

Leinster Branch Annual General Meeting
in
Terenure Badminton Centre
on
May 4th, 2025

Present: **David Murphy** (President, in the chair)
Roy Cobbe (Chairman)
Joe Wright (Honorary Treasurer)
Martin O’Hanlon, Steven Corrigan. Simon Keane Catherine Smyth, Enda Daly, Mick Smith,
Aoife Lennon, Shanthini Chandra (Executive Committee)

Betty Luttrell (General Secretary)

Badminton Ireland

Michael Watt Chairperson
Enda Lynch CEO

Honorary Members:

Muriel Moles, Gay Dinan, Joe Byrne, Brian Kelly, Joe Byrne, Loftus Warren

Trustees:

Brian Herman

Club Representatives

Athboy/Kells BC, Portlaoise BC, Danum BC, Ailesbury BC,
Pembroke BC, Dunboyne JBC, Rathfarnham, South Dublin BC, Old School BC, Fingal
Academy, Kadca Snr BC, Baldoyle BC, Phoenix JBC, Baldoyle & district BC, Kadca Jnr BC, Port
Parochial, Boyne BC

Sub Committee members:

Jean Kelly (JK), Liza O’Rourke (LOR), Youth Activities committee (YACs)
Other
Ian Frost

The President opened the meeting and welcomed Members, Club Secretaries and visitors. He checked for a quorum and then proceeded to the business of the meeting. He read apologies from:

Loftus Warren
Mark Peard
Breda Connolly
Olivia Cooney
Judy Bryant

Tommy McGrath
Cyril Finney
Har Allison
Lynn McCrave
Avril Dungan

He then welcomed both Michael Watt and Enda Lynch from Badminton Ireland.

The President asked for a Minutes silence to remember those who passed in the last twelve months and in memory of all past members of Leinster Branch.

(a)Minutes of previous AGM

The President then proceeded with the meeting. First on the agenda was the Minutes of the 2024 General meeting. Before proceeding, LOR was asked that in last year's Minutes the comment that the Notts team won should be 2024 and not 2023 as was stated. DM agreed this would be adjusted. As the Minutes and other reports were published in advance of the meeting, he did not propose reading through same. Subject to the adjustment requested being made, he asked for a proposer and seconder.

Michael Smith proposed
Brian Kelly seconded.

(b)President's Report

The President said 2024 was another wonderful year for the Branch at all levels across the province. Great work being done by all committees. Schools are also developing really well. Mark Topping is also doing his bit by opening up courts for more players with his new project in Terenure.

This year was a tough year in the sense that we lost Mary Dinan and, in her honour, Court 1 in Baldoyle BBC is now the Mary Dinan court. In view of Mary's contribution to Leinster, The Exec honoured her memory and decided to waive the Christmas Party and donate funds allocated to it. to the hospice –in Mary's name- This generated a round of applause in Mary's memory.

Leinster Branch is made up of volunteers doing unbelievable work. On behalf of the Exec, he thanked everyone and sked them to keep doing what they are doing.

Youth Activities Committee for their wonderful work-particularly the Notts results which augur well for Badminton into the future.

Organisers of the Adult Leagues around the Province

Philip McKeown for the Streaming and IT support which he continues to do on a voluntary basis.

Ruth Kilkenny-Munster Province- for the amazing support to our Leinster Player Jennie King, following a serious injury which Jennie received while playing at the England Masters.

The committees of Schools Badminton who continue to drive the Badminton agenda in Dublin and the Counties.

He thanked BI for their support during the year and was glad to note that both Micheal and Enda were in attendance. He asked if they wanted to say a few words, Michael W responded by saying that he was delighted to be asked to the meeting and said if there was anything Leinster needed, the support of BI is available to all.

(c)Consideration of the Presidents Report:

The President's report was taken as read and accepted by the meeting.
It was proposed by Enda Daly and seconded by Muriel Moles.

(d)The Chairpersons Report

The chairperson read through his report.

