



# SQUASH IRELAND

Annual Report 2024





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# Step into Squash

Step in. Always step in.  
In to the forehand, the backhand.  
In to your local squash club.  
In to the club comp... and the club night out.

It's a game that suits us.  
Chaotic and full of energy.  
Sweat and tears. And laughs.  
Indoors. Makes sense.

You might not see them,  
But they're all around.  
Great Irish squash clubs.  
Great people, great fun.

**Step in to Squash.**



## Message from our president Rosie Barry



### Dear Members and Stakeholders,

It is with great pride that I present to you this President's Report for the 2024-2025 Squash Ireland Annual Report.

Our Strategic Plan "Connecting the Dots 2022-2027" remains central to the core activities of our organisation. From a governance perspective since our last AGM, the Board's function is now strategic rather than operational and our skills base is strengthened by the addition of two independent directors. This is an exciting and very important new development for Squash Ireland and I would like to publicly welcome Susan Kelly and Kevin Ahern to our Board. Rose Hynes, a member of the squash community, is also a very welcome addition to the Board and further enhances our essential skillset.

The Strategic Delivery Group (SDG) completed a mid-term review of our Strategic Plan in August 2024 which confirms that we are on target for many of the objectives under each of the six pillars. We remain committed to developing a national centre despite not being successful in our application for the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund, noting that there was an unprecedented demand for such funding in 2024.

Our office staff under the leadership of CEO, Scott Graham, has expanded significantly in order to deliver on the operational needs of Squash Ireland. This marks our commitment to further professionalising our organisation.

The past year was a time of change for us in how we deliver on core activities for our membership. I thank all our volunteers for their understanding and patience as we all adjust to these changes and also for their feedback which helps to inform our decision-making.

Although staffing levels have increased, we will always remain reliant on the countless volunteers who provide essential support at club, provincial and national level. We continue to work on how best to support and enhance our volunteer network and the Interprovincial Forum is vital in this regard.

A highlight of the past 12 months was the return of our National Awards Ceremony (last held in March 2020) in which the pivotal role of our volunteers and the achievements of clubs and players was both recognised and celebrated. - (see appendix 1 for our winners of our national awards)

Another important milestone is the first-time ever recognition of Squash in Ireland by Sport Ireland as a High Performance Development Sport which reflects well on both the recognised potential of our elite players and the structures put in place by Squash Ireland. I welcome the appointment of Arthur Gaskin as Head Coach and David Noone and Michael Conroy as Junior Development Coaches.

On the international stage, I am proud to report that Irish players have continued to achieve impressive results. Notably, several of our players have made significant strides in the World Squash Rankings and our senior teams produced strong performances at the recent European Team Championships with our women winning bronze in Division 2 and our men narrowly missing out on maintaining their place in Division 1. I commend both the players and their coaches for their dedication and hard work.

I congratulate all the junior players who were selected on national teams this year and thank all the parents who support them throughout the season. For the first time ever, at the



5 Nations U13 and U15 event and the U19 European Team Championships, all teams fielded equal numbers of girls and boys. Parity of males and females on European U15 and U17 teams will be introduced in 2026 and 2027. I sincerely hope that this will encourage increased participation by young girls and teenagers in our sport and Squash Ireland is committed to this goal.

The Irish Masters circuit continues to thrive and grow in numbers leading to intense competition for selection on Home International teams. A standout individual achievement was the gold medal won by Mary Sceney in the O65 category at the 2024 WSF World Masters Championships in Amsterdam.

At grassroots level, I am encouraged by the number of newly affiliated clubs and the significant increase in our membership by over 20%. The newly announced Squash Ireland Governance and Development Toolkit aims to support clubs in their work to drive participation and growth.



Squash Ireland is also committed to building on our existing relationships with the global squash community, especially the European Squash Federation, World Squash Federation and the Professional Squash Association. We are deeply grateful for the support provided by Sport Ireland and the Federation of Irish Sport. We also welcome the opportunities available to us as new members of the Olympic Federation of Ireland.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of Squash Ireland in the past year. Your hard work, passion, and commitment to the sport are truly appreciated. I would like to extend my gratitude to the board, our CEO and staff, coaches, referees, volunteers, and, of course, our players for your dedication and effort.

I am confident that with your continued support, Squash Ireland will continue to thrive and grow, ensuring that squash remains one of the most exciting and inclusive sports in the country.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment, and I look forward to another successful year ahead.

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Rosie Barry | President Squash Ireland

## Message from the CEO Scott Graham



2024 was a landmark year for Squash Ireland, marked by significant progress toward our strategic objective of modernising and professionalising the sport across the island of Ireland. Our strategy calls for Squash Ireland to become a well-resourced and dynamic governing body, one that is capable of driving growth and ensuring the sport's relevance in a diverse and inclusive society.

In 2024, we took a solid step in that direction. From adopting a new Constitution to rebranding, growing membership, establishing new leagues and social tournaments, qualifying new coaches, and advancing the development of sustainable participation and schools programmes, it has been a year of progress on many fronts.

This report contains a wealth of information from a range of committees, provincial associations, and departments. While it may take time to digest, it reflects the breadth and depth of work being undertaken across all areas of the sport.

### A Foundation for the Future

In 2024, we achieved major milestones that will deliver lasting benefits for the sport. We appointed independent directors, secured new investments, and grew our team across finance, development, and coaching. Laying these foundations are critical to ensuring squash continues to grow sustainably into the future.

Already, we are seeing positive signs, with highlights across the six strategic pillars including:

#### Strategic Governance

- Adoption of a new Constitution
- Appointment of independent directors bringing valuable expertise
- Improved governance structures and oversight
- Progress on plans for a National Squash Centre

#### Visibility

- Shortlisted for Governing Body of the Year
- Launch of a new youthful and energetic brand identity
- Launch of a new mobile-optimised website
- 56% increase in social media followers
- 68% increase in website users
- Return of the Squash Ireland Annual Awards
- Significant increase in national media coverage for Squash

## Revenue Growth & Partnerships

- Over €1 million invested in club and community squash facilities
- Full membership of the Olympic Federation of Ireland
- New partnerships with Local Sports Partnerships supporting club development
- Engagement with 11 local councils across Northern Ireland with a view to squash improving facilities and support for clubs
- Secured increased investment in Squash from Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland

## Competition & Coaching

- Establishment of the Connacht League and Northwest League
- 6 new social tournaments piloted with 86 beginners participating
- A vibrant inter-varsity tournament re-energising squash at third level
- 35 newly qualified coaches
- Successful hosting of a National Coaching Conference
- 10 coaches participating in EU Erasmus+ Coach Education programme

## High Performance

- Career-high PSA World Rankings for top Irish players
- Appointment of coaches to the High Performance Unit
  - Head Coach (Arthur Gaskin)
  - Junior Performance Coach (David Noone)
  - Junior Development Coach (Michael Conroy)
- High-Performance Strategy published

## Looking Ahead

While we have made good progress, there is still much more to do. In particular, I am eager to move the dial on increasing the number of young people playing squash - through club junior programmes, participation initiatives, social tournaments, and school-based coaching and competitions.

On the performance front, the next 12 months will be crucial as the Olympic qualification process and criteria become clear. However, LA is not the only objective. Our recent recognition as a High Performance Development Sport provides a valuable opportunity to establish a clear performance pathway and further develop the Junior Performance Academy. The bar in high-performance sport is set incredibly high, and therefore, we must set our sights on a world-class standard as we support players developing over the years to come.

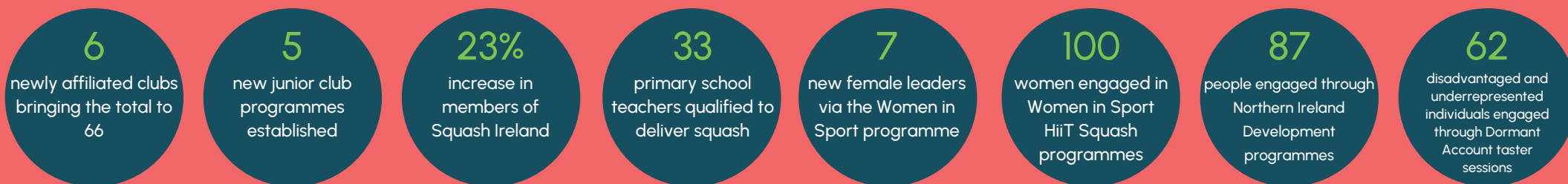
I look forward to working alongside our passionate volunteers who give their time and expertise across committees, provincial associations, and clubs around the country - all of whom contribute so much to shaping the sport we have today. Volunteers truly are the engine room driving the growth and development of sport.

I also want to thank the members of the board, past and present, as well as our staff, for their support, energy, and expertise. They are helping to bring the sport to new heights, which makes it incredibly exciting to see how we can continue to grow and develop the sport over the years to come.

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Scott Graham | Chief Executive Officer

## Participation & Growth





# Club Survey Highlights from 2024



As part of Squash Ireland's ongoing commitment to evidence-based development, the 2024 Club Survey gathered detailed insights from 58 affiliated clubs across the island. This data provides a comprehensive snapshot of the current landscape of squash at grassroots level and highlights emerging priorities and opportunities for the upcoming seasons and beyond.

## Squash Participation Growth

The sport has experienced robust growth in overall playing numbers, driven by targeted regional efforts and increased engagement at the grassroots level. Notably, junior and female involvement surged, highlighting the success of recent outreach and development initiatives. A standout highlight was Ulster, which showed exceptional growth thanks to focused development, particularly in women's and junior participation.

## Membership Growth National Totals

Overall Playing Numbers:  
▲ **17%**  
to  
**5,434**

### MEN

▲ **12%**  
to  
**3,225**

### WOMEN

▲ **19%**  
to  
**1,050**

### JUNIORS

▲ **34%**  
to  
**1,159**

### ULSTER

Male ↑63%

Female ↑300%

Juniors ↑155%

OVERALL GROWTH

↑**107%**

### CONNACHT

Male Slight

Female Slight

Juniors Slight

OVERALL GROWTH

↑**5%**

### LEINSTER

Male ↑10%

Female Moderate

Juniors Moderate

OVERALL GROWTH

↑**31%**

### MUNSTER

Male ↑15%

Female Slight

Juniors ↑27%

OVERALL GROWTH

↑**27%**

## Membership Growth condit

The sport has experienced robust growth in membership across all categories, driven by targeted regional efforts and increased engagement. Notably, junior and female participation surged, demonstrating the effectiveness of recent outreach and development initiatives. The overwhelming highlight was Ulster showing exceptional returns due to focused development, especially in women's and junior participation.

*(Please note membership refers to club membership, not Squash Ireland membership. Squash Ireland Affiliation is dealt with in a different section)*

## Junior Development

Nearly half of all responding clubs (48%) currently run junior programmes. In addition, 58% of clubs that do not yet have a junior programme, intend to launch one. Among those with active junior initiatives, structured coaching (whether free or paid) is by far the most common approach, implemented by 64% of clubs.

However, engagement levels vary significantly. While 19% of clubs provide over 8 hours of junior coaching per week, a larger portion (38%) offer fewer than 2 hours.

Encouragingly, 70% of clubs rated their junior programmes as either a 4 or 5 out of 5 for effectiveness, highlighting satisfaction with the impact of their efforts.

When asked about support needs for junior sections, 28% of clubs requested access to additional coaches, 26% sought more equipment, 13% expressed the need for setup guidance, and 12% highlighted the importance of introducing squash into schools as a key growth avenue.

## Coaching Capacity

The coaching landscape across clubs reveals a mixed picture. While 41% of clubs report having three or more qualified coaches, half operate with one or no qualified coach at all. Worryingly, eight clubs noted they have no access to internal or external qualified coaching.

Weekly coaching provision is similarly varied. 27 clubs offer just 0–2 hours per week, while only 9 clubs deliver 10 or more hours. These figures clearly underscore the urgent need to expand coaching capacity, whether through recruitment, training, or access to external resources, in order to support growing membership demand and improve the quality of the playing experience, although we have had circa 30 coaches qualify since this survey was conducted in June 2024

## Inclusivity and Women in Squash (WIS)

Inclusivity remains an area of opportunity, with fewer than half of clubs (40%) currently offering any form of inclusion-focused initiative. Among those that do, common efforts include Women in Squash (WIS) programmes, open nights, and open-door policies.

However, key barriers persist: 34 clubs cited lack of awareness or interest, and 27 pointed to a lack of targeted programming. Encouragingly, 70% of clubs expressed interest in participating in Squash Ireland-led diversity and inclusion training or workshops.

When it comes to WIS specifically, 28% of clubs have dedicated initiatives, mostly women-only nights, leagues, or coaching. However, just 33% believe these initiatives are effective. That said, there's strong interest, with 20 clubs indicating a desire to introduce WIS programmes.

## Social Media Use

Clubs are highly active on social media, with 91% reporting regular use to engage members and promote activities. Facebook remains the dominant platform, both in terms of usage and engagement, followed by Instagram.

Despite this activity, many clubs voiced a desire for more support in the form of re-sharing club content, offering how-to guides, and providing best-practice training on content creation and social media strategies. With improved digital presence and guidance, clubs believe they can further raise the profile of squash locally and nationally.

## Facilities & Infrastructure

Club infrastructure is a clear focus area, with 65% of clubs planning maintenance works in the next 12 months, most commonly involving court refurbishments such as repainting walls, re-sanding floors, and installing new lighting. In addition, 43% of clubs are preparing for broader capital upgrades.

Looking further ahead, 55% of clubs have more ambitious 3-year upgrade plans in place, many with projected budgets exceeding €50,000 to €100,000. These figures reflect a strong commitment to enhancing the playing environment and overall club experience.

## General Feedback & Strategic Priorities

Feedback from clubs reveals a generally positive and proactive outlook across the country. Over 95% of clubs are open to accepting new members. However, common challenges are apparent. Clubs overwhelmingly cite court availability, coaching access, and volunteer shortages as the primary barriers to growth.

When asked to identify the single most important factor to improve player experience, clubs consistently pointed to better court facilities, more structured coaching, and expanded junior programmes.

On a national level, clubs believe the sport's growth hinges on increasing visibility through targeted campaigns, storytelling, and media engagement, as well as introducing squash in schools and developing strategic partnerships, all of which has been carried out since this survey was conducted.



## Conclusion & Strategic Implications

The 2024 Club Survey paints a picture of a sport gaining momentum but still navigating key structural hurdles. Membership is up, particularly among juniors and women, yet the gap between club-level growth and national affiliation remains a slight concern. The outstanding performance in Ulster shows how strategic investment, such as development officers, can yield transformative results. Coaching capacity is a need, and inclusivity remains underdeveloped but promising, with a majority of clubs eager for training and support.

The survey highlights a clear appetite among clubs to grow, evolve, and contribute meaningfully to squash's development. Clubs are committed, and with the right support, the sport is poised for sustainable, inclusive growth.

Squash Ireland has worked tirelessly over the last 12 months to capitalise on this momentum by scaling coaching resources, investing in visibility campaigns, and building a robust framework for junior and inclusion initiatives. Our 2025 survey has been sent to clubs and will hopefully reflect the increased ground-work being carried out in relation to club's desires expressed in the survey.

Thank you to the 58 clubs who participated in the survey

# Operational



## Operational Membership and Affiliation

This season's affiliation campaign marked a significant step forward for Squash Ireland, with strong gains in both club and individual membership. We currently sit at an 8% increase in total affiliated members, with that number expected to grow to over 10% by the close of the affiliation window in August 2025. Alongside the member growth, we have added six new affiliated clubs. These numbers reflect both deeper engagement across the squash community and the success of targeted outreach and support efforts.

The introduction of a hybrid membership system for the 2024/25 season played a pivotal role, enabling us to boost competitive player numbers while maintaining a strong base of social and junior members, an essential ingredient for long-term growth and sustainability.

The affiliation process was designed to streamline how clubs and individuals connect with Squash Ireland. This hybrid model simplified administration while ensuring robust compliance with safeguarding, governance, and policy standards. Clubs could affiliate and register members in bulk through SportyHQ, while individual players now had the flexibility to register directly. This structured system, supported by early bird incentives and dedicated assistance, not only improved efficiency but unlocked key benefits for clubs and players alike. Affiliated clubs gained access to public liability insurance, funding streams, coaching and referee development, and a seat at the table in national discussions. Members, in turn, were insured, eligible for tournament play and team selection, and benefited from discounted development programmes and events.

