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President's Report for 2023 - 2024

Dear Members and Stakeholders.

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report for the year 2023/2024 on behalf of Irish Squash.

The Irish Squash landscape continues to evolve in line with our Strategic Plan 2022-2027 Connecting the Dots. We appointed a CEO, Scott Graham, in August 2023 which has led to further expansion in our staff and professionalised our operations, supported by increased funding from Sport Ireland.

Governance changes to our organisation's structure were agreed following extensive collaborative engagement with the 4 provincial associations, leading to a successful EGM in March. Therefore, at this AGM, we will be electing a new board which will be strategic rather than operational with 2 independent directors subsequently appointed to address any skills gap or gender imbalance.

A new Inter-Provincial Forum will be established, chaired by the CEO, comprising key board members of Irish Squash and the Provincial Associations to ensure meaningful communication between these key stakeholders.

The global squash landscape has changed dramatically since the announcement by the IOC on 16th October 2023 that squash will be included in LA28. This is probably the most important milestone in our sport's history so far. Whilst the Olympic qualification process is yet to be confirmed, Irish Squash is engaging with key stakeholders to ensure that our high-performance players are afforded every opportunity to achieve their squash potential with LA28 in their sights.

At grassroots level, it is very encouraging to see an increase in

the number of clubs affiliated to Irish Squash and that player numbers are up by 20% also. We continue to support our affiliated clubs in various funding applications for facility upgrades. Further good news is the recent announcement of our successful application under the Sports Capital Grants Scheme which will deliver additional equipment to clubs for junior participation programmes.

The broad range of activities at national, provincial & club level are detailed in this report. It speaks to the strength and depth of our volunteer network that all of this is delivered seamlessly for the benefit of all in the squash community.

Sincere congratulations to all players who represented Ireland on junior, senior and masters teams in European, World and Home International competitions over the past 12 months.

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

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

We look forward to working with the Olympic Federation of Ireland in preparing for LA28.

Finally, I must thank the outgoing board members for their tireless dedicated work during their terms of office. The 4 provincial representatives who stood down after the EGM in March: Arlene McVeigh (Ulster), Noel Storey (& previously Peter O'Halloran) (Leinster), Paul Bree (Connacht) and Eugene Walker (Munster) all contributed enormously to the body of board work



Rosie Barry | President, Irish Squash

during their time as directors. Other directors standing down at this AGM due to EGM changes are Christine Lowry (Junior Secretary), Lee Healy (Refereeing Secretary) and Ann Sheppard (CPO). Thank you for your valued board work and extensive committee work over many years.

Last and by no means least, Anne Costello (Hon Secretary) is retiring from the board (and all squash roles) at this AGM. Her seamless hard work and commitment to squash over many years cannot be quantified but includes being a champion of female squash players as selector, national team manager and highly valued board member of Irish Squash. I wish you well in your retirement Anne!

I also sincerely thank Christine Mooney for her sterling work as Hon Treasurer over the past 2.5 years.

The newly elected board will have a healthy combination of fresh and experienced faces around the table, which should bring new perspectives to our thinking whist ensuring continuity of service also.

I look forward with optimism to the next 12 months and beyond for our sport. It remains a very great privilege to be President of Irish Squash.

Chief Executive Officer Report

I'm delighted to be giving my first update in the Irish Squash Annual Report. While I commenced my role in August of 2023, I know that 2023 was a huge year for Irish Squash with many positive developments.

As I hope you will see throughout this Annual Report, there has been an enormous amount of work done over the past year, and squash is going from strength to strength. Firstly, I would like to thank the board members, past and present, for their support since I started in the role and for their commitment to doing what is best for Irish Squash.

While we are embarking on a journey of professionalising the organisation and have succeeded in increasing the number of staff from two full-time members to three full-time and four part-time members within a 7-month period, volunteers will always remain a driving force and vital to the growth and development of the sport within clubs and communities across the island of Ireland. I hope you will take the time to delve into this annual report, including the many supplementary reports submitted by volunteers who ensure the sport is delivered on a day-to-day basis.

Below, I have provided a summary of some of the highlights for Irish Squash against the pillars of our strategic plan.

Strategic Governance

The past year has seen significant advancements under the strategic governance pillar of our Strategic Plan. Most notably, the membership of Irish Squash voted overwhelmingly in favour of adopting a new Constitution, ensuring that the organisation is well-placed to continue its growth over the coming years. Key changes included a move to a strategically focused, skills-based board of directors and the inclusion of up

to two independent directors, bringing new expertise and a fresh perspective to the sport. The new Constitution also ensures gender balance on the board of directors, which is vital as we strive to be an inclusive and welcoming sport and remain eligible for government funding.

During 2023, a governance audit was conducted on Irish Squash, which was completed to the satisfaction of Sport Ireland. Many of the recommendations had been identified prior to the audit, and I am pleased to report that all of the recommendations have been actioned within the agreed timeline. The governance enhancements made over the past year will only serve to strengthen the organisation.

As part of our drive to professionalise Irish Squash, we have made several improvements including overhauling our finances with the recruitment of a part-time finance professional, Matt Ford, utilisation of new systems and processes, and a more detailed budgeting process. This is all essential as the complexity of what we do increases as we continue to grow and avail of new government grants with specific terms and conditions.

On the facilities front, we have made real progress in exploring the potential for developing a home for Irish Squash and a center of excellence. A number of potential sites have been identified, and we will be making a feasibility study application under the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund. In addition to an Irish Squash facility, I am also pleased that we have been able to assist several clubs with their own applications for funding and hosted a very popular webinar on how to develop local facilities. It is great to see ambitious clubs looking to build new courts and refurbish their facilities so they can cater to growing demand.



Scott Graham | Chief Executive Officer

Visibility

Raising the profile of our sport has been a key strategic objective, and I hope you have seen some improvements of late. A real highlight has been the television coverage of the Cannon Kirk GillenMarkets Irish Squash Open in April 2024, which was shown live on Premier Sports 2 and Squash TV. Premier Sports is available in 22 million homes across Ireland and the UK, while the Squash TV live stream has amassed over 23,500 views to date.

Reflecting the fact the Irish Squash is generating more media interest, Ireland's top players and the sport in general have also been featured in national media outlets, including the Irish Independent, Irish Examiner, Sport for Business, and Hot Press Magazine.

Later in 2024, we will be unveiling a bold, exciting, and energetic new brand identity. We really appreciate everyone who shared their opinions and insights during the consultation process and are excited to launch our new brand identity, which is aimed at a new generation of players and will ultimately ensure that as a sport we are appealing to young people. Alongside a new look and feel for Irish Squash, we are working on a fully mobile-optimized website, which I expect will be much more user-friendly and make the sport more accessible to new potential players.

Participation & Growth

Thanks to a number of successful funding applications, we have been able to recruit Club and Community Development Officers who are tasked with supporting clubs in a variety of ways and designing and delivering a range of participation programmes.

Will Nicholson was appointed Club & Community Development Officer in Northern Ireland in late 2023 and succeeded in revitalising the sport within just a couple of months. Numerous different initiatives were delivered, including coaching, women's, junior, LGBTQ+, and club initiatives, which together resulted in 767 squash participation engagements.

In March 2024, Maxine Strain started as Club & Community Development Officer with a focus on Diversity & Inclusion. Maxine has already made a positive impact working with local sports partnerships and clubs to deliver participation programmes and developing a new Equality, Diversity & Inclusion policy.

During 2023, Irish Squash distributed €20,000 to eight clubs who delivered a broad range of programmes, including women and girls participation initiatives, coaching courses, and school outreach, aimed at addressing key priority areas outlined in the Sport Ireland Women in Sport Policy.

Over the coming months, the development team is focused on developing an innovative suite of participation programmes and supporting clubs to develop and grow. Assisted by the Strategic Delivery Group and Coach Tutors, a teacher summer course has been developed, and this is a first step in our efforts to promote squash within schools and deliver a structured schools affiliation process and participation pathway.

The work of our development staff along with the efforts of volunteers around the country is having a positive effect as the number of affiliated clubs has increased from 50 to 60 for the 2023/24 season. Membership of Irish Squash is also up by approximately 23% compared to the same time last year. The





membership of Irish Squash is up by 23%

annual club survey has been issued, and once the results have been compiled, we will be able to share more information and insights.

Revenue Growth & Partnerships

Irish Squash is very reliant on government funding, primarily from Sport Ireland. We are extremely grateful for their ongoing support and pleased to have secured several new funding allocations and an increase to our core grant allocation. In fact, Irish Squash received one of the largest core funding increases of any sport between 2023 and 2024, reflecting their recognition of the work being undertaken by Irish Squash.

