

Leinster Senior Team Trip Report

November 2022

The Leinster Senior team travelled to Newcastle on Friday 11th November for their first weekend fixtures of the 2022-23 English Intercounty Championship. Despite a delayed flight, the mood was good and an optimistic group flew out on a wet and windy evening.

Yorkshire 2 was first up on Saturday morning and Leinster won (7-4). Leinster took 2 of the 3 mens singles with David and Sean taking the wins. Over the course of a marathon match, Erwin was unlucky to come away with a 19-21 loss in the third. Michelle & Siofra both made short work of their opponents in the women's singles, and both can stand proud of their contribution to the team on their senior debut. With doubles up next, David & Erwin won their doubles in 2, as did Jennie & Siofra. Jennie & David also won their mixed in straight sets. Ashleigh and Michelle were pipped at the post, losing their doubles 20-22 in the third. But for the finest margins, Leinster could have won 9.

Leinster beat Glasgow & NS in the afternoon (8-3). Once again, the team won 2 of the 3 mens singles. David cruised through first singles whilst on the other two courts Sean and Erwin fought through two nailbiters! Erwin had another marathon match and visibly grew in stature with each point played to take the win in 3 sets. Sean played one of his best games of singles ever and showed the grit and determination of a player beyond his years. It was nip & tuck all the way in the third, and he was unlucky to come away with a third set loss 19-21. Michelle and Siofra both won their singles in straight sets, and emphatically demonstrated why both these young athletes have stellar careers ahead. David & Erwin once again won their doubles in straight sets, and not to be outdone, so did Jennie & Siofra! David & Jennie completed the win with their first mixed.

Every team needs its leaders, and this Leinster team was not to be found lacking. Jennie proved why she is worth her weight in Gold both on and off the court. Without dropping a set, Jennie won all 4 of her doubles and her mixed. She partnered beautifully with Siofra proving how invaluable the combination of youth & experience is. She and David showed themselves to be a mixed partnership of note.

Ashleigh also brought her experience to the fore in her doubles and mixed and as Captain of the Team, was a force to be reckoned with on and off the court! Declan battled courageously through all his matches despite a short recovery period from recent surgery – the team could not have asked for more. Both Sean and Erwin showed how the opportunity to play this standard of competition will bring on young players right before your eyes – exciting times ahead for both players. There can be little more said about Michelle and Siofra, other than that Leinster is proud to be an ongoing part of both their journeys and looks forward to many more years of supporting both as they proudly represent Leinster.

Last but not least, we believe that a new record has been set! Not only did David stand up and play all three events in both fixtures, but he also won all SIX of his matches, with only a single set dropped. To our knowledge, this has never been done before. The very definition of leadership, commitment, and talent!

Thanks goes to Betty and Barry in the office for organising the logistics for the trip.



The Senior Team would like to extend its thanks to the Leinster Executive Committee for their ongoing support and investment. The Senior Team is interested in partnering with a sponsor for additional support for travel and training purposes and would be happy to engage in any discussions. Please contact Leinster Badminton privately if interested.

Finally, thanks goes to Yonex, the official equipment supplier to Leinster Badminton.

Team: Declan Bennett, Ashleigh Coyne, Siofra Flynn, Erwin Guan, Jennie King, Sean Laureta, Michelle Shochan, David Walsh.

Manager: Liza O'Rourke