A major success this year was the smooth activation of tournament compliance verification on November 1st. This change ensured that only fully affiliated members could enter competitions, which directly contributed to a sharp increase in direct registrations, particularly among competitive players. This adjustment has had a significant impact on membership validation and data integrity, streamlining tournament access and encouraging clubs to finalise player lists more promptly.

As part of the 2024/25 affiliation requirements, clubs were also asked to complete a safeguarding survey. The response was positive, with 83% of affiliated clubs participating. This provided us with crucial insights into safeguarding practices across the island and will inform future policy, training, and support initiatives, reinforcing our commitment to a safe, inclusive squash environment.

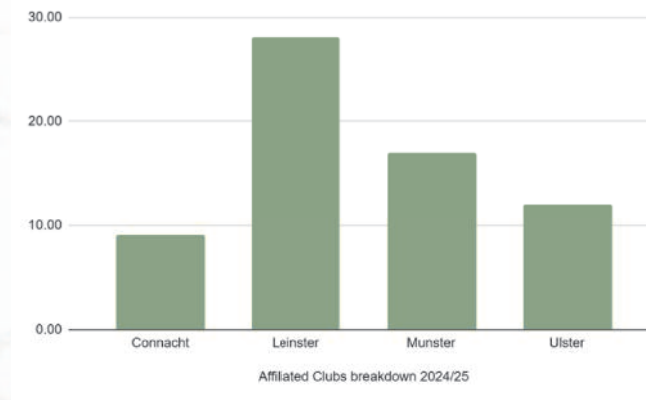




## Operational Membership and Affiliation

### Club Affiliation Overview

Squash Ireland now boasts 66 affiliated clubs, a growth of six from the previous year. This expansion reflects sustained efforts to build and strengthen relationships island-wide. Leinster remains the largest province, representing 42% of all affiliated clubs, while Ulster has seen notable progress, increasing its count to 12 clubs (18% of the total) a testament to the effectiveness of the NI development officers' support.

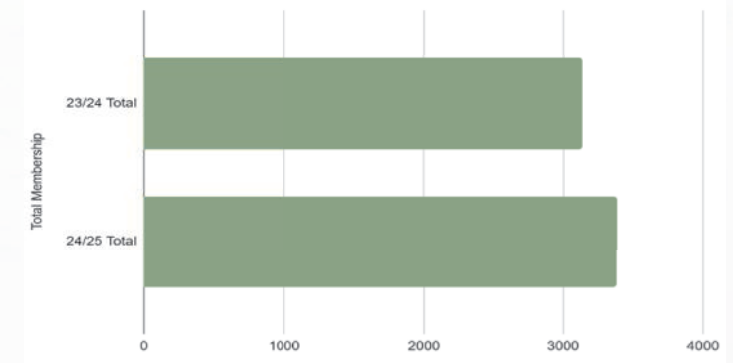


Clubs were encouraged to take advantage of early bird affiliation rates, with over 40 clubs registering before the October 31st deadline. To further assist developing clubs, nine new clubs had their affiliation fees waived, a supportive gesture aimed at fostering grassroots growth. Among them, Rathoe (Carlow), Kilconly (Galway), and Wicklow (Wicklow) began their squash journey this season, and we look forward to supporting their continued development.

Notably, 14 clubs that had not affiliated last season re-engaged this year, indicating rebuilt trust and stronger national connections. Looking ahead, Squash Ireland is exploring alternative forms of club affiliation, particularly for schools, following the success of the teacher training initiative, which has seen over 30 primary school teachers introduce squash in schools. This offers a promising opportunity to expand junior engagement and secure the sport's future.

### Player Affiliation Trends

The 2024–25 season brought with it a wave of growth and positive momentum. A total of 55 clubs submitted player lists and were processed, while five clubs chose the fully direct model, showcasing the adaptability of the new system to diverse club needs. Overall player affiliation rose by 7.77% to 3,369 members, underlining the effectiveness of on-the-ground promotion across all four provinces.



## Operational Membership and Affiliation

Regionally, Connacht, Munster, and Ulster experienced increases of 5%, 9%, and 42% respectively, while Leinster saw a modest 5% decline. Encouragingly, 44 affiliated clubs recorded membership growth, a clear sign of rising engagement and community vitality.

### Highlights include:

- Leinster: Mount Pleasant (177 → 212)
- Connacht: Ballina (49 → 91), Galway LTC (101 → 161)
- Ulster: Ballyshannon (87 → 112)
- Munster: Limerick LTC (68 → 114)

While overall growth was strong, some of the traditionally larger clubs experienced downturns: Sutton LTC (-44%), LCC (-25%), Celtic SC (-16%), and Loughrea (-11%). Highfield and Westport also saw minor declines. These fluctuations present both challenges and opportunities as we continue to support retention and re-engagement.



## Membership Composition

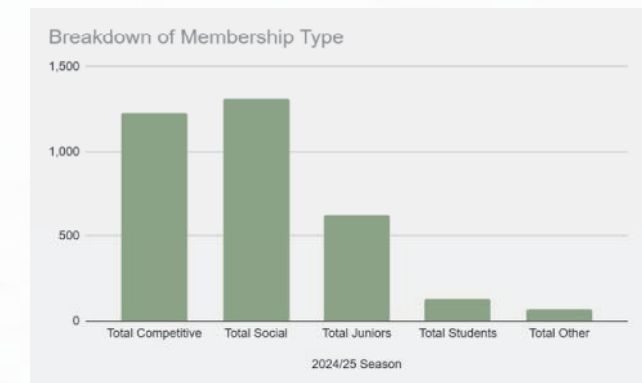
The makeup of our membership base reflects a healthy and inclusive squash ecosystem. Social members (1,310) slightly outnumber competitive players (1,229), a sign that squash is thriving not just as a performance sport, but as a recreational, community-driven activity. This balance is a strong indicator of long-term sustainability.

1,310

Social members

1,229

competitive players



## Operational Membership and Affiliation

Youth engagement remains a cornerstone of our strategy, with 629 juniors registered and 42 clubs reporting at least one junior member. The surge in university participation was particularly striking, with membership increasing by 271% (from 32 to 87), a promising trend that bodes well for future retention and performance pathways. These numbers portray the intent behind our fresh re-brand and highlights that the sport is reaching new generations while remaining accessible and welcoming to a diverse range of people.

271%

university students

32 to 87

membership spike

With such a vibrant mix of social, junior, student, and competitive players, squash in Ireland is well-positioned for continued growth. The sport is being embraced across all levels and age groups, and with community at its heart, we can confidently say that squash is in good hands.

Going forward, it will be vital to capitalise on the strong growth in club participation by bridging the gap between total club players and those formally affiliated with Squash Ireland. This season, 62% of all players became affiliated members. This positive trend also highlights a significant opportunity for further growth. Ensuring full affiliation is critically important, not only to support the sport's development, but also to meet essential insurance requirements and uphold governance standards. It is mandatory that clubs affiliate all players, regardless of their level of play or frequency of participation, to ensure proper oversight, coverage, and alignment with national policies.

Tiernan Harris | Administrator, Squash Ireland



## Operational Tournaments Leagues and Events

### Connacht League 2024/25:

Momentum Builds in Second Season

Now in its second year since revival, the Connacht League continued its upward trajectory with strong participation and positive momentum. Five clubs, Ballina, Galway, Loughrea, Sligo, and Westport – entered the A Section, with Galway, Loughrea, Sligo, and Westport also competing in the B Section. Matches took place across four weekends at three well-run venues, demonstrating great collaboration between host clubs.

Section A finished in dramatic circumstances which saw both Westport and Galway end level, leading to a sporting agreement to share the Aidan Power Cup, a testament to the league's camaraderie. We also honour the memory of Aidan Power, whose name lives on through the Section A trophy, kindly donated by his family.



Players from Ballina, Galway, Loughrea, Sligo & Westport on finals day in Galway LTC

In Section B, Westport edged Galway by just one game in the final match, clinching the title.

Looking Ahead:

- Women's league is a key growth opportunity.
- Potential Section C could revive inactive clubs.
- Sponsors are actively being sought to elevate the league's visibility and growth.

### Leinster League 2024/25:

A Season of Expansion and New Entrants

The 2024/25 Leinster League showcased impressive consistency and promising returns from rising clubs. This season, the Leinster League saw its largest-ever player pool with well over 250 players representing over 40 teams across 9 divisions.

- Sutton retained their dominance, defending titles in both Men's and Women's Premier, as well as Men's Division 6 and Women's Division 2.
- Old Belvedere earned promotion by winning Men's Division 1, while Freshford and Tullamore impressed in Divisions 2/3 and 4/5 respectively – both finishing unbeaten across all 16 matches.
- Dublin University SC edged Sutton in a close Women's Division 1 race, winning by just 4 points.

This season also marked the return of Women's Division 2 after a 7-year hiatus, providing a new pathway for entry-level competitors.

Leinster Cups also delivered thrilling finals across all divisions, hosted at Fitzwilliam and Mount Pleasant. Notably, Sutton claimed both the Men's and Women's Premier Cups, while

## Operational Tournaments Leagues and Events

Freshford and Tullamore extended their league success into cup victories.

**Division and Cup winners overview** - Full Results: League | Cups

### Munster League 2024/25:

Broadening Reach and Strength in Depth

With 44 teams from 13 clubs competing across seven divisions, the Munster League continues to thrive.

Celtic SC were standout performers, winning both Divisions 1 and 2.

- Killenaule SC dominated in Divisions 4, 5, and 6.
- Highfield SC claimed Division 3.
- The Women's Division saw Thurles SC top a competitive pool of 21 players across three clubs.

These strong numbers reflect healthy regional engagement and the growing footprint of squash across Munster.



### Ulster League 2024/25:

Growth in Numbers and Competition

Ulster wrapped up its season in style with a vibrant finals night at Lisburn Rackets Club.

- Belfast Boat Club were standout performers, completing a league and cup double in the Premier Division.
- Mid Ulster B won the Cup Plate in a strong finish to their season.

**South & East Division Highlights:**

- Premier: Belfast BC
- Division 1: Windsor B
- Division 2: Ballyearl A
- Division 3: Ballyearl B

**North & West Division:**

- Division 1: Foyle SC – Champions

This season saw a significant influx of new players, a key indicator of continued growth and club development. With 28 clubs participating and an influx of new players, Ulster squash is experiencing renewed energy and reach.

### Senior Tournaments: Steady Growth and PSA Momentum

This season's senior tournament calendar included 5 ranking events and 5 additional opens, including 3 PSA tournaments. Entry numbers show overall positive growth:



## Operational Tournaments Leagues and Events

### Ranking Events – Total Entries Up Slightly

Tournament	2023/24	2024/25	% Change
Munster Open	48	37	-22.9%
Connacht Open	40	35	-12.5%
Ulster Open	35	31	-11.4%
Leinster Open	43	65	+51.2%
Nationals	47	51	+8.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>+1.2%</b>

A dip in early-season entries was more than offset by strong growth in Leinster and Nationals, clear signs of renewed interest and higher engagement mid-season.

### Other Senior Events – Strong Growth, Especially PSA

Tournament	2023/24	2024/25	% Change
Killarney Open	28	30	+7.1%
Curragh Open (PSA)	36	57	+58.3%
Mount Pleasant Open (PSA)	60	67	+11.7%
Highfield Open	48	48	0.0%
Limerick Open (PSA)	40	43	+7.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>+24.2%</b>

The spike in PSA entries reflects growing visibility and prestige of Irish tournaments on the international stage.

### Overall: Solid Growth and Renewed Energy Across Provinces

The 2024/25 season delivered growth in both participation and competitiveness across leagues and tournaments. Key highlights include:

- A revitalised Connacht League showing strong spirit and innovation.
- Leinster League benefitting from new entrants and returning divisions.
- Munster and Ulster demonstrating depth, consistency, and expansion.
- Senior tournaments trending upward, especially PSA-linked events.

## Operational Junior Tournaments Overview

The 2024/25 season featured a busy calendar of junior squash activity, with five national ranking events forming the backbone of the Junior Tour.

### Highlights include:

- The Connacht Junior Open kicked off the tour on September 21–22, attracting 97 entries—an increase of 7.78% compared to last year's 90.
- The Ulster Junior Open was hosted at Belfast Boat Club on October 12–13, drawing 106 entries (down slightly from 109 in 2023).
- Munster Junior Open, held across Celtic and Dunhill clubs in Waterford on November 9–10, saw a significant 35% jump in participation, with 107 entries compared to 79 the previous year.
- Leinster Junior Open took place in Sutton on February 1–2, welcoming 115 players, up from 113 last season.
- Junior National Championships followed a week later in Galway (February 14–16), with 98 participants and live coverage on Squash Ireland TV.

Tournament	2023/24	2024/25	% Change
Mount Pleasant Junior Open	45	45	0.00%
Connacht Junior Open	90	97	+7.78%
Ulster Junior Open	109	106	-2.75%
East of Ireland Junior Open	59	55	-6.78%
Munster Junior Open	79	107	+35.44%
Irish Junior Open	137	131	-4.38%
Munster Junior Invitational	35	36	+2.86%
Munster Junior Closed	42	55	+30.95%
Leinster Junior Closed	55	50	-9.09%
Leinster Junior Open	113	115	+1.77%
Junior Nationals	92	98	+6.52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>+4.76%</b>

## Operational Junior Tournaments Overview

Junior Open took place in Sutton LTC from November 15–17. For the first time, the event was hosted entirely at a single venue, creating a vibrant and focused competition environment. There were around 250 matches played with 131 entries from 17 countries. Action from court 1 was broadcast live via Squash Ireland TV

In a true testament to the international feel of the event, there were winners from Ireland, Wales, Spain, Zimbabwe, Portugal, and Malta

### Junior Interprovincials

The Junior Interprovincials were held in Sutton and ALSAA on April 12th, with three age groups represented: U11 (Boys & Girls) with 7 teams, U13 (Boys & Girls) with 8 teams and U15 (Boys & Girls) with 7 teams:

Age Group	Boys Winner	Girls Winner
U11	Munster	Leinster
U13	Leinster	Leinster
U15	Leinster	Leinster

Squash in Ireland is experiencing a powerful resurgence, marked by growing leagues, the revival of divisions, and a surge in grassroots engagement. New clubs are emerging across the country, regional rivalries are strengthening, and a deeper, more geographically diverse player base is taking shape. At the heart of this, the junior game is growing and driving the sport forward.

The success of junior tournaments, expanding interprovincial competition, and Ireland's presence on the European stage all point to a thriving development pathway. With continued investment in both grassroots and elite-level squash, and a new generation of players energising the system, the future of squash in Ireland has never looked more promising.

## Operational Development Women in Sport

### Women in Sport

2024 has been a year of real momentum for women and girls in squash. With more players, coaches, and leaders getting involved across the country, we're starting to see genuine progress. At the heart of it all is a growing belief that squash should be a space where everyone feels welcome, whether they're picking up a racquet for the first time, leading a club, or stepping into a coaching role. This work continues to be shaped by Squash Ireland's Women in Squash Policy and our Diversity, Inclusion and Equality Policy.

These set out our long-term goals for improving participation, leadership, coaching, and visibility - and in 2024, we've focused on turning those goals into action.

### Participation

One of the biggest wins this year has been the successful pilot of our HiiT Squash programmes, which saw over 100 women get involved across clubs. These sessions are fun, welcoming, and a great introduction to squash, blending skills and fitness in a format that works for beginners. They've also helped clubs build confidence in running women-focused sessions and created new communities of players.

We also saw strong progress in schools. 33 primary teachers, the majority women, were qualified to deliver squash, which means more girls are being introduced to the sport early. It's a small but important step toward normalising squash as a sport for girls, and building the base for future players and coaches.



100

participants  
in HiiT squash  
pilots

33

Primary school  
teachers qualified  
to teach squash

5yrs+

Girls been  
introduced to squash  
in schools

## Operational Development Women in Sport

### Club development

Six new clubs affiliated with Squash Ireland this year, and five junior programmes were launched. That's encouraging growth, and it means we now have more places across the country where women and girls can get involved. But growing participation isn't just about numbers, it's also about making sure people feel comfortable and included when they show up.