The increase in Sport Ireland core funding, along with successful applications for Dormant Account Funding and others, has allowed Irish Squash to recruit a team of development officers along with a finance administrator and deliver more meaningfully against our strategic plan.

In addition to Sport Ireland funding, for the first time in many years, funding was secured under the Sport Northern Ireland 'New NGB Sports System Investment Scheme' and 'Athlete Award' funding, which has helped Hannah Craig break into the top 90 in the world. I believe we have provided an excellent return on Sport Northern Ireland's investment so I am hopeful that in time we can expand upon our development initiative within Northern Ireland.

We have also been successful in developing new partnerships, with Irish Squash recently accepted as an Associate Member of the Olympic Federation of Ireland, and new opportunities presenting themselves to work more closely with Sport NI and Sport Ireland Institutes. At a more local level, our development officers, Maxine and Will, are working closely with colleagues within sports governing bodies and local sports partnerships and councils, which are opening up new funding and court development opportunities. It is difficult to cover everything within this report, but one powerful example of the impact our development officers are having is Mid & East Antrim Council's decision to reconsider their plans to redevelop the local leisure center to ensure sufficient court access for Ballymena Squash Club. Without the club and development officer working together and presenting a compelling case to the local council, squash courts

could have been lost in the locality for a generation. These are the actions taken at a local level that will ensure we continue to increase playing opportunities for years to come.

Competition & Coaching

The number of tournament entries are up by almost 20% compared to the same time last year which is another positive indicator. Competition highlights include the re-establishment of the Junior Inter-Provincials and the launch of several new leagues including the Connacht League and the Three Rivers League which saw 19 teams competing across five categories.

The Junior Inter-Provincials is an important element of the player pathway and gives young players an opportunity to meet and compete against like-minded individuals. My thanks to Leinster Squash and Sutton LTC for hosting the 2024 event and to the Provinces for encouraging active participation throughout the Junior age grades. The launch of the Connacht League and Three Rivers League was another indication of the growing interest in squash, and I have no doubt they will go from strength to strength as more players of all ages and abilities get involved.

Another highlight was the successful hosting of the Cannon Kirk GillenMarkets Irish Squash Open, which provides an important opportunity for Ireland's top players and a platform to raise the profile of our sport. In total, five PSA Opens were hosted during the 2023/24 season, the Irish Open, Curragh Open, Mount Pleasant Open, Limerick Open and the West of Ireland Open.

Increasing the number, standard, and activity level of coaches is another key factor in growing the sport, and the past year has seen good progress in this regard, led by Eddie Murphy as volunteer Coach Education lead. Our Level 1 qualification was recently officially recognised by Sport Ireland Coaching, and the delivery of coaching courses has accelerated, resulting in an increase in the number of qualified coaches.

In addition to continuing to deliver Squash Leader and Level 1 courses, we are also working with Sport Ireland Coaching to have our Level 2 qualification officially

recognised and will be delivering a level 2 course this summer. One of the key challenges to be addressed going forward is to encourage and support more people who gain a coaching qualification to become active coaches, building their experience and delivering coaching sessions on a more regular basis.

High Performance

Undoubtedly, the biggest news of 2023 for squash fans was the sport's inclusion in the LA 2028 Olympic Games. This presents a great opportunity for Ireland's top players and for Irish Squash as we look to professionalise our high-performance structures. In April 2024, Irish Squash became an Associate Member of the Olympic Federation of Ireland, and we have been engaging with Sport Ireland and Sport NI for several months as we look to enhance our high-performance structures and provide targeted support to high-potential players.

In mid-2023, a performance player grants scheme was piloted, and this grant scheme was provided again in early 2024. The high-performance working group has been instrumental in establishing the grants scheme, making recommendations, and providing advice and mentorship to players. The grants scheme represents a significant investment for Irish Squash and is aimed at supporting players to compete at the highest level. The nature of high-performance sport and Olympic inclusion means funding has become progressively more targeted towards those players who have the highest PSA ranking and are focusing their energies on moving up the PSA world rankings.

During 2023, there were a number of impressive results, including the Senior Men who secured promotion to Division 1 of the ESF European Team Championships, and Hannah Craig, who broke into the top 100 in the world. In early 2024, the Senior Women's Team secured promotion to Division 2 by winning the Division 3 ESF European Team Championships. Our Senior Men gained a huge amount of experience competing against some of the top players in the world at the European Team Championships, with a number of players securing impressive wins over top 100 worldranked players.

We are continuing to engage with Sport Ireland, Sport NI, and the Olympic Federation of Ireland, and with the input and assistance of the high-performance working group, we aim to put in place structures and supports which will ensure Irish players are competitive at European, World, and Olympic level.

It has been a real pleasure working with so many ambitious people since I took up the role. We have made great progress, and there are a lot of exciting opportunities ahead, but we also have many areas to improve upon. I look forward to working with the fantastic people within the squash community over the year ahead. Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like assistance from a member of staff.



Honorary Treasurer Report for 2023 - 2024

The attached financials, approved by the Irish Squash Board, cover the period from the 1st of January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

Please note that during the year Irish Squash was audited by Sport Ireland. The outcome was an award of an 'adequate' rating which is very positive for the NGB's first Sport Ireland Audit. One of the findings was a recommendation that we change our accounting treatment for unspent grants.

Previously we accounted for grants as income when they were received. Sport Ireland recommend that we account for grants as deferred income until they are spent. This resulted in a restatement of the 2022 Financial Statements covering the years ended 2021 and 2022. Therefore, we are also including the financials for the period from the 1st of January 2022 to the 31st of December 2022 as restated.

Year ended 31st December	Ori	ginal financial results	Res	tated financial results
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Income	492,179	472,425	603,861	170,803
Administrative expenditure	(574,830)	(160,267)	(578,280)	(146,472)
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus				
	(82,651)	312,158	25,581	24,331
Retained earnings at the beginning of the year	468,303	156,145	161,433	137,102
(Deficit)/Surplus for the financial year	(82,651)	312,158	25,581	24,331
Retained earnings at the end of the year	385,652	468,303	187,014	161,433

Christine Mooney

Honorary Treasurer, Irish Squash

Grants from Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland	€619,511
Sponsorship/Fundraising	€48,333
Affiliation Fees	€53,493
Competitions & miscellaneous income	€194,732
Total	€916,069
Expenditure totalled €930,999 and consisted of the following	:
Grant Expenditure	€301,256
Competitions & player development	€433,069
	€196,674
Office running costs & other expenditure	

As we implement our 5-year Strategic Plan we can look forward to supporting our players from grass roots beginners to the elite Olympic hopefuls.

The following significant points should be noted in related to the years activity:

- Sport Ireland increased the Core Grant allocation from €230k in 2022 to
 €242k in 2023 and in addition awarded us a Core Grant top-up in Q4 of €58k
 resulting in a total Core Gant of €300k for the year. This shows a strong
 commitment to Irish Squash from Sport Ireland and reflects the continued
 development and professionalisation of our NGB in line with Pillar 1 of our
 strategic Plan.
- The Women in Sport grant increased from €15k in 2022 to €20k in 2023, this grant enabled 7 clubs to run programmes for women and girls and has resulted in an increase in female participation in our sport.
- Energy Grants of €45k were allocated in 2023, this grant compensated about 24 clubs for the increase in energy costs.
- Competitions income increased from €145k in 2022 to €189k in 2023 showing the increased activity in our sport throughout the year.
- During the year Irish Squash was able to support clubs to restore their
 facilities some of which had deteriorated during Covid. Clubs refurbished
 floors, painted walls, replaced lighting and heating. Since the Covid support
 schemes were launched in 2020 all affiliated clubs have received Covid
 grants to help with the cost of Covid restrictions and with the recovery of our
 sport.

During the year the Board approved a number of items that were outside the budget, and they contributed to the operating deficit:

- An U19 girls' team was sent to the world championships in Melbourne Australia
- The High-Performance players were given additional support following the forming of the High-Performance Working Group and strong recommendations from that group.
- Addition gear was purchased so that the players would look well representing their country.
- Prior to Covid the Provincial Associations received refunds of their affiliation fees to support the sport within their respective provinces. This funding was restored in 2023 but had not been budgeted for.

The Board considered these initiatives were in line with the overall strategy and were important in the continued development of our sport.

On the 31st of December 2023 the Balance Sheet remains strong with reserves of over €200k and cash on hand of €367k.

