



### **President Report 2020**

On behalf of the Leinster Branch Executive I would like to welcome you to the 2020 Annual General Meeting. I wish to extend out sympathies to all our members who have lost family and friends since our last AGM. May they Rest in Peace.

Since our last AGM we have seen the passing of 3 Leinster Presidents: Mr Frank Peard, Mr Gay Sullivan and Mr Frank O'Reilly, and just recently the passing of Marie Doyle, all of whom were very involved in Leinster Badminton.

In December 2019 a 'President Award' was introduced by Badminton Ireland. Betty Thompson President of BI presented the award to Frank Peard for his outstanding contribution to badminton in Ireland, unfortunately Frank passed away earlier in the year and his wife Sue, daughter Pam and son Mark accepted the award. As we know in Leinster, Frank continued his involvement in Badminton right to the end his foresight and energy for both the game and Leinster can never be understated.

Gay Sullivan was instrumental in the development and opening of the Baldoyle Badminton Centre along with giving his time to Whitehall Road. Gay also was involved with Baldoyle right to the end.

Frank O'Reilly became involved when asked by Frank Peard to become Assistant Director of European Champion Championships in 1976. He then went on to become chairman of the branch and later President.

Marie Doyle was the wife of one of our famous badminton player Chick Doyle and still to this day the Chick Doyle Trophy for Mixed Doubles is competed for.

To all the families please accept our sympathies on your loss and above all our huge thanks for their contribution to Leinster Branch Badminton.

### **Players/Coaches**

The 2019/20 was a great year for our players. Our Juveniles had a great year at home and abroad, competing at the highest level. And in the reports today there is a comprehensive report from the YACs Committee. Our Senior players continue to compete in the various events throughout Europe and the U.K. Our Senior and Juvenile players continue to represent themselves and their families on the various Irish Teams.

Unfortunately, so many great sporting events were cancelled in 2020. The Tokyo Olympics as we know have been postponed and no doubt Leinster would have had the flags flying high for our own Nhat who is carrying on the mantra from Sonia and Scott

On behalf of Leinster I would like to wish all our players the very best for the coming season.

We have a great group of coaches who give their time to working with Juveniles. It is great to see our senior players who are now involved in coaching, our juvenile players will learn from your experiences. There are so many groups who work tirelessly within the branch. The YACs, CAC, Grading Committee, Midland Branch, Baldoyle Badminton Committee, The various County committees, Dublin District, BPL, Umpires, Referees, Lines People Dublin Schools, Tournament Organisers, and the many volunteers. Thank you all so much for your time.

### **Volunteer Pin.**

Today the Branch are launching a 'Volunteer Pin' the idea behind the pin is to acknowledge our many volunteers and the time they give to the Branch especially within our many clubs. We will send out information over the coming weeks.

**Leinster Branch Executive:**

I would like to extend my personal thanks, to our Treasurer Kevin McGrath, Roy Cobb, Mark Topping and Aoife Lennon. Please accept our thanks on behalf of the members for your work and commitment to the Branch over the last number of years. And I look forward to welcoming and working with the new members of the executive.

The coming year will not be without its challenges and as a Branch we will work together, stay safe and I look forward to meeting you in the coming year.

Yours in sport

Catherine Smyth

Leinster Branch President

4<sup>th</sup> October 2020