



**IRISH SQUASH**

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Irish Squash Federation CLG.  
11<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
Report of the Board for 2022/2023  
Incorporating Provincial Associations Reports**





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## Board Reports

### President's Report for 2022 - 2023

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report for the year 2022/2023 on behalf of Irish Squash. The past year was the first 'normal' squash playing season post-pandemic and has been filled with both significant achievements and challenges.

We are into the second year of our "Strategic Plan 2022-2027 Connecting the Dots" which underpins our commitment to promoting and developing squash on an all-island basis. Our Strategic Delivery Group (SDG), in alignment with the Pillars of our strategy, established 5 volunteer-led working groups in the areas of schools, third level sector, coaching, competitions, participation and high performance. Recommendations from these groups will be actioned over the next 12 months.

An additional working group on social media and communications was established after the online training course provided by Irish Squash to members was completed. We recognise that as an organisation we do not utilise social media to best effect in communicating activities and plans to our members and to a wider audience. Additional resources will be put into this area as a priority over the next 6 months.

We continue to migrate our operations including affiliations and tournament organisation on to our single software platform, SportyHQ. Additional office resources are in place to support this development which remains a priority for Irish Squash.

From a governance perspective and with guidance from Sport Ireland, organisational change is underway in order to professionalise Irish Squash whilst maintaining our strong volunteer network. A series of workshops facilitated by the SDG are shaping future direction for board structure (slimming down) and increasing office resources. A significant development is that we will appoint a Chief Executive Officer, a new role for Irish Squash, in the coming months. Further workshops at provincial level will be run later this year to continue this important process of engagement with our members. We view the four provincial associations as crucial partners in implementing our strategic plan and will continue to fund activities at provincial level accordingly.

We have collaborated with clubs to assist in refurbishment of facilities post-pandemic, and we are grateful for the funding from Sport Ireland for indoor sports in this regard.

In order to ensure our aim of every club having its own coach, we provided regular opportunities for our members to qualify as Level 1 and 2 coaches in the past year. We are grateful to our team of coach tutors for all their expert work in training new coaches.

The broad range of activities at national, provincial & club level are detailed in this report. It speaks to the strength and depth of our volunteer network that all of this is delivered seamlessly for the benefit of all in the squash community. We have organised national tournaments and events at various levels, offering competitive opportunities for players of all ages and skill levels.

Congratulations to all players who represented Ireland on junior, senior and masters' teams in European and Home International competitions.

In particular, congratulations to our U19 mixed team who secured 4<sup>th</sup> place in the highly competitive European team championships in April and to our senior men's team who finished second in Division 2 of the European Team Championships, thereby securing promotion to Division 1 in 2024.

We are grateful for the professional support from Sport Ireland, especially Shane Califf, Director of NGBs, Niamh O'Sullivan, High Performance Director & Michelle Carty, Director Organisational Development & Change Unit.

Thanks to the Federation of Irish Sport for continued assistance in business and development opportunities.

On a personal note, I completed my second term as Vice President of European Squash Federation at the ESF AGM in April. I am particularly pleased that the ESF motion to introduce gender equality on junior teams competing in European team championships was passed and comes into effect in 2025 starting with the U15 mixed team event (then U17 & U19 teams with this cohort of players). I was appointed chairperson of the new ESF Committee for Equality, Inclusion & Diversity and in this role I hope to maintain a strong relationship between Irish Squash and our European partners.

Special thanks on behalf of the board to all the volunteers who work in our sport in every corner of the country. You are essential to the growth and development of squash and this report highlights just some of this activity.

Finally, sincere and heartfelt thanks to my fellow board members for their sterling work and great support over the past year. It is a privilege to work with you all.

**Rosie Barry**  
**President, Irish Squash**

### **Honorary Treasurer Report for 2022 - 2023**

The attached financials, approved by the Irish Squash Board cover the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

#### **Income**

Income increased by almost €20,000 year on year primarily as a result of increased activity with a return of competitions and coaching education and reinstatement of club affiliation fees that had been suspended during Covid. The core grant received increased by €30,000 to €230,000 which reflects the continued support we receive from Sport Ireland. These increases were offset by reduced Covid grants which were over €200,000 in 2021 versus €60,000 in 2022.

#### **Expenditure**

Expenditure increased by over €400,000 which reflects the return of activity within the squash community. International competitions were held for the first time since Covid and while the costs at €92k appear high, they reflect a modest increase compared with 2019's figure of €88k. National competitions also resumed with expenditure of €121k and master's competitions had expenditure of €70k, these costs reflect a strong return to squash competition. The other significant costs were Covid grant expenditure which reflects the distribution of Covid grant funds to clubs, primarily to assist in getting court maintenance to restore courts that suffered deterioration due to neglect during the Covid pandemic, and an increase in research and development expenditure which reflects increased coaching at all levels from grass roots to high performance athletes.

### Balance Sheet

Cash in hand increased from €519k in 2021 to €604k in 2022. This reflects the increased grants received from Sport Ireland both in the core grant and in the Covid grants for resumption of sport. As activity continues to increase this cash will reduce over the next 24 months.

### Current year 2023

The implementation of the strategic plan will result in additional spending during 2023. As the Covid grants received continue to be distributed to affiliated clubs and activity continues to increase the current cash surpluses will decrease. There have been positive increases in both affiliations and in the numbers of players both playing and entering competitions. From an overall cash flow prospective we are in a strong position to continue to support the implementation of the strategic plan and are looking forward to increased participation in squash for 2023.

### Christine Mooney

Honorary Treasurer, Irish Squash

## Honorary Secretary/Governance/Coaching Report for 2022 – 2023

The board of Irish Squash for the 2022/23 comprised:

President	Rosie Barry
Honorary Treasurer	Christine Mooney
Honorary Secretary	Anne Costello
Junior Administrator	Christine Lowry
Refereeing Secretary	Lee Healy
Masters Secretary	Gerry Callanan (resigned 17-3-2023)
Child Protection Officer	Ann Sheppard
Connacht Representative	Paul Bree
Leinster Representative	Peter O'Halloran
Munster Representative	Eugene Walker
Ulster Representative	Arlene McVeigh

Between the 17<sup>th</sup> AGM, in September 2022, and now the board have had nine meetings. Meetings were held in person and on-line.

Various issues have been addressed over the year including the following: -

- Financial matters including budgets, grants, funding, accounts, affiliation.
- Governance matters including board training, board review, review of policies.
- Appointment of coaches for all age groups.
- Updates from SDG, working groups, committees and single platform.
- Senior, junior, masters' squads, home tournaments and international events.
- PSA training hub and financial support for PSA players continued.
- Liaison with Sport Ireland, Coaching Ireland, Federation of Irish Sport
- Child protection matters.
- ESF and WSF matters.