The financial outlook for Irish Squash is very positive and with the increase in staff in the office, particularly a new Finance Administrator, the financial management and reporting will continue to improve.

There continues to be positive activity in our sport with increases in affiliated members and members entering competitions. We have continued to receive strong financial support from Sport Ireland and as we implement our 5-year Strategic Plan we can look forward to supporting our players from grass roots beginners to the elite Olympic hopefuls.

Christine Mooney | Honorary Treasurer, Irish Squash

Honorary Secretary/Governance/Coaching Report for 2023 - 2024

The board of Irish Squash for the 2023/24 comprised:

President Rosie Barry
Honorary Treasurer Christine Mooney
Honorary Secretary Anne Costello
Junior Administrator Christine Lowry
Refereeing Secretary Lee Healy
Child Protection Officer Ann Sheppard
Connacht Representative Paul Bree

Leinster Representative Peter O'Halloran/Noel Storey

Munster Representative Eugene Walker Ulster Representative Arlene McVeigh

Between the 18th AGM, in June 2023, and now the board have had 10 meetings. Meetings were held in person and on-line.

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

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

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

Coaching Matters – Irish Squash continued with the following coaches for the 2023/24 season: -

Senior men Eoin RyanSenior women Ken FlynnU19 David Noone

U17 Michael Conroy and Nigel PeytonU15 Nigel Peyton and Josh McVeigh

U13 Andrew Gillespie

Irish Squash appointed Jennifer Dillon as coach for the women's masters' squads.

Senior, junior and masters' squads were held throughout the season. Senior and junior coaches travelled with their teams to the various international events. In addition, Irish Squash sent David Noone to the BJO to coach Irish players.

On behalf of the Irish Squash membership, the Board of Irish Squash would like to thank

Scott Graham (CEO), Paul Nugent (COO), Tiernan Harris (Administrator), Maxine Strain (Club and Community Development Officer), Will Nicholson (Club and Community Officer Northern Ireland), Paul Conroy (Games Promotion Officer Leinster) and Matt Ford (Finance Administrator) of Irish Squash for all their help and hard work throughout the season.

Anne Costello

Hon. Secretary, Irish Squash

National Children's Officer Report for 2023 - 2024

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport

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

 Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment for 2024 have been updated and sent to Sport Ireland.

Sporty HQ

It has been clarified and emphasized that no junior player's contact details should be registered on Sporty HQ.

Safeguarding Training and Vetting

Once again, I am pleased to report that safeguarding training for coaches as well as volunteers is now more widespread and an automatic condition for anybody working with young people. Good practice has also ensured that most members of the IS board have completed training. 170 people are now vetted by Irish Squash and 130 of these have completed Safeguarding 1. Gerry Connaughton does tremendous work in this area. He processes vetting applications on behalf of Irish Squash and reminds those who need to renew after 3 years. He also reminds clubs of their responsibilities to ask volunteers or employees for a copy of their vetting disclosure.

There is a concern that only 9 clubs have recorded that they have completed Safeguarding 2 which is mandatory for Clubs Children's Officers.

Sport Ireland will shortly issue Digital Certs for Safeguarding and will set up a database to record these.

Sport Ireland Ethics

Sport Ireland Ethics have set up new resources for NCOs which they email to them. There is an informative Information Pack for NCOs and a separate circulation of Safeguarding Snippets.

Disciplinary committee

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

Targets for 2024/25 season

Follow up with clubs re Safeguarding 2 Encourage more clubs to build a junior squash playing section.



170
people
are now
vetted by
Irish
Squash

Ann Sheppard

National Children's Officer, Irish Squash

Anti-Doping Report for 2023 - 2024

Irish Squash is committed to maintaining a clean and fair sporting environment. As part of this commitment, we adhere to the Sport Ireland (SI) Anti-Doping policy, which aligns with the parameters set by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Our goal is to prevent doping violations and promote fair play in squash.

Anti-Doping Training by Paul O'Donovan:

- On February 10th 2024, Paul O'Donovan from Sport Ireland conducted anti-doping training for our top senior and junior players during the Senior National Championships. This training aimed to educate athletes, coaches, and support personnel about anti-doping rules and regulations.
- Athletes were informed about prohibited substances, methods, and the importance of clean sport.

Drug Testing at the Irish Open:

- During the Irish Open, held on April 26th 2024, drug tests were carried out on four semi-final matches.
- These tests are essential to ensure compliance with anti-doping guidelines and maintain the integrity of the sport.
- The results of these tests are pending.

Additional Resources:

- Sport Ireland's anti-doping section on their website provides valuable information.
- The Irish Anti-Doping Rules are available here.
- Athletes can access the Eirpharm Drugs in Sport Database via the downloadable medication checker app on their smart phones.
- The World Squash Anti-Doping e-learning platform (ADeL) offers courses for athletes, coaches, doctors, and administrators.
- For up-to-date information on doping-related issues, visit the WADA website.
- If a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) is needed for medication, apply through Sport Ireland's website.



Sport Ireland's anti-doping



The Irish Anti-Doping Rules



World Squash
Anti-Doping
e-learning platform



Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE)

Michael Hanrahan

Anti-Doping Officer, Irish Squash

Junior Secretary Report for 2023 - 2024

Irish Tournaments - the following Junior tournaments were held this season:

Junior Committee for the Season:

Junior Secretary Christine Lowry

Ulster Rep

Josh McVeigh

Connacht Rep
David Noone

Leinster Rep

Eoin Ryan

Munster Rep

Brendan Connolly

SEPTEMBER 2023

16th-17th Sept 2023 Mount Pleasant Junior Mixed Open

Mount Pleasant, Dublin

(Late withdrawal of several junior players required redraw)

23rd-24th Sept 2023 Connacht Junior Open - JUNIOR TOUR 1

Galway LTC 90 entrants (up from 67 prior season).

Results available here https://www.sportyhq.c om/tournament/view/ Connacht-Junior-Open-2 OCTOBER 2023

14th-15th Oct 2023 Ulster Junior Open JUNIOR TOUR 2

Belfast Boat Club 105 entrants (up from 87 prior season)

Results available here https://www.sportyhq.c om/tournament/view/ Ulster-Junior-Open-2 **NOVEMBER 2023**

11th -12th Nov 2023 Munster Junior Open JUNIOR TOUR 3

Cork

77 entrants
(81 in prior year).
Results available here
https://www.sportyhq.
com/tournament/vie
w/Munster-JuniorOpen-3

17th -19th Nov 2023 Irish Junior Open JUNIOR TOUR 4

Sutton LTC/ALSAA Dublin

Three Irish winners – GU13, GU15 and GU17. Results are available here:

https://www.sportyhq.c om/tournament/view/ LEINSTER-SQUASH-JUNIOR-OPEN-2024-IRISH-SQUASH-TOUR-EVENT **DECEMBER 2023**

6th -7th Jan 2024 Leinster Junior Closed Sutton LTC, Dublin

Results available here https://www.sportyhq.c om/tournament/view/LEINSTER-SQUASH-JUNIOR-CLOSED-2024

13th-14th Jan 2024 -Ulster Junior Closed Belfast Boat Club

Results on Sporty HQ https://www.sportyhq.c om/tournament/view/ Ulster-Junior-Closed-2024

13th-14th Jan 2024 Munster Junior Closed

Dunhill, Waterford

Results on Sporty HQ https://www.sportyhq.c om/tournament/view/ Munster-Junior-Closed-7

27th Jan 2024 -Connacht Junior Closed

Galway LTC

Results on Sporty HQ https://www.sportyhq.c om/tournament/view/ Connacht-Junior-Closed-4 **JANUARY 2024**

3rd-4th Feb 2024 Leinster Junior Open Sutton LTC, Dublin Results on Sporty HQ -

https://www.sportyhq.c om/tournament/view/ LEINSTER-SQUASH-JUNIOR-OPEN-2024-IRISH-SQUASH-TOUR-

EVENT

16th–18th Feb 2024 Irish Junior Nationals Belfast

Results on Sporty HQhttps://www.sportyhq.c om/tournament/view/ Irish-Junior-National-Championships APRIL/MAY 2024

3th April 2024 Junior Interprovincial tournament

Sutton LTC, Dublin All provinces participated in the

participated in the one-day event. Well done to the Provincial reps who worked hard to ensure the event could take place.

May 2024

All Ireland School tournament planned for May 2024 – uncertain if this event will go ahead due to provincial interest.

