



## **Chairpersons Report**

### **Year End 2025**

We come to the end of another season and it has been yet again another extremely busy year in Leinster Badminton on and off the court.

On the court our young and not so young players continue to impress with great wins and achievements around Ireland, Europe and around the world.

Our Juveniles continue to dominate the Celtic Challenges and the Juvenile Inter -pros . They also had a great week at the Notts competition where they ended up with a bronze medal. A phenomenal achievement considering the level of competition. The LB juvenile Inter Counties continues to expand with most of the counties taking part and the winners coming from a wide variety of the counties. My thanks to YACS and especially Shantini for running these.

The schools competition is also thriving with schools from several counties winning and going forward to represent us in the All-Ireland competition.

The continued success of Leinster Juvenile badminton would not happen without the wonderful work of our YACS committee.

On the senior front we had great success with Sofia Noble, Siofra and Orla Flynn and many more doing so well at tournaments around Europe. Not to forget Nhat (another LB player) who continues to impress at the top-level events.

Our Leinster senior team continued to compete in the English Inter County competition. Once again, we struggled to field teams on a couple of week ends but all the players that did go gave their all for the province and had some notable wins. My thanks to the senior committee for their work picking teams and organising the trips.

Then with the Masters we had great wins for Sian Williams, Mark Topping and Lauren Au.

Our senior Inter County competition finished in March with all the finals. Yet again a huge entry which is great but causes its own problems with getting suitable venues. As I write this our winners are preparing for the all-Ireland inter county and inter league competitions – best of luck to all.

Great work done here by the CAC committee who also run the Inter League and Graded Individuals events along with the task of grading the players in the province. My thanks to Kevin Delaney Inter County organiser, Walter Rountree and Ger Morgan Inter League organisers, Paddy O'Connell graded individuals organiser for all their work.

Leinster entered teams in all sections in the Inter Pros held in Lisburn where we had some great success and some close seconds.

The Premier League continued this year and yet again attracted most of the top players in the country. Some very high standard matches played in this with great excitement on games nights.

Around the provinces we have numerous individual tournaments run by some very dedicated volunteers. Entries in all these were massive with some of the events having to limit the numbers allowed in.

Off court we continued to improve our two centres. We completed the task of replacing the floor in Baldoyle with a new timber floor with a complete rubber covering. We had hoped to get this done during the summer, but it ran into the start of the season, which was unfortunate, but it has turned out to be a great job and hopefully this will last a long time! We also put in a small gym in Baldoyle which is proving very popular and we upgraded some of the heating as well. This work would not have been possible without the help of a very generous grant.

We got some badly needed work done on the car park and surrounds of Terenure as well as numerous small repairs in both centres. We continued to support county committees with grant aid.

During the year we changed our sponsors from Yonex to Victor and look forward to working with Victor for the next 4 seasons.

A massive word of thanks to the extremely hard-working executive committee. The past year has been so busy and, I would say very demanding on all the members, but they worked through all the difficulties and achieved so much during the year. My thanks again to them for all they do.

We are so lucky in Leinster Badminton to have a wonderful team of employees working for us mainly in both our centres so my thank to them all and especially Sumesh who has joined our team in Baldoyle as manager, to Barry in the office in Terenure and a special word of thanks to Betty who does so much in the office and behind the scenes to keep every thing happening as it should be. I sometimes feel we all expect them to know what we want done but fail to tell them what that is so for that I apologise.

Leinster badminton continues to grow at a very fast pace, but this is causing problem with finding suitable halls and also finding the volunteers to run the clubs when we do find the halls. We are extremely lucky to have so many willing volunteers, but we find the numbers of volunteers seem to be dwindling and it's getting harder to get new ones on board. Not sure if its that they are concerned about all the regulations attached to volunteering or if it's that we are losing the desire to volunteer as a nation?

This may sound like a political statement 😊 but I feel we have achieved so much in the past few years but have so much more to do so I wish you all a very enjoyable and peaceful new season.

Roy Cobbe