Governance and Ethics Committee – this committee consists of Christine Mooney (Chair), Anne Costello, Lee Healy and Paul Nugent. There have been four meeting held since the last AGM. The ongoing work includes reviewing board handbook, bylaws, policies and constitution. Also supporting the board in ethical matters and self-monitoring.

Coaching Matters – Irish Squash have appointed the following coaches for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons: -

- Senior men – Eoin Ryan
- Senior women – Ken Flynn
- U19 – David Noone with Ken Flynn as assistant
- U17 – Michael Conroy and Nigel Peyton
- U15 – Nigel Peyton and Josh McVeigh
- U13 – Andrew Gillespie

Squads were held throughout the season and the coaches travelled with the teams to the various international events. In addition, Irish Squash sent David Noone to the BJO and Josh McVeigh to the German Junior Open to coach Irish players. Currently, Irish Squash are looking for a coach to hold squad sessions for the masters' women.

On behalf of the Irish Squash membership, the Board of Irish Squash would like to thank Paul Nugent, COO of Irish Squash for all his help and hard work throughout the season.

**Anne Costello**  
**Hon. Secretary Irish Squash**

### **National Children's Officer Report for 2022 - 2023**

#### **Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport**

Documents referring to safeguarding guidance for children and young people in sport were reviewed and updated. In particular:

- Irish Squash Policy No 4 Disciplinary Procedures of Irish Squash was amended and replaced section 4 of Safeguarding Policy. This ensures that there is only one IS disciplinary policy and not different procedures for Juniors.
- Appendix 5 No 2 Supervision: if a mixed gender session, then there must be a male and female in attendance.

#### **Review of Documents referring to Junior Squash Players:**

All documents referring to Junior Players, Junior Players' Parents and Junior Players' Coaches and Leaders were already collated together under the Junior Players drop down menu on the Irish Squash website this time last year. A lot of time this year was spent amending these documents to bring them in line with practice. In particular: Code of Ethics Form for Parents, Code of Conduct for coaches and leaders, Representing Ireland, Conditions and Rules for Juniors attending events, Children's Code of Conduct. Role of Manager/Leader for Juniors, Role of Coach for Juniors, IS Disciplinary Policy have been added to these documents.

#### **Safeguarding Training and Vetting**

Pleased to report that safeguarding training for coaches as well as volunteers is now more widespread and an automatic condition for anybody working with young people. Good practice has also ensured that most members of the IS board have completed training.

IS Website has clarified that Tusla's Children's First certificate is not a valid Safeguarding Training for those working with young people in sport.

Gerry Connaughton processes vetting applications on behalf of Irish Squash and reminds those who need to renew after 3 years. He also reminds clubs of their responsibilities to ask volunteers or employees for a copy of their vetting disclosure.

### **Safeguarding Club Self-Assessment**

Of the 56 squash clubs 25 clubs have completed the safeguarding club self-assessment. We are satisfied that no other clubs have juniors.

### **Disciplinary committee**

As NCO participated on disciplinary committees and addressed queries with reference to Junior players and reminded parents, coaches and leaders of their role to ensure health and safety of young players.

### **Targets for 2023/24 season**

Sporty HQ – update each coach’s profile with coaching qualification and date completed, safeguarding qualifications and date completed, garda vetting and date completed. Generate automatic reminders for renewals.

Encourage more clubs to build a junior squash playing section.

### **Ann Sheppard**

**National Children’s Officer, Irish Squash**

## **Anti-Doping Report for 2022 - 2023**

I have just recently taken up the role as Anti-Doping Officer of Irish Squash. Many thanks to Dr Aidan O’Colmain who previously held the position.

An Anti-Doping Education Event was held in person at the Senior National Championships on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The presentation was delivered by Paul O’Donovan from Sport Ireland. There were 22 people in attendance, a mixture of players and coaches.

Two drug tests were conducted by Sport Ireland at the Irish Open on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) have published their new [List of Prohibited Substances and Methods for 2023](#). Of note, the narcotic tramadol will be prohibited for in competition use, effective 1 January 2024. The Summary and Explanatory notes of the Major Modifications can be found [here](#). On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Sport Ireland Anti-Doping launched <https://medcheck.sportireland.ie/>, a Medicine checker website designed as a resource for athletes to check whether their medication contains a substance on the WADA prohibited list.

All medications, be they over the counter or prescription, may contain substances that are on the WADA Prohibited list. This list contains the details off all substances and methods that are prohibited in sport. The prohibited list is revised on an annual basis.

The simple advice for all athletes is that they MUST CHECK the status in sport of all medication BEFORE CONSUMING it. Athletes can now check the status in sport of medication purchased in the Republic of Ireland via the [NEW Medicine Checker website](#).

More information about Anti-Doping Rules can be found at:

- <https://www.irishsquash.com/anti-doping/>
- <https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping>
- <https://www.wada-ama.org/en>

### **Michael Hanrahan**

**Anti-Doping Officer, Irish Squash**

## Junior Secretary Report for 2022 - 2023

Junior Committee for the Season:

- Christine Lowry – Junior Secretary
- Ulster Rep – Josh McVeigh
- Connacht Rep – David Noone
- Leinster Rep: Eoin Ryan
- Munster Rep: Brendan Connolly

**Irish Tournaments** – the following Junior tournaments were held this season

24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022 – Connacht Junior Open

15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022 – Ulster Junior Open

12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022 – Munster Junior Open

18<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022- Irish Junior Open

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 Connacht Junior Closed Galway

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 Leinster Junior Closed Sutton LTC

14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 Ulster Junior Closed Belfast Boat Club

14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 Munster Junior Closed Dunhill, Waterford

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 – Leinster Junior Open

17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 – Junior Nationals

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March 2023– Junior Interprovincials (Ulster)

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March **Junior Interprovincials** were held in Ulster, with Leinster, Munster and Ulster participating. Well done to the Provincial reps who worked hard to ensure the event could take place. Commitment to try and grow the numbers for 23/24 season.

**Schools All Irelands** event was postponed to Sept due to timing issues around school exams.

Leinster participants decided – with a clean sweep by Sutton schools – St Fintan NS, Burrow NS, St Fintan’s HS and Santa Sabina.

Remaining provinces to confirm participation and winners.

### **Junior Ranking:**

Andrew Gillespie maintained the ranking lists after each tournament throughout the season.