Junior Ranking:

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

Coaching and Squads

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

U19 David Noone

U17 Michael Conroy and Nigel Peyton

U15 Josh McVeigh and Nigel Peyton

U13 Andrew Gillespie

International Events:

Irish Squash sponsored the following (50% funding):

5 Nations U13/U15 - 5th-7th April 2024

Cardiff Wales

Coaches: Andrew Gillespie (U13) Josh McVeigh &

Nigel Peyton (U15) Manager: Breanne Flynn

U13 Team:

Michael Lai (Leinster), Jack Clery (Connacht), Harry Yeomans (Leinster), Jamie Morrissey (Munster), Rebecca Day (Munster), Zoe Nyhan (Leinster), Daisy Morrissey (Munster - selected but injured), Gabby Curran (Ulster).

U15 Team :

John Day (Munster), Adam Power (Munster), Eoin Mullery (Connacht), Samuel Hann (Leinster), Rebecca Jackson (Leinster - selected but unavailable to travel), Lucy Walsh (Leinster), Laya Sabry (Leinster), Lucy Lynch (Connacht - selected but unable to travel), Ellie Archer (Ulster).

European U19 Individual & Team Championships

Bucharest, Romania -23rd-31st March 2024

Coach: David Noone Manager: Patricia Murphy

Team: Sean Murphy (Leinster - Wild Card), Danny Lynch (Connacht), Tristan Snodgrass (Leinster), Sara Sabry (Leinster), Lydia McQuillan (Ulster).

Individual-see link

https://esf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament?id=DEE34021-1CFg-40AB-BCEA-A3D4F246580A

U19 Boys Team:

Sean Murphy (17), Danny Lynch (30), Tristan Snodgrass (36) and Frank O'Flynn (59). Total entrants 62

U19 Girls Team:

Sara Sabry (31), Ella Walsh (32) and Lydia McQuillan (42). Total entrants = 51. Team event – see link https://esf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament. aspx?id=8C70C449-3070-4F9D-A393-C66F59B9C326 Ireland finished 15th out of 19 entrants.

Europeans U15/U17 8th-11th May 2024, Portugal

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

Manager: Hollie Penman

U15 Team:

John Day (Munster), Adam Power (Munster), Eoin Mullery (Connacht), Rebecca Jackson (Leinster), Lucy Walsh (Connacht).

U17 Team:

Conal Jackson (Leinster), Christian Dromgoole (Leinster), Aaron Knox (Munster), Zoe Yeomans (Leinster), Shriya Drawid (Ulster).

WSF World Junior Squash Championships 2024

in Houston Texas for July 2024 Event will 100% supported by fundraising.

Coach: David Noone

U19 Boys Team:

Daniel Lynch (Connacht), Tristan Snodgrass (Leinster), Yuv Pahuja (Ulster), Conol Jackson (Leinster).

U19 Girls Team: unable to travel.

Policies:

Junior Tournaments - Draw

Junior Committee reviewed the random draw process and agreed it was in the best interest of the players to revert to the seeded draw that was in place prior to 22/23 season. Executive Board approval was obtained, and Policy 24 was updated and issued ahead of UJO.

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

Disciplinary issues relating to juniors are dealt with elsewhere in this Board Report.

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

Christine Lowry

Junior Secretary, Irish Squash

Masters' Report 2023 – 2024

Introduction

Overall since I took over the master's group and started a master committee, we have grown our numbers with 215 players now active on the master ranking list from a start of 125 in 2018/19 season. We had 767 event entries last season from 361 in 2018/19 season. Covid was a big setback to our players. However, numbers are growing consistently now but we can still grow further. Siobhan Parker received the Patrick Murray masters award this year for her contribution though the masters Facebook group which now has nearly 500 members from 200 members last year when it started. Most of Siobhan's reels get 400 views with over 600 on the big weekends. We had the opportunity to live stream the Masters' Men's 50s match against England, thanks to Dara O'Flynn and Paul Nugent for their help on this. Nick Staunton and Allen Barwise did great on the commentary with the YouTube video now having over 2800 views which must me a record. Our nationals' finals day has over 660 views which is extraordinary when you look at views for the senior nationals. Thanks to the committee for their support during the year Siobhan Parker, Kevin Knox (who stayed on 1 more year), Brendan Murphy, Keith Moran, Geoff Wales and new members Maureen Duke and Neal Pollock. There are a lot more people than just the committee who make this work and I can't thank you all enough.

I will be stepping down at the end of next season 24/25 hopefully with Scott Graham the new CEO in place the office will take over a lot of the operational responsibilities from the committee as the current workload is not sustainable for a small committee. It would also be great to see some funding for this large group of players come from Irish squash over the next few years at present its difficult to make ends meet and run good events. Our master's group is now the envy of many other countries hopefully it will stay this way in the future.

Tour News

This season there was one Level 1 event (Irish Masters Nationals hosted at Fitzwilliam), four provincial Level 2 events (GLTC, LCC & FLTC, Highfield and Sundays Well, Belfast Boat Club and Windsor) and for the first time two Level 3 events (Curragh and Sligo).

There was an issue with capacity at the provincial events with limited courts, numbers had to be restricted and like our European Counterparts entries were taken on first come first served basis. Our thanks to all the clubs for the use of their venues. With the tour events having grown in numbers from 361 (in 2019) to nearly 600, we are having to use two clubs for many of these events. We would like to thank SL Controls, Fitzwilliam and the Mespil Hotel for supporting this tour. In 2024-25 we hope to expand this tour again with a third Level 3 event, which will be held in Waterford. This should get us to well over 600 for 2024/25 season. We now have 218 players (including 28 women) live on our master's tour rankings up from 188 last year and 156 the previous year. These ranking points were reviewed last summer and will again be tweaked this summer hopefully to produce a better seeding pattern than last year for tour events.

Home International News

We had 14 teams competing this year in the Home Internationals with the overs 50s men's winning their age group on home soil. The over 45 men's and over 70 men's were both close second places to England in their age groups. We hosted the 45s and 65s in Dublin at the end of April with Tournament Director Gerry Callanan and Brian Brock as administrator. This ran alongside the PSA event which meant a very busy weekend at Fitzwilliam. Thanks to Dara O'Flynn chair of squash at Fitzwilliam and the Mespil Hotel.

Michael Hanrahan

Anti-Doping Officer, Irish Squash

Nottingham Results

Team and players	S	Place
O45 men	Neil McCarron, Kevin Knox, Keith Moran, Ronan Peyton, Vincent Pippet, Neal Murphy, Paul O'Brien	2nd
O45 women	Suzanne Swan, Saoirse O'Sullivan, Sarah Scanlan, Suzanne O'Shaughnessy, Sandra Walshe, Niamh Darcy	4th
O65 men	David Lalor, Michael Mulhall, James McSweeney, Peter Stephens, Bert Cotter, Michael Conlon	3rd
065 women	Maureen Duke, Rose Hynes, Mary O'Duffy, Gay Grant	4th

Edinburgh Results

Team and players

O40 men	Nigel Peyton, Niall Rooney, Mark Furlong, Kevin Moore, Pat Morrissey, Shane Hickey	2nd
035/40 women	Tanya Scullion, Siobhan Parker, Sarah Keenan, Helen Byrne, Ciara Davey, Patricia Ryan	4th
060 men	John Dineen, Karam Singh, Donal Kelly, James Lawlor, Sean Balfe, Timmy McCarthy	4th
060 women	Rosie Barry, Maureen Duke, Mary Keys, Dympna Reardon	3rd

Dublin Results

Team and players

O50 men	Derek Ryan, Dara O'Flynn, Cuan MacAogain, John Hurley, Rob Staunton, David Ayerst	1st
050 women	Suzanne Swan, Orla Diamantino, Danielle Donohue, Jennifer Dillon, Rachel McNulty, Kinny Bolton	3rd
070 men	Kyran Hurley, Martin Maher, Seamus Daly, Robert Peel, Pat Hanley, Robert Garvan	2nd

Cardiff Report

Team and players

035 men	Conor O'Hare, David Noone, Sam Olwill, Mark Gilliland, Calvin Alexander, Cathal Lynch	3rd
O55 men	Brian Lalor, Adrian Leeson, Andre Maur, Gerry Callanan, Tom Crowe, Geoff Wales	4th
055 women	Beverley Scott, Maureen Duke, Lynda Dunlop, Dympna Riordan, Josie Grogan, Suzanne Doyle	4th
075 men	David Gotto, Timmy Murphy, Seamus Daly, Ciaran Roche	3rd

ESF Irish Open 2024 and European Tour

Irish Masters Open

The second Irish open master was held in October and was upgraded to a Grand Prix event by the ESF for this year. This meant that we could have a max of 180 players which was oversubscribed. ESF Master. We had 180 entries which meant that for 2024 we have applied for a max of 220 to ESF which has been granted. Our thanks go to Mespil Hotel Fitzwilliam and Beeline Vitamins for supporting this event. This event was extremely successful for our Irish Players all taking gold in their age groups.

