



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021-2022

Good afternoon

I would like to welcome everyone to today's Annual General Meeting.

Today will see me stepping down as President of Leinster Branch, and I thought I would have a quick look back at over the last 4 years – the highs and lows.

There were so many highs to choose from and here is just a flavour of some:

- 1 Nhat Nguyen qualification for the Olympics
And producing what can only be described as a sterling performance.
- 2 Gold Medal performances from Pam Peard, Sian Williams and Mark Topping, our Senior Players Kate Frost, Orla Flynn and Paul Reynolds who continue to compete in Europe.
And our young players Sofia Noble and more recently Pravan Erukattil, Dylan Noble and Siofra Flynn who have now started their quest for GOLD in Europe
- 3 Seamus Halpin Leinster Umpire who officiated at the Para Olympics and has reached the level of BWF status.
- 4 Our Juvenile plays who continue to represent Leinster on teams both at home and abroad and have been successful in being part of a Badminton Ireland National Team.
- 5 The amazing effort our volunteers go to for Leinster Branch- including Umpires/Referees and our sub committees.

There are so many events that I could reflect on.

Unfortunately, the lows will always be the loss of our members and we lost some very influential people who were instrumental in the shaping of Leinster Badminton – Frank Peard, Gay Sullivan, Norman Borton, Joe Buckley and recently Dick O'Rafferty. We also saw the onset of Covid 19 while affecting all families throughout Ireland, it also led to the suspension of Badminton. But as a community we will always be thankful to all our front-line workers who continued to work during this awful time- Medical / Retail Profession or the many volunteers who helped one another in some small way.

Season 2021-2022

It was wonderful in late August to see the lifting of restrictions and the Return to Play. For the Executive this was a worrying time, would we lose players? Would clubs re-open? And would we lose our younger players to another sport?

But the good news we did see a return to play while slow in the beginning it is now continuing to increase on a monthly basis. Our young players have returned in numbers and over the last few months to see the competition between the Underage Inter Counties has been great.

Finances:

For Leinster Branch, Finances have always been a concern especially during Covid Time, but thankfully with grants secured from Sports Ireland (through Badminton Ireland) in April 2021 they have been a welcome relief for the Branch especially at a time when very little revenue was coming into the Branch our Treasure will cover this in more detail.

RIP 2021 – 2022

Every season will see the passing of many people from the Badminton World in Leinster, we don't always get to hear of their death in the Office, but Leinster Branch will continue to remember everyone who has died during the year.

Christy Gannon

After Christmas saw the death of Christy. Christy not only one of our Senior Players, after his retirement from the Gas Company he became the face of Whitehall Road. It was always said by many a player and parent if you needed that early morning 'cuppa' Christy was your man. Like Dick, Christy would be seen in the seating along with Mary cheering on both Niall and David and later their grandchildren.

Terry Young

Terry was husband to Francis, and both would be seen in the early days of Baldoyle helping both in the hall and bar.

We also saw the passing of John Bridgeman husband to the late Marie Bridgeman who worked for many years in Baldoyle.

Also, the sad passing of Pat Denihan husband to Jean former manager of Baldoyle. Pat provided on many occasions the music in the bar after finals of the league and cups or the over 35s.

Teams & Players

As I mentioned it was great to see the return of many players. Our Leinster Players continue to make strides in Europe and UK. Many of our players continue to make the Badminton Ireland Teams, while also representing themselves in many of the competitions in Europe and UK.

This season saw our juvenile players compete and achieved great results at the Badminton Ireland Senior Nationals and Underage Nationals.

Sofia Noble Neasa Flynn Siofra Flynn Michelle Shochran Nicole Joy
Scott Guildea Dylan Noble Sean Patrick Lureta Vincent Pontanosa Pranav Erukattil

Our Senior ladies Jenny King & Orla Flynn played against Kate Frost and Moya Ryan in the Ladies Senior Nations in what can only be described as an epic match with Jenny & Orla winning out.

To all our players Master, Senior & Juvenile and remember the Leinster Branch is always supportive and proud of your continued success and best of luck for the coming years.

Thank You

Time has come for me to pass on the Role of President, but please allow me to make some presentations and thank many people.

Committees:

Youth Activities, CDC, SWLBL, DDLC Juvenile Inter County and Leagues and Court Official and coaches for your commitment to each of your groups, It has been nice to meet so many of your members at the various events. On behalf of Leinster Branch thank you and continued success.

Badminton Ireland

To David McGill CEO and all the staff at Badminton Ireland who are always at the end of a phone to answer our queries. Conor Fadian, who over the last number of years has provided members of Leinster Branch the opportunity to complete their Safeguarding Course and hosted many 'Open Forum' discussions for Leinster Clubs. On behalf of Leinster Branch many thanks, and hopefully the link between Branch and National Governing will become stronger.

To the Executive it was an honour to be part of the committee it was not always an easy journey, but it is all worthwhile, but continue to listen to everyone especially our players and clubs as without them there would be no Leinster Branch.

Our Trustees:

Brian, Har and Tommy you are and continue to be available at the end of the phone to advise and keep us all working within the Rules of the Leinster Branch.

To our players and parents continued success and hopefully we will continue to meet one another either on or off the court.

Thank you all once again for allowing me to be your President of Leinster,

Stay safe and continued success to everyone in Leinster.

Yours in sport

Catherine Smyth
President
Leinster Branch Badminton Union of Ireland