### **Coaching and Squads**

Various squads were held during the season in preparation for the various events, lead by the coaches selected for each age group. Namely:

David Noone and Ken Flynn – U19

Michael Conroy and Nigel Peyton –U17

Josh McVeigh and Nigel Peyton –U15

Andrew Gillespie– U13

### **International Events:**

IS sponsored the following coaches to support the Irish Players competing:

- David Noone to attend the British Junior Open 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 23
- Josh McVeigh to attend the German Junior Open 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 23
- 

### **5 Nations U13/U15 21st to 23rd April, Edinburgh**

Coaches Andrew Gillespie (U13), Josh McVeigh & Nigel Peyton (U15)



Manager: Kate O'Brien

Team U13: David Connell, Eoin Mullery, Ben Lynch, Jack Clery, Laya Sabry, Lucy Lynch and Rebecca Day

Team U15 Christian Dromgoole, Aaron Knox, Adam Power, John Day, Zeo Yeomans, Shriya Drawid and Rebecca Jackson

Final Scores U13: England 74 | France 63 | Scotland 37 | Wales 25 | Ireland 14

Final Scores U15: England 79 | France 63 | Scotland 33 | Ireland 26 | Wales 19

Sponsorship: Kate O'Brien secured sponsorship of €1,000 from her employer, Davys, to support the junior teams.

### **Europeans U19 1st to 9th April, Zurich**

Coaches David Noone & Ken Flynn

Manager Christine Mooney

Team: Dylan Moran, Jack O'Flynn, Sean Murphy, Aimee McConnell and Sara Sabry

Ireland finished 4th -beating Switzerland, Belgium and Croatia to head their group and losing 2/1 to both France (2nd ) and Netherlands (3rd ).

England won the event.

### **Europeans U15/U17 11th -14th May, Prague**

Coaches Josh McVeigh & Nigel Peyton (U15) Michael Conroy & Nigel Peyton (U17)

Manager: Roisin O'Shea

U15 Team: Christian Dromgoole , Aaron Knox, Adam Power, Zoe Yeomans and Shriya Drawid

U17 Team: Daniel Lynch, Conal Jackson, Frank O'Flynn, Lydia McQuillan and Anna Meaney.

Note: Yuv Pahuja was selected but unable to participate due to exams

U15 finished 9<sup>th</sup> out of the competing 18 countries.

U17 team finished 12<sup>th</sup> out of the competing 18 countries.

### **WSF World Junior Squash Championships 2023** in Melbourne planned for July 2023 – The Irish U19

Girls team selected to participate are

- Sara Sabry (Leinster)
- Sophie Thomas (Ulster)
- Maria Protsepova (Leinster)
- Lydia McQuillan (Ulster)

Coach is David Noone and Manager Roisin O'Shea.

Child protection matters are dealt with elsewhere in this Board Report by Ann Sheppard, National Children's Officer.

Thanks to the Irish Squash Board and Junior Committee for all their support, the junior coaches for all their efforts to develop and prepare the juniors for the various events and to all the managers who travelled with the junior teams, as well as all the tournament directors, referees and volunteers who made the local events possible.

**Christine Lowry**

**Junior Secretary, Irish Squash**

## Masters Report 2022 – 2023

### Irish Masters Tour News

As a preliminary event to the Tour, Eugene Walker and Kevin Knox ran an Irish master's challenger in Celtic on weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> October thanks to Eugene and Celtic for taking initiative on this to get some lower-level players practice before tour started.

The First Ranking Tour event started with Connacht Open in November with 93 entries. The event was hosted by Galway LTC and the TD was Dave Lalor and Tournament Admin was Jim Hynes.

The Second Tour event was Leinster in December which was hosted by Fitzwilliam and Leinster CC with a total of 96 entries TD was Brendan Murphy and TA was Gerry Callanan

The Third Tour Event was Munster Open which was hosted by Highfield and Sunday Well with a total of 87 entries TD was Eugene Walker and TA was Geoff Wales.

The Fourth Tour Event was Ulster which was hosted by Belfast Boat Club and Windsor with a total of 92 entries TD was Michelle Jackson TA was Brian Burke

The Fifth and last tour event was held in March the Irish Master Close was hosted by Fitzwilliam LTC and Mount Pleasant LTC with a total of 118 entries TD was Gerry Callanan and TA was Brian Brock.

In total we had over 500 entries for these events with 440 men and 64 Women. Our thanks to all the clubs for the use of their venues with this tour having grown in numbers from 361 in 2019 to well over 500 we are having to use two clubs for many of these events. We would like to thank SL Controls, Fitzwilliam and the Mespil Hotel for supporting this tour. In 2023-24 we hope to expand this tour with some smaller regional events starting in August 2023

### Ranking News

We now have 190 players live on our masters tour rankings up from 156 last year. These ranking points were reviewed last summer and will again be tweaked this summer to accommodate smaller events by the master committee. On average we now have an average of 98 players per tour event from 60 in 2018/19.

### Home International News

We had 14 teams competing this year in the home internationals unfortunately unlike last year we did not manage to win an age group however we had some very close 2<sup>nd</sup> places to England. A big congratulations to Joan Gorham who got her first win at this level and to the 5 new caps.

We hosted the 45s and 65s in Dublin at the end of April with Tournament Director Gerry Callanan and Brian Brock as administrator. This ran alongside the PSA event which meant a very busy weekend at Fitzwilliam. Thanks to Dara O'Flynn chair of squash at Fitzwilliam and the Mespil Hotel.

Mens 35s	Womens 35/40	Mens 40s	Mens 45	Womens 45	Mens 50	Womens 50
Mark Gilliland capt	Siobhan Parker Capt	Kevin Moore Capt	John Hurley Capt	Suzanne O'Shaughnessy Capt	David Ayerst Capt	Lynda Dunlop Capt
Shane Hickey	Michelle Heraughty	Nigel Peyton	Nick Staunton	Niamh Darcy	Dara O'Flynn	Kinny Bolton
Sam Olwill	Orla Doherty	Mark Furlong	Clive Morgan	Suzanne Swan	Adrian Leeson	Beverley Scott
Calvin Alexander	Tanya Scullion	Kevin Knox	Ronan Peyton	Rachel McNulty	Brian Lalor	Jennifer Dillon
Donnagh Crowley	Rachael McNulty	Pat Morrissey	Paul O'Brien	Sarah Scanlan	Cuan Mac Aogáin	Orla Doherty
Rory Gilligan		Keith Moran	Derek Ryan	Saoirse O'Sullivan	Stevie Richardson	Joan Gorham
			Neil McCarron			
3rd	2nd	2nd	2nd	2nd	2nd	3rd
Mens 55	Womens 55	Mens 60	Womens 60	Mens 65	Mens 70	Mens 75
Geoff Wales Capt	Joan Gorham Capt	John Dineen Capt	Dympna Reardon Capt	Martin Mc Donnell Capt	Pat Hanley Capt	Ciaran Roche capt
Tom Crowe	Rosie Barry	Dave Lalor	Christine Mooney	Peter Stephens	Seamus Daly	Tom Cantwell
Eoin Ryan	Christine Mooney	Karam Singh	Maureen Duke	Michael Conlon	Frank Fahy	Seamus Daly
Gerry Callanan	Dympna Reardon	Timmy Mc Carthy	Mary Keyes	Michael Mulhall	J. O Shaughnessy	Frank Fahey
David Hazzard		Vincent Bradley		Pat Hanley	David Gotto	
Andre Maur		James Lalor		James Mc Sweeney	Dj McKeever	
Jonathon Simpson				Bert Cotter		
4th	3rd	4th	4th	2nd	2nd	4th
First Time Capped						
Calvin Alexander						
Tanya Scullion						
James Lalor						
Dj McKeever						
Kinny Bolton						

### ESF Irish and Irish Masters

Irish Masters players continued this winning streak and left their mark on the European Masters Circuit which is growing in popularity. Last season saw over 100 entries into 10 different events across Europe, resulting in a handsome bag of medals for Irish Players. In total, we returned with 18 Gold, 13 Silver, and 10 bronze medals.