That's why we've started developing a new Women's Inclusion Toolkit, which will launch in 2025. The toolkit is designed to help clubs think about how inclusive they really are, from how they welcome new members to who's making decisions behind the scenes. Alongside this, we've continued supporting clubs in areas like safeguarding, good governance, and making sure their structures work for everyone, not just the people who've always been involved.

### Leadership

Six women completed our Women in Sport Leadership programme in 2024. They're already making an impact on committees, in clubs, and at provincial level. Their involvement shows what's possible when women are supported to lead, and it's something we want to build on. That said, we still don't have enough women in decision-making roles in clubs or within the national structure. This is something we're going to keep working on. In 2025, we'll be offering more mentoring, support, and a practical leadership pathway to help women get involved in leadership, especially those who might not see themselves in those roles yet.



### Coaching

One area where we've struggled is getting more women into coaching. Despite fully funded courses and efforts to reach out, take-up remains low. We've heard from women that confidence is a barrier, along with time, and sometimes a sense that coaching just isn't for them. In 2025, we'll pilot a new support programme specifically for women interested in coaching which will coincide with the newly developed Introductory Squash Coaching course later in the year.

This will include practical workshops, mentoring, and a peer network, with the aim of building confidence and giving more women the tools to get started and stay involved. We know that coaching is key to long-term participation, and we're committed to finding better ways to support women along that path.



## Operational Development Women in Sport

### Putting policy into practice

Our Women in Squash Policy and Diversity, Inclusion and Equality Policy give us a strong foundation, but policies only matter if they're put into action.

This year, we've focused on doing exactly that. We've:

- Used the policies to shape how programmes are designed and funded.
- Built inclusion into coach education and club development work.
- Monitored who's getting involved and where gaps still exist.
- Shared more stories of real women in squash to show what's possible and inspire others.

We'll keep building on this in 2025, with plans to roll out inclusive training and resources, consult more directly with underrepresented groups, and support clubs in creating environments where everyone feels they belong.



### Looking ahead

In 2025, we'll keep building. Our key priorities include:

- Expanding HIIT Squash to reach new groups and more locations.
- Launching the Women's Inclusion Toolkit and supporting clubs to use it.
- Running a new coaching support programme for women.
- Strengthening leadership pathways with education, mentoring and developing a community of practice.
- Keeping women's voices, stories, and experiences front and centre.

We'll also continue to align with Sport Ireland's Women in Sport Strategy and report on our progress across its four pillars: participation, coaching, leadership, and visibility.

This has been a year of progress, but there's still work to do. Changing the culture of a sport takes time and commitment. It's not about ticking boxes, it's about creating real, lasting change that makes squash a better place for everyone.

Thanks to all the women who stepped forward this year, to the clubs who welcomed them, and to everyone across Squash Ireland who's supported this work.

**Maxine Strain** | Women in Sport Development Officer, Squash Ireland



## Operational Development Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

### Club Support & Development

Each squash club is a unique community gathering for players, volunteers, coaches, families, committees and more.

In line with Strategy Pillar 3 - Driving Growth through our Clubs, our development officers have created a wide range of initiatives to support clubs, strengthen local communities, and grow the sport in a sustainable and inclusive way.

Squash Ireland is committed to working with each club on a one-to-one basis, understanding their current stage, identifying strengths and areas for improvement, and creating a development plan based on club and coaches' future goals.

#### Opportunities include:

**Club Support Meeting:** Our Development Officers are available for one-on-one sessions with club representatives to explore the club's development journey, address challenges, and plan strategically for future growth.

**Inclusion programmes:** We propose a series of programmes funded by Squash Ireland that clubs can run to grow participation and membership. These include: Social Squash Tour, HIIT Squash, Disco Squash, inclusion projects for juniors (especially girls), women, people with autism or disabilities, schools & teachers, the LGBTQI+ community, disadvantaged communities, and ethnic minorities.

**Sustainable growth** focus is on good governance, retention of members after taster programmes, junior development, fundraising support, mentorship and coach development.

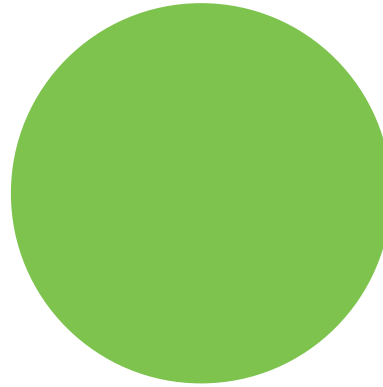
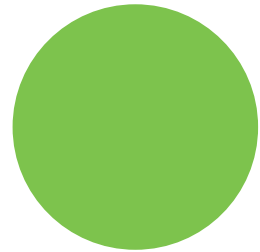
To further empower clubs, we have developed a comprehensive Club Governance and Development Toolkit, a pivotal resource designed to empower squash clubs across Ireland.



[www.squashireland.ie/club-governance-development-toolkit-now-live-on-squash-ireland-website/](http://www.squashireland.ie/club-governance-development-toolkit-now-live-on-squash-ireland-website/)

This toolkit provides essential guidance and practical tools to enhance club operations, ensuring sustainable growth and effective management. The toolkit covers topics from starting a club or a junior section, to managing finances, volunteers and members, from club committee and meetings, to marketing and communication.

## Operational Development Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



### School-aged players

As part of the Dormant Account Funding stream, we are prioritising initiatives targeting juniors, particularly through schools and aimed at teenage girls.

Building on the success of 2024's pilot programmes, including Disco Squash, junior camps, and teacher education sessions, our 2025 focus is on expansion and structure.

#### Key initiatives include:

- Providing funding for clubs to engage with schools and attract junior members.
- Reviving school competitions to reintroduce a competitive yet supportive platform for young players.
- Launching a TY Leadership Programme to empower Transition Year students to take on leadership roles in sport.
- Piloting a new modified version of squash to make it more accessible in school settings.

### Teacher Education Programme

Building on the success of last summer's Teacher Education Programme, we will be expanding our efforts this year to train and equip even more teachers to confidently deliver squash in schools.

This summer, the programme will be hosted in Westport and Sligo, with the goal of strengthening squash participation in schools and boosting the junior player base across the Connacht region.

### DOT Squash

Additionally, a new practical guide called DOT Squash was developed to support coaches. This is an innovative and user-friendly coaching resource developed to support the growth of squash at the grassroots level.

Designed with both junior players and beginner adults in mind, DOT Squash provides a structured, three-level programme filled with age-appropriate drills, games, and techniques to keep sessions fun, engaging, and developmentally appropriate.

### Coaching Teenage Girls

To support coach education, we also delivered a "Coaching Teenage Girls" Workshop in December 2024, highlighting best practices for building confidence and participation among young female players.



## Operational Development Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

### Social Squash Tour pilot

In 2024, Squash Ireland launched the Social Squash Tour - a series of 1-day events all around Ireland where people meet, play squash, socialise and have fun. Aimed at bringing together beginners and improvers, each event will promote squash as a healthy activity for any age and gender, with a social environment welcoming everyone, regardless of their level, abilities or skills.

The pilot was a success, with six events held across the island between October and December, attracting 78 women and 10 men to enjoyable, friendly evenings of squash.

Looking ahead to 2025, we plan to pilot a junior version of the Social Squash Tour, giving young newcomers a supportive platform to play against peers of similar levels in a safe, inclusive environment.

6

events held across  
the island

88

participants  
78 women and  
10 men





## Operational Development Ulster

Over the past three months, our focus has been firmly on delivering a wide-ranging and impactful community squash program. With strong progress made in club development, coach education, and engagement with key partners, it's been a highly productive and encouraging start to the year. Our key priority areas included:

- Community & Club Program Delivery
- Coach Education & Safeguarding
- Strategic Engagement with Councils and Sports Providers
- Administration of Sport NI Program Delivery & Budget

### Clubs & community program delivery

#### Women In Squash Programs

We launched two successful 8-week "HIIT & Squash" programs for women:

- Foyle:** Integrated 16 new female players into the club environment.
- Antrim** Led by Antrim LGFA captain Cathy Carey, this initiative
- Forum:** brought 15 participants into squash during their off-season for fitness and fun.

#### Squash Socials:

Successful squash socials were held in Ballymena (14) and Coleraine (11) this year providing engagement with 25 potential new club members (Adults & Juniors)

Both initiatives also highlighted the availability of both centres

for squash and has since seen an increase in recreational bookings for squash as well as club membership.

#### Disability Squash:

A weekly mixed-ability squash program has been running at Belfast Boat Club since December 3rd. With strong uptake and engagement, the program is scheduled to continue into the next funding period.

#### Developing Junior Squash Offering:

We've commissioned three coaches to lead club-school link programs in Ballyearl, Windsor, and Hawarden/Bangor, now active across seven schools. These initiatives are scheduled through Easter and will be reviewed for ongoing support.

The Scouts, Beavers, and Cubs Squash Program in Ballymena was a resounding success, introducing 16 children to the sport. Ballymena, one of our fastest-growing clubs, will continue to receive targeted support to ensure sustainable growth.

New club start-ups:

We've supported the formation of new clubs in Antrim and Coleraine, with WhatsApp groups established, club nights booked, and four weeks of starter coaching planned to help launch these communities.

#### In4Squash in QUB:

A trial re-launch in December saw regular weekly sessions resume at QUB's PEC, with 6–12 participants. We're collaborating with QUB Active Campus Coordinator Teresa Reid for a renewed post-Easter push to attract more students and staff.

## Operational Development Ulster

### Council & Sports Provider Consultations (New & Existing Court usage & plans)

With 80% of squash activity taking place in council-run leisure centres and universities, strategic collaboration with facility providers is essential.

#### Recent progress includes:

- Engagement with all 11 local councils in Northern Ireland.
- Presentations delivered to Derry & Strabane, Ballymena, and Belfast City Councils, as well as to Queen's University Belfast regarding their new sports and wellbeing village.
- Partnership with Hawarden Tennis Club to reintroduce squash through racquet sports camps and structured coaching blocks post-Easter.

We continue to advocate for multi-purpose, sustainable squash court designs to ensure the long-term viability of the sport in shared-use venues.

### Coach Education & Safeguarding:

- 2 Squash Leaders Courses delivered in Belfast (QUB PEC) and Derry (Brooke Park)
- 1 Level 1 Coaching Course completed at QUB PEC
- Resulting in 14 new qualified coaches across 7 clubs, significantly increasing local coaching capacity
- 2 Safeguarding Workshops hosted in March at Belfast Boat Club, with a third scheduled online via Sport NI on May 16

### Additional activities and looking ahead

- Supported QUB in the planning and delivery of the 2025 Intervarsity Tournament, welcoming 16 teams across 4 divisions
- Planning for Mixed Racquets Events in Summer 2025 at Greenvale M'felt, QUB, and Causeway Leisure Centre
- Working with 1-wall handball clubs to trial squash taster sessions as part of club summer camps
- Continued efforts to progress clubs through our Tier 1-4 Club Development System, with tailored improvement plans for each

A significant portion of time has been dedicated to ensuring successful delivery of our Sport NI project plan and laying strong foundations for the year ahead. We're optimistic that with continued or increased funding, we can further expand capacity in coaching, volunteering, and event programming.

### Opportunities for Growth:

While progress has been impressive, one clear area for enhancement is our social media presence and engagement across Ulster and nationally via Squash Ireland. I will be working closely with Squash Ulster and Squash Ireland to address this in the coming months.

This year has demonstrated the energy, ambition, and community spirit that continues to drive squash forward across Northern Ireland. I'm genuinely excited for what lies ahead in 2025.

**Niall Jackman** | Club & Community Development  
Officer report



# Marketing and Communications

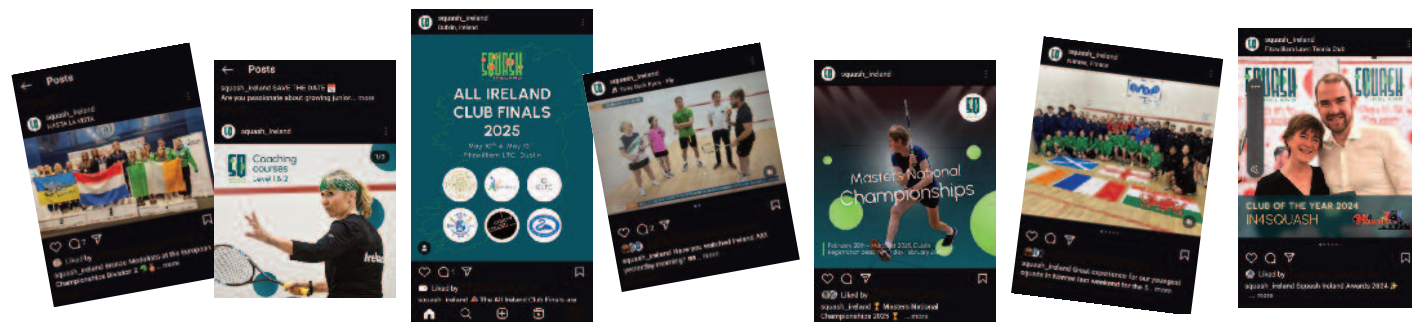
## Operational Marketing & Communications

Over the past year, Squash Ireland has made meaningful progress in strengthening and expanding its social media presence. A pivotal step in this direction was the appointment of a part-time Social Media Manager, working one day per week. This role has been instrumental in developing consistent content and coordinating activity across platforms, fostering greater alignment and cohesion in our digital voice.

Since August 2024, key performance indicators (KPIs) have been implemented across all platforms. These metrics, covering followers, engagement, reach, impressions, and platform-specific data are now tracked regularly, offering deeper insights into performance and guiding strategic improvements.

Notably, the total follower count across all platforms has increased by 34% since KPI tracking began. This growth reflects the effectiveness of our focused social media efforts and the value of a structured, consistent content strategy.

Squash Ireland's Instagram profile is now the most followed page among all the organisation's profiles, closely followed by X. However, X has seen a noticeable decline in traction likely influenced by ongoing political tensions that are impacting user behavior and overall platform stability.



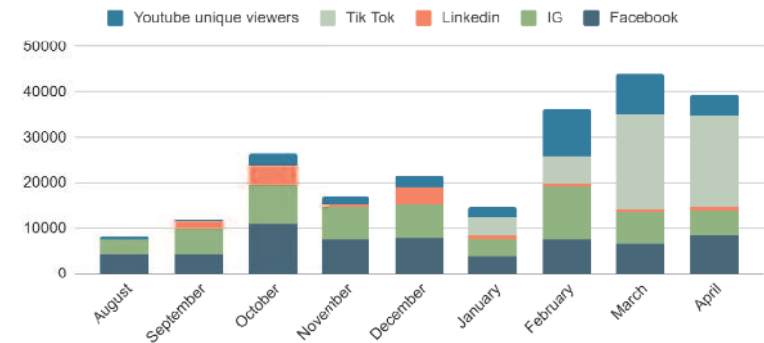
## Operational Marketing & Communications

Facebook and LinkedIn currently record the highest engagement levels, positioning them as key platforms for fostering community and driving meaningful conversations. Historically, Facebook has been our primary channel for community interaction and continues to perform strongly in this area. However, Instagram now leads in overall reach, signaling strong content visibility and resonance, particularly with visually oriented audiences, which aligns with our brand re-fresh objectives

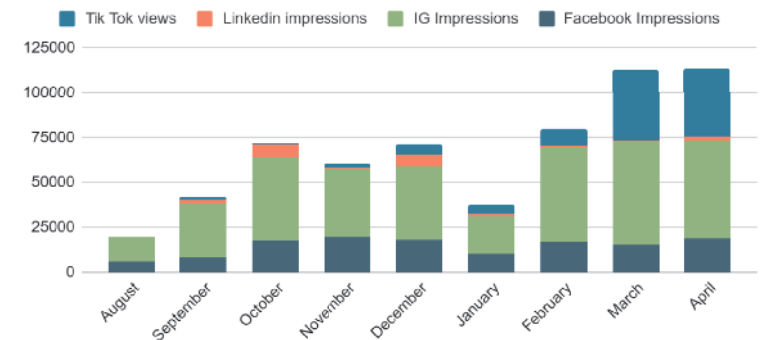
Our audience is segmented primarily by age: TikTok and Instagram are effectively reaching younger demographics (18–24 and 25–34), while Facebook and YouTube continue to engage an older audience (35–44, 45–54, and 55–64). By tailoring content to each platform and audience group, we are maximising our communication efforts and ensuring our message reaches every key segment.