Michael Hanrahan

Anti-Doping Officer, Irish Squash

ESF Irish Open 2024 and European Tour

Prize winners were as follows:

Gold medals for Sam Olwill (MO35), Ciara Doheny (WO35), Nigel Peyton (MO40), Siobhan Parker (WO40), Neil McCarron (MO45), Rosie Barry (WO55), Willie Hosey (MO60), Pat Hanley (MO70).

There were also medals for Dermot MacNamara, Tanya Scullion, Karl Gillis, Ciara Davey, Aoileann Ní Chomrai, Saoirse O'Sullivan, Rachel McNulty, Kevin Knox, Dympna Reardon, Rob Staunton, David Ayerst, Adrian Leeson, Martin Maher and Tim Murphy.

French Masters Open

Three Irish players with results as follows:

John Dineen 3rd in MO60, Karam Singh 6th in MO60, and Peter Stephens 3rd in MO65.

European Masters Individual Championships, Germany

Twenty four Irish players with results as follows:

MO40 Nigel Peyton 5th: MO45 Neil McCarron 1st, Kevin Knox 10th, Ronan Peyton 14th: MO50 Rob Staunton 1st, Nick Staunton 4th, David Ayerst 5th, Dara O'Flynn 7th, David Riordan 29th, Stephen Fasenfeld 53rd, Peter Birch 65th: MO44 Andre Maur 6th, Brian Lalor 17th, Gerry Callanan 67th: MO60 John Dineen 13th, Dave Lalor 33rd, MO65 Michael Conlon 14th, Peter Stephens 22nd: MO70 Kyran Hurley 1st: WO40 Siobhan Parker 3rd, WO50 Orla Diamantino 4th: WO55 Rosie Barry 7th: WO65 Maureen Duke 3rd: WO70/80 Barbara Sanderson – 1st in WO80 event.

Italian Masters Open

One Irish player, Michael Cowhie 2nd in MO55.

Malta Masters Open

Eight Irish players with results as follows:

MO60 John Dineen 2nd, Timmy McCarthy 8th: MO65 Michael Mulhall 2nd, Jams McSweeney 4th, Michael Conlon 5th, Gerry Delany 13th: WO60 Rosie Barry 2nd, Maureen Duke 6th.

Slovak Masters

One Irish player, Orla Diamantino 5th in WO35

Portuguese Masters Open

Twenty one Irish Players with results as follows:

MO40 Ronan Campbell 4th: MO45 Neil McCarron 1st; MO50 David Ayerst 1st, Michael Cowhie 5th, Stephen Fasenfeld 11th, Philip Coleman 13th; MO55 Gerry Callanan 11th, Brian Lalor 13th: MO60 Karam Singh 9th, Donal Kelly 10th, John Dineen 11th, Sean Balfe 13th, Timmy McCarthy 14th: MO65 Peter Stephens 6th, Dave Lalor 7th, Michael Conlon 10th, Gerry Delaney 17th: MO70 Kyran Hurley 1st: WO35 Siobhan Parker 4th: WO55 Joan Gorham 7th: WO60 Maureen Duke 5th but recognised as top WO65.

Spanish Masters Open

Six Irish players with results as follows: MO45 Neil McCarron 1st: MO60 Henry Gillanders 6th, Donal Kelly 7th: MO65 Kyran Hurley 2nd, Dave Lalor 4th, Michael Conlon 5th.

Slovenian Masters Open

One Irish player, Peter Stephens 3rd in MO65.

Swiss Masters Open

One Irish player, Michael Cowhie 2nd in MO50. Hungarian Masters Open Two Irish players: MO65 Kyran Hurley 1st, Myron Evans 10th.

See the Irish Squash Website -

https://www.irishsquash.com/about-us/ for a more detailed Masters' Report for the season.

Gerry Callanan

Chair Masters Committee, Irish Squash

Refereeing Secretary Report 2023 - 2024

Tournaments:

This season I refereed at, and was Tournament Referee for, the Munster Masters Open (Highfield); Irish Masters Open (Fitzwilliam); Irish Junior Open (Sutton); Munster Masters Open (Highfield); Irish Senior Nationals (Fitzwilliam); Irish Junior Nationals (Lisburn); Irish Masters (Closed) Championship (Fitzwilliam / Mount Pleasant / Leinster CC) and the Limerick Senior Open PSA – (Limerick L.T.C.).

In all I have refereed 163 matches and whereas that is not the primary purpose of my role it is good to maintain an Irish Squash 'official presence' at these events where practicable. My attendance at these events is also a result of the shortage of suitably qualified referees available to us and further highlights the importance of more of our players 'stepping up' to this challenge.

World Squash Officiating:

Referee Qualification:

This is now the body through which all Irish Squash referees will qualify, and the on-line nature of the portal is such that it should result in more players qualifying as Club Grade (WSO Level 1) as that level does not require a practical appraisal of the referee. The challenge exists at the higher level as there are much fewer Tournament and National Grade Referees (WSO Level 2 and Level 3, respectively). These grades require practical appraisals, and a limiting factor continues to be that we have only one appraiser available at present and the scarcity of candidates prepared to travel to tournaments of a suitable standard to receive an appraisal.

Requirements for players:

In September, World Squash Federation announced a policy that encouraged all players to achieve the Player Certificate – Introductory Level on the World Squash Officiating platform as a means of improving the general level of understanding of the rules. Representative players from U17 upwards should achieve the Player Certificate – Tournament Level. As with the referee qualifications both can be accessed via the WSO website.

The Player Certificate – Tournament Level is the equivalent of the Referee Level 1 qualification. These recommendations become mandatory for competition players from January 1st, 2024, but due to the difficulty in implementing that requirement across all levels and in all areas, W.S.O. has since decided to implement this change on a phased basis, beginning with this summer's W.S.F. Junior World Championships in July. It is mandatory for all P.S.A. players.

As Irish Squash Refereeing and Rules policy is to align with that of the W.S.O. we continue to encourage all players to complete either the Introductory or Tournament Certificate as appropriate.

WSO Level 1

(old 'Club Grade')

34

Including 9 Player Certificate* – Tournament Grade.

WSO Level 2

(old 'Tournament Grade')

15

14 pending an appraisal.

WSO Level 3

(old 'National Grade')

34

2 pending an appraisal.

*Separately there are 7 players with the Player Certificate Introductory Level completed.

Lee Healy

Refereeing Secretary, Irish Squash

SDG Report 2023 - 2024

The Strategic Delivery Group (SDG) was formed in April 2022 to resource the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027 and has three members Derek McGrath Sport2Sport, Christine Mooney Hon Treasure & Board member and John Dineen who heads up the group. The SDG between the AGM 2023 and AGM 2024 has held 28 meetings and engaged with the following activities & processes to help drive the strategic intent of the plan pillars.

SDG: Key Objectives

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

Pillar highlights as follows:

Pillar 1 Strategic Governance

Constitution & Organisation structures

- Support and advice on constitution rewrite / revision.
- Support and advice on new Board structures.
- Support and advice on new organisational structures.
- Support for provincial meetings.
- Support for EGM September 2023.
- Support, advice and meetings with provinces on clarity of new structures.
- Support for EGM March 2024.

New hires

- Support for hire process for new CEO.
- Support for hire process for new administrator.
- Support for hire process for development officers.

Facility Development

- Continued to reaffirm with Sport Ireland need for Irish Squash to be part of SI campus.
- Meetings / discussions with SI architects to develop brief for squash facility.
- Reviewed various potential campus site locations other than SI campus.
- Meetings and discussions with TU Dublin on potential on their campus (only very long term)

- Conclusion to date is that most feasible possibility being co-location with Basketball Ireland in Tallaght site.
- Decision approved by Board to apply for Stream 1 funding to Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund.
- Engaged 2into3 a specialist company in grant applications for stream 1 funding application.
- Meetings and discussions with Dublin South Co Council, CEO, planners, and property people.

Club survey

- Support / design of electronic club survey.
- Survey sent to all affiliated clubs in ROI & NI
- Follow up with clubs to complete survey and clarifications of information.
- Correlated data and presented year on year comparisons.
- Stretch goal for end of plan period 2027 being 60 active clubs with 6,000 members.