Starting with the German Open in October, players travelled to Hamburg, which is the venue for this year's European Masters Individual Championship in September. Two Gold medals were secured by Siobhan Parker (Over 35's) and David Ayerst (over 50's), and a silver medal was awarded to Nick Staunton (Over 45's), while bronze went to Orla O'Doherty (Over 50's).

Next up was the inaugural Irish Open with 64 local players competing, many of whom were crowned champions of their age division. A full Irish contingent welcomed players from across the globe and as a nation, we secured 9 Gold, 8 Silver, and 8 bronze medals, with many competitors resulting in a top 5 finish.

Nine players travelled to Malta in November where John Dineen sealed his bronze place atop the podium. Gerry Callanan was flying solo at the Dutch Open, competing in the Over 55's and had a top 15 finish.

2023 opened with the Portuguese Open in beautiful Porto. Neil McCarron (Over 45's) and Kyran Hurley (Over 70's) each won Gold with several other players finishing in the top 10.

The Swedish Open in February saw John Dineen (Over 60's) on the podium again to receive a gold medal, while Kyran Hurley grabbed a silver after a tough battled against Andrew Clarkson in the Over 70s.

March saw seven participants compete in sunny Santiago De Compostela, with Orla Doherty, Neil McCarron and Kyran Hurley each winning gold medals. Unseeded Peter Stephens had his best performance yet in the Over 65s, as he took out three of the top four seeds, and proudly stood on the podium with a silver medal.

Five fighting Irish went on to Slovenia in April and once again Siobhan Parker brought home Gold, while David Ayerst and Nick Staunton each clinched Silver. The Hungarian Open later that month saw the return of Mark Gilliland and Shane Shevlin – each finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place of their divisions.

Medals or not, the master's tour is a special one full of camaraderie and fun. Many players invite their partners along to do some sightseeing of these beautiful cities. Special mention to Dave Lalor, Timmy McCarthy, and Mick Conlon, who are regulars at the events and will surely make an appearance on the podium next season.

(Reporting from Orla Doherty)

### **World Masters, Poland 2022**

The 2022 World Masters took place in the beautiful Polish city of Wroclaw from 21<sup>st</sup> August to 27<sup>th</sup> August. The event was originally planned to take place in 2020 but had to be postponed twice due to Covid restrictions. The impressive Hasta La Vista club was a fitting venue for a major championship, as it is the largest squash club in the world with 32 courts. In total, 644 players took part in the tournament across 20 different age categories ranging from over 35's all the way up to over 80's. Ireland was well represented with 29 players making the trip from different parts of the world. It was a very successful week for the Irish with a total of 15 top 10 finishes from various age categories. Two of our all-time greats were crowned World Champions – **Derek Ryan** in the Men's over 50's and **Willie Hosey** in the Men's over 60's. Three other Irish players also took home medals – **Neil McCarron** won silver in the Men's over 45's, **Nigel Peyton** won bronze in the Men's over 40's and **Orla O'Doherty** also won bronze in the Women's over 50's. An amazing achievement for each player which was celebrated in style at the end of a really enjoyable week. Roll on Amsterdam in 2024!

(Reporting from Kevin Knox)



### **Overall events participation numbers**

Overall since I took over the master's group and started a master committee we have grown our numbers with 190 players now active on the master ranking list from a start of 125 in 2018/19 season. We had 628 event entries last season from 361 in 2018/19 season. Covid was a big setback to our players however numbers are growing consistently now. Irish Squash organized social media training during the year which Siobhan Parker attended. After this Siobhan has set up a master Facebook group which now has over 200 members and is now getting well over 150 views a post. My thanks to Lynda Dunlop and Kevin Knox who have been on the committee for the last four **years** and step down at our last meeting of the season. **And also to** the rest of the committee for their support during the year Siobhan Parker, Kevin Knox, Brendan Murphy and Geoff Wales.



**Useful websites:**

Useful resources continue to be available at the WSO website (URL above) as well as on [www.irishsquash.com/referee/](http://www.irishsquash.com/referee/) as well as on [www.squashref.org](http://www.squashref.org).

**Thanks!**

I would like to thank my fellow board members for their positivity and hard work throughout the season and I look to the future with renewed optimism to the coming season when the number of active qualified referees can be increased for the benefit of our sport.

**Lee Healy**

**Refereeing Secretary, Irish Squash**

### PSA Hub Report for 2022 - 2023

PSA Hub members are

- Sam Buckley
- Jack O’Flynn
- Conor Moran
- Elliot Kelly
- Breanne Flynn
- David Ryan
- Gavin L’Estrange
- Dylan Moran
- Denis Gilevskiy
- Michael Creaven
- Alex Smith
- Oisín Logan
- Sean Murphy

The group have finished their second year of regular training. All players must be praised for their commitments of regular attendance and super positive attitude to training sessions. It must be said that the success of the Men’s team in gaining promotion to Div1 of the European team championships (1st time since 2015) is directly related to the development of this training group.

The players within this group who did not make the team contributed highly to this success by constantly pushing the level of the players selected. It is these regular sessions with high intensity and positive attitudes that brings improvement.

The S+C component of our programme never fully got going as I would have liked due to logistics + timings and I would like to rectify this for the future.

The visibility of this group did help us to bring in a sponsor (Connect Electronics) on board to help us run several satellite challenger tournaments which attracted overseas players which are needed to gain match practice. The establishment a regular Satellite challenger tour within Ireland would be a huge difference help in developing players.

The next phase of development of a high-performance unit for Irish squash needs a feeder system where the next generation of players are being prepared (and included when possible) to Join the PSA Hub.

Finally, I would like to thank all the players involved for their super hard work and commitment and respect during all our sessions.

**Eoin Ryan**

### Women in Sport Report 2022 - 2023

The Women in Sport programs run by clubs increased participation numbers in the past year. Seven clubs received funding for their initiatives aimed at introducing women and teenage girls to squash. A novel mother & daughter starter course was one new program which caught our attention – it highlights the importance of children not just seeing their mothers exercise, but also joining in!

