



Chairman's Report

2021-2021

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of Leinster Branch Badminton. I am very pleased to be able to talk to you to-day at the Leinster Branch Annual General Meeting, even though it is by Zoom.

A 'normal' AGM report would include reports from CAC/SWLBL, Dublin District Leagues & Cups, about the activities in Leinster and Ireland, however during lockdown, no tournaments of any description took place. Some players have become innovative and set up temporary courts in their gardens. There was very little competitive Badminton played since February 2020. Many Leinster Badminton 'fans' took to watching and supporting the Leinster and Irish players performing in Europe where among the highlights, our Leinster Juvenile Michelle Shochan won the U15 Gold event last week in Milton Keynes, Rachel Darragh lost in the Final of the Lithuanian International and our own, Nhat getting to the top 16 in the Europeans and even better yesterday- June 16th- he was selected to represent Ireland in Singles at the Tokyo Olympics this summer.

However, the Executive Committee have taken advantage of the Lockdown and have used the time to work very hard in the background for the Benefit of Badminton in Leinster. With regular meetings, they have managed to get a lot done, most important of all is the development of a very substantial Strategic plan, which will soon be put in place for the future running of Leinster Badminton. This strategic plan, in my opinion is essential for the branch and on your behalf, I would like to thank them for all their hard work in this area.

The implementation of the Strategic plan will help all players- in Leinster- senior and juvenile- get back playing safely and also it will improve how Leinster Branch will ease the burden of putting procedures in place around the Legal and Health and Safety requirements.

The Executive Committee reviewed both Baldoyle and Terenure Centre, where many of our Leinster play and have arranged upgrades for players in both centres- there are 4 new yonex mats on the courts in Baldoyle. In Terenure security was updated and there is now enhanced CCTV and extra external lighting..

I would like to thank all of the Executive for all of their hard work during the year, in particular our President- Catherine Smyth who chaired the meetings while I was in hospital and our honorary treasurer- Grainne Kinnerk- for her diligence in getting our Finances together in a timely fashion.

In closing my Report, there are numerous people to thank as to-day I finish my tenure as chairperson of Leinster Branch and I would rather thank them personally on the day of the meeting- June 27th.

David Hogan retired as chairperson of the Youth Activities Committee during the year and there are not enough words to describe his contribution to Badminton, in particular Leinster Badminton. On your behalf, I would like to say thank you David, You are a Legend.

On a Sadder note, we lost of few of our dearest Leinster Branch members :

Mr Dick O'Rafferty :known to all who was a legend and a gentleman.

Eileen McCormack :who was closely involved with Baldoyle Badminto Centre, particularly with the over 35s league, KADCA and was a super Badminton supporter.

Mr Joe Buckley: who was for over 27 years on the Dublin District Leagues & Cups committee.

Finally , I would like to say that it has been a privlidge and an honour to lead the Executive and Branch over the past two years. I doubt if there wil ever be a period like it again where there was so little Badminton played and little or no contact with our people and players. With the Covid-19 vaccinations on stream for all, it is important to acknowledge and be grateful that we are all well and ready to play again. While I am stepping away from the Executive Role , I plan to work with each and everyone of you over the coming months to support your endeavours in getting Badminton back as the prefered sport of everyone I meet.

Yours in sport

David Murphy

Chairperson

June 16th 2021