



Leinster Senior Team Report 2018-2019

I am delighted to report, following on from their promotion last year, that Leinster have retained their place in the Premier Division of the English Inter County Championship and will compete at this level again for the 2019-2020.

All of the ICC premier league matches took place in the English National High Performance Centre in Milton Keynes and the Leinster team travelled to this venue on three weekends over the course of the season.

On our opening weekend in November we began our campaign against three strong sides, Middlesex, Leicestershire and Hertfordshire. Although we lost each tie, we won total of 12 games over the course of the weekend.

There was pressure going into our second weekend of play as we were placed in the relegation zone. Over this weekend we had great results, beating Yorkshire 6-5, defeating Surrey 7-4 and losing narrowly to Avon 6-5. This ensured that we moved to 6th place on the table, after culminating an impressive 18 points in our second outing.

The final weekend was always going to be challenging.

We faced Glasgow and North Strathclyde to begin and won by the narrowest of margins 6-5. The Leinster team continued their good form and went on to beat Sussex 7-4 that afternoon. We finished our 2018-19 campaign winning three games against a very strong Buckinghamshire side and this ensured our place in The ICC Premier League for the 2019-2020 season.

The Leinster Grade A team were victorious in this year's BI Interprovincial competition, beating Ulster 8-1, Connacht 8-1 and Munster 9-0. No Premier competition took place due to lack of entries.

Thank you to my fellow selectors Seamus Halpin & Siobhán Grehan for their help throughout the year, to all of the staff in the office for all of their administration work for the trips. Also thanks to Joe Byrne for the assistance with the Facebook posts and to Yonex Ireland, our team sponsors.

A development carried out by the ICC Premier League Committee this year, is that players, who compete in the German Club League, will be allowed to represent their county/

province in the ICC Premier League going forward. The ICC committee are also liaising with the French Club League to negotiate a similar deal. It is hoped that this will further boost the standard of the ICC Premier League as more professional players will be able to compete for their counties/ provinces.

Aisling Ryan

Leinster Senior Team Manager

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