With the addition of the Social Media Manager, TikTok has emerged as an increasingly valuable platform for connecting with younger users. By posting short action highlights, the profile has grown to more than 350 followers—a 480% increase since December. One of our top-performing videos has reached nearly 20,000 views and gathered more than 500 likes, demonstrating the platform's viral potential.

Accounts reached



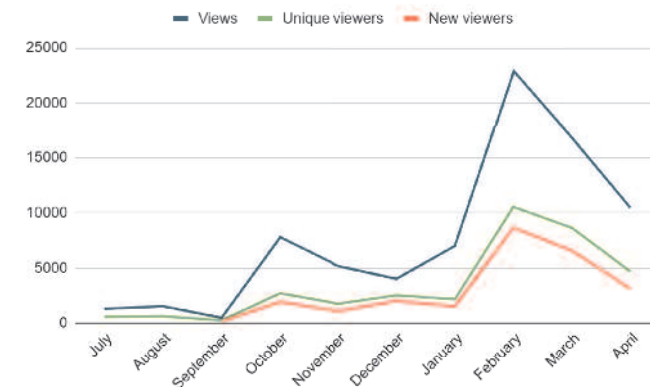
Impressions



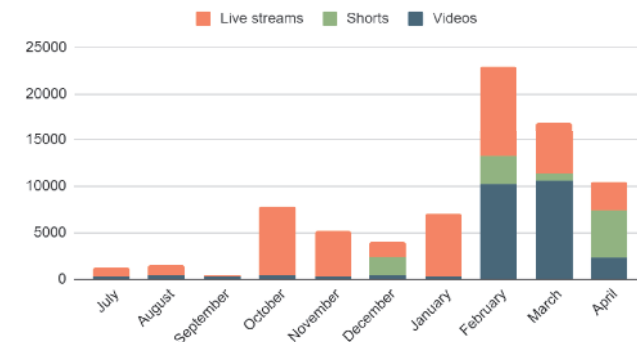
## Operational Marketing & Communications

YouTube has been an active platform for several years, primarily used to livestream matches via our Squash Ireland TV profile. Until February, live streaming was the main driver of views. However, a strategic shift in early 2025 introduced the regular uploading of shorts and single-match videos. This change significantly boosted both views and the number of accounts reached, expanding our audience and increasing overall platform engagement.

The quality and impact of our monthly newsletter improved significantly over the past year, becoming a key communication tool for keeping our community informed and engaged. Distributed to over 4,000 recipients each month, the newsletter consistently achieved an impressive open rate of approximately 50%, well above industry averages. This reflects both the growing interest in squash across Ireland and the relevance of the content being delivered—from program updates and event announcements to coaching resources and club news.



Views per format



4k

SI Newsletter  
distribution

7%

average  
engagement rate

20k

views on 1 video  
TikTok with  
500 likes

34%

total follower count  
across all platforms  
has increased

24k

average accounts  
reached every  
month



## Operational Coach Education

### Introductory Squash Coach Programme

In 2025, Squash Ireland developed and submitted the Introductory Squash Coach Programme for external review under the Sport Ireland Coaching Development Programme for Ireland (CDPI) framework. This programme addresses the urgent need for more qualified entry-level coaches to support grassroots growth. Designed to equip novice coaches with the fundamental skills to deliver safe, inclusive, and engaging squash sessions, it targets juniors and adult beginners.

The programme aligns with Squash Ireland's strategic goals of expanding participation and strengthening the coaching pathway. A pilot rollout is planned for summer 2025, with a full launch anticipated in late 2025 or early 2026, subject to Sport Ireland approval.

### DOT Squash Launch

In 2025, Squash Ireland launched DOT Squash, a three-level coaching resource created to help coaches deliver fun, progressive training sessions for juniors and beginner adults. Starting with Little Dot Squash (foundational movement skills), progressing through Single Dot Squash (basic techniques), and culminating in Dot Squash (technical gameplay), the resource strengthens coaching confidence, improves retention, and bridges grassroots to performance pathways.

This project was made possible through the efforts of our coach education team, tutors, and the wonderful Avril Cairns of AVID Graphic Design.

DOT Squash is a strategic investment in the sport's future, aimed at building a stronger, more connected squash community across Ireland.

### Coach Developer Strengthening

We are excited to announce that Kieran O'Doherty graduated as a Coach Developer Assessor in February 2025, further strengthening our team. Meanwhile, Ivan O'Mahony is currently undertaking the Sport Ireland CDC42 programme and will join our tutor team upon graduation, enhancing our coach development expertise.

### Erasmus+ Grassroots Coaching Development

Our Erasmus+ project continues to offer a major opportunity to upskill grassroots coaches.

- Two participants attended a shadowing visit to Warsaw in October 2024 in collaboration with the WSF and Polski Squash.
- The remaining eight coaches will travel to Amsterdam in October 2025 under the mentorship of Rich King.

Participants represent a diverse group from all four provinces, working voluntarily in grassroots squash.

The focus will be on coaching philosophies, planning, implementing, and evaluating participation programmes for diverse communities. This addresses the need for more development officers and coaching capacity in Ireland. It aims to upskill coaches to deliver inclusive programmes for women, teens, elderly, LGBTQ+, and refugee communities, while building a sustainable coaching network across Europe.

Upon returning, coaches will have the confidence and knowledge to launch local initiatives, sharing their experiences through webinars and conferences across Ireland to support long-term grassroots development.

## Operational Coach Education

### Coach Education and Training

#### Course Delivery and Progress

Since June 2024, Squash Ireland has made every effort to expand coaching capacity:

- Two Leaders Courses were delivered in Ulster, with 8 participants successfully completing.
- Three Level 1 Coaching Courses ran nationally, producing 16 new coaches - 25% of whom were female.
- A Level 2 Coaching Course was delivered with 6 participants. This marks important progress in strengthening the coaching pathway at an advanced level.

While we have worked tirelessly to plan, schedule, and promote a full calendar of courses well in advance, traction has been challenging in some areas. Despite scheduling more than six additional courses, they had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers (a minimum of six participants required to proceed). We continue to actively engage with clubs, players, and new audiences to address this challenge.

Looking forward, we are optimistic that the new Introductory Squash Coach Course, (aligned to Sport Ireland's Coach Development Pathway Initiative (CDPI) Level 0), will serve as a springboard for new entrants into the coaching pathway and ultimately drive stronger demand for our Level 1 courses.

We also have a Level 2 course scheduled to run in July 2025 and we are committed to maintaining momentum and adapting as needed to build a stronger coaching network across Ireland.

### Squash Coaching & Community Conference

On May 24th, we hosted the Squash Coaching & Community Conference at the Clayton Hotel, Burlington Rd, focused on Empowering the Next Generation – Coaching Juniors for Success.

#### Highlights included:

- Keynotes from national team coach Arthur Gaskin.
- Interactive workshops with Eddie Murphy and tutors, featuring Dot Squash and Erasmus+ learnings.
- A panel discussion with leading clubs on junior recruitment and parental engagement.
- Networking opportunities and viewing of the Cannon Kirk Gillen Markets Irish Open Finals.

The event provided invaluable learning and connection opportunities for coaches and club leaders.

### Coach Compliance, Safeguarding, and Governance

Over the past year, Squash Ireland has placed a strong focus on strengthening coach compliance and safeguarding standards. We have been actively compiling a centralised master list of all coaches, cross-referencing existing records from our files, our website, our vetting and safeguarding officer's records, and World Squash Federation (WSF) data. This project has helped us establish which coaches are currently active, ensure their details are up to date, and verify that they meet all governance and safeguarding requirements.

## Operational Coach Education

As part of this work, we delivered a Level 1 Safeguarding Course specifically for squash coaches, with 12 attendees successfully completing the training and receiving certification.

As the list is being finalised, all coaches have been contacted to submit their safeguarding certification, Garda Vetting or Access NI clearance, and relevant qualifications (where not done so already or not on file) to ensure full compliance with our governance standards.

Additional safeguarding courses will be rolled out in the coming months for staff, coaches, and anyone working with children and vulnerable adults within clubs. This work is critical to maintaining the highest standards of safety, trust, and professionalism across Irish squash.

### Strategic Relationships

Building strong relationships has been a critical focus this year. Squash Ireland has significantly strengthened ties with:

- Sport Ireland Coaching
- The World Squash Federation (WSF)
- Wider coaching stakeholders

These relationships have allowed us to align with international best practice, access new development opportunities, and further strengthen our coaching framework.

### Primary School Engagement

In summer 2024, Squash Ireland, in partnership with the Mayo Education Support Centre, delivered the Department of Education-approved summer course "Squash – Supporting Pupils' Physical Literacy Journey in Your School" in Ballina and Thurles.

Over 30 teachers participated, marking a fantastic success. We are excited to expand the programme in 2025 to Westport and Sligo, led by Mark Healy and Ivan O'Mahony, with a further three-year application underway.



Eddie Murphy | Coaching Officer  
Tiernan Harris | Administrator

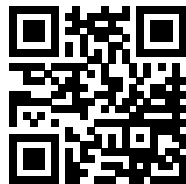


Referees	Numbers	Notes
W.S.O. Level 1 ('Club Grade')	62	Including 29 Player Certificate* – Tournament Grade.
W.S.O. Level 2 ('Tournament Grade')	16	Some pending appraisals.
W.S.O. Level 3 ('National Grade')	5	Some pending appraisals.

\*In addition there are 11 players with the Player Certificate Introductory Level completed.

### Referees in numbers:

(see [www.irishsquash.com/referees](http://www.irishsquash.com/referees))



### Referee Qualification and Development

Squash Ireland continues to use the World Squash Officiating (WSO) online portal as the primary route for referee education and certification. The 2024–2025 season saw steady growth in the number of qualified referees across all levels.

To support ongoing development, Squash Ireland will once again provide voucher subsidies for WSO Level 1 certification in the coming season. Additionally, we will continue to offer live online training sessions and recorded modules focused on the Rules of Squash, ensuring flexible, accessible learning for players and prospective referees.

### Player Refereeing Requirements

To build a stronger officiating culture and ensure greater rule awareness across the playing community, Squash Ireland encourages all players to complete the WSO Player Certificate – Introductory Level. From January 1, 2024, it became mandatory for competition players to hold at least the Tournament Level Certificate. Enforcement of this requirement was introduced at the WSF Junior World Championships (July 2024) and has since extended to international events such as the British Junior Open.

As our policy is to remain aligned with the standards of WSO, we continue to encourage all player (particularly those from U17 and above representing Ireland) to achieve the appropriate certification level for their playing category.



## Operational Officiating

### On-line sessions on the Rules and Refereeing:

During the 2024–2025 season, we delivered four series of online training sessions, each consisting of three 40-minute modules focused on the Rules of Squash and refereeing. These sessions will continue in the upcoming season, with the regular Monday evening slots remaining in place. New for this year, clubs or regional groups will also have the option to request tailored session times that better suit their members' availability, making training more accessible and responsive to local needs.

### Sport Ireland and Officiating:

This season, following the publication of their Feasibility Study on Technical Officials produced in conjunction with Sport NI, Sport Ireland has commenced a process of assisting National Governing Bodies to

*"shape a more positive and supportive future for officiating in sport".*

In general terms it is probably fair to quote from the forward to that publication to describe their intended assistance:

*"Through collective action and shared commitment, we can enhance the officiating experience, improve pathways for new and existing officials, and ultimately elevate the quality of sport."*

I have attended three meetings this season, one of which was for the purpose of facilitating feedback on their Development Plan for this area.

### Tournaments:

This season I refereed at and was Tournament Referee for:

- The Connacht Junior Open
- The Connacht Senior Open
- The Munster Masters Open
- The Irish Senior National
- The Irish Masters Nationals
- The Irish Junior Nationals
- The Limerick Senior Open PSA
- The Masters Home Internationals.

In all I have refereed over 150 competitive matches at the above competitions and I have uploaded what I hope are some useful observations on the Squash Ireland Officiating page of our website for the information of interested players and referees.

[www.squashireland.ie/coaching-officiating/refereeing/](http://www.squashireland.ie/coaching-officiating/refereeing/)



Lee Healy | Refereeing Secretary Squash Ireland



## Operational High Performance

On November 1st, 2024, I officially began my role as National Head Coach. It was a proud and exciting moment to join Squash Ireland and begin working closely with our talented players and dedicated CEO.

### World Team Championships 2024

#### Men's Team

The first port of call was establishing official connections with the players, in particular those that were in line to represent Ireland at the upcoming World Team Championships in Hong Kong. The men's team of Sam Buckley, Conor Moran, Oisín Logan, and Michael Creaven, faced a highly competitive draw, seeded according to world rankings.

Despite tough opposition, the team delivered a commendable performance, finishing 20th. A narrow 2/1 loss to Peru proved decisive in missing out on a top-20 position, but the response from the team was outstanding. We closed out the tournament with emphatic wins over Australia, South Korea, and Kuwait, showcasing our resilience and depth.

A standout moment came from Sam Buckley, who delivered a commanding 3/0 win over India's top player, ranked 55 in the world. This, along with the team's ability to bounce back after the disappointment against Peru, speaks volumes about the character and potential of this group.

Looking ahead, we are already laying the groundwork to challenge for a top-8 finish at future events. With several players nearing graduation from university, both at home in Ireland and in the US. With that, we are entering an exciting period with fresh, hungry talent eager to push the standards higher.

#### Women's Team

Our women's team, comprising Hannah Craig, Breanne Flynn, Hannah McGuggan, and Ciara Maloney, showed great promise. With Hannah and Breanne embarking on their journeys as full-time professionals, the Championships offered a valuable platform for growth.

We finished third in our pool and earned a hard-fought victory over a higher-seeded Colombian side to break into the top 16. Hannah Craig delivered a flawless performance at #1, while Breanne Flynn's inspired four-game win over Colombia's second seed was a true captain's effort.

In the knockout stage, we narrowly lost to Germany, but bounced back with a confident win against Switzerland to finish a fantastic 15th overall. While rankings dictated a challenging draw, the team exceeded expectations. With Craig and Flynn gaining traction on the PSA World Tour and emerging talent like Hannah McGuggan and our U19s making strides, the future of our senior women's squad is looking incredibly bright.

### European Championships 2025

#### Women's Team

We entered the European Championships without stalwart Breanne Flynn, opening the door for Lydia Maquillan to make her senior debut fresh from the U19s. In the group stage, we faced Ukraine, Portugal, and Slovenia, aiming to finish in the top half of the group to avoid relegation play-offs.

We started with a 2-1 win over Portugal, thanks to solid performances from Hannah Craig and Hannah McGuggan. Aimee MacConnell earned her first senior cap in a tough loss.

## Operational High Performance

Against Slovenia, both Hannahs won again, and debutant Lydia clinched the tie in a five-game battle. Despite a 3–0 loss to Ukraine, we advanced to the semi-final against the Netherlands.

Hannah Craig secured the opening rubber, but after a loss from McGugan, Lydia narrowly missed out in the decider. In the bronze medal match versus Italy, Craig's five-game win and MacConnell's strong finish sealed third place in Division 2.

With Flynn returning and competition growing, the team is confident and aiming for Division 1 promotion next year.

### Men's Team

The men's team faced a tough group with Scotland and England but entered confident of reaching the quarter-finals.

Sean Conroy opened with a strong win against Scotland, and Sam Buckley pushed the world No. 18 to five games. With the tie level, Conor Moran and Michael Creaven both fought hard but narrowly missed out in close matches.

Against England, Buckley delivered a historic performance, coming from 2–0 down to beat the world #7, Ireland's first-ever win over England at a European or World Championship. Creaven nearly followed up with another upset, leading 2–0 before narrowly losing in five. Strong showings from captain Oisín Logan and Moran underscored the team's progress, especially after finishing 20th at Worlds just four months ago.

Injuries later in the week disrupted momentum. Despite drawing with Belgium, losing to Hungary, and beating Israel, it wasn't enough to retain our top division spot. Still, the team's development and determination were clear.

With a young, ambitious core and morale high, the focus now shifts to winning Division 2 next year and pushing for a top-tier podium finish soon after.

### Coaching Structure

A major milestone in our high-performance pathway has been the appointment of two part-time coaching positions. Following a strong pool of applicants, we were thrilled to appoint:

- **David Noone** Junior High Performance Coach
- **Michael Conroy** Junior Development Coach

Both are experienced, passionate, and fully aligned with our vision for long-term player development. Their impact has already been felt.

Michael Conroy recently traveled with our junior teams to the Five Nations, with Gavin L'Estrange under his wing as assistant coach. The team performed admirably, narrowly missing the podium but gaining invaluable experience.

David Noone led our delegation at the European Championships in Prague, where our junior team showed tremendous spirit. Despite losing two 2/2 ties on countback, they closed the tournament with spirited victories over Scotland and Norway.

Squash Ireland Junior High Performance Programme In April of 2025, we were excited to announce the inauguration of the Squash Ireland Junior High Performance Programme. This marks a key strategic initiative. Its core goals include:

- Provide our committed junior players with the resources to fulfill their potential - world class instruction, S&C, nutrition, mental programming and coach support at selected European events and more
- Create more meaningful competitive opportunities for a broader base of players to represent Ireland at selected events on the junior European Circuit hence increasing the level of our players

## Operational High Performance

- Increase competition for places on national teams
- Bridge the gap between junior and senior/PSA level
- Build meaningful relationships and community

### PSA Players

Having traveled to Santiago with Hannah and Sam, I'm delighted to say our PSA professionals continue to break new ground:

Sam Buckley	was unfortunate to suffer an injury in Santiago, though he recently reached the final at the Danish Open, underlining his top-level potential.
Hannah Craig	defeated Germany's #2 and pushed Scotland's Aly Thompson to the brink, before bouncing back to beat a higher-ranked opponent in the DC Bronze Event.
Conor Moran	captured two Challenger titles in the UK and is now on the cusp of the world's top 200.
Michael Creaven Oisin Logan	continue to gain valuable experience on the satellite circuit.
Breanne Flynn	currently recovering from injury, recorded a thrilling first-round win at the Danish Open before her setback.

Notably, all five - Buckley, Moran, Craig, Flynn, and Creaven - are currently at their career-high PSA rankings.

### National Championships

Huge congratulations to Conor Moran and Hannah Craig on capturing the Men's and Women's national titles this year.

Conor, who was 2/0 down, clawed his way back in what was one of the most dramatic finals witnessed in a long time, saving a few match balls along the way to secure his first national title. Hannah overcame Breanne Flynn in a tightly contested 3 game match with Breanne having game balls in the first and chances in game two, only for Hannah to prevail. Other notable performances came from Sean Conroy, who finished third beating two players seeding higher along the way.

The past year has been a transformative period for Squash Ireland's high performance programme. With new structures in place, strong results on the international stage, and a new generation of talent rising, we are well-positioned for continued success. The work continues, but the trajectory is upward, and the future is bright.

Arthur Gaskin | National Head Coach



# Governance



# Governance

## How the Board Functions

The 2024/25 season was a period of significant governance advancement and structural refinement for Squash Ireland. Our organisation continues to evolve in line with best practices, with a strengthened board structure and renewed strategic focus aimed at long-term sustainability and success.

The board of Squash Ireland for the 2024/25 season comprised:

Rosie Barry	President
John Dineen	Vice President
Christine Mooney	Honorary Secretary
Kevin Aherne	Independent Director – coopted on the 26th August 2024
Susan Kelly	Independent Director – coopted on the 26th August 2024
Lee Healy	Director
Noel Story	Director
Rose Hynes	Director – coopted

Name	Meetings Attended 2024	15/01/2024	26/02/2024	25/03/2024	09/04/2024	07/05/2024	26/05/2024	26/05/2024	24/06/2024	26/08/2024	09/09/2024	14/10/2024	18/11/2024	25/11/2024
Rosie Barry	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Anne Costello	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Christine Lowry	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ann Shepard	2	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arlene McVeigh	2	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Paul Bree	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eugene Walker	5	0	1	1	1	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
John Dineen	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Christine Mooney	13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lee Healy	10	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Noel Story	12	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rose Hynes	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	1
Kevin Aherne	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	1
Susan Kelly	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	1

Name	Meetings Attended 2025	20/01/2025	28/02/2025	24/03/2025	12/05/2025									
Rosie Barry	4	1	1	1	1									
John Dineen	3	1	0	1	1									
Christine Mooney	4	1	1	1	1									
Lee Healy	4	1	1	1	1									
Noel Story	4	1	1	1	1									
Rose Hynes	4	1	1	1	1									
Kevin Aherne	3	1	1	0	1									
Susan Kelly	4	1	1	1	1									

Since the 19th AGM, held on the 26th May 2024, 11 board meetings have been held. Meetings were held in person and on-line.

## Board Expenses

Expenses paid to current board members for board-related activities, namely meetings, during the 2024 financial year totaled €636.86.

Expenses incurred by current board members for ESF AGM costs during the 2024 financial year totaled €703.00.

Expenses paid to current board members for non-board-related activities, namely officiating, during the 2024 financial year totaled €2,064.79.

## Governance Developments

Following the EGM on the 25th March 2024 the Board was restructured to become more strategically focused and less operational. A skill set analysis was undertaken and the required skill sets were identified. The Nominations Committee then convened and identified suitable candidates. This has resulted in a new board with two independent directors, all directors have skill sets identified as required to run the Squash Ireland National Governing Body.

## Key Focus Areas

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

- Strategic matters: monitoring of performance against the strategic plan – Connecting the Dots, Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027. A mid-point review was undertaken in Q3 2024 and presented to the Board in December 2024.
- Financial matters: including budgets, grants, funding, monitoring of quarterly performance and cashflows.
- Governance matters: including compliance with the Governance Code for Sport, board training, board review and review of policies, procedures and other governance documentation.
- The Board also monitors Child protection matters and ESF & WSF issues.



## Governance Governance and Ethics Committee

### Governance and Ethics Committee

Since the last AGM, the GEC has held 11 meetings, during which the committee has continued its work in upholding the highest standards of governance and ethics within Squash Ireland.

The core focus of the GEC is ensuring Squash Ireland's compliance with the Sport Ireland Governance Code for Sport. The committee plays a vital role in monitoring and overseeing all governance practices, ensuring that Squash Ireland operates in full adherence to established standards.

A key responsibility of the GEC is the regular review of Squash Ireland's policies, procedures, and related documents, conducted in line with a three-year review cycle. In 2024, the GEC successfully reviewed 38 out of 67 documents, ensuring that all materials are up to date, compliant, and aligned with best practice.

Additionally, the GEC supports the Board in addressing ethical matters and engages in ongoing self-monitoring, reinforcing the commitment to transparency and integrity within the organisation.

On behalf of the Irish Squash membership, the Board of Irish Squash would like to extend its sincere thanks to Scott Graham (CEO) and his team for their invaluable support and dedication throughout the season. Their hard work has been instrumental in advancing the objectives of Squash Ireland.

11

Meetings were held  
since the last AGM

38

the GEC successfully  
reviewed 38 out of  
67 documents

3yr

three-year review  
cycle on target

## Governance Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

### Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee ('FinARC') was established to support the Board of Squash Ireland in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to good governance, financial management, financial reporting, risk management and control systems.

In 2024 FinARC held 5 meetings and its workload primarily related to:

- Ongoing monitoring of Squash Ireland Finances against budget with quarterly reporting to the Board.
- Preparation of the annual budget and recommendation to the Board.
- In conjunction with the auditors, completion of the annual audit of the financial statements and recommendation of the final Accounting Statements to the Board for approval.
- Review of Finance, Audit and Risk Policies and the Risk Appetite Statement in line with the agreed schedule.
- Review of the Squash Ireland Risk Register
- Monitoring of ongoing risks including any potential legal issues.

FinARC is chaired by Kevin Ahern and it has 4 members: Gerard Delaney, Susan Kelly, Rose Hynes and Christine Mooney. It is attended by Scott Graham, CEO and Matthew Ford, Finance Administrator. Rosie Barry, President, is also invited to meetings.

Christine Mooney | Hon. Secretary, Squash Ireland

# Governance Safeguarding

This year has seen continued momentum and real progress in safeguarding and child protection within Squash Ireland. Building on strong foundations laid in previous years, we are steadily developing a culture of child safety, awareness, and accountability throughout our clubs. While there are areas where further work is needed, particularly in consistency and follow-through, the commitment of key individuals and the growing responsiveness of clubs signals that safeguarding is increasingly recognised as a shared responsibility. With new systems on the horizon and renewed focus on the role of the National Children's Officer, Squash Ireland is well-placed to move from foundational compliance toward long-term best practice.

## Achievements and Progress

Safeguarding policy and documentation have been thoroughly reviewed and updated. All essential child safety materials for juniors, parents, and coaches are now accessible on the Squash Ireland website. These include the Safety Statement and Risk Assessment first distributed in 2020. The Code of Ethics and Code of Behaviour have been issued to all relevant stakeholders and are required as a condition of entry for junior tournaments. This is helping embed a shared understanding of what good practice looks like across our playing community. Importantly, we have also reviewed and updated our safeguarding policies in line with the 2021 Sport Ireland guidance, incorporating additional UK legislation with the guidance of Paul Stephenson from Sport NI.

On the training and compliance front, there has been substantial progress. As of early 2024, 163 individuals have been Garda Vetted, including 130 coaches, 11 Club Children's Officers (CCOs), and others in relevant roles. 130 people have completed Safeguarding 1 training, and we continue to make steady improvements in aligning safeguarding certifications with vetting records. Thanks to the ongoing diligence of Gerry Connaughton, reminders are consistently issued to ensure that certifications are kept up to date and align with updated Sport Ireland guidelines, which clarify refresher timelines and the requirement for face-to-face workshops when certificates lapse. The inclusion of Northern Ireland training guidelines has also allowed us to support clubs on both sides of the border more effectively.

As National Children's Officer, I have also contributed throughout the year to disciplinary committees where safeguarding issues involving junior players have arisen. These opportunities have reinforced the importance of safeguarding as a day-to-day responsibility for all adults in our sport. Supportive communication has been ongoing with coaches and parents alike, with reminders shared about responsibilities around conduct and the welfare of children.

## Strategic Recommendations and Role Development

To take safeguarding to the next level, I believe it is time to elevate the NCO role from a voluntary to a formal staff position. This would allow for more consistent communication with clubs, a greater presence at junior tournaments and coach

163

Individuals have  
been Garda Vetted  
in 2024

130

Coaches have  
been Garda Vetted  
in 2024

130

People have  
completed  
Safeguarding 1  
training

1:1

Enforcing practical  
safeguards gender  
coaching sessions have  
both male &  
female  
supervision

U11/13

Further action  
preventing U11 or U13  
players from  
refereeing  
matches.

100%

reviewed & updated our  
safeguarding policies in  
line with the 2021 Sport  
Ireland guidance

# Governance Safeguarding

training events, and stronger relationships with safeguarding officers in Sport Ireland and Sport NI. A proposal was submitted to the CEO in July 2024, followed by further clarification in December. Key suggestions included creating an annual safeguarding review meeting involving the NCO, CEO, Designated Liaison Person (DLP), Vetting Officer, and Secretary of Squash Ireland to reflect, plan, and sign off on updated safeguarding policies and procedures.

A move toward a more proactive safeguarding approach is already underway. Sport Ireland's regular safeguarding snippets have been distributed to clubs, and we aim to formalise this by creating a system of ongoing communication and workshops. This would include close collaboration with coaching coordinators and tournament directors, making safeguarding a natural and integrated part of how we operate across all levels of the sport.

## Areas for Further Action

While many achievements are worth celebrating, there remain several areas requiring immediate attention. We need a centralised digital system to track safeguarding qualifications and vetting, and to send automated renewal reminders. The adoption of a safeguarding platform is a crucial next step. Similarly, while documentation is in place, we need better processes to confirm whether consent has been gathered from parents, whether coaches have signed child safety forms, and whether these are stored and accessible. There is also work to do in enforcing practical safeguards such as ensuring mixed-gender coaching sessions have both male and female supervision, and preventing under-11 or under-13 players from refereeing matches.

To support these efforts, document formatting will be standardised, broken links reviewed, and safety materials reissued under Squash Ireland branding. These improvements will strengthen both communication and consistency, making safeguarding more accessible for all.

## Outlook

Squash Ireland has built a solid foundation in safeguarding, and there is a clear commitment across the organisation to do more. With the right tools, relationships, and leadership structure in place, we can shift from a reactive to a proactive safeguarding culture. The progress made this year, supported by the dedicated efforts of volunteers, staff, and club leaders should be recognised and celebrated. At the same time, we are ready and motivated to take the next steps to make Squash Ireland a leader in child protection and safeguarding in Irish sport.



# Governance Anti-Doping

## Anti-Doping

At Squash Ireland, we remain firmly committed to fostering a clean, fair, and transparent sporting environment. Upholding the integrity of our sport is a central value, and ensuring athletes compete on a level playing field is a priority across all levels of participation.

As part of this commitment, Squash Ireland fully adheres to the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Policy, which is aligned with the global framework established by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Our proactive stance is not only about compliance, but also about education and empowerment. This ensures our athletes are fully informed and supported in making the right choices.

### Promoting Fair Play through Testing and Education

As is standard practice, drug testing will be conducted during the Cannon Kirk Gillen Markets Irish Open 2025, reinforcing our dedication to clean sport. These tests are a critical component of our anti-doping framework and ensure that all participating athletes are competing fairly, in line with international best practices.

Beyond testing, education plays a key role in prevention. This year, our players actively participated in the International Testing Agency (ITA) Educational Webinar Series, endorsed by the World Squash Federation (WSF). These sessions provide valuable insights into anti-doping rules, athlete rights and responsibilities, the risks of supplements, and the importance of Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs).

## Anti-Doping Resources and Support for Athletes

We continue to encourage all athletes, coaches, and support personnel to stay informed and make use of the excellent resources available:

- Sport Ireland Anti-Doping Website - General information, news, and resources: <https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping>
- OIrish Anti-Doping Rules - The current set of rules governing anti-doping in Ireland: <https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping-rules>
- Eirpharm Drugs in Sport Database - A mobile-friendly medication checker to verify substances before use: <http://www.eirpharm.com/sports/>
- ADEL (Anti-Doping Education and Learning Platform) - WSF/WADA's online learning platform tailored for athletes, coaches, medical staff, and administrators: <https://www.worldsquash.org/adel-the-anti-doping-e-learning-platform/>
- World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) - For the latest updates, prohibited lists, and global policy information: <https://www.wada-ama.org/en>
- 2025 WADA Prohibited List - Updated annually, athletes must review this before using any substance: <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/news/wadas-2025-prohibited-list-now-force>
- Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)- Application portal for those requiring medications on the prohibited list: <https://www.sportireland.ie/anti-doping/athlete-zone/therapeutic-use-exemptions>
- New Medicine Checker by Sport Ireland - Athletes can now easily check if medication purchased in Ireland is permitted: <https://medcheck.sportireland.ie/>

## Governance Anti-Doping

Every athlete has the ultimate responsibility to ensure that no prohibited substance enters their system. "Check before you take" is the guiding principle. Whether prescription or over-the-counter, medications may contain banned substances, so vigilance is vital.

Squash Ireland will continue to advocate for integrity in sport, support our athletes with the resources they need, and maintain the highest standards of compliance with national and international anti-doping frameworks.

Thank you to Dr. Michael Hanrahan for his work as our Anti Doping Officer for the last 2 years. Michael stepped down from this role, earlier this year.

Paul Nugent | Interim Anti-Doping Officer, Squash Ireland

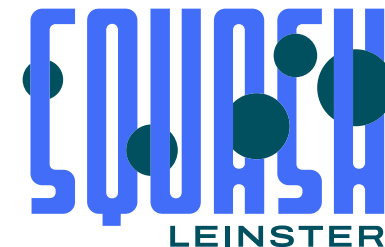






Provincial

# Provincial Leinster



The 2024/25 season marked a period of transition, with Peter O'Halloran stepping down as President following the AGM. Peter's energy and commitment to the game were hugely appreciated, and while he's been missed, the Leinster squash community has continued to thrive.

## Leinster League

One of the standout successes of the season was the Leinster League, which saw a significant jump in participation - 65 teams, up from 53 last year. Thanks to the efforts of Paul Conroy, the league ran smoothly and efficiently from start to finish.

**Full results here:**

<https://sportyhq.com/league/view/Leinster-Mens-Senior-League>

## Junior Programme

Our junior programme also had a strong year, with the Junior Open, Junior Closed, and Interpros all running successfully under the guidance of our new Junior Rep, Pauline Corcoran, who has made an excellent start in the role.

**Full results here.**

<https://sportyhq.com/tournament/view/LEINSTER-JUNIOR-OPEN-2025>

<https://sportyhq.com/tournament/view/Leinster-Junior-Closed-2025>

## Intro evening at UCD

In April, we supported an intro evening at UCD in an effort to reintroduce the college to the squash circuit, with another push planned for September. A big thanks to Dave Riordan and Neal Murphy for their help on that front.

## Squash Ireland brand rolled out

We also rolled out the new Squash Ireland brand across our website and social media, and added two new banners for use at events.

Promoting squash remains a challenge, but the passion within our community, from junior players to seasoned club members remains strong. With such enthusiasm and commitment, there's plenty to be optimistic about as we look ahead.

Noel Storey | Hon Secretary, Squash Leinster

# Provincial Munster



Munster Squash has enjoyed another strong and productive year, with positive momentum across all areas of the game. Feedback from clubs on competitions held throughout the province, such as the Munster Opens, Closed tournaments, and leagues has been overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the hard work of volunteers and the passion within our squash community.

## Junior Coaching

Junior squash continues to grow across the province. Programmes are thriving in Celtic, Dunhill, Highfield, and Thurles, and we're delighted to see clubs such as Limerick and Ballypatrick now establishing junior sections of their own. Participation numbers are on the rise, and the enthusiasm from both players and coaches is encouraging.

As part of our ongoing junior development strategy, Munster Squash invested in building a coaching support network for clubs. While progress has been made, sustaining this momentum continues to depend on volunteer involvement and funding, both of which remain ongoing challenges.

## Junior Nationals

The 2025 Junior Nationals were a standout success for Munster players, with several national titles and podium finishes:

- U11G: Caoimhe English (National Champion), Eabha English (Plate Winner)
- U11B: Benny Evans (Plate Winner)
- U13G: Ruby Carroll (National Champion), Daisy Morrissey (3rd Place)
- U13B: Jamie Morrissey (National Champion), Harry Knox (Runner-Up)

- U15B: Nathan Walsh (Runner-Up), Oscar Long (Plate Winner)
- U17B: Adam Power (3rd Place)
- U19B: Aaron Knox (3rd Place)

We're also very proud to see Munster juniors selected to represent Ireland at the upcoming 5 Nations, European Championships, and World Junior tournaments. These selections reflect the high standard of junior squash in the province.

- U13G: Daisy Morrissey (Celtic), Ruby Carroll (Limerick)
- U13B: Jamie Morrissey, Harry Knox (both Celtic)
- U15B: Nathan Walsh (Celtic)
- U17B: Adam Power (Celtic)
- U19B: Aaron Knox (Celtic)

## Women's Squash

Women's squash in Munster continues to grow steadily, with ongoing coaching programmes in Thurles, Limerick, Highfield, and Celtic. Participation remains strong, and events like Women Who Squash, held in Highfield (twice), Thurles, and Limerick have brought players together in a fun, supportive setting.

# Provincial Munster



## Munster Leagues & Tournaments

The Munster Leagues continue to thrive, with 44 teams from 13 clubs competing across Divisions 1 to 6, including a dedicated women-only league.

We also ran a full calendar of events: the Senior Open & Closed, Junior Open & Closed, and other tournaments successfully rotated around the province (except for the Junior Closed, which remains hosted in Dunhill). The response from players and clubs has been very positive, and we thank the many volunteers and club officials who made these events possible.

## Masters Participation

We've placed a renewed focus on Masters squash in Munster, for both men and women, and are seeing encouraging growth in this area as well.

## Refereeing & Coaching

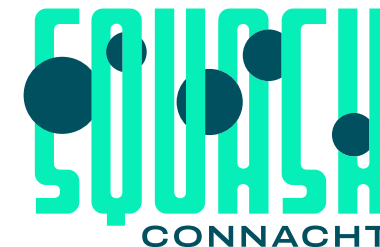
Munster Squash continues to support referee development through in-person and online courses. With Lee Healy leading the charge, WSO certification is growing across Munster clubs.

This season also saw a successful expansion of our coach education programme:

- Six new coaches completed Level 1 training in Cork.
- A new schools programme trained over 30 teachers, helping to introduce squash to a new generation of players.

Eugene Walker | Hon Secretary, Squash Munster

# Provincial Connacht



Momentum continues to build in clubs with active committees. Next season, we'll focus more on reactivating clubs like Ballinrobe, Claremorris, and Killala, once vibrant, now quieter. The trend is clear: active clubs gain momentum, and maintaining that is crucial. While outreach to dormant clubs has started, women's participation remains uneven, and engagement in certain communities (despite having courts) needs attention. Exploring new pathways, such as schools, women's groups, or ethnic communities, may bring fresh energy.

Support from Squash Ireland, such as seed funding or coaching help, could be instrumental in revitalising clubs. A clearer picture is needed of what clubs expect from a Connacht branch and how it can serve them better. Right now, club engagement with branch activity is limited, and officer recruitment remains a challenge.

## Club Highlights:

**Sligo Tennis Club** continues its impressive comeback. Junior squash is back (20 players), and a facility upgrade is in the works for 2026. A 30-player adult event in February boosted club energy, and a women's HIIT course in March was a big success. The club now has an active box league and two teams in the Connacht League. March saw the return of their Masters event with 45 participants. They've added a PRO role and grown their digital presence on Facebook and Instagram.

**Westport** is thriving. Membership sits at 165 (60 women, 30 juniors) and continues to grow. A strong ladder, busy competitions (including the Stephen Walsh fundraiser), and Connacht League wins highlight a vibrant season. Coaching continues under David Noone and includes Saturday sessions, beginner nights, and social squad nights.

**Galway Lawn Tennis Club** remains a leader in the province. Juniors excelled nationally, and the club hosted major events including the West of Ireland Open and Connacht League finals. Their internal coaching programme reaches up to 150 players weekly. Social squash is thriving with courts regularly full, though year-round play and more internal events would enhance engagement.

**Loughrea** fielded two Connacht League teams and ran a successful ladder series. Despite some membership drop (80 to 60) and storm damage, enthusiasm remains high. Junior coaching is strong, with players representing Connacht at interprovincials. Facility upgrades, including a glass-back wall and potential relocation, are in early planning.

**Ballina** has turned the tide. Membership grew 40% in six months (from 60 to 85), with box leagues and inter-club matches boosting activity. There's been a notable increase in female participation, and a partnership with Foróige introduced squash to children from local IPAS centres. A major sports grant will fund substantial facility improvements. Junior coaching is set to return.

**Claremorris** shows signs of life with a small but active group. Targeted development support could help reignite growth.

**Ballinrobe** remains quiet but has potential for revival with the right support.

**Killala** is inactive but a restart is planned for September.

The Connacht League was once again a success, with four match days rotating through different venues and a strong finals day at GLTC. However, only Westport fielded a women's team—addressing this imbalance is vital going forward.

Paul Bree | Connaught Acting President

2024 has been a pivotal year of transition and renewal for Ulster Squash, with significant progress made in governance, leadership, and strategic planning to position the sport for long-term growth.

## Structural Reform and Governance

The early and mid part of 2024 was dominated by important work with the new Board and executive team at Squash Ireland to respond to the sweeping constitutional and governance reforms required to modernise and strengthen squash across the country. This programme of reform was necessary not only to improve the delivery of the sport at grassroots and club level, but also to align with international standards as squash prepares for its Olympic debut.

As part of this broader national effort, Ulster Squash undertook its own internal renewal. A new Ulster Squash Board and President were elected, bringing renewed energy and expertise, with governance at the heart of their mandate. A new strategic plan was developed and approved, setting out our vision to grow participation, protect and develop facilities, support player pathways, and enhance the capacity of clubs and volunteers across the province.

By mid-year, we were actively transitioning to these new structures, embedding new ways of working, and re-engaging with external partners including Sport NI and local councils. The latter part of 2024 saw a shift toward delivery, with early implementation of strategic priorities and preparation for key programmes launching in 2025.

With the assistance of the new Squash Ireland executive team, funding from Sport NI has enabled the engagement of a part-time community and development officer in late 2024. This has been a step change for Squash Ulster and enabled planning for a raft of club activities for early 2025.

## Participation and Club Development

We've seen a steady return to pre-pandemic levels of participation, supported by strong junior activity across several clubs, notably Belfast Boat Club, Lisburn Racquets, and Ballyearl. Club open days and 'Squash into Schools' initiatives have played a key role in attracting new players, particularly juniors and women.

In response to Belfast City Council's draft Sports Development Strategy, we reaffirmed the role of squash as an accessible, year-round indoor sport and highlighted the urgent need for facility investment. Several squash courts in the region remain at risk due to competing demands in multi-sport venues. Our submission emphasised the importance of protecting and upgrading squash facilities and proposed partnership-based solutions to expand community access.

## Performance and Competition

Ulster athletes continued to feature prominently in national squads and competitions. In particular, our junior players delivered strong performances at interprovincial level, with multiple podium finishes in the U11 and U13 categories. The Ulster Senior Closed Championship returned with a full-strength draw, and league squash saw increased engagement, helped by a more streamlined format and renewed energy among clubs.

At local league level, our leagues saw increased engagement, helped by a more streamlined format and renewed energy among clubs. We had 29 teams from 13 clubs participating in 5 leagues, including a newly formed North & West league to cater for the increased demand in the region. We also had two cup competitions with 22 teams participating.

The Ulster Senior Open and Closed Championships returned with full-strength draws. We also supported several new tournaments, and one-day events aimed at encouraging entry-level and social competition as well as developing certain areas such as women's participation. These events have proved a vital pipeline for attracting and retaining players.



## Corporate Governance Policies and Compliance

In line with our strategic renewal, Ulster Squash adopted a full suite of updated governance policies during 2024. These include a revised Constitution, Safeguarding Policy, Disciplinary Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Data Protection Policy, and a formal Code of Conduct. Developed with reference to Sport NI guidance and Squash Ireland frameworks, these documents create a strong foundation for sound decision-making, accountability, and compliance.

As emphasised in our response to Belfast City Council, effective governance is not simply a compliance exercise but a prerequisite for attracting investment, ensuring inclusion, and delivering impact in local communities.

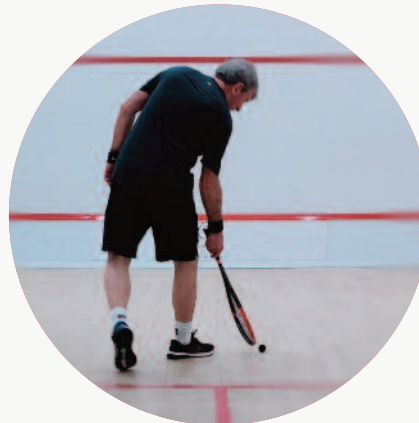
## Looking Ahead

2025 will mark the first full year under our new board and strategic plan. Key initiatives include the launch of a refreshed Schools Programme, the roll-out of a Club Accreditation Scheme, and further investment in coach and volunteer development. We are committed to working in partnership with Squash Ireland and our regional stakeholders to ensure squash thrives across Ulster.

Ulster Squash extends its thanks to all players, coaches, clubs, volunteers, and supporters who have contributed to this period of renewal. Together, we are building a stronger, more sustainable future for our sport.



# Committee Reports



This master's activity report covers the ranking season 2024-2025, starting with Sligo Masters March 22nd 2024 to the Nationals February 28th 2025, the Irish team selections and finally the Home Internationals April / May.

This year we will have held/supported thirteen tournaments, comprising eight home based ranking tour events, the ESF Irish Open, and four Home Internationals outings. This is a fantastic amount of activity for our masters community and we are grateful for all the work and effort put in by our much appreciated volunteers, who without them, this could not happen. We thank the previous masters committee and the current one namely Kevin Knox, Gerry Connaughton, Orla Diamantino, Neal Pollock, Brendan Murphy, Suzie Connors, Tanya Owens and last but by no means least Eugene Walker, our tournament director who has become the heartbeat of masters tournaments.

We are equally grateful to the clubs who support and provide their facilities to make the masters tour not only happen but a success, these clubs and their members open their doors to the masters tour each year and their contribution cannot be overstated. We acknowledge Sligo Squash Club, Galway Lawn Tennis Club, Celtic Squash Club, Curragh Squash Club, Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, Highfield Squash Club, Sundays Well Lawn Boating & Tennis Club, Belfast Boat Club, Windsor Squash Club, Mount Pleasant Squash Club and Leinster Cricket club. One club in particular must be singled out and that is our spiritual home Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, who graciously hosted four events during this period including our very enjoyable Masters Nationals social dinner, and we would especially mention Troy Byrne and Kieran Murray for their support.

To our sponsors we are thrilled to have received your support this season. This is not taken for granted and really appreciated across the masters community. Without your help our calendar would not be the success it is. We would like to thank Mespill Hotel, Beeline, Rackets.ie, Michael Roden, Tipperary Crystal, Insomnia Coffee & Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, Dunlop. Finally to Scott and his Squash Ireland team and the Board of Squash Ireland, without their support, we would not be enjoying the sport we all love so much, again we say thanks.

### Masters in numbers

Just looking at our eight ranking tour events for the season we had 660 entries in total (80% men & 20% women), the equivalent numbers over the previous two years being season 2022-2023 - 489 entries & season 2023-2024 - 583 entries. Overall a very healthy increase of 35% over the 3 year period which is incredible and reflective of the popularity of the tour and the growing awareness of masters sport generally but especially the overarching health benefits of playing squash. When you add in the number of entries for the (ESF) Irish Open this brings the overall total to 786 entries. Our ranking spreadsheet now has 270 individual competitors listed, 221 men and 49 women. As the profile of squash continues to rise due the Olympic inclusion and greater social media exposure we are hopeful that the tour will continue to grow with your help (current participants) and that of your clubs. We especially would like to ask clubs to encourage their women masters members to think about competing on the tour for the coming season. Of course as we grow court capacity becomes an issue but we believe with your support, split venues where necessary and slightly earlier starts this will not be a restricting issue.



## Masters Nationals Social Dinner

As you know our tour events start Friday evening and finish Saturday evening allowing for min expenditure of one hotel night, we are very aware of the rising cost of living and the cost of travel especially so this strategy will continue for the seasons ahead. Therefore our Nationals Dinner takes on a special significance and it is our focus once a year to ask all masters players where possible, to stay that extra night and celebrate in style our community, our wonderful sport and have a bit of fun. This year was no exception and we had circa 100 guests at the very successful and enjoyable function hosted in Fitzwilliam. Masters of Ceremony on the night was Suzanne O Shaughnessy who we cannot thank enough for the wonderful and professional way she delivered the evening. Behind every great woman is a team which was Ciara Davey, Suzie Connors, Orla Diamantino and this team with Suzanne planned and executed the event and I think everyone who was there said the same thing, "wow that was a great night".

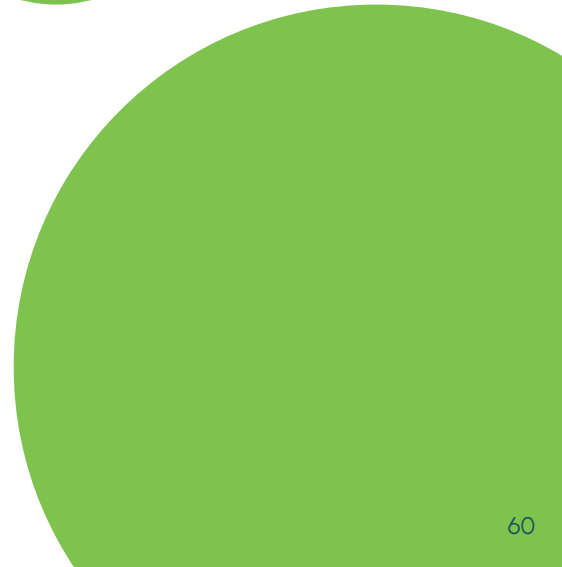
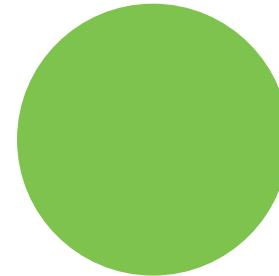
Two masters awards were presented on the night firstly the Patrick Murray award which was presented to Eugene Walker for all the work he has done to organise and support the masters tour events and no matter what you ask Eugene his answer is always "no bother", his presence at masters weekends made the season so enjoyable. Second Masters award on the night was to our Masters Player of the year and this went to Mary Scenery to celebrate her wonderful achievement of winning the World Masters in Amsterdam earlier in the season and while Mary could not be with us on the night (long way from Australia) she was shocked and so appreciative to receive the recognition.

Finally could I ask that all masters players where possible when the calendar for the new season comes out pencil in the Masters end of season Nationals Dinner in your diaries as a must attend, it's the one time a year where we all put the rackets away, get dressed up if like, possibly have a few drink or not but for sure have a bit of fun celebrating our community.

## Masters National results

Winners and runners up from the nationals were

	Winners	Runner Up
M35	David Noone	Sam Olwill
M40	Nigel Peyton	Dermot McNamara
M45	Kevin Knox	Kevin Moore
M50	David Ayerst	Vincent Pippett
M55	Brian Lalor	Michael Cowhie
M60	Vincent Bradley	John Dineen
M65	James McSweeney	Donal Coughlan
M70	Kyran Hurley	Patrick Hanley
M75	Seamus Daly	
W35/40	Ciara Davey	Micaelle Heraughty
W45	Sandra Walshe	Suzanne O Shaughnessy
W50	Rachel McNulty	Aisling McCardle
W55	Jennie Dillon	Sarah Berkeley
W60	Mary Keys	Christine Mooney
W65	Maureen	Duke Dymrna Reardon





## Masters in Europe / World

The first part of our Squash Ireland Vision Statement says “to be a world class squash nation” and I believe we are clearly demonstrating this through our masters community who regularly and consistently travel to European / World tournaments and compete at the highest levels, it's never a surprise to see Irish players on the podium, it's now normal!!! The Worlds held in Amsterdam in August featured 29 Irish entries of which 26 were seeded with three seeded at number 1, incredible. We ended up with five podium finishes, Mary Sceney winning WO65, second for Arthur Gaskin in MO35, Second for Nick Staunton in MO50, Second for Willie Hosey in MO60 and third for Neil McCarron in MO45, a fantastic return.

In Europe if you just look at the top 10 rankings we have 16 Irish players there and 6 of these in the top 4 again an amazing achievement given the size of our playing numbers. So we may not have the quantity but we sure do have the quality. One European masters tournament does stand out this year, which was the Portuguese Masters in January which featured a full set of Irish Masters on the podium, Kyran Hurley first, Peter Stephens second and Michael Conlon third. Who says we don't produce fine wine in Ireland?

## Masters Home Internationals

Fifteen Irish teams were announced between Men (9 teams) and Women (6 teams) this year involving 80 players of which 11 were first time caps which is a great sign of the competition for places through the tour and augers well for the future. Congratulations to Peter Bekker, Brendan Murphy, Kul Singh, Avril Carins, David Buxonat, Robert Garvin, Abhishek Thapar, Neil Brannigan, Gerry Connaughton, Olivia Kennedy, Marian Mullen.

## Galway

Galway was the first leg of this series held in GLTC and featured the following teams

- WO55** Josie Grogan, Dympna Riordan, Rosie Collins, Mary Keyes, Avril Carins, Lynda Dunlop
- MO35** Brian Byrne, Mark Gilliland, Kevin Davey, Cathal Lynch, Peter Bekker, Sam Olwill
- MO55** Brial Lalor, Adrian Leeson, Brendan Murphy, Tom Crowe, Geoff Wales, Stephen Fasendfeld
- MO75** Robert Peel, Seamus Daly, Toddy Keeley, Kul Singh

Overall no winning age group but some incredible performances, well done all in some very deep waters in Galway, we can say for sure that we were the clear winner in the dancing at the presentation dinner that evening with the Scots taking second place, England and Wales not even close.

## Nottingham

Nottingham was next with three age groups and possibly the best overall Irish masters weekend results ever with all teams on the podium. Pride of place goes to our men's O70 who convincingly won their age group with what was a real team effort led by captain Robert Peel, their strength in depth from number 1 to number 6 proved the decisive factor. Seventh is the new fifty for these guys!!!!

Not to be outdone both our men's and women's O50 teams finished second pushing England all the in the final round of Saturday evening matches, overall incredible performance from all involved, well done.

Teams were

- WO55** Sue Swan, Rachel McNulty, Orla Diamantino, Aisling McCardle, Jennie Dillon
- MO50** David Ayerst, John Hurley, Vincent Pippet, David Buxonat, Dara O Flynn, Neal Murphy
- MO70** Kyran Hurley, Pat Hanley, Herbert Cotter, Robert Peel, Peter Stephens, Robert Garvin



## Edinburgh

Then on to Edinburgh where again we had a podium with our Men's O45 finishing a very hard fought second place which was a great result given the strength of the other national teams. As usual some great performances and effort from our other teams with some very strong individual results however the other nations had too much depth in their squads.

### Teams were

- WO45** Suzanne O Shaughnessy, Sandra Walsh, Saoirse O Sullivan, Niamh Darcy, Suzie Connors, Olivia Kennedy
- WO65** Maureen Duke, Dymphna Riordan, Rose Hynes, Marian Mullen
- MO45** Kevin Knox, Derek Ryan, Ronan Payton, Paul O'Brien, Abhishek Thapar, Neil Brannigan
- MO65** James McSweeney, Donal Coughlan, Martin McDonnell, Michel Roden, Shay Hickey, Gerry Delaney, Gerry Connaughton

## Cardiff

Finally Cardiff, which was generally a tough weekend for most teams except our Men's O40 who finished a very credible second to a very strong England team. Overall great squash played but stiff competition the order of the day.

### Teams were:

- WO35/40** Siobhan Parker, Aoileann Ni Chomhrair, Helen Byrne, Ciara Davey, Michael Heraughty, Patricia Ryan
- WO65** Christine Mooney, Mary Keyes, Rosie Collins, Maureen Duke
- MO40** Mark Furlong, Pat Morrissey, Michael Ely, Nigel Payton, Niel Rooney, Dermot McNamara
- MO60** Vincent Bradley, David Hazzard, Donal Kelly, Teddy Reineke, James Lawler, John Dineen

To all players well done for representing your country with pride, passion and sportsmanship and for being great ambassadors for your family, clubs, country and our sport, thank you.

## TAMS (Trans-Atlantic Masters Squash)

The TAMS test series was held in March coming up too and over the St Patrick weekend in Fitzwilliam featuring men's and women's O50 and O60 teams from Canada, USA, England and Ireland. This event was brilliantly organised by Dara O Flynn & Jenny Dillon with competitive squash which also featured organised trips like the Guinness Store House for visiting players and their families from Thursday right up to St Patrick's day itself. Quoting from the press release Dara "welcomed an elite international masters squash group to Dublin, saying we are proud to promote the growing international masters squash game, with Jenny stating it just happened to be St Patricks weekend so what better time to showcase the best of Irish hospitality."

The squash tournament itself was very competitive with all Irish teams finishing second in each age group and second overall ahead of USA and Canada with England once again showing their incredible pool of masters players. Next year Canada!!

## Looking forward

As the saying goes "don't look back you are not going that way". We have a brilliant sport, we have a great calendar of tour events each year, and we have an international outlet through the Home Internationals Series which is the envy of many countries. We have shown that we can compete at the highest levels in international competition so the only word of caution is not to get complacent and take success for granted, so please encourage more players from your club to get involved in events of all ages groups and genders but especially younger cohorts. Please also encourage more volunteers to help out on working groups, committees, refereeing, coaching etc and lets continue to build our community. It's up to us, and don't forget seventy is the new fifty.

[See you on a squash court soon](#)



The Junior Committee played a pivotal role this season in overseeing the development and delivery of junior squash activities across the country. The committee comprised the following regional representatives:

Dean Dromgoole	Junior Secretary
Josh McVeigh	Ulster Representative
David Noone	Connacht Representative
Pauline Corcoran	Leinster Representative
Brendan Connolly	Munster Representative

This dedicated group ensured the delivery of a comprehensive programme of competitions, squad training, and international representation throughout the 2024/2025 season

## Domestic Junior Tournaments

A full calendar of junior tournaments was successfully delivered, showcasing the depth of talent and commitment across all provinces. The following events were hosted during the season:

Connacht Junior Open	21st–22nd September 2024
Ulster Junior Open	12th–13th October 2024
Munster Junior Open	9th–10th November 2024
Irish Junior Open	15th–17th November 2024
Munster Junior Closed	11th–12th January 2025
Leinster Junior Closed	18th–19th January 2025
Ulster Junior Closed	25th–26th January 2025
Leinster Junior Open	1st–2nd February 2025
Irish Junior Nationals	14th–16th February 2025
Connacht Junior Closed	25th–26th February 2025
Junior Interprovincials	12th April 2025

The Junior Interprovincials took place on April 12th and were jointly hosted by Sutton Lawn Tennis Club and ALSAA. Teams from Ulster, Munster, and Connacht competed across a range of age groups. Special thanks to the provincial representatives for their efforts in organising and coordinating teams and travel. The goal moving forward is to increase participation and expand team representation in future seasons.

## Junior Rankings

The junior ranking system was maintained and updated throughout the season by Andrew Gillespie, ensuring transparency and consistency in player seeding across all competitions. Rankings continue to play a critical role in team selection for both domestic and international representation.

## Junior Squads and Coaching

Training squads were held at regular intervals during the season in preparation for provincial, national, and international competitions. Coaching appointments were made for each age group:

U19/U17	David Noone
U15/U13	Michael Conroy

They were ably supported by a team of assistant coaches: Dean Dromgoole, Gavin Lestrangle, Josh McVeigh, Andrew Gillespie, and Nigel Peyton.

These sessions were vital in developing player performance, building team spirit, and preparing players for the demands of international squash.

## International Representation

Five Nations (U13/U15) – 4th–6th April 2025, Nantes, France

Coach	Michael Conroy
Assistant Coach	Gavin Lestrangle
Team Manager	Roisin O'Shea

This key development event provided vital early international exposure for our youngest age groups. Our U13s finished 4th, while our U15s finished 3rd, with a notable win over Wales

U13 Team	Jamie Morrissey, Harry Knox, Josh Archer, Eoin O'Brien, Saibh Darcy, Aurora McDonnell, Daisy Morrissey, Ruby Carroll
U15 Team	Danny Jones, Michael Lai, Nathan Walsh, Eoin Mullery, Ashrakat Elmahgoub, Laya Sabry, Zoe Nyhan, Gabby Curran

## European U19 Championships – 12th–20th April 2025, Prague, Czech Republic

Coach	David Noone
Assistant Coach	Dean Dromgoole
Team Manager	Susan McQuillan

Ireland fielded both individual and team entries in this highly competitive event. The team finished 13th overall, registering strong wins over Denmark, Italy, Norway, and Scotland. Top Individual Results: Aaron Knox (16th), Lydia McQuillan (23rd), Christian Dromgoole (24th)

Team	Danny Lynch, Conal Jackson, Christian Dromgoole, Ella Erickson, Lydia McQuillan, Ella Walsh
Additional Individual Entries	Aaron Knox, Frank O'Flynn, Zoe Yeomans, Reily Slade

## European U15/U17 Championships – 8th–11th May 2025, Bordeaux, France

Coaches	David Noone, Michael Conroy
Team Manager	Roisin O'Shea

Once again, Irish juniors held their own against strong European competition, with several close ties against higher-seeded nations. Our U15s finished 11th, while our U17s finished 17th

U15 Team	Danny Jones, Michael Lai, Nathan Walsh, Laya Sabry, Zoe Nyhan
U17 Team	Advik Ajay, Adam Power, Samuel Hann, Rebecca Jackson, Isabel Fallon

Once again, Irish juniors proved highly competitive, with a number of close ties against higher-seeded nations. Their performances bode well for future years.

### WSF World Junior Championships 2025 Cairo, Egypt (July–August)

Preparations are underway for this prestigious event, with both a boys' and girls' team planned for entry. Selection is ongoing and will be based on national rankings and recent performances.

Head Coach: David Noone

### Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere thanks to the Squash Ireland Board and the Junior Committee for their continued support. Heartfelt appreciation also goes to:

- All coaches and assistant coaches for their dedication to player development
- Team managers who accompanied and supported our squads abroad
- Tournament directors, referees, and the many volunteers who made our national and provincial events possible

Their combined effort ensures a vibrant and growing junior squash programme across Ireland.

The 2024/2025 season has been a positive year of growth, development, and international achievement. We are committed to expanding participation, supporting regional structures, and continuing to raise the standard of Irish junior squash at home and abroad.

Plans are in place to further strengthen interprovincial competition, enhance the quality of coaching, and support our juniors in every way possible on their journey in the sport.







# 2024 Finance Report

# 2024 Finance Report

The attached financials, approved by the Board of Squash Ireland, cover the period from the 1st of January 2024 to 31st December 2024.

## Income

Income in 2024 was €904k versus €916k in 2023. The reduction primarily related to the absence of Covid Grants that were utilised in 2023, primarily the Covid Return to Sport Grant €114k, the Scheme V Covid Grant €51k and the Sports Energy Support Grant Scheme €84k. These decreases were primarily offset by the following: Dormant Account funding €32k, Special Projects Grant €24k and Sport Northern Ireland funding €52k. In addition, there were increases in affiliation fees and competition income reflecting increased activity and participation across the board.

## Expenditure

Expenditure in 2024 was €901k versus €931k in 2023, a decrease of €30k. Expenses in 2023 included the Covid grants mentioned above. In 2024 expenses increased in Staff salaries €60k, reflecting additional staff hired to run the organisation, increased spending in Northern Ireland, increased marketing and communication costs and higher expenditure on our High Performance Programme.

In 2024 the operating surplus was €2.4k versus a deficit of €14.9k in 2023.

## Balance Sheet

Net Assets increased slightly from €205k to €208k, reflecting the small operating surplus reported for the year. Reserves at €208k reflect sufficient funds to support an National Governing Body of our size.

## Oversight

The financial systems, processes, and oversight within Squash Ireland were significantly strengthened in 2024 with the appointment of a part-time Finance Officer and the transition to the Sage accounting system. In addition, the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee was strengthened with Independent directors joining which has considerably enhanced the oversight and assurances in place. The CEO and Finance Officer have welcomed the additional support and oversight provided by the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee.

## Outlook

The financial outlook for Squash Ireland remains positive. The organisation saw increased self-generated income in 2024, from 32% of total income to 39%, which is expected to continue into 2025. Staff numbers and activity levels are rising rapidly, thanks to the securing of additional grant funding. We have continued to receive strong financial support from Sport Ireland and, more recently, from Sport Northern Ireland. This support is keeping us on track with the implementation of our 5-year Strategic Plan, as we continue to support our players from grassroots to high performance.

**IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE  
ACCOUNTS 2024**

**IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE  
REPORTS AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### COMPANY INFORMATION

<b>Directors</b>	John Dineen (appointed 25 March 2024) Rosie Barry Arlene McVeigh (resigned 25 March 2024) Noel Storey (appointed 25 March 2024) Rose Hynes (appointed 26 August 2024) Kevin Ahern (appointed 26 August 2024) Susan Kelly (appointed 11 September 2024) Ann Costello (resigned 26 May 2024) Eugene Walker (resigned 26 May 2024) Lee Healy Ann Sheppard (resigned 25 March 2024) Paul Bree (resigned 25 March 2024) Christine Lowry (resigned 26 May 2024) Christine Mooney Peter O'Halloran (resigned 25 March 2024)
<b>Company secretary</b>	Christine Mooney
<b>Registered number</b>	392123
<b>Registered office</b>	Irish Squash Federation Irish Sport HQ Sport Ireland Campus Snugborough Road Blanchardstown Dublin 15
<b>Independent auditors</b>	OSK Audit Limited East Point Plaza East Point Dublin 3
<b>Bankers</b>	AIB 219 Crumlin Road Crumlin Dublin

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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<b>Statement of financial position</b>	8
<b>Statement of cash flows</b>	9
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## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

#### **Directors' responsibilities statement**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare the financial statements for each financial year giving a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' applying Section 1A of the Standard, which is issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at the financial year end date, of the surplus or deficit for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Company's financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the Company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **Principal activities**

The principal activity of the company is the promotion and development of squash both nationally and internationally.

#### **Results**

The surplus for the year, after taxation, amounted to €2,408 (2023 - deficit €14,930).

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

#### **Directors**

No director has any beneficial interest in the company.

The directors who served during the year were:

John Dineen (appointed 25 March 2024)  
Rosie Barry  
Arlene McVeigh (resigned 25 March 2024)  
Noel Storey (appointed 25 March 2024)  
Rose Hynes (appointed 26 August 2024)  
Kevin Ahern (appointed 26 August 2024)  
Susan Kelly (appointed 11 September 2024)  
Ann Costello (resigned 26 May 2024)  
Eugene Walker (resigned 26 May 2024)  
Lee Healy  
Ann Sheppard (resigned 25 March 2024)  
Paul Bree (resigned 25 March 2024)  
Christine Lowry (resigned 26 May 2024)  
Christine Mooney  
Peter O'Halloran (resigned 25 March 2024)

#### **Principal risks and uncertainties**

Squash Ireland receives financial support from the Governments of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The possibility of these grants being reduced in the future is the principal uncertainty facing the organisation.

The Directors have assessed the risks in relation to the financial position and have prepared budgets and projections and are confident that the company is in a position to manage the risks and continue as a going concern.

#### **Accounting records**

The measures taken by the directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company's accounting records are maintained at the company's registered office.

#### **Statement on relevant audit information**

Each of the persons who are directors at the time when this Directors' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware, and
- the director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

#### **Small companies exemption**

The entity has availed of the small companies exemption contained in the Companies Act 2014 with regards to the requirements of certain information in the directors' report.

**IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

**Auditors**

The auditors, OSK Audit Limited, have expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

This report was approved by the board on 12 May 2025 and signed on its behalf.



**Rosie Barry**  
Director



**Christine Mooney**  
Director

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

-

#### **Report on the audit of the financial statements**

##### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Irish Squash Federation Company Limited by Guarantee (the 'Company') for the year ended 31st December 2024, which comprise the Income and expenditure account, the Statement of financial position, the Statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31st December 2024 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

##### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (CONTINUED)

#### **Other information**

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### **Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

#### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### **Respective responsibilities and restrictions on use**

##### **Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement on page 1, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (CONTINUED)

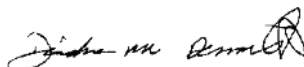
#### **Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: <https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing-standards>. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

#### **The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities**

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Deirdre McDermott  
for and on behalf of  
**OSK Audit Limited**  
Statutory Audit Firm  
East Point Plaza  
East Point  
Dublin 3

12 May 2025



**IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Income		903,560	916,069
Administrative expenditure		(901,152)	(930,999)
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	7	<b>2,408</b>	<b>(14,930)</b>
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		172,084	187,014
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		2,408	(14,930)
<b>Retained earnings at the end of the financial year</b>		<b>174,492</b>	<b>172,084</b>


There were no recognised gains and losses for 2024 or 2023 other than those included in the income and expenditure account.

Signed on behalf of the board:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rosie Barry**

Director

Date: 12 May 2025

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Christine Mooney**

Director


**IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**


**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	9	31,072	71,220
Cash at bank and in hand	10	413,901	367,102
		<u>444,973</u>	<u>438,322</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(236,828)	(232,585)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>208,145</u>	<u>205,737</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>208,145</u>	<u>205,737</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><u>208,145</u></u>	<u><u>205,737</u></u>
<b>Reserves</b>			
Special reserve	12	33,653	33,653
Income and expenditure account	12	174,492	172,084
<b>Members' funds</b>		<u><u>208,145</u></u>	<u><u>205,737</u></u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rosie Barry**  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Christine Mooney**  
Director

Date: 12 May 2025

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

**IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	2,408	(14,930)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	40,148	(62,248)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	4,243	(159,783)
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>46,799</b>	<b>(236,961)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>46,799</b>	<b>(236,961)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	367,102	604,063
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year</b>	<b>413,901</b>	<b>367,102</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year comprise:</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	413,901	367,102
<b>Net funds at 31st December</b>	<b>413,901</b>	<b>367,102</b>

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

#### 1. General information

The financial statements comprise of the income and expenditure account, the statement of financial position, cash flow statement and related notes that constitute the financial statements of Irish Squash Federation CLG for the financial year ended 31st December 2024.

The Irish Squash Federation CLG is a company limited by guarantee having no share capital, incorporated and registered in the Republic of Ireland (CRO number: 392123). The registered office is Irish Sports HQ, Sport Ireland Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 which is also the principal place of business of the company. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' report.

#### Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102), applying section 1A of that standard.

#### 2. Accounting policies

##### 2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis in accordance with the historical cost convention modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The company qualifies as a small company for the period, as defined by section 280A of that Act, in respect of the financial year, and has applied the rules of the 'Small Companies Regime' in accordance with section 280C of the Act and Section 1A of FRS 102.

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

##### 2.2 Income

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the revenue can be reliably measured. Income is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes. The following criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

Revenue relates to grants, subsidies and various other sums relevant to the Company. Grants received from Sport Ireland are credited to the income and expenditure account in the year to which they relate and any unused funds at the end of the year are carried forward to the following year.

Affiliation are credited to the income and expenditure account in the year which they are received, whereas other income is credited to the income and expenditure account in the year to which they relate.

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

#### **2. Accounting policies (continued)**

##### **2.3 Pensions**

###### **Defined contribution pension plan**

The Company operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Company has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in profit or loss when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Statement of financial position. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Company in independently administered funds.

##### **2.4 Exceptional items**

Exceptional items are transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the Company but are presented separately due to their size or incidence.

##### **2.5 Government grants**

Grants are accounted under the accruals model as permitted by FRS 102. Grants relating to expenditure on tangible fixed assets are credited to the income and expenditure account at the same rate as the depreciation on the assets to which the grant relates. The deferred element of grants is included in creditors as deferred income.

Grants of a revenue nature are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the same period as the related expenditure.

##### **2.6 Debtors**

Short-term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

##### **2.7 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Company's cash management.

##### **2.8 Creditors**

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

##### **2.9 Financial instruments**

The Company only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in ordinary shares.

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

#### 3. Sport Ireland Grants Received

##### **Sport Ireland - Core Funding Grant (Received in 2024 - €300,000)**

This grant contributes towards the annual general administration costs incurred by the Company. The grant covers the calendar year ending on 31 December 2024. Allowing for €31,000 unspent from 2023, €331,000 has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024 as highlighted in note 4 of the financial statements. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

##### **Sport Ireland - Women in Sport Grant (Received in 2024 - €35,000)**

This grant contributed towards expenditure incurred by the Company in promoting women's participation in sport. The grant covers the calendar year ending 31 December 2024. €14,831 has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024 with €20,169 being deferred into 2025 as highlighted in note 4 of the financial statements. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

##### **Sport Ireland - Covid 19 - Scheme V Grant (Received in 2024 - €NIL)**

This grant contributed towards the recovery of the sporting organisations from Covid-19. This grant was made available to ensure that the sports sector can overcome any barriers to a return to organised sport. Allowing for €16,922 unspent from 2023, €13,502 has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024, with €3,420 being deferred into 2025 as highlighted in note 4 of the financial statements. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

##### **Sport Ireland - Covid-19 Strand III Return to Sport Grant (Received in 2024 - €NIL)**

Squash Ireland are administering this grant for and on behalf of Sport Ireland. Allowing for €7,466 unspent from 2023, €4,192 was paid out to clubs during the year, with €3,274 being deferred into 2025 as highlighted in note 4 of the financial statements. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

##### **Sport Ireland - Covid-19 Recovery Grant (Received in 2024 - €NIL)**

This grant contributed towards the final recovery of sporting organisations from Covid-19. This grant was made available to ensure that the sports sector can overcome any remaining barriers to a full return to organised sport. Allowing for €50,000 unspent from 2023, €50,000 has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024, as highlighted in note 4 of the financial statements. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

##### **Sport Ireland - Sports Energy Support Scheme Grant (Received in 2024 - €NIL)**

This grant contributes to support its affiliated clubs under the Sports Energy Support Scheme. Allowing for €19,052 unspent from 2023, €19,052 has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024, as highlighted in note 4 of the financial statements. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

##### **Sport Ireland - Special Project Grant (Received in 2024 - €4,000)**

This grant contributes to support governance review, strategic development and IT enhancements expenditure. Allowing for €20,000 unspent from 2023, €24,000 has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024, as highlighted in note 4 of the financial statements. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.



## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

#### **Sport Ireland - Dormant Account Funding Grant (Received in 2024 - €58,500)**

The 2024 grant contributed towards expenditure incurred by the Company around the following areas: Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and Her Moves. The grant covers the calendar year ending 31 December 2024. Allowing for €53,834 unspent from 2023, €32,344 has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024 €79,990 being deferred in to 2025 as highlighted in note 4 of the financial statements. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

#### **Sport Ireland - High Performance Grant (Received in 2024 - €30,000)**

This grant was awarded to support Squash Ireland in its objectives towards building on the potential existing within the pathway for the organisation to target the Games in 2028/2032. The grant covers the calendar year ending 31 December 2024. €6,076 has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024, with €23,924 being deferred into 2025 as highlighted in note 4 of the financial statements. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

#### **4. Sport Ireland - Deferred Grants**

	Opening Balance €	Grant Received 2024 €	Grant Released 2024 €	Closing balance €
Core Grant	31,000	300,000	(331,000)	-
Women in Sport Grant	-	35,000	(14,831)	20,169
Covid-19 - Scheme V Grant	16,922	-	(13,502)	3,420
Covid-19 - Strand III Return to Sport Grant	7,466	-	(4,192)	3,274
Covid-19 Recovery Grant	50,000	-	(50,000)	-
Sports Energy Support Scheme Grant	19,052	-	(19,052)	-
Special Projects Grant	20,000	4,000	(24,000)	-
Dormant Accounts Grant	53,834	58,500	(32,344)	79,990
High Performance Grant	-	30,000	(6,076)	23,924
	<b>198,274</b>	<b>427,500</b>	<b>(494,997)</b>	<b>130,777</b>
			<b>2024 €</b>	<b>2023 €</b>
Total of all Sport Ireland deferred grants at year end (note 11)			<b>130,777</b>	<b>198,274</b>
			<b>130,777</b>	<b>198,274</b>

OSK confirm that the Sport Ireland grants received during the year were expended for the purpose for which they were intended, that there is no duplication of funding for the same activity or project and that Squash Ireland are compliant with Tax Clearance obligations.

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

#### **5. Sport Northern Ireland Grants Received**

This funding programme specifically targets recognised sports organisations that have not been eligible to apply for funding through the Sports System Investment – Governing Bodies element of National Lottery funding in previous years. The investment aims to help recognised governing bodies strengthen their systems. There is a particular focus on contributing positively to equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), especially for under-represented groups, with an emphasis on women and girls in sport.

#### **6. Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application and policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experiences and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The directors consider the accounting estimates and assumptions below to be its critical accounting estimates and judgments.

##### **Going concern**

The company has prepared budgets for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements, which demonstrate that there is no material uncertainty regarding the company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. The company has a reasonable expectation, at the time of approving the financial statements, that the company has adequate resources to continue its operations. For this reason the company continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

#### **7. Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities**

The operating surplus/(deficit) is stated after charging/crediting:

	2024	2023
	€	€
Defined contribution pension cost	7,837	-

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

#### 8. Employees

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024 €	2023 €
Wages and salaries	165,925	105,911
Employers' PRSI	15,219	11,526
Cost of defined contribution scheme	7,837	-
	<u>188,981</u>	<u>117,437</u>

The average monthly number of employees, including the directors, during the year was as follows:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Administration	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>

No directors' remuneration was paid during the current or prior year.

#### 9. Debtors

	2024 €	2023 €
Accrued Income	18,442	62,600
Prepayments	12,630	8,620
	<u>31,072</u>	<u>71,220</u>

#### 10. Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 €	2023 €
Cash at bank and in hand	413,901	367,102
	<u>413,901</u>	<u>367,102</u>

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

#### 11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	€	€
Other creditors	5,207	669
Trade creditors	18,885	-
Taxation - PAYE/PRSI	15,613	15,356
Deferred grant income - other	20,290	-
Deferred income - other	23,897	-
Deferred grant income - Sport Ireland	130,777	198,274
Accruals	22,159	18,286
	<u>236,828</u>	<u>232,585</u>

#### 12. Reserves

##### Special reserve

The special reserve is in place to meet any unexpected future liabilities.

##### Income and expenditure account

The income and expenditure account reserve represents cumulative gains and losses recognised in the income and expenditure account, net of transfers to / from other reserves.

#### 13. Pension commitments

Irish Squash Federation CLG operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Federation in an independently administered fund. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Federation to the scheme. Retirement benefit in the year amounted to €7,837 (2023: €Nil).

#### 14. Post balance sheet events

There has been no other significant events affecting the company between the balance sheet date and the signing of these financial statements, which would require an adjustment to or a disclosure in the financial statements.

#### 15. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 12 May 2025.

IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Income		903,560	916,069
<b>Less: expenditure</b>			
Administration expenses		(901,152)	(930,999)
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>		<u>2,408</u>	<u>(14,930)</u>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<u><u>2,408</u></u>	<u><u>(14,930)</u></u>

## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### SCHEDULE TO THE DETAILED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Income</b>		
Sport Ireland - Core Grant	331,000	319,000
Sport Ireland - Women in Sport Grant	14,831	38,159
Sport Ireland - Sports Energy Support Scheme Grant	19,052	83,948
Sport Ireland - Dormant Account Funding	32,344	6,059
Sport Ireland - High Performance Grant	6,076	-
Sport Ireland - Special Projects Grant	24,000	2,048
Sport Ireland - Covid-19 - Strand III Return to Sport Grant	4,192	114,534
Sport Ireland Covid-19 - Scheme V Grant	13,502	50,653
Sport Ireland Covid-19 Recovery Grant	50,000	-
Sport Northern Ireland - Grant Income	35,752	5,110
Sport Northern Ireland - Athlete Award	16,442	-
Leargas Grant Income	3,377	-
Leinster Squash / Leinster Leagues	11,106	-
Sponsorship / Fundraising	30,020	48,333
High Performance Programme	4,602	-
Affiliation Fees	68,045	53,493
Domestic Competitions	77,825	69,765
International Competitions	72,700	36,556
Masters Competitions	83,094	82,965
Coaching and Education	4,288	-
Miscellaneous Income	1,312	5,446
	<b>903,560</b>	<b>916,069</b>



## IRISH SQUASH FEDERATION COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

### SCHEDULE TO THE DETAILED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff pension costs - defined contribution schemes	7,837	-
Staff salaries	165,925	105,911
Employer's PRSI	15,219	11,526
Affiliation Fees	4,836	350
Sport Ireland - Sports Energy Support Scheme Grant	19,052	83,948
Sport Ireland - Covid-19 Scheme V	-	50,653
Sport Ireland - Women in Sport Expenditure	9,458	38,906
Sport Ireland - Dormant Account Funding	19,877	6,056
Sport Ireland - Strand III Return to Sport	-	114,534
Sport Ireland - Special Projects Grant	-	2,048
Sport Northern Ireland - Grant Expenditure	16,442	5,111
General Office Expenses	4,495	4,523
Development	92,865	66,345
Marketing and Communications	28,528	-
Legal and professional	37,417	10,092
Rent	2,088	2,727
Computer costs	15,291	13,707
Auditors' Remuneration	4,736	4,735
Accountancy Fees	10,048	5,659
Insurances	19,143	17,124
Board Training and Governance	9,017	2,396
Masters Competition	92,176	87,252
International Competitions	125,951	131,275
Domestic Competitions	107,038	106,683
High Performance Programme	93,713	59,438
	<b>901,152</b>	<b>930,999</b>



Partners  
and  
Sponsors

