



## Presidents Report 2024

I have now completed my second year as President of Leinster Badminton and it is with great pride, I wear the customary green jacket and the chain of office. I have attempted to officiate at all Leinster Tournaments and apologise for the events that I could not attend. It has been a great pleasure to meet all players and their coaches.

As President, the Leinster Branch have tasked me with promoting the sport in the province, and I hope to carry this out with the diligence that my position deserves.

Since last year, Leinster Branch have lost three stalwarts of the branch who sadly passed away. We offer our condolences to their families and friends and to anyone one in Leinster Branch who lost a loved one during the year.

### *Joe Abbott*

Joe Abbott was as a great player and represented the Province from Juvenile right up to Senior Interprovincial. He played on the ICC team in UK. Only 4 years ago he represented Ireland in the over 60s Nations Cup. He coached extensively in Edenderry and further afield in the Midlands. Sadly, Joe contacted Motor Neurone disease and passed away, prematurely, in January 2024

### *David Grimes*

David Grimes excelled as a player, even at the age of 11, then went on to win Juvenile honours at every age level. He was a member of the Pembroke BC. He won many Irish and Inter Provincial titles. He was involved in the Leinster Shires Open for many years. In mixed, he won numerous titles with Mary Bryan. In Mens doubles, he played competitively with Har Allison for years. They were famed for the epic battles against the two greats of that era- Dick O'Rafferty and Jimmy Dolan.

He was a member of the Bar committee (the old Midland) and contributed greatly during that time and was Branch President in the mid-80s. David was one of life's gentlemen on and off court, he lived in Cork for many years. He had been ill for some months and passed away in November 2023.

### *Paddy Kelly*

Paddy started playing with Churchtown BC, then moved into coaching and through that he was involved in the formative years of a number of Irish internationals -Carol Green, Scott Evans, Lee Evans -amongst others. He helped in the setup of and coached the Flying Arrows, special Olympics Badminton Club, (now Flying Trojans).

Although he retired from playing in his late 50's, he continued to coach and became Chairperson of the coaching committee of Leinster Branch. Paddy was awarded an honorary membership because of his work for Badminton and his love of the game influenced several family members to get involved at different levels of the sport.

Paddy had been in bad health for the last few years and passed away in August 2023

There has been a lot achieved by our sub-committees (see website for reports). I would just like to highlight a few events in particular - the back-to-back success of our victorious YAC's team at Notts,

Celtic Challenge u14 Win, Inter Pro's, the World Masters success of Sian Williams and Pam Peard late 2023 and a host of other juvenile successes. The standard of our juveniles is extraordinary and makes us very proud to be a part of it (details are available in the YAC's report).

I would like to thank Steven Corrigan for his tremendous work in revitalising Badminton in all of the Counties, initially through ensuring there are active and vibrant County committees in the province. I expect his hard work will be rewarded through increased activity in the coming season.

Regarding Schools Badminton, there has been immense work done in this area and I cannot thank enough the people who are driving this, such as Margaret Fallon, David Hogan, Brian Kelly, Lynn McCrave, Hazel Bird and Simon Keane to name but a few. We applaud their work and diligence.

On behalf of all our committees, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Leinster Volunteers without whom the branch could not operate (these are too numerous to mention).

Also, I would like to thank our fabulous umpires, referees, match control and coaches, whose tireless work is beyond belief.

One volunteer who stands out and must be commended is Philip McKeown, who through his great efforts and innovative approach has upgraded the technology in both halls and now all key Badminton events can be streamed so the game is accessible to more and more people through Utube.

I want to acknowledge the support the ongoing support received from Badminton Ireland, particularly in the area of the appointment of the additional Activation officer for counties in Leinster. That officer is John Amond, and we wish him every success in the challenge ahead and reassure him that he will have the full support of the Leinster Executive in his endeavours.

Finally, on a more personal note, I would like to thank all our Leinster staff who look after both centres, in particular Betty our General Secretary, whose support and help is boundless.

I would like to wish everyone the best of luck in the season ahead and be assured they will have my support in all their endeavours and allow me to misquote from the Leinster Branch Strategic Plan- our aim for the coming season is:

‘To provide more and better badminton for more people’.

David Murphy  
President  
April 2024