



## LEINSTER BRANCH 2021 Annual General Meeting

### Welcome:

On behalf of everyone involved in the Leinster Branch I wish to extend a welcome and thank you for attending the Annual General Meeting of 2021. We had hoped to have had a regular AGM but unfortunately, we must meet virtually by ZOOM. At the time of writing this report we have had only a partial 'Return to Play' and hopefully it will continue in a positive way especially as many people are receiving their vaccination.

### Sad Passings:

The Leinster Branch wish to extend our sincere condolences to all who have lost family and friends during the last year. Since our last AGM we sadly saw the passing of Dick O'Rafferty, Joe Buckley and Eileen McCormack and here in Leinster we have been so fortunate to have had them work tirelessly within the Branch.

#### **Dick O'Rafferty**

Leinster Badminton remembers Dick as a great player, volunteer, manager, archivist and thorough gentleman.

As a player, he won many honours, including an Irish club championship, was a multiple Leinster champion and represented Leinster many times.

As a coach, he concentrated on developing young Leinster players and coached an Irish U18 team to win the Finlandia Cup.

As an administrator he served on the Executive Committee of the Branch, as President and later as a Trustee, and finally as General Secretary.

Dick's other enduring legacy to badminton is as Curator and Trustee of Badminton Museum Ireland (BMI). He devoted enormous enthusiasm and energy to sourcing and assembling artefacts, trophies, publications, photographs and records, now located at the Baldoyle Badminton Centre.

#### **Joe Buckley**

Joe was a lifelong stalwart of Leinster Badminton. He was very popular and everyone knew him or of him. He played Badminton for Garda/Avondale and Mount Pleasant.

He served on the Leagues and Cups Committee as Chairman for over 25 years, also served on the Leinster Executive Committee and was active for a number of years on the Midland Bar Committee. Joe was awarded Honorary Life Member membership for his contribution to Leinster Branch. Joe was very sociable and always supported Branch events and regularly attended Premier League Games.

#### **Eileen McCormack**

Eileen spent many years closely involved with Baldoyle Badminton Centre, the Over 35's League, her club KADCA and yet, still found even more time to chair the Executive and serve on a BI subcommittee.

Eileen was instrumental in implementing the Children Safeguarding Document back many years which showed Badminton's commitment to Child Protection well before it became mandatory.

To all their families thank you for allowing them to give so generously of their time to the Branch.

### **Competitions:**

While we had no home competitions, our players did take to the European Circuit: Paul Reynolds along with his partners Josh McGee Rachel Darragh, Kate Frost and Moya Ryan all gave sterling performances. Leinster's ever evolving player Nat Nguyen took to one of the biggest stages 'The All England' where he made it to the last 16. Nat still has his biggest competition in July at the Tokyo Olympics, and we wish him all the very best and above all Nat enjoy the experience.

### **Our Staff**

Betty our General Secretary, and Iris in Terenure, Muriel & Martin in Baldoyle many thanks for all your work during the Covid lockdown. To our young and vibrant staff thank you for your commitment to the Branch and hope to see you soon It would be remis of me not to mention Derek Stewart who has looking after Baldoyle for the last number of months.

### **Badminton Ireland**

David McGill, (CEO) of BI along with some members of Executive secured a grant from Sports Ireland to assist with the loss of Revenue during 2020 which financially assisted the Branch enormously. Many clubs throughout Leinster were able to avail of a grant from BI through the Covid 19 Grant Scheme made available to clubs to assist with the eventual opening of their club. Badminton Ireland also extended full Insurance, Affiliation and Membership to all clubs and their members throughout Ireland. To all the staff in Badminton Ireland who kept in touch with club secretaries and made representation on behalf of Leinster to Sports Ireland many thanks from all here on the Executive.

### **Life Membership**

It is with great pleasure that the following will receive Life Membership:

Mr Joe Byrne: Mr Roy Cobbe: Ms Margaret Fallon and prior to their presentation we will hear a resume on each of them. Last year we launched our Volunteer Pin, and the following are recipients for this year.

David Murphy DDCL, Shirley Cobbe: CAC & SWL, David Hogan (YACS), Carol Ni Fhearghail Muriel Moles & Tom McGrath (Umpires), Siobhan Grehan (Tournaments) Avril Dungan Executive – Congratulations to all.

Please remember the Volunteer Pin is available to clubs or committees to nominate, all you have to do is advise the President ([President@lbbui.ie](mailto:President@lbbui.ie) or [Generalsecretary@lbbui.ie](mailto:Generalsecretary@lbbui.ie)).

### **Executive Committee and Trustees**

I now come to our Executive Committee and want to thank them on your behalf. We have continued to meet via ZOOM every month and you will see later in the meeting the enormous work that have been put into our upcoming Strategic Plan. To Avril who is stepping down this year thank you to your valued contribution to many discussions round the table and who has always kept us on the right path with Her knowledge of the Branch and indeed her time she gives to the Leinster Branch for Avril no job was either too big or too small.

David our chairman is also stepping down. David as many of you know gives a huge amount of his time both to Leinster Branch and to Badminton Ireland. David can be found at his happiest behind a microphone, but David gave very generously of his time as Chairman at a time when there were some huge decisions to be taken by the Branch, but David carried them out in a respectful and professional manner.

So, while you are stepping away from the role of Chairman, I know you will not be far away from the Executive.

I wish to thank our Trustees who are always working in the background and are always available to assist the Executive when needed.

After what has been an unusual year for Badminton, I so look forward to meeting all our players over the next season, especially our younger players. Please stay well and keep yourself and your family safe.

Yours in sport

Catherine Smyth

President Leinster Branch