



Dublin Schools Badminton Report

Leinster Badminton AGM

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in Baldoyle Badminton Centre.

Dublin Schools Badminton (DSB) had another very successful year in the 2019/20 season with continuing growth in the number of schools participating in the league.

The introduction of DSB on line this year made a huge difference to the organisation of the league for teachers, coaches and players alike. Our administrator Kim McCrave took the project in hand and made a wonderful success of the transition. A big, big thank you to Kim for this.

Our main initiative this year was taking on 3 Coaches to go out into the schools and work with teachers on a 6-week basis. It has proved very rewarding for teachers and young players and we would hope to continue with it again this coming season.

Our 2nd initiative this year of having an Under 19 Schools Doubles tournament in March proved very successful and encourages us to continue with it next year. This is an area we would hope to develop possibly at Under 16 and 14 in the coming year in order to encourage players to enter more under age branch events.

The league this year increased to 58 schools and for the first time, girls teams overtook the number of boys teams playing in the league. Let us hope that this trend will continue into the future. The continuation of Under 19 Division 4 Girls and Boys has helped to grow the league. It is hoped that this may help stream “social” players towards continuing to play after school in the club environment or university to grow our sport. We were also delighted to see the call for Division 5 and hopefully this will continue into the future.

The increase in the league was contributed to the following factors this year:

- 1) We moved back to a Regional draw
- 2) New halls completed
- 3) Schools better equipped

Sponsorship continues from a number of sources to allow us to replace equipment and prizes, provide coaching to newer schools in the leagues and put some money back into Leinster.

On each final's day for the first time, we introduced "the healthy option" with SuperValu Churchtown delivering to Leinster Centre. Each player had a complimentary bottle of water and fruit made up of bananas, apples and oranges. Interestingly under 14s and 16s cleared the table on arrival but when it came to under 19s fruit was not the cool thing! In this regard remaining fruit went to the homeless in Rathmines and was very gratefully received.

Score Keeper of the Year was presented at the final's day for Under 19,16 and 14 levels and once again was very much appreciated by the players and schools.

A number of awards, of sports bags and equipment, were made at the DSB AGM again this year.

David Murphy (Chairperson) and Kevin McGrath (Honorary Treasurer) continuously encouraged and supported upgrading DSB on line and the committee thank them for this. David, who compered and presented the prizes at the Under 19 finals this year, raised the bar higher on the day. Thank you, David.

I would like to thank our DSB committee, our administrator, our office staff and our many sponsors, Movies@Dundrum, SuperValu Churchtown, Heritage Credit Union, Power on Sport and Martin Evans who supported our booklet. I encourage you all to continue to support them all and also Yonex, who supplied shuttles for the semi-finals and finals of the DSB League this year.

All Dublin Finals were completed but sadly due to Covid-19 not only was the academic year cut short but badminton too. This left teams not knowing who would be the All Irelands 2020 winners. We leave the year unfinished and a year to come unknown from such a promising year and development in DSB. We trust in time, we will get back to the league and rebuild.

Cllr. Lynn McCrave

Chairperson Dublin Schools Badminton

4<sup>th</sup> October 2020