Administration items

- Draft TOR for Interprovincial forum developed and presented to Board.
- -SDG mid-year review presented to Board.
- Support and advice with external audit from Sport Ireland.

Derek McGrath
Christine Mooney & John Dineen
Strategic Delivery Group, Irish Squash

Pillar 2 Visibility

Rebranding & website

- Support and advice for rebranding project.
- Part of rebranding team.
- Support and advice for new website.

Pillar 3 Participation & Growth

Programmes

- Development of Teacher summer course with Mayo Educational centre.
- Support for Teacher summer course delivery July 2024 in Donegal, Mayo, and Tipperary
- Delivery of shared Island project in Queens University in Belfast (Pride in Squash).
- Shared Island initiative offered eight open nights which started in September and ran to December 2023 & eight open nights which started January 2024.
- Overall playing numbers have increased in first 2 years of plan by 20% and indicative numbers ahead of this year's club survey results indicate a similar growth.
- Affiliated clubs have increased from 50 to 60 throughout this season.

Pillar 4 Revenue Growth & Partnership

Funding opportunities & applications supported

- Capital Grant application
 Erasmus grant
 application (10 coaches,
 5 days, Sweden).
- Dormant account funding
- Capitol grants to clubs' workshop and follow up.
- Initial discussions and design for Patron's programme.
- Worked on funding distribution process to clubs.
- New kit bag designed with new supplier on board.
- Distribution of kit bags to clubs.

Pillar 5 Coaching & Competitions

Coaching

- First National conference held in September.
- Worked on pathways development programmes with Eddie Murphy.
- Support for Eddie Murphy with coach development programmes.

Pillar 6 High Performance

High Performance

- Support and advice on HP programme implementation.
- Support for HI performance funding application to SI.

Coach Education Report 2023 - 2024

Coach Developers

The key to qualifying Coaches is having Coach developers, we have 4 experienced coach developers, and all have WSF and Sport Ireland qualifications and present Level 1, Level 2 and Leaders courses on behalf of Irish squash.

It takes 2 years for a Coach to become a Coach developer through the Sport Ireland Coaching process!

I am glad to say that Jennifer Dillon will become our first female Coach developer as she has been going through this process over the last year or so and she will be qualified by Sept next 2024.

Ivan O'Mahony has agreed to be our next candidate for CDC 41 which starts in Sept 2024 also!

Our succession planning is working very well!

New Assessors:

Under Sport Ireland coaching guidelines each sport should have their own sport specific Coach developer assessor, to enable squash to assess our new Coach developers, these assessors may also be asked to assess for Sport Ireland Coaching.

This year Elvy DaCosta, Kieran Doherty and Eddie Murphy have become assessors, a first for Irish squash.

Graduation Ceremony Limerick January 24:

I did attend this on behalf of Irish squash, there were 16 other Sports attending!

Kieran Doherty will attend the next Graduation at the end of 2024 as will Jennifer Dillon.

Coaching Development officer meetings:

Sport Ireland coaching invite all sport NGB'S to attend quarterly development officer meetings, it's good to meet people from other sports and share information! I have attended these over the past 2 years or so and recently Tiernan Harris, our administrator, has attended, and we are building a good relationship with Sport Ireland coaching and other sports also!

Sport Ireland Coaching database:

We use this database to register our courses and candidates before the course starts and then we upload the details after the course is complete, Tiernan and myself have attended a meeting on the latest version of this database.

We have also met with Deirdre Morrisey the Database administrator in Limerick so now Tiernan will be looking after it from an Irish squash point of view going forward.

Coach Developer meetings:

We have met four times this season to discuss various issues on the Level 1 and Leaders course and how we present them. One meeting recently we met up with Scott, Tiernan, Maxine, Ivan and Will Nicholson. This was very helpful to get to know each other. We are working on a project with Scott and Tiernan on our presentation booklet.

Mayo Educational Board:

Irish Squash are working in partnership with Mayo Education Centre who are running Summer Courses approved by the Dept. of Education in Primary schools. Three areas around the country are being used, Mayo, Donegal and Tipperary. Ivan O'Mahony, Tiernan Harris and myself have met with Michael McKenzie of the Mayo Educational Centre to develop the material being presented, I would like to thank Ivan, Tiernan Michael and also to John Dineen for getting this great opportunity off the ground.

Eddie Murphy

Coach Education, Irish Squash

Coaching Seminar Sept 2023

In Sept 2023 we held a Coaching Seminar in Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club.

- Derek Ryan did a presentation on Strength and Conditioning for Juniors.
- Gazing Performance did a presentation on mind-set development.
- Eugene Walker and Conor O'Neill talked about Celtic SC Junior squash programme & experience.
- A LTADM (Long Term Athlete Development Model) session was presented by our coach developers, Jennifer Dillon Co-ordinated this.

Sixteen coaches were in attendance, and the quality of the sessions were top class and I would like to thank all involved for putting it together.

2024-2025 Our Goals

We have Courses lined up in the Provinces for both L1 and L2.

We still strive to get our L2 in line with Sport Ireland Coaching, we are working on a new design of our course material.

Among these goals, the Coach Developers are working on creating new Coach Education programmes with the hope of launching and delivering them into the community. The emphasis being on

- Increasing the numbers playing squash at grassroots level for ALL.
- The retention of females both teenage and young adults in our sport.

Having Scott and Tiernan on board, is a big help to me in this Coach Education role. I value their support, help and encouragement in getting various tasks and goals up and running.

Also, there are two new Development officers, Will and Maxine and I'm sure they will bring a fantastic marketing side to our programs.

Thank you to:

- Kieran Doherty
- Elvy DaCosta
- Jennifer Dillon
- Ivan O'Mahony
- Tiernan Harris
- Scott Graham
- John Dineen.

Eddie MurphyCoach Education, Irish Squash

Provincial Associations Reports



Connacht Squash Report for 2023 - 2024

Summary

It's been a year with more positives than negatives and progress continues to be made. As a branch there has definitely been an increase in collaboration and communication between clubs, but we are restricted somewhat because there is no branch president in place despite significant efforts to find one. This will continue to limit the extent and pace of progress. That said, there are many positives to recount.

Across the clubs

Sligo Tennis Club has seen the most encouraging turnaround. Membership is up significantly but more importantly so is activity across juniors, coaching, social, ladders etc. Sligo fielded a team in Connaught A league and hosted a round of matches (great day) and the club hosted the Irish Masters in March. Work on facilities improvement is planned for 2024/25. Well done to Marcin and his team.

Westport continues to thrive with an extremely active club calendar, a growing membership, growing female and junior cohorts and a growing profile in the community. Some rewards were reaped with success in the Connaught league for our men's A, B and women's teams. The club is continuing to invest energy and resources in coaching and is targeting increased external participation in 2024/25

Galway Lawn Tennis Club continues to do well, growing participation within the club across juniors and adults. GLTC junior players, in particular, had an excellent year at national events securing places on international teams. The club once again successfully hosted the West of Ireland Open. On a more local note, the club also hosted the Connaught league finals day in tremendous style and provided perpetual trophies for Men's and Women's A teams in memory of Aidan Power.

Loughrea and Killala have had steady years. There's been good progress with juniors in Killala and Loughrea fielded two strong teams in the Connaught league.

Ballina has seen a drop in membership overall and there is little to no junior activity. Adult activity is happening. There is coaching available for adults and there is uptake. Sharing facilities with local GAA club makes life complicated. Ballina has real potential to recover. There are lots of players, lots of talent and a great tradition.

Claremorris is active but with a relatively small player base... some development officer resources here might help re-ignite things.

Ballinrobe is pretty quiet. It appears that the people who buttressed the club for years have run out of time and energy. This is probably the type of scenario where a development officer could really help.

Coaching

Working with Eddie Murphy, Westport Squash Club is hosting a Level 1 coaching course over two weekends in May and June. There is confidence that we can build a quorum across candidates from Westport, Ballina, Sligo and Ennis.

Inter Club

Finally, it is broadly agreed that the single most significant success in 2023/24 might have been the revival of the Connaught league. Thanks is due to Paul Nugent, of Irish Squash, for his support. Momentum can best be built from the grass roots and in 2024/25 we will try ways to get the "quieter" clubs to be less so.

Provision of some development officer resources would be very valuable in this regard.

We also need to find a branch president.