He spoke about our Juvenile players who continue to impress with their achievements at home and abroad. None of this could happen without a lot of work by a lot of people and he thanked the Youth Affairs committee for their great work in bringing the players to such a high level.

He also acknowledged the fine work done with Schools Badminton, both Primary (Garry Kehoe Badminton Ireland) and Secondary in Dublin (DSB)and the rest of Leinster (BK/YACs)

On the Senior side, the increase in numbers playing is a very positive development. The number of players in the Senior Intercounty is at its highest level for many years, thanks to Kevin Delaney for his expert running of the competition. Thanks to Walter Rountree for his CACs events and his work for Grading in the Province. Leinster had a great result in the Senior Interprovincials, with the Grade A team winning their section and the Masters came 2nd in the over 50s/60s and 3rd in the over 40s.

BPL/DDLC

Weather hampered some of the events this year, but BPL continues to attract the best players in the country who put on a great show in super competitive matches.

ICC

The Senior team played in the English Inter counties (ICC) and narrowly missed out on getting promotion back to the Premier division. Thanks to the committee for their hard work on this and to the players who made themselves available for the team. We still have problems with some of our top players not being available for this team, which is a pity, but the players who did, gave of their absolute best. A review of the event will take place during the summer; all options will be considered even the possibility of an alternative event or even withdrawing from the competition.

Chairperson said that so many of our Leinster players take part in competitions, both at home and abroad, if he has forgotten to note anyone's achievement, he apologises.

Off Court

The Exec continues to maintain our two centres. New mats have been purchased for Terenure, and a big job will be done on the floor in Baldoyle, hopefully over the summer. Volunteers are active and have done a lot of work in both centres which we very much appreciate.

He also acknowledged the band of heroes throughout Leinster who help with club play and tournaments, by opening up halls, locking up at night, cleaning and maintaining the courts, putting up nets, taking down nets, all the background work necessary to ensure courts are available for club play or tournaments. Thank you.

Our Executive is a very cohesive committee and have worked extremely hard for Leinster this year and he thanked them for all their hard work.

He also thanked our Trustees who are always available for help and advice when needed.

Finally, thanks to the General Secretary and staff in both centres for all their work during the year.

(e)Consideration of the Chairpersons Report:

The Chairperson's report was taken as read and accepted by the meeting.

It was proposed by Michael Smith and seconded by Veronica Murphy.

In response to comments by chairperson about the idea of pulling the Senior Team from ICC competition., there was some discussion.

Jean Kelly (YACs) said players are gone from YACs at 17 and a Player pathway is needed; without it there is nothing for them to aspire to and this should be the mission of the Exec. She asked if the Executive would consider developing something for those 17-year-olds. Ian Frost supported this proposal and said a strong pathway is needed and will enable strong teams and good numbers. He stated that it would be very negative to pull ICC, as players fought to get into the ICC and played at the highest level which helps players develop their game. Ian Frost also said he would like to see those ICC players play exhibition games in Leinster.

Brian Kelly said he supported the views of Jean Kelly and Ian Frost.

In response to comments about the ICC Team, RC asked those present if they had any idea why players were not making themselves available for the senior team.

BK said there are any number of reasons, injuries or they can't afford to go and others are getting paid to play in Europe.

LOR said the English Counties have similar issues to those in Leinster.

Some move to college so not easily available

JK said in the past, there was less competitions, now there are so many more.

LOR said competing in the ICC is strengthening the domestic game. JK said that in the case of Girls, at u17, the number of girls playing drops and both BI and Exe need to look at this with a view to improved retention of girls at that age.

Helen Heery asked where the girls are and have they been asked to play. RC said they were and they stated they didn't want to play.

RC thanked those who contributed to the discussion for their inputs. He stated Exec have no desire to pull the team but do want a stronger team going to compete. Although there are so many strong players, Branch struggled to field a team during the past season.

(f) Honorary Treasurers Report

Honorary Treasurer- Joe Wright read through his report.