Sutton SC, Highfield SC, Mt Pleasant SC, Celtic SC, Ballyshannon SC, Sligo SC and Westport SC were recipients of funding this year. Congratulations to these clubs for successfully using social media to promote these Women in Squash programs.

We are encouraged by an increase in applications for Women in Squash funding this year. It is a priority for Irish Squash to focus on increasing female participation in squash and to encourage the development of female coaches and referees. We also wish to support women interested in leadership roles at club, provincial and national governing body level by enrolment on the Sport Ireland Women in Leadership courses.

A new working group for Equality, Inclusion & Diversity will be established very soon and will assist us in driving female participation at all levels of our sport.

**Rosie Barry**  
**President, Irish Squash**

### Single Platform Project Report 2022 - 2023



In its third year of the agreement with SportyHQ we can safely say that the Single Platform Service is fully up and running as a service.

Apart from operating sport on the island of Ireland, it is acting as the repository of information of the sport.

The Platform is emerging as a single source of authoritative information regarding the health of our sport - something we can use to plan and develop the Sport over the coming years.

Please see a snapshot of where Irish Squash is at the end of this season derived from the use of the system over the period 31st of May 2022 - 1st of June 2023. It is through the use of the platform we shall gain better insight into our great game in order to plan and develop the game into the future.



## State of our Squash Nation



<p><b>Total number of Clubs on the Platform</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>51</b></p>	<p><b>Number of affiliated Players 2023</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>2,238</b></p>
<p><b>Leagues</b> 7</p> <p><b>Matches</b> 2,316</p>	<p><b>By Gender</b></p> <p>25% Women 75% Men</p>
<p><b>Tournaments</b> 70</p> <p><b>Matches</b> 4,038</p>	<p><b>By Age</b></p> <p>85% Senior 15% Juniors</p>

In the meantime if you want to get a better understanding of what is on offer or get more out of what you have please use the following;

- [Look at the Website](#)
- Download the [Single Platform Brochure](#),
- View the videos [SportyHQ Channel](#)
- Simply contact me using the email below.

Many Clubs have signed up at this point, so next year we will continue to help clubs continue to use and get the most out of the Service to help Clubs offer more to their players. Over the course of next year, we hope to migrate the Irish Squash website to SportyHQ.



In a separate but related innovation. Irish Squash has helped to fund an **on-court streaming service** in LCC Squash Club. Please press [Example](#) to see a recording.

The service is called SquashTV.local provided by the PSA. This is part of a broader Pilot exercise to determine whether we use this solution as part of a broader national service.

The players switch on the lights, heat and now the camera as they go on court and then its “action”. We will be



evaluating the performance and use of the service over the coming months, and we will be back in touch with a case study over the summer.

Finally, a word of thanks - first to Mark Caulfield who joined us for six months as the Single Platform Administrator, and to all those volunteers in the clubs who have embraced the service. The adoption and use of the Platform is a clear example of all of us working as a community to move our sport on.

## Thanks

**Peter O'Halloran**  
**Project Lead of Single Platform Service**  
**Leinster Representative Irish Squash**  
[leinsterrep@irishsquash.com](mailto:leinsterrep@irishsquash.com)

## SDG Report 2022 - 2023

The Strategic Delivery Group (SDG) was formed in April 2022 to resource the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022 -2027 and has three members Derek McGrath Sport2Sport, Christine Mooney Hon Treasure & Board member and John Dineen who heads up the group. The SDG has held 34 meetings and engaged with the following activities & processes to help drive the strategic intent of the plan pillars.

### SDG: Key Objectives

- Oversee and drive implementation of Strategic Plan
- Focus on the plan pillars.
- Support for financial & business strategy
- Reach out to & support the recovery of our squash clubs.
- Increase the number of people engaged with Irish Squash
- Increase the visibility of Irish Squash and Squash clubs.

### ***Pillar highlights as follows:***

#### **Pillar 1: Strategic Governance**

##### Club survey

Reached out to all affiliated clubs in both ROI & NI April 2022  
Discussed with clubs' current membership status and support needs.  
Correlated data and presented to Board. 2022 survey findings  
Designed electronic club survey for 2023 using single platform.  
Working with Mark (Single Platform admin) issued 2023 survey to 48 club in ROI & 7 in NI  
Hoping to complete 2023 survey end of May with analysis in June  
Stretch goal for end of plan period 2027 being 60 active clubs with 6,000 members.

##### Revision of Affiliation Policy

Reviewed affiliation policies of other home nations.  
Financial analysis of current versus potential affiliation revenue  
Highlighted need to link affiliation to insurance.  
Revised affiliation policy and presented to Board for approval.

##### Insurance Policy

Reviewed existing policy terms and conditions.  
Advised on same  
Supported policy renewal process.

**New IS auditors.**

Advised and supported process to get three new auditor quotations.

Supported process to appoint new company.

**Organisational Review workshops**

Worked with Steve Griffiths to review Board & organisation structures.

Organization and support for two Board review workshop days

Presented organisational review output document to Board for approval.

**Anti-doping officer**

Reviewed what other NGBs are doing and made recommendation to Board.

**Facility Development**

Continued to reaffirm with Sport Ireland need for Irish Squash to part of SI campus.

Meetings and review of Basketball Ireland campus possibility

Meetings and review with UCD court usage possibility

Correspondence with Wicklow Co Council to support Greystones potential project.

**Administration items**

TOR for SDG presented to for Board approval.

TOR for SDG Strategy Committee presented to Board for approval.

SDG Operational plan & Priorities agreed with Board.

SDG mid-year review presented to Board.

TOR for Working Groups presented to Board for approval.

Support for Ulster Squash Board reset.

Support for Ulster Squash Strategic Plan & alignment with IS Strategic Plan

**Pillar 2: Visibility**

**Sport for Business funding opportunity**

Restart concept development

Funding pitch to PR agents

Follow on conversations & meeting with Vision Impaired Ireland.

**Communications**

Meet & greet at PSA event.

Social Media training night for Board

Social Media training for clubs over three nights and follow up. (Circa 30 people overall)

Social Media working group not up and running yet. Chair to be confirmed.

**Pillar 3: Participation & Growth**

**Working Groups**

School programme working group formed: Chair Ivan O Mahony

Teacher summer course concept developed with Mayo Education Centre & Ivan

Teacher summer course application made to Dept of Education

Teacher summer course application has been approved by the Department (late May)

Third Level working group formed: Chair Peter O Halloran

**Organisation support**

Completed Development Office job specification.

Completed Operations Administrator job specification.

**Pillar 4: Revenue Growth & Partnership**

**Funding opportunities & applications made.**

Resumption of Sport & Physical Activity Fund; awarded €125,000.

Resilience Fund to support Sports Clubs; awarded €60,000.

Covid Grant Scheme 2022: awarded €172,000.

Energy Support Scheme: awarded €58,000.

Worked on funding distribution process to clubs.  
Support for Rural Community Recognition Fund application

#### Shared Island project

Shared Island Concept development  
Partnered with Ulster Squash and In4Squash  
Shared Island application made to Department of Foreign Affairs  
Asked for €15,000 to add to the IS contribution of €9,000 (should know June)  
It is planned that the shared Island project will be implemented even without Dept funding.

#### Working Group

Expert Funding working group formed: Chair Christine Mooney  
Objective is to be a source of funding information for clubs and help with applications.  
Focus is especially on capital funding for infrastructure improvements.

### **Pillar 5: Coaching & Competitions**

#### Working Groups

Coaching working group formed: Chair Eddie Murphy  
Competition & Delivery working group formed: Chair Andrew Gillespie

#### Coaching

Regional Coaching Conference concept developed with Eddie Murphy  
Two regional conferences have taken place in Munster.  
Working on National Coaching conference concept with Eddie

### **Pillar 6: High Performance**

#### Working Group

High Performance working group formed: Chair Angus Kirkland  
Developing Player Centric HP support model  
Developing LTAD pathway model (Long Term Athlete Development)

### **Derek McGrath, Christine Mooney & John Dineen**

#### **Strategic Delivery Group, Irish Squash**

### **Coach Education Report 2022 - 2023**

This is an area we have neglected for a long time, and we need to address it a bit more going forward if we want our sport to grow!

At the moment we have 4 Tutors / Course developers, and that number will be 5 at the end of this year as Jennifer Dillon will qualify then.

The good news for Irish squash in 2023 is that our WSF Level 1 Coaching course is now recognised by Sport Ireland Coaching! This has been a massive undertaking by Irish squash and Sport Ireland coaching, we must now move on and get Level 2 and our Leaders course recognised also. Part of our core grant undertaking is we have our courses in line with Sport Ireland framework.

We continue to organise coaching courses around the country, so far this season Courses have been held, in Belfast, Dublin, Waterford, Gort, Killarney, the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of a course in Limerick will be complete by the time you read this report, and this is a first for Irish squash 5 Ladies and 1 Gent on a Level 1. We also have plans for Sligo, Thurles, Dublin and Belfast courses to go ahead during the summer months! So far this season we have qualified 24 Coaches approximately, 20/4 Male/Female. Level 2 courses are required in a few locations Dublin, Munster and Ulster. We would be delighted for Coaches to come forward to take part.

A coaching seminar will be held in Fitzwilliam on the 17<sup>th</sup> June next Derek Ryan will present. Further details to follow, we would urge all coaches new and old and experienced to attend. It is clear that we need to share our experience we each other on an individual, club, provincial and national level.

Work has been done by the Strategic plan groups on High performance and on the LTPD (Long term player development plan) with player and coach pathways, this is work in progress.

We have also held regional coaching seminars in Munster, Limerick and Waterford and the feedback has been very encouraging. We ask each province for assistance in organising these events as without the backing of the province it can be very difficult!

Vicky Guy is the contact within Sport Ireland coaching for squash. I would like to say a big thank you to Vicky for all her help and support over the past few years.

**Eddie Murphy**  
Coach Education

## Provincial Associations Reports

### Connacht Squash Report for 2022 - 2023



**Clubs: Ballina, Ballinrobe, Claremorris, Galway, Killala, Loughrea, Sligo, Westport**

#### Club Summaries

**Ballina** has grown membership from 40 in September to 73 currently. There is regular internal competition, a strong emphasis on increasing women's participation and a planned upgrading of court 2. Club is running open nights, junior training, Winter league, Spring league. Ladies coaching is in place on Saturday mornings. Very encouraging signals from Ballina

**Ballinrobe** does seem to be in a very quiet phase. My sense is that in a very sporting town there is a lot of potential but what is missing is a "champion" to kick start activity again. We should circle back to Ballinrobe as the new season approaches and see where "team Connaught" could help with a kick start.

**Claremorris** has had a good year...membership has grown from 19 to 34 through the season but more effort is needed to get people to play more squash. There is coaching underway and there is internal competition via ladder etc. The club expressed disappointment at the cancelling of the All-Ireland Schools competition. Claremorris had prepared players for that event and fear loss of interest from junior members.

### **Galway Lawn Tennis Club**

Club is steady at about 70 members.

#### ***Recent developments***

GLTC continues to invest in its facilities and upgraded our show Court with new LED lighting this year - thanks to Dave Lalor for organising, fundraising and implementing the upgrade. There is a significant improvement in playability with the added benefit of lower lighting cost. We are in the enviable position of having six fantastic courts and are conscious of maintaining them to the highest standard.

#### ***Playing activities***

Playing activity for adults is centred within the club around the monthly ladders with the bulk of active players competing in the ladder, in addition to friendly matches. We had up to 16 boxes throughout the year. The competitive element doesn't always suit new players and we hope to implement a mentor/buddy system to enable new players to develop sufficient confidence and skills to gain greater enjoyment. Dave Noone also runs adult group lessons, ladies group lessons and starter group lessons.

#### ***Successes***

We had significant successes at Master levels in both women's and men's sections, culminating in a national title for Rachel McNulty (women's over 45).

#### ***Juniors***

Eoin Mullery (U13) claimed his first national title and Danny Lunch was runner up in the U17 final. There are many high achieving junior players from the club and David Connell, Eoin Mullery, Ben Lynch, Lucy Lynch and Jack Clery all made the Irish U13 squad. Our junior playing numbers are steady, but it is difficult to maintain participation as the kids grow older with so many competing interests.

#### ***Problems***

As with all sports, getting people involved on a voluntary basis in administration and supporting roles is difficult. Sports Clubs are often now seen as a service rather than a local activity. Fewer people have the time or inclination to volunteer, and this will result in higher costs, higher membership fees and ultimately lower participation. The problem can be best resolved at a local level but are there supports available at national level?

#### ***"asks" from Irish Squash***

Our court usage is increasing and 2022/23 will achieve 25% usage (8am to 10Pm times) - this is not as high as pre-Covid however we have made a significant recovery

### **Killala**

Had a great year...up to 61 members active...ladder, team league, coaching underway. It seems the club is in a very good place thanks to a lot of work. Very good representation from the club at the interclub event at GLTC.

### **Loughrea**

Has had a good year, has gone from 33 to 65 members, the court has been upgraded. Coaching underway, club participated in the one-day interclub event at GLTC.

Junior coaching for the first time!!!! 17 juniors under 12.

Club wants more coaching support, possible coaching weekends and interclub competitions.

Some negative experiences with Court Care around goods clearance and VAT.

The club appreciates all the help from Irish Squash

Here again Loughrea looks to be in a good place and going places.

Is there a chance for a second court?

### Sligo

Seems to be reviving but work is needed on two of the courts. There is in the region of 35 active members and there is a ladder in place and coaching is taking place. This club has enormous potential for recovery and growth.

### Westport

Membership – about 160 members in total which includes 50 females. We have a vibrant junior section, ladder, team leagues, four L1 coaches, a lot going on, the official opening of upgraded club took place earlier this year, the club continues to plan for growth and development and all in all it's been a positive year.

Junior ladder on Wednesdays

Women who Squash on Mondays

Squads on Thursdays and juniors on Saturdays.

All in all this has been a very encouraging year for squash in the province. Playing numbers are recovering.

### Generally, clubs are really interested in:

- Support for more women's participation
- More coaching resources
- Interclub competition like Connaught League but also one day events.
- Develop potentially elite juniors!
- Did we say interclub competitions!!!

### Paul Bree

Connacht Squash Representative

## Leinster Squash Report for 2022 - 2023



This year saw Leinster Squash getting out from the impact of Covid. In light of this we sought to regain lost ground of inactivity to help get people back to the game. The following are the highlights from the season.

These include the following: -

- **Leinster Squash League & Cup - had 12 clubs, 35 teams and 495 players participate from October 2022 to May 2023** wrapping up with the finals in Fitzwilliam for Senior and Master Players.
  - Please see details of results on Leinster Squash Website [Link](#)
- **Three Rivers League - in its second year this** league for Men and Women of all standards included 7 clubs, 9 teams and 90 players in South Leinster and East Munster from November 2022 to March 2023.
  - Please see details of results on Leinster Squash Website [Mens Results](#)
  - Please see details of results on Leinster Squash Website [Womens Results](#)

- **The Leinster Senior Open in December 2022** - covered elsewhere in this report.
- **The Leinster Junior Open in February 2023** - covered elsewhere in this report.
- **Junior Squash “One Day Series”** - This initiative was run by the Eoin Ryan’s Team in Sutton, and was open to players in any club. The series is run to engage young players of all standards over the course of the season. 14 events were held over the course of this season. This is an excellent initiative that offers a great opportunity for young players of all ages and standards to get on court and enjoy themselves.
- **The Leinster Schools League** - This resumed this year and was run in Sutton. It is great that it has returned and warrants greater promotion next year to encourage more clubs across the province to participate and encourage young players to participate.
- **Junior Interprovincials** - The Junior Interprovincials were held in Belfast this year. Great to see it back, and that our young Leinster players did well.
  - *See details of results on Leinster Squash Website [Results](#)*
- **Summer Squash Camps and Coaching** - we are going to help fund two Squash Camps this summer in Mount Pleasant and Sutton LTC. They will be held over the course of the summer. Please go to the Leinster Website for details of both. [Link to Website](#)
- **Support of U19** - Along with Irish Squash, Leinster Squash will contribute to the fundraising efforts for our players attending the WSF World Juniors held in Melbourne over the course of July 2023.
- **Coaching Development Programmes** - fund one Level 1 coach over the year which saw an additional 8 coaches joining our ranks.
- **Coaching Forum** - We consolidated and shared a Coaches Directory 2022 for Leinster to help increase understanding, collaboration and engagement amongst our coaches as more and more coaches come off the production line!
- **Coaching Academy** - We started a “proof of concept” in partnership with Nigel Peyton to evaluate a new model that may help coaches establish a practice that helps develop the next generation of players.
- **Single Platform** - The members of the Committee have been active Team Members of the Single Platform Project. Over the past year we helped deliver the Single Platform, to increase the reach and use of the service across the province and beyond.
- **Website** - You guessed it! Leinster Squash launched a new website operating on the single Platform - [www.leinsterquash.ie](http://www.leinsterquash.ie) - with League Results, Announcements, Integrated Calendar, Document Repository - to keep you updated on all Leinster Squash Activity.

And looking forward: -

- **Season Calendar** - Leinster Squash are currently framing a plan of events for next season so please keep an eye out for this announcement in early September.

- **The AGM** - We shall be holding our next AGM (virtually) in August 2023. This is an opportunity for Leinster players and representatives from the Clubs to join the committee and contribute to the direction of Leinster Squash.
- **Leagues & Tournaments** - We plan to operate and develop the pennant Leagues again next season to include a new format Premier Division. Apart from the Leinster League we will be looking to support the new Three Rivers League in South Leinster, extending the “one day series” of events for Junior and Senior players of all standards in clubs across the province. We are also going to explore the operation of a pre-Christmas competition for Third Level Colleges in the Province.
- **Coaches Forum** - We will continue with the Leinster Coaches forum next season to help build the community that will help coaches make connections and deliver programmes in clubs across the province.
- **Coaching Academy** - Continue with this pilot for next season, review outcome of last year and identify other coaches interested in developing Academies in the province.
- **Referees Forum** - We shall be developing a forum to promote the referee community and establish an active network for registered referees to share ideas and best practice.
- **Squash Parents Forum** - Develop resources to help parents of emerging players understand the game and engage in the sport.
- **Funding** - Over the season we will be always open to receiving proposals that will deliver development opportunities for the game in the province. So, if as a club, club administrator, coach or referee wish to share your ideas and financial requirements with us we would be happy to review and help if it falls within our remit to do so.
- **Non-Affiliated Clubs** - We have a total of 45 active squash facilities in Leinster. Many of those are not affiliated with Irish Squash. We will be exploring ways to assist those facilities to further develop their structures and engage in the broader Squash community by developing targeted Coaching & Development programmes to build participation in their local community.
- **Succession Planning** - We are looking for fresh voices to join us on the committee. In light of this we shall be reaching out to the community for people willing to contribute in any way they can to assist us deliver the events and programmes we need to drive the sport forward in Leinster.
- **Organisational Change** - In light of the changes underway in Irish Squash, Leinster Squash representing the players of the province shall continue to contribute to the transformation set out in the Irish Squash Strategy.

It has been an encouraging year, as we help clubs get back playing and rebuild the sport. Our focus next season will be to build on this, develop new events for all levels, establish programmes to encourage more people to play, communicate more effectively and support the development of coaches and referees.

Over this period, I would like to thank my long-standing colleagues on the committee for their continued dedication and efforts.



They are: -

***The Committee Members: Gerry Delaney (Hon Treasurer), Noel Story (Hon Secretary), Andrew Gillespie, Gavin LeStrange, Kate Yeomans, Nick Wood, Eoin Ryan and Donal Kelly and reporting to committee the League Administrator Mick Collins.***

Furthermore, I would like to thank all those that devote their time in their clubs be they administrators, event organisers, coaches and referees - without your efforts the sport will not thrive.

So, to conclude, if you wish to discuss any of the topics above, join us on the committee or raise any further points not raised here by all means contact any member of the committee and we will be happy to follow up.

**Peter O'Halloran**  
**President of Leinster Squash**  
**Leinster Squash Representative**

## Munster Squash Report for 2022 – 2023



### Introduction

Munster Squash has had a successful year in the province. We are very grateful to Irish Squash and the sports council for providing Munster Clubs with funding from various grants to get our game back on track after the COVID pandemic.

The feedback from Munster clubs as regards, competitions held in the province such as the Opens and Closed tournament and also the Munster leagues has been positive.

### Junior Coaching

Junior programmes have been ongoing in Celtic, Dunhill, Highfield and Thurles, with participation numbers growing in all clubs and also participation numbers are growing for all clubs. Munster Squash are in the process of developing Junior coaching in Munster Clubs as part of our junior development plans with recent funding from Irish Squash.

### Junior Nationals

We had a successful time at the Nationals with National titles for U11 Boys (Jamie Morrissey) and Girls (Daisy Morrissey) going to Munster Juniors and we have another Munster Player (Aaron Knox) in the U15 Boys final. The final of the U11 Boys in the Interprovincials was also won by a Munster Team and this year was a little unusual with all 5 players on Celtic Squash Club in Waterford filling the panel.

### Women's Squash

We have successful and ongoing coaching programmes in place in Thurles, UCC, Highfield and Celtic, with participation number steady and consistent, Ladies from Munster Clubs have participated in

One day events i.e., Women Who Squash event held in Highfield (x2) and Thurles (x1) Celtic also provided a training session with Nick Matthew for Women from Munster Clubs.

### **Munster Leagues**

All division from 1 to 6 were run this year, with 30 teams taking part across all divisions.

### **Munster Tournaments**

We have successfully held the Munster Senior Open and Closed, Junior Open and Closed tournaments with tournaments being rotated around the province which have been very successful and we as an organization have received some very positive feedback from the squash community. We would like to thank the volunteers in the clubs for their support in making every effort so that we could run these competitions.

Participation numbers are consistent year on year. We have also been actively promoting master's squash in the province in both Ladies and Gents.

### **Internationals**

Munster has had several players represent Ireland at International level at all levels, i.e., Junior, Senior and Master's and from a mix of Munster clubs.

### **Referring**

Also, Munster Squash is actively running a Refereeing Course, Lee Healy, as the Irish Squash Refereeing Secretary, is actively promoting WSO refereeing courses in Munster clubs and participant numbers are growing in clubs.

### **Coaching**

Congratulations to our new Level 1 coaches who qualified this weekend in Waterford (Celtic). We have six new coaches who gained their qualifications under the WSF Coaching course. Thank you to Eddie Murphy who facilitated this course as the Irish Squash tutor and also to Frank Donnelly as the assessor.

Eddie, Frank, and all the coaching tutors who work tirelessly for Irish Squash have been busy in the background this year, delivering Level 1, Level 2 and Leaders courses all around the country.

### **Eugene Walker**

#### **Munster Squash Representative**

## **Ulster Squash Report for 2022 - 2023**



### **Introduction**

Ulster Squash elected a new board in September 2022 following our annual AGM. The new board consisted of 8 directors across the following disciplines: -

1. President
2. Treasurer
3. League Conveyor
4. Coach development
5. Junior administrator
6. Safeguarding / Child protection
7. Company Secretary
8. Irish Squash Representative

Our board grew in October 2022 with a new role for Funding & Club Liaison Officer and further grew more recently in April with the role of Performance Director bringing the total to 10.

### **Leagues**

The 22/23 league Squash season saw Ulster having 4 divisions and 1 masters division, in total we had 30 teams participate across Ulster in a very successful league.

Ulster Squash are in the early stages of establishing a Northwest League to include Ballyshannon. It is hoped the Northwest league will be up and running later this year.

### **Ulster Cup**

The annual Ulster Cup was played through January and February with the Boat Club taking the trophy.

### **Foyle Cup**

The first ever Foyle Cup was held 1st/2nd April with an entry of over 20 participants. The event was a huge success and was only possible with the support of Ulster Squash together with Strabane and Derry council. Thanks also to Dan and Will for their efforts in making the event happen.

### **Ulster Tournaments**

Ulster hosted a number of successful tournaments throughout the 22/23 season: -

1. Ulster Senior Closed - September 2022
2. Ulster Junior Open - October 2022
3. Ulster Senior Open - November 2022
4. Ulster Junior Closed - January 2023
5. Ulster Masters Open - February 2023
6. Junior Interprovincials - March 2023

### **Coaching**

Ulster squash continues to provide Junior coaching for all Ulster Juniors on a regular basis with sessions taking place in Belfast Boat Club and Lisburn rackets.

### **Participation**

Ulster Squash has supported Try it sessions across Ulster Clubs to attract beginners to our sport. Ulster is also supporting a summer recreation program hosted by the Causeway and Glens Council.

### **Safeguarding/Child protection**

Compliant.

### **Partners**

Ulster Squash continues to work with a number of partners including local Councils, Sport NI and the Commonwealth Games Council. The relationships developed have assisted with a reviewed Board

structure, role development and compilation of an Ulster Squash strategic plan 2023 to 2027 written with the support of Irish Squash.

#### **National Junior Player Representation**

Ulster had a number of Juniors selected for the Irish National teams this season.

Shrya Drawid U15s (Belfast Boat Club), Lydia McQuillan U17s & U19s (Lisburn Rackets & Belfast Boat Club), Sophie Thomas U19s (Belfast Boat Club), Aimee McConnell U19s (Ballynafeigh), Yuv Pahuja U17s (Belfast Boat Club). Congratulations to all our junior players.

#### **National Senior Player Representation**

Again, Ulster had a number of female players selected for the Senior Women's team.

Emma and Hannah McGugan. Congratulations to them both.

#### **National Masters Player Representation**

Ulster saw a large volume of players gain selection for Ireland in the master's category, congratulations to all our masters players on their achievements. Myron Evans, David Gotto, Bert Cotter, Jonathan Simpson, David Hazzard, Lynda Dunlop, Beverley Scott, John Dullaghan, Stevie Richardson, David Ayerst, Adrian Lesson, Tania Scullion (First Masters Cap), Mark Gilliland, Caroline Coyle and Robert Peel.

#### **Conclusion**

Ulster Squash have had a very successful season none of which would have been possible without the support from all volunteers, players, referees, coaches, parents and supporters. Ulster squash would also like to thank the Irish Squash Board for their support and guidance during the past year and the Irish Squash office namely Paul Nugent and Mark Caulfield for all the assistance we have received as a Province.

**Arlene McVeigh**

**Ulster Squash Representative**