Clubs

Ballina, Ballinrobe, Claremorris, Galway, Killala, Loughrea, Sligo, Westport

Paul Bree

Connacht Squash Representative, Irish Squash



Leinster Squash Report for 2023 - 2024

The focus of Leinster Squash this season was to give as many players as possible, in our clubs, the opportunity to get out and play. The following report provides a review of this season and looks forward to the next.

This Season in Review

The "Leinster Games Promotion Officer" Appointed

Leinster Squash last year set out a plan to drive participation numbers. As part of this we designed a new role called the "Games Promotion Officer". In partnership with Irish Squash, we recruited in the market, and appointed Paul Conroy. This role is a part time position, fully funded by Leinster Squash and dedicated to promotion and operation of Leinster competitions throughout the season.

The appointment of this role should be seen as a further evolution of the role that was sustained by Mick Collins in the past years reflecting the increased expectations and demand to market and operate a wider variety of events within and beyond the traditional season. On behalf of Leinster Squash, I would like to thank Mick for all his time and effort over the last few years in this regard.



Leinster Squash Tournaments

Leinster Senior Open

- https://www.sportyhq.com/tournament/view/Leinster- Senior-Open-2024-TOUR-5
- Ran in Fitzwilliam on 13/14th Jan 2024 with 43 Entries across Men's A/B/C and Women's A's A/B/C and Women's A.

Draw	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Men's A	Oisin Logan	Conor O'Hare	Sean Conroy
Men's B	David Ryan	Conal Jackson	Ismail Wahid
Men's C	David Connolly	Siddanth Seth	James Jameson
Women's A	Breanne Flynn	Emilia Korhonen	Hannah McGugan

Peter O'Halloran President of Leinster Squash

Leinster Senior Open

Leinster Junior Open 2024 which was run in Sutton LTC with 113 entries.

Draw	1st Place	Runner/Up
Boys U11	Eoin O'Brien	Ridit Thapar
Girls U11	Aurora McDonnell	Caoimhe English
Boys U13	Michael Lai	Jack Clery
Girls U13	Rebecca Day	Zoe Nyhan
Boys U15	John Luke Day	Adam Power
Girls U15	Rebecca Jackson	Laya Sabry
Boys U17	Conal Jackson	Christian Dromgoole
Girls U17	Shriya Drawid	Zoe Yeomans
Boys U19	Danny Lynch	Tristan Snodgrass
Girls U19	Sara Sabry	Isabelle Kelly

Leinster Junior Closed

Leinster Junior Closed which was run in Sutton LTC - January the 6th & 7th 2024 with 52 entries

Draw	1st Place	Runner/Up
Boys U11	Oisin Murphy	Eoin O'Brien
Girls U11	Aisling Mac Canna	Faye Ring
Boys U13	John Quigley	Alec Gissing
Girls U13	Zoe Nyhan	Aurora McDonnell
Boys U15	Samuel Hann	Danny Jones
Girls U15	Lucy Walsh	Rebecca Jackson
Boys U17	Tyler Dromgoole	Aaron Cullen
Girls U17	Isabel Fallon	Riley Slade
Boys U19	Christian Dromgoole	Frank O'Flynn
Girls U19	Ella Walsh	Isabelle Kelly

Leinster Senior Closed

Run as on one-day on 25th Feb in LCC Squash Club with 22 entries across 4 sections (Men's A/B/C and Women's A).

See https://www.sportyhq.com/tournament/view/Leinster-Senior-Closed-2024

Draw	Winner	Runner/Up
Men's A	James Judge	Gerry Callanan
Men's B	Derryck Bartlett	Enrique Pelayo
Men's C	John Coleman	Phillipe Laurijssen
Women's A	Melissa Cosgrove	Veronica Brogan

Leinster Squash League

All leagues completed with 9 Divisions and 371 players. See Leinster Leagues Results

Draw	Winning Club	Teams
Men's Premier	Sutton	6
Men's Division 1	Dublin University	8
Men's Division 2/3	Sutton	7
Men's Division 4/5	LCC Squash	8
Men's Division 6	Sutton	8
Women's Premier	Sutton	4
Women's Division 1	Old Belvedere	5
Veterans League	West Wood	3
Saturday League	LCC Squash	4

The League is an important part of the season and would not be effective without the engagement of the clubs and the work of Team captains. So, a very big thanks to those who take that work on behalf of their teams. It is much appreciated.

Leinster Squash League Cup

Leinster Junior Open 2024 which was run in Sutton LTC with 113 entries.

- This year the Cup competitions were hosted on SportyHQ for the 1st time with all results recorded https://www.sportyhq.com/tournament/view/Leinster League-Cups-2024
- 5 of the 7 cups played this year were won by the league winners. There was a suggestion received from Sutton B team that the league winners would play up a level in the cup competitions to give them an opportunity to play at a higher level and spread out the silverware amongst more clubs.

Cup Name	Winner	Runner/Up
Men's Championship	Sutton	Carlow
Gray Cup (Div 1)	Dublin University	Mount Pleasant
Men's Div 2/3	Sutton	West Wood
Men's Div 4/5	Mount Pleasant	Tullamore
Men's Div 6	Sutton	Fitzwilliam
Ivy Hadden Trophy	Sutton	Mount Pleasant
Women's Div 1	Dublin University	Mount Pleasant

Club Tournaments & One Day Series

We saw many clubs in Leinster host a variety of tournaments for masters, seniors and juniors. This was really encouraging, and these events are part of the life blood of the sport in the province.

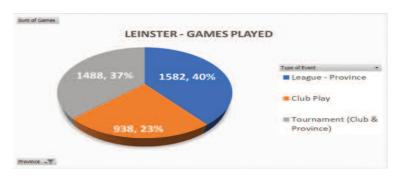
We would like to call out the work in Sutton, Westwood, Mount Pleasant, Old Belvedere, Fitzwilliam, the Curragh and LCC Squash in hosting and operating these events. We will be very keen to help clubs offer a wide variety of events for players of all standards across the province.

Games Played in Leinster (Snapshot)

The diagram below represents the number of games played and recorded on SportyHQ up to the end of April 2024 from the start of the season August 2023. It is not a "final figure", the final figures will be presented at the Leinster Squash AGM.

This represents a snapshot of games categorized by the type of event - Tournament delivered by Leinster Squash in the province (outside of the national circuit) and Clubs, the League and what is happening inside clubs (in the form of challenges, round robins and club championships).

We are really encouraged to see the adoption of SportyHQ to record games. It is through these club games, tournaments and leagues that we will drive the use of "Player Social Rating" which will drive better competitive play at all levels in the game in the province (and beyond).



The Junior Interprovincial Finals

Leinster Squash delivered the Junior Interprovincials on behalf of Irish Squash, in SLTC. This is an important milestone in the Squash Calendar for our emerging players from Under 11 on, which was funded by Irish Squash.

It was great to see so many players compete, have fun and wear their provincial colours with such pride! I would like to thank the team in Sutton for all the work in organizing this event including Eoin and Suzanne Ryan, Kate Yeomans on the day and all the other helpers on the BBQ to make it such a great event for all the young players around the country.

Leinster Squash funded the Leinster Squads leading up to the event and would like to thank the coaches in helping to lead our emerging players in this regard.

Coaching, Junior Programme and Summer Camps

Apart from the great work sustained by Sutton and Mount Pleasant, we have seen the addition of programmes in Fitzwilliam, LCC Squash and Sandycove. There has been collaboration between Fitzwilliam and Mount Pleasant to hold events in Fitzwilliam to scale coaching events and get greater numbers of players involved.

We have also helped Kilkenny Squash establish their programme, so if we have missed anybody please let us know and come join a network of clubs dedicated to creating the players of the future. This is an initiative that has been driven by the clubs but are very interested in supporting in any way we can.

We supported two summer camps last year (Mount Pleasant & Sutton) and we would like to hear from any club looking to host events like these in the off season.

Leinster Squash Trophies

One of the impacts of covid was the disruption of the management and handling of trophies. The work has begun to get these together and up to date. We are happy to say that through the help of many, we have an accurate and full inventory of our trophies and plan to now move on to catching up on the engraving over the off season.

Communications and social media

We heavily used the new Website www.leinsterquash.ie with League Results, announcements, Integrated Calendar and Document Repository all up on the website. This will continue to play the role of information repository for the province. Email was used sparingly to get the news out, but we leaned on Instagram as our primary social media channel, with a 24% increase in followers, now at 427 followers. This is an area that will continue to warrant attention to spread the news and build our profile in the province.