Key highlights were

Reports and Accounts completed and reviewed by Committee prior to meeting.

Accounts show a loss of €70k, which was brought about by re-valuation of the Centres and the impact of depreciation on the higher value of those assets.

Changes made to allocation of payments received-particularly in the case of entry fees from DDLC and Affiliations received from BI.

Cost Increases:

Salaries increased due to additional staff.

Lighting and heating

Cleaning costs increased due to use of Contract cleaners in Centres.

Costs associated with Snr participation in ICC events(x3) to UK.

Insurance Premium increased by 4%

Bad debt where tenant left without any notice.

The year ahead

Hon Treasurer said that the year ahead will be a challenging one, as there are many high costs projects ahead, like, Replacement of Mats in Terenure BC, Roof repairs in Terenure, New Heating system in Baldoyle and new floor in Baldoyle.

In conclusion he thanked Enda Daly and Lavanya Rajsishanna for their support during the year.

As that concluded his report, Hon Treasurer asked if there were any question.

Jean Kelly (YACs) had some queries on the allocation of Costs. This may have been brought about by changes to allocation rules, or possibly ICC costs allocated to YACs in error. YACs not happy about this. Treasurer and Jean agreed to go through in details and agree the correct figures and agree allocation process for the coming year. As part of that he will also do a breakdown of 2024 and separately identify Snr team costs from Youth Activities costs.

Liza O'Rourke queried Affiliations as they seemed to be less than previous year. Hon Treasurer explained about the allocation changes by Leinster where costs and receipts are now allocated to the period to which they related.

Liza O'Rourke also queried if the Purchase invoicing process changed. Treasurer said, previously, invoices were only entered onto the accounting system when paid. Now, all invoices are entered onto Sage when received and paid within 30 days.

Liza then asked about works planned for year ahead. Treasurer explained that Branch was granted a Sports Grant of €251k and a 2020 Grant has not yet been drawn down. Plans are afoot to commence work during the Summer.

A query was then raised about how Tournament income is treated in the Accounts. There should be a separate line for Tournaments, showing schedule of tournaments and detailed breakdown. They are the biggest activity in Leinster and people on the outside need to see the work and effort the committees (our volunteers) put in. Treasurer will talk to Auditors about getting a line in the Accounts for Tournaments next year.

As there were no further questions, President thanked all for feedback, and hoped changes will help improve understanding of time and effort given to Tournaments by the Branch.

(G)Adoption of the Honorary Treasurers Report

President asked for a Proposer and seconder for the Treasurers report.

Mark Topping proposed and Paul Mooney seconded.

(h) Election of Chairperson of the Executive Committee to serve for two years:

Roy Cobbe (Portlaoise BC) - Proposed by Karen Cahill (Portlaoise BC) - Seconded by Noelle Clancy (Portlaoise BC)

As this was the sole nomination received, Roy Cobbe was re-elected unopposed to serve two years.

- (i) Election of **four** members of the Executive Committee to serve for two consecutive years. Executive members may only serve a maximum of four consecutive years. However, they become eligible for election again twelve months after retiring.

The following have been nominated for election:

1. **Paul Mooney** (Danum BC) – Proposed by James Martin (South Dublin BC) – seconded by Michael Brophy (Danum BC).
2. **Catherine Smyth** (KADCA Jnr BC) – Proposed by Elizabeth Dinan (Kadca Snr BC) – seconded by Breda Conolly (Life member).
3. **Patricia Patterson** (Baldoyle Dist. BC) --Proposed by Christina Smith (Baldoyle Dist. BC) Seconded by Greg Bridgeman (Baldoyle District BC)
4. **Mick Smith** (Baldoyle District BC) -Proposed by Kate O'Malley (Baldoyle SR & Phoenix Jnr BC) - seconded by Tom Gorman (Baldoyle Dist. BC).

As there were 4 vacancies and 4 nominations received, those nominated were elected unopposed to serve a two-year term.

