



Chairman's report 2024

We come to the end of my first year back as Chairman of Leinster Badminton. The past year has been extremely busy and for the most part very rewarding.

On court our juveniles and young players continue to impress with their achievements at home and abroad. We had a good many playing in individual tournaments in Europe and farther afield with some great wins. And in team competitions we had a great weekend in February when we won the under 14 challenges again. Our under 16s will try repeat that in May. Pride of place on the team front must go to our under 18s and their fabulous achievement winning Notts for a second year in a row. Never done before and will be very difficult to do again. Our thanks to all the coaches and managers for all their work with these teams.

On the home front we had juvenile inter county at 4 different age groups with teams from nearly all the Leinster counties taking part. It was great to see Laois and Wexford back with underage teams. Well done to all the winners and runners up and all the counties that took part. All the juvenile tournaments during the year had great entries (well up on previous years) and we thank anyone that helped running these. Our thanks to a very active youth affairs committee for arranging the tournaments as well as organising the squads for the teams and the teams that represented us so well during the year.

My thanks to all that work with schools around the province, to Lynn and her team in Dublin and anyone around the counties that give of their time to promote the game in schools. I feel this is an area that has huge potential for growth but lacks people who are available during the day to help. Maybe this is something that BI can help more with?

On the senior front numbers playing in team and individual competitions are well up on previous years which is very positive. In the inter counties the entries were the biggest they have been for years with 11 of the 12 counties taking part. Well done to the counties that won and are going forward to the All-Irelands in a couple of weeks in Limerick.

In the recent senior inter pros we had great wins at 50+ and 40+ and were narrowly beaten in the A grade. Well done all. And on seniors it's great to see Sian and Pam continue their winning ways with a world title which is a fabulous achievement.

The premier league continues to attract all the best players in the country to put on a great show and be super competitive in all the matches. Numbers of teams in this has also increase on other years which shows how attractive it is for the players to play in and also brings great crowds to encourage them on.

Our Leinster senior team once again went over to England to play in the Inter counties over there. We were playing in the premier grade of that which we were promoted to last season. Unfortunately, with so many of our senior players not available for one reason or another we found it hard going and were relegated at the end of the season. As so many of the senior player were not available, we had to bring some of our juveniles along to make up the team. These played extremely well and we are so lucky to have them, but this is a senior tournament and if our senior players are not going to be available for this the new executive committee may need to consider the merit of taking part next season.

We have so many of our players taking part in competition its wonderful and if I have forgotten anyone from the list (and I am sure I have) I apologise.

Off the court the executive continues to work at maintaining our two centres. Yes, they continue to need, sometimes quite a bit of money spent on them to maintain them but both of them a great asset to the branch. They are getting busier all the time and without them there would be a huge number of players without a hall. We really are indebted to the brave people that went before us for getting the built and paid for. Would we be brave enough to take on a project of building a badminton centre now??

I would like to thank our hard-working executive for all their work during the year. Each one of them is very involved with either their club, county or committee as well but still give so much time to our committee. My thanks to all the other volunteers around the province that open halls, coach players and do so much to keep the game growing in their area.

I would also like to thank our trustees for their help and advice when needed.

Finally, I would like to thank our Gen Sec Betty and all the staff in both centres for all their help during the year.

Roy Cobbe Chairman LBBUI

April 12th, 2024