Irish Squash Initiatives

In light of the continuing Strategic plan and the change in the membership of the Irish Squash Board, Leinster Squash no longer has representation on the Board of Irish Squash. In light of this change and the value of the provinces input into the direction of Irish Squash we worked with members of Irish Squash, Leinster Squash and the other provinces to form an "Inter Provincial Forum".

We expect that this will be formed after the Irish Squash AGM and will be a new way for the voice of the Leinster Province to be heard and help Irish Squash with their plans in the years ahead.

Looking to Next Year

Planning for next Season

With the competitive season over the Leinster Squash Committee is now going into a period of review and planning for next season. We aim to have a Development Plan 2024/2025 available to share in August of this year.

The formation of the plan is based on reviewing the performance of our events, and exploring other ways in which we develop the game and improve engagement and participation for all players and clubs in the province. If your club is interested in participating in this please contact us and we shall include you in the process.

Player Pathways 2024

In the context of Irish Squash's player pathway, Leinster Squash are in the process of developing a framework to assist Coaches, Volunteers, Clubs and Players offer ways that will enable players to participate in Squash whether they aspire to podium or play for life.

The framework will be set out in the form of the Leinster Squash Player Development White Paper. It will be shared later this summer and it is expected to form the basis of discussion and plans to help all members of the Leinster Squash play their part in getting more players involved in the game whatever standard and aspirations they may have.

Leinster Events & Leagues

The delivery of the league and tournaments will remain a priority over the year. We will continue to put more effort into the league and extend the scope of tournaments to reach new

players through the "one day series" and help clubs promote & operate events over the calendar year - not just the season.

Over the off season we shall be forming a group to review the League and Cups rules. We hope that this will start in late May and complete at the end of July. We wish to examine the rules and deal with any anomalies that we encountered over the years. We are very open to anybody to join us to help us with this exercise. Simply contact anybody on the committee and we can take it from there.

We shall be developing a brochure to help explain how new players can engage and get playing within and beyond their clubs. Having an effective and comprehensive set of events for all standards which will promote play, but social engagement will be a priority for Leinster Squash next season.

The Leinster Squash AGM 2024

Leinster Squash need fresh voices to join us on the committee. In light of this we shall be looking for the clubs to step up and be part of the Committee. We are a voluntary body, made up of those with a strong ethos in giving back to the sport.

It is important for all clubs in Leinster to be represented and participate - being part of the committee represents an opportunity for your clubs to be part of something bigger and for those persons who come forward to extend the network and perspective. So, for not a significant investment in time you plug into a community that wants to share knowledge, bring the game forward and get things done.

We shall be holding our next AGM (virtually) in late August or early September 2024. This is an opportunity for Leinster players and representatives from all Leinster Clubs to join the committee, learn about what is going on and contribute to the direction of Leinster and Irish Squash.

This year will be a year to take stock of the role of Leinster Squash in the context of the change made to the Board of Irish Squash, since we no longer have a representative place on the Board. In light of this we will be taking the opportunity to refresh our Constitution and realign our policies with that of Irish Squash and participate in the new Inter Provincial Forum.

And finally....

It has been a good year, as clubs and players get to play and shake off the constraints imposed by Covid. We are also seeing the value of the Irish Squash Strategy and the evolution of a larger team in the Irish Squash office led by the new CEO Scott Graham. We are optimistic that these changes and investment in Squash by Sport Ireland will bring the outcomes to all clubs and players needed to drive the game in Ireland.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Fitzwilliam for their very generous contribution of their facilities for many of our events, and to the team of Sutton Lawn Tennis (Eoin & Suzanne Ryan and Kate Yeomans) who operate many of the junior one day tournaments and also the clubs and volunteering teams in Mount Pleasant, Old Belvedere, the Curragh, Westwood and LCC Squash Club that host and operate tournaments over the course of the season. It is this generosity of effort & spirit that this game is founded on that makes it special. It is very much appreciated.

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

The members of the Committee are: -

Peter O'Halloran (President), Donal Kelly (Hon Treasurer), Noel Story (Hon Secretary), Andrew Gillespie, Gavin Lestrange, Kate Yeomans, Aurele Langevin, Eoin Ryan (Junior Secretary) and Gerry Delaney. Reporting to the committee is the Games Promotion Officer Paul Conroy.

So, to conclude, contact any of us on the committee if you feel we have missed something, or you wish to raise any further points and we will be happy to follow up.



Munster Squash Report for 2023 - 2024

Introduction

Munster Squash has had a successful year in the province. We are very grateful to Irish Squash for their continued support.

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

Junior Coaching

Junior programmes have been ongoing in Celtic, Dunhill, Highfield, and Thurles, with participation numbers growing in all clubs. In addition we now have other clubs such as Limerick and Ballypatrick establishing junior programmes. Munster Squash invested in a coaching network for Munster Clubs as part of our junior development plans, this involves not only coaches but also club volunteers, committee members, etc.

Junior Nationals

We had a successful time at the Nationals with National titles for BU11 Boys Alfie Knox (Celtic). John Day (Dunhill) and Adam Power (Celtic) contested the BU15 final with John winning that match. Aaron Knox (Celtic) finished a very respectful 3rd in the BU17.

Caoimhe English (Celtic) finished 2nd in the GU11, and Rebecca Day (Dunhill) finished 2nd in the GU13.

Munster Squash will be represented by 25 juniors from 7 different clubs

(Celtic/Dunhill/Highfield/Thurles/Killarney/Limerick/Ballypa trick) taking part in the Junior Interpros in Sutton SC on Saturday 13th April.

Women's Squash

We have successful and ongoing coaching programmes in place in Thurles, UCC, Highfield, and Celtic, with participation numbers steady and consistent. Ladies from Munster Clubs have participated in four one-day events i.e., Women Who Squash event held in Highfield (x2) and Thurles (x1) Limerick(x1).

Munster Leagues

All divisions from 1 to 6 were run this year, with 30 teams taking part across all divisions. This season we have for the first time a women-only league with 4 teams participating.

Munster Tournaments

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

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



Eugene Walker Munster Squash Representative

Internationals

075

Munster has had several players represent Ireland on International teams at Junior and Masters' and from a mix of Munster clubs.

The following Masters Players represented Ireland and Irish Squash this season.

O35	Cathal Lynch
040	Mark Furlong
045	Kevin Knox, Paul O'Brien and Sandra Walsh
050	John Hurley
055	Geoff Wales and Dympna Reardon
O60	John Dineen, Timmy McCarthy, Dympna Reardon and Maureen Duke
065	Michael Mulhall, James McSweeney, Michael Conlon and Maureen Duke

Kevin Knox (O45) and Maureen Duke (O60) won Irish National Titles.

The following Junior Players represented Ireland and Irish Squash this season.

U13G Rebecca Day and Daisy MorrisseyU13B Jamie MorrisseyU15B John Day and Adam PowerU17B Aaron Knox

Tim Murphy

Referring

Munster Squash is actively running refereeing courses and online sessions. Lee Healy, as the Irish Squash Refereeing Secretary, is actively promoting WSO refereeing courses in Munster clubs, and referee numbers are growing in clubs, 16 in total from Munster Clubs and 53 nationally.

Coaching

This season was very successful as regards rolling out our coaching education programme, we have 2 courses (level 1) in Limerick and Thurles.

11 new Coaches which were made up of 8 women and 3 men.

11

new coaches

8

new female coaches

3
new male coaches



Ulster Squash Report for 2023 - 2024

Introduction

Ulster Squash elected a new board of directors on the 11th of September 2023 following our annual AGM. The new board consisted of 10 directors with 1 director role remaining vacant, the board were successful in filling the position for Director of coaching in early 2024 giving a full board structure.

President Michael McVeigh
Director of Finance Jack Sterritt

Director of Safeguarding Augusto Azuara-Blanco

Junior Administration

Director of Media

Director of Coaching

Director of Administration

Director of Administration

Director of Tournaments

Director of Performance

Director of Funding

Joshua McVeigh

Jack McDonnagh

Sarah Keenan

Lynda Dunlop

Dan Greenaway

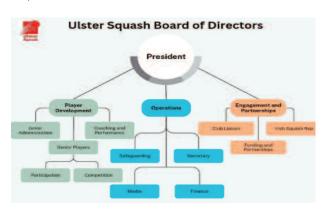
Gareth Brown

Will Nicholson

Club Liaison Director Danny Goldring Irish Squash Arlene McVeigh

Representative

and Partnerships



Leagues

The 23/24 Ulster league Squash season consisted for the following: -

- Premier Division
- Division 1
- Division 2
- Masters Division

League & Cup Winners 23/24 Season:-

- Mid Ulster A Premