



Chairman's report 2025

We come to the end of my second year back as Chairman of Leinster Badminton. The year has flown by and yet again been extremely busy.

On court our juveniles and young players continue to impress with their achievements at home and abroad. We have some playing in leagues and tournaments around Europe and farther afield. They are doing us proud and achieving great results. At home Leinster juveniles had a clean sweep in the inter pros and the Celtic challenges which is a phenomenal achievement. This is something that does not happen without a lot of work by a lot of people and we thank our Youth Affairs committee for all their great work getting the juvenile players to squad sessions and bringing them on to such a high level. This committee is a volunteer committee like all the Leinster committees and we are so grateful to them and all the volunteers in Leinster for all the time they give to the province.

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 so many counties with underage teams and hopefully the other counties can develop and have juvenile Inter County teams soon. We need to help in any way we can to make this happen. 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 and we thank anyone that helped running these. Once again numbers are increasing in all these which is wonderful to see and causes its own difficulties with lack of court space to run these. A good complaint to have!!

My thanks to all that work with schools around the province, to Lynn and her team in Dublin. A special word of thanks to Hazel who does huge work to help Lynn with Dublin schools. It has been a trying year for both, but they both have a passion for DSB and work tirelessly to keep it going. We should not forget all the other people around the other counties that work so hard with the schools to encourage pupils to play the game and get teams out to represent their schools. Our thanks to Gary from BI for all his work with schools in the province. This is an area with huge potential but its difficult to get enough help to maximise the potential here.

On the senior front numbers playing in team and individual competitions are well up on previous years which is very positive but also causes problems with court space (again, a great complaint to have) The number of teams entering the senior Inter County was up again and is at the highest level it has been for many years. My congratulations to all the winners and the best of luck in the All Irelands. A great competition again and our thanks to Kevin Delaney for a competition expertly run. The Inter League is on-going as I write this and numbers are up in this as well but could be higher if all the leagues took part.

Work to be done here! Our thanks to Walter Rountree for his work on this. Thanks should also go to all the CAC committee for their work with running these competitions and with the grading in the province.

In the recent senior Inter Pros we had a great win in the A grade. We finished 2nd in the over 50s and 60s (a new age group this year) and 3rd in the over 40s. Master badminton in the province is growing as well.

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. Weather difficulties have hampered progress with the match nights but it will get finished. Thanks to all involved with running that as well.

Our Leinster senior team once again went over to England to play in the Inter Counties over there. After getting relegated last year we were competing to get promoted back to the Premier division this year and after three hectic weekends, we very narrowly failed to do that. My thanks to the Senior Committee for all their work with this and to all our players who made themselves available for the team. We do still have problems with some of our top players not being available for this team which is a pity but the players that played did not let us down. The Executive are concerned about this whole area and are, hopefully with the help of some of the players, going to look at this over the summer to see if something can be changed to improve this.

We have so many of our Leinster players taking part in competitions, 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. We have purchased four new mats for Whitehall and are planning to do a job on the floor in Baldoyle over the summer. A lot of work has been done in both centres by the volunteers in the centres and I thank them all for their work.

I would like to thank our hard-working Executive for all their work during the year. We had a very cohesive hard-working committee this year who have worked extremely hard for Leinster for the year and I thank them all for their work.

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

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

Roy Cobbe Chairman LBBUI