



## Leinster Branch Badminton Union of Ireland

Minutes of Annual General meeting  
held  
on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2020  
at 2pm  
Terenure Badminton Centre and via Zoom

Present Catherine Smyth(President,in the chair)(CS)  
David Murphy (Chairman)  
Kevin McGrath (Honorary Treasurer)  
Philip McKeown( IT)  
Betty Luttrell(Acting Gen Sec).

Registered by Zoom :

Executive Members: Avril Dungan,Mark Topping,Grainne Kinnerk,Walter Rountree,Roy Cobbe,Liza O'Rourke,Avril Dungan.

Badminton Ireland -David McGill, Michael Watt.

Trustees: Brian Herman,Har Allison.

Honorary Life Members: Breda Connolly,Muriel Moles,Declan McGinn,Derek Stewart,Mary Dinan,Gay Dinan.

Committee representatives:YACs- Jean Kelly,Brian Kelly,Elizabeth Dinan.Dublin Schools Badminton -Lynn McCrave. Midland BC-Joe Byrne.Snr Committee-Aisling Byrne.

Club Representatives:

KilmessanBC- Seamus Halpin, Roundwood BC-Ger Kenna, , Carlow LTC- Martin O'Hanlon, Portarlington Parochial- Alan Cobbe, Phoenix Juv BC - Tricia Patterson,Killoughey BC- Judy Bryant ,Baldoyle & District BC -Michael Smyth,Raheny BC- Margaret McDonald,Jean Denihan.ESB BC- Tom McGrath,Mary Byrne.Old Bawn BC-Aoife Lennon, Naas Junior BC- Orla Nuzum,Kildare CMWS- Aidan Murtagh ,Kadca BC-Helen Heery, Ailesbury BC- Lauren Au,Joe Wright.Terenure Juv BC-Ian Frost. Titans BC-Thomas Bohan.

The President (CS) greeted everyone and thanked them for joining the Leinster Badminton Annual General meeting through Zoom.

Before starting the meeting ,(CS) asked all to pause for a minute and remember all those who passed in the past twelve months, particularly :

Frank Peard

With the death of Frank, Badminton has lost its most enduring personality. For about 80 years he was at the forefront in seeking to improve Irish Badminton. Frank had a very successful and lengthy playing career. He was a very respected coach and whilst at the height of his playing career he fitted in time to serve on the Executive Committee of the Leinster Branch and was the main mover in achieving the building of Terenure Centre in Whitehall Road in 1954.

Gay Sullivan

Gay Sullivan did trojan work for a long time in supporting the set up and development of the Baldoyle BC. He was active on the committee there up to weeks before he passed.

Michael Halford

Michael was a member of the Leinster Branch Executive Committee and was a leading light in developing Leinster Badminton. He was a very active member of the Bar committee and contributed greatly to the development of the Bar in Whitehall Road.

Frank O'Reilly

Frank initially became involved in Leinster Branch through Frank Peard. He was Chairperson of the Executive Committee, was very hands on and was always keen to see improvements in all areas. He served as Leinster Branch representative of Badminton Ireland Executive Committee. He also served as President of the Branch and was made an honorary Life Member in recognition of his contribution to Leinster.

Marie Doyle

Marie was the wife of one of our most famous badminton players-Chick Doyle-and to this day, Senior players still compete for the Chick Doyle Trophy.

(CS) then formally opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. She apologised to all for the delay holding of the AGM, which was impacted by Covid-19 and also closure of Leinster offices during lockdown.

Apologies

(CS) read out apologies received which were from :

Tommy McGrath-Vice President

Marie Ruane La Sallian BC.

(CS) then said that 2019-2020 was a great year for our players, both at home and abroad. She had read the Year end reports with pride, which again demonstrated the hard work and commitment by players and coaches to the game and on behalf of Leinster Executive committee, she thanked everyone for their time and effort. Unfortunately with the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, many year end events were cancelled.

In an effort to recognise those who work hard and do over and above for Leinster, particularly those who have given lots of years of service to their Clubs, the Executive have introduced a Volunteer Pin (displayed on screen). She asked all present if they know someone in their Club or on their committee who deserve to be recognised, please notify [Generalsecretary@lbbui.ie](mailto:Generalsecretary@lbbui.ie) or [President@lbbui.ie](mailto:President@lbbui.ie)

On the occasion of this AGM, the President said she was delighted to present the first Volunteers Pins to :

- Aoife Lennon (Old Bawn BC) for her work both on the Exec committee, for Old Bawn and for Leinster Senior Tournaments.
- Kevin McGrath in recognition of his four years of hard work as Honorary Treasurer
- Philip McKeown ( Old School BC) for his voluntary work as our IT Manager, enhancing our IT and Media systems and setting up this Zoom call to-day

#### **a) Minutes of the previous General Meeting**

CS asked if there were any comments about the Minutes of the 2019 AGM and the SGM February 2020. There was none and therefore they were taken as read and the Minutes were then adopted into the meeting.

#### **b) The President's Report**

(CS) read through her report which outlined the highlights of the past season. She congratulated all the players who had represented both province and country. She finished by thanking Leinster Executive, the many committees, staff and volunteers for their contribution to Leinster Badminton during the year.

#### **c) Consideration of the President's Report**

The President's Report was proposed by Breda Connolly and seconded by Brian Kelly.

#### **d) The Chairpersons's Report**

The Chairperson said his Report has been issued to all and wanted to focus on some key points:

He acknowledged the efforts and time given by Leinster volunteers whose inputs are vital.

He thanked the staff for their hard work. He thanked Badminton Ireland for their ongoing support - in particular David McGill and Conor Fadian.

He congratulated Lynn McCrave who recently became a Councillor with South Dublin COCO.

Three of the Executive stepped down this year and he thanked them as follows:

Kevin McGrath for his work as honorary treasurer and support in many ways.

Mark Topping for his great ideas and coaching expertise.

Roy Cobbe, whose practical and measured approach was always helpful.

Aoife Lennon who is a front line worker, worked tirelessly in the areas of Senior Tournaments, Policies and Procedures and Safeguarding.

He concluded by reminding all, that the priority of the Executive committee, during this pandemic is that all Volunteers, players, and staff take care and stay safe. He is aware of the impact Covid-19 may have on our players-particularly the younger players and he hopes that everyone will be back playing sometime soon. He is confident that Leinster will go from strength to strength and the Executive will do everything in their power to get Leinster back playing post Covid.

#### **e) Consideration of the Chairperson's Report**

The report was proposed by Brian Kelly and seconded by Jean Kelly.

#### **f) The Honorary Treasurer's Report**

Kevin McGrath-The treasurer read the key points from his report and said Draft Accounts were available but some items required clarification and finalisation by the Auditors before they could be ready for sign off. He apologised for the delay which is not satisfactory and was caused by the delay in the submission of Accounts to the Auditor. Jean K proposed that an EGM take place so that the Final Accounts can be reviewed and signed off. The President supported this approach.

#### **g) Consideration of the Honorary Treasurer's Report**

The Honorary Treasurers report was not signed off ,pending finalisation of and audit of Accounts by Auditors. EGM will take place to do so.

#### **h) Election of a President to serve for two consecutive years**

- Catherine Smyth (KADCA Jnr. B.C.) - *Proposed by Muriel Moles (Life Member)-seconded by Breda Connolly (Aer Lingus B.C.)*

*As Catherine was the only nominee, she was duly elected.*

#### **i) Election of two Vice-Presidents to serve for two consecutive years**

Breda Connolly (Aer Lingus B.C.) *proposed by Catherine Smyth (KADCA Jnr. B.C.) - seconded by Muriel Moles (Life Member)*

Breda was the only nomination received and she was deemed to be elected as Vice President of the Executive committee to serve for two consecutive years.

The members of the Executive Committee who retired according to the Rules of the Branch are: Kevin McGrath (Raheny BC), Mark Topping (South Dublin BC), Aoife Lennon(Old Bawn BC).

The resignation of Roy Cobbe(Portlaoise BC) created an additional vacancy.

#### **j) Election of four members of the Executive Committee to serve for two consecutive years.**

Members may only serve a maximum of four consecutive years. However, they Become eligible for election again twelve months after retiring.

The following have been nominated for election:

1. Joe Wright (Ailesbury B.C.) - *Proposed by Har Allison (Trustee) - seconded by David Murphy (Danum B.C.)*
2. Derek Stewart (KADCA- Honorary member) - *Proposed by (Breda Connolly (Aer Lingus B.C. - seconded by Mary Dinan (KADCA B.C.)*

As there was four vacancies on the Executive Committee, the two nominees listed above were deemed to be elected to the Executive Committee.The Executive undertook to fille the remaining two vacancies within the coming weeks.

### **k) Election of Honorary Treasurer**

No nomination was received for the role of Honorary Treasurer and the Chairperson said that he has identified a suitable person and will intend to co-opt onto the committee at the first Executive meeting of the new year.

### **l) Presentation of Honorary Life Membership**

No awards were made at the AGM last year and the President advised that the Executive had given much consideration to the Honorary Life membership awards this year. Leinster Badminton is in a great place with a very high standard of players at all levels. All credit goes to the underage coaching across Leinster, where coaches have devoted themselves to the development of our young players. With this in mind, the Executive decided that the Awards this year would focus on the Leinster stalwarts who contributed to this. Presentations and speeches were made by members of the Executive and Awards were presented to :

Alan Cobbe

Tom Dooley

Nuala McCann

Catherine Smyth

#### **Tom Dooley - Speech by Roy Cobbe**

Tom Dooley has given a huge amount to part of Leinster, as a player, a committee member and a coach. Tom is from Ballinabranna in Carlow and started playing over 50 years ago and later moved to play with Carlow Commercial at a higher level. Playing at the league's top commercial grade (grade 1) Tom's team won multiple league and Cup titles. He represented the league to win many Leinster grade 1 inter league titles and won several all-Ireland titles. Tom was a very deceptive lefthanded player that many players found out to their cost.

