



Baldoyle Bar Committee

Chairperson's Report 2022-2023

As Chairperson of Baldoyle Bar Committee, I begin this report with a heavy heart because one of Baldoyle's 'famous sons' -Derek Stewart passed away suddenly on March 10th, 2023, and the committee are still in shock. Our deepest condolences to Ann and all his family at this sad time. May his gentle soul rest in peace. He is greatly missed around all Badminton circles and especially Baldoyle Badminton Centre. Derek returned to help in Baldoyle in 2018 and put his heart into helping the Centre. His first task was cleaning the full centre, with a crew including Mick Smith and his lads.

Covid interrupted Derek's work. Covid did a lot of damage to the Bar Income in Baldoyle. The Rental income to the Bar dried up as tenants became victims of the Covid recession. Leinster Branch Executive proactively managed all aspects of Baldoyle, including Bar activity and centre management. As Baldoyle Centre host more than half of the events on the Leinster Badminton Calendar, the absence of the Bar meant a loss of potential 'catering' income generated from these events. The business went elsewhere.

Derek had a firm view that the Bar committee could be viable, and the Centre could generate business again and in recent months, with the help of our committee, Derek pushed to get the Bar and catering up and running again. There were many blocks on the way, lack of facilities, shortage of funds, funding to re-stock the bar, Leinster Branch Policy changes, reduced footfall and falling demand for the Bar arising from reduced Court opening hours.

Recently Baldoyle Bar committee opened its doors for limited business in April 2023 and had food available for tournaments. A very successful kitchen Buffet and Bar was run at the Irish Masters Open on the weekend of April 28th-30th. The committee are looking to host Communions, Confirmations and other events as was done successfully in the past.

Baldoyle is a perfect place for Badminton and people love to play there and hope they can continue to do so. To progress further, a Baldoyle based management team, some changes and supports will be required from Leinster Branch so that both the Courts and the Bar are used to their potential for the benefit of Badminton players of all ages.

My fellow committee members and I have many years of Committee experience and are Garda vetted and after a few tough years and ready for the challenge ahead.

Breda Connolly Chairperson
Michael Smith Treasurer
Tom Gorman Secretary
Elizabeth Dinan
Catherine Smyth
Mary Dinan.

May 2023