I got out and started walking towards Arklow, a car passed and then braked hard and reversed back. The driver asked if I needed a lift and I replied to the garage just outside Arklow, he then said I know you but you would not remember me. I said your name is Pat Bracken of Wicklow and I presented you with a badminton trophy a few weeks ago in Dublin. God he said with all the people there, how could you remember me and I replied, it's the face Pat and the smile.

So, being involved in CAC saved me a walk.

I would like to wish all the sections involved in Leinster Badminton a very enjoyable and successful 2018-19 season.

Everybody involved should be there for the good of badminton and in the interest of the players.

Pat Furlong

03/05/2018