Tom believed it was important to give back and did so through his involvement -for many years with Southwest league, on the executive/grading committee. His knowledge and input were invaluable. If Tom was in the hall, we never were short of someone to count games or do lines, all we had to do was ask and the answer always was 'where do you need me '.

Tom started coaching juveniles in Ballinabranna not long after he started playing. His Club / Parish team won the county title for 24 years in a row. In 1995 the team won a National Community games title. Ballinabranna went from strength to strength to produce many good players who played at all levels for club and county.

#### **Alan Cobbe- Speech by Roy Cobbe**

Alan and I started playing in the mid 70's. He started playing on a senior team the year after and has been on the senior team since at nearly all levels. He has won numerous league titles with the club at grade 4, 3, 2 and a couple at grade 1. He has won 3 Leinster inter league titles and one all Ireland title which I know he is very proud of. Alan played inter county at senior level for many years and won one Leinster title.

As with Tom, Alan was always willing to give back to the sport and has been club secretary for much of his playing career. He has been a county selector for Laois senior and juvenile teams and has been County Chairman for about 20 years on and off.

While Alan has been hugely involved with organising badminton at senior level, it is to coaching Juveniles that Alan has given most back. In 1980 Alan and a few of us took over junior badminton in the club. After a few years I took a different direction, Alan did the coaching courses and 40 years later he still coaches juveniles on a Saturday evening. It is commonly said in the county that nearly everyone playing badminton in Laois now has been coached by Alan at some point. To-day [Portarlinton](#) club, has a very successful grade 1 team and nearly all the players have been coached by Alan. He coached juvenile county teams to Leinster titles and players who represented Leinster on our Senior that plays in England.

I think both Tom and Alan really do deserve this small token of appreciation from us.

### **Nuala McCann- Speech by Catherine Smyth**

Unfortunately Nuala was unable to attend the meeting. Catherine said that Nualas' name is known the length of Leinster. Her passion for sport and her love of children blended beautifully in coaching. She has spent decades timelessly organising, coaching and supporting the youth of Naas and has driven the success of Naas Badminton to high levels. Decades of well coached children have competed at high levels, many went to Leinster Squads and more than a few played for Ireland. Their performance is/was a testament to Nuals skill and capacity as a coach. To-day I am happy to acknowledge and thank Nuala for the difference she has made to the youth in Naas and how she has enhanced the standard of play in the County and Leinster through her passion for the sport and time dedicated to same.

### **Catherine Smyth- speech by David Murphy**

Catherine began her badminton career in Coolock Ladies club. She played with a variety of Northside clubs in the Morning Leagues and during that time switched over to KADCA.

At KADCA her involvement with junior club badminton began. She was Child Safety Officer and Treasurer. The young players under her stewardship, blossomed and developed. She still retains the position of Treasurer where she ensures that all matters financial are in shipshape.

She is an accomplished umpire and umpires all over Ireland. She has officiated at a range of world class tournaments. Catherine is on the Baldoyle Management Board and has completed her term on the Badminton Ireland Board as the Leinster representative. She has been chairperson of the Badminton Ireland Court Officials Group.

In her capacity as Leinster President, she a regular visitor at clubs in Leinster where she offers guidance, encouragement and support on Badminton matters to committees, clubs and players.

Catherine is a true all-rounder, is dedicated to the game and is a great ambassador for Leinster Branch and is a worthy recipient of this award.

CS said as it was not possible to present the actual Certificates to the Award winners, both President and Chairperson advised that at the first opportunity or first event, they will attend and make the presentations to the new Honorary members.

She also said it was clear that the choice of recipients for the awards were extremely popular with those in attendance as in the absence of any handclapping facility on Zoom, there were many, many congratulatory comments on the Zoom chat option.

#### m) AOB

CS asked if any members of the meeting had any questions which they could put to the Committee through the chat facility on Zoom.

MS referred to the Treasurers report and asked for clarification about plans to pay for courts in advance and asked if tenants will continue to be invoiced. He also asked about the debt due from Baldoyle BC to Leinster Branch and said it needs to be resolved. He said that the Draft accounts show a figure due of €34k. the Treasurers report states €24.5k and Baldoyle BC have included them as €15k.

Resp: KMcG said no decisions or changes would be made to Invoicing or treatment of Baldoyle accounts without discussion with the Management committee.

JK suggested that Leinster Branch Rules should be changed and that any future Treasurer should be a qualified Accountant, where practicable.

Resp: KMcG said he would note for the incoming Committee.

The President asked if there were any further questions and there were none.

The Chairperson then took the opportunity to thank the President for her advice during the year. It has been a very trying year for everyone and we need to get back up and running and we need you with us, so please say with us and stay safe.

The President advised as there was no other business, she would close the meeting. In doing so, she said Covid-19 and lockdowns had made it a very different and difficult year for everyone. She thanked the Executive committee for their work during the year. She thanked those who left the committee and wished them well. She thanked Badminton Ireland for their continuing support and mentioned that she had been the Leinster representative on the Board and had learnt the nuts and bolts of how a corporate body works and values the experience gained while in that role. Last but not least, she thanked the attendees and all who work for Leinster and wished everyone well and asked them to stay safe.

End