(J) Rule Change

Consideration of motion from the Executive Committee was:

“The chairperson or his/her nominee is the approved spokesperson for the Branch”.

Chairperson read out the motion for consideration and explained that currently there is no one nominated to speak on behalf of the Branch to the Media. Working through the Governance Code, it was established that this is a requirement. He explained the rule change would limit the authority to ‘speak’ for the Branch to the Chairperson, in all circumstances and would reduce the risk of random inappropriate or unauthorised announcements by anyone.

BI spoke and asked if there could be a conflict of interest in this case as the chairperson is the Leinster Rep to BI and might have to put BI first. This generated some disagreement from the floor.

MB said chairperson was the appropriate one to be spokesperson as he has elected by the Council and if he felt there was a conflict of interest, in the normal way he could step away and nominate some one else and there was general agreement to that.

The vote then took place and the count was managed by the General Secretary. The Motion was passed by the Council members present by a significant majority.

Michael Watt then spoke and said his term is up as Chairperson of Badminton Ireland. The BI AGM takes place next week and everyone is welcome to attend and participate. He congratulated Leinster on their performance, with player numbers and Affiliations both up and congratulated the volunteers and players coming up.

DM thanked him and wished him the best for the future.

(K) Honorary Membership to Shirley Cobbe and John Taylor.

Shirley Cobbe

President introduced Shirley and said he was particularly delighted to grant Honorary membership on her. It was well known in Badminton circles that she was the ‘go to’ person and worker that made SWLBL what it is to-day. He asked Lesley-her daughter- to share her Bio with the meeting. Lesley said:

Shirley Cobbe's contribution to Leinster comes from years of quiet dedication, work behind the scenes, a love of the game and the Badminton Community. Her innovation is what also sets her apart as she has, over the years, initiated many new ways of doing things. This shone through during her role as secretary of SWLBL,-organising the Interleague competition for years, set up an

SWLBL umpires group ,more recently took to Tournament Software and has maintained the system for SWLBL- that sounds easy, but the benefit to SWLBL is impossible to quantify as she has put Scores and stats online- visible to everyone. The Leinster Grading and Points system has confounded many a volunteer and staff member over the years, but Shirley maintained the system for years for 6 counties initially and later all counties in the province.

Shirley is one of the many people who quietly keep things going in the background, her only expectation of thanks is that leagues and matches run efficiently with Statistics and information available online to enable player's progress.

President thanked Lesley and then said that Shirley is well deserving of this honour, and we thank her for her dedication to Badminton over the years.

John Taylor

President advised that John sent his apologies as he was at a wedding in Australia and was very disappointed that he could not attend. It has been arranged that his presentation will take place at the final BPL event of the season, at the end of May.

(l)Presentation of Volunteer Pins

Nominations were received and Pins were presented to:

- 1.Sam Krishnan: Ardee Club
- 2 Sinead Gallagher: Annacurra Badminton club
- 3 Enda Daly
4. Martin O'Hanlon

In additions, Pins were awarded last year and not issued. They were presented by the President to Helen Heery and Simon Keane.

(m)AOB:

County participation in Leinster events:

Jean Kelly has a concern about this, only 4/of the 12 Counties are active. She would like to see a 5-year development plan to get the other Counties involved.

Brian Kelly complimented the Exec on a good year. In running tournaments, his key requirement is having the right facilities in the centres. He is happy that volunteers in both centres are getting to grips with that. He said if the Exec would do one thing, it would be T&C for travelling teams.

Then, some general discussion took place about the Centres.

Some thought that they should both operate from the same Rules.

LOR talked about success but said it is not always easy for parent to get children to the centres.

This needs to be discussed by Executive.

Mark Topping asked if the centres would consider opening at 6am.

Imelda Breen talked about having half hourly slots from 6-8pm.

It was agreed to look at these suggestions.

President asked if there were any matters to raise under AOB and he was advised there was none.

With no further business to discuss, David Murphy thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He wished everyone a good 2025-2026 season and then brought the AGM 2025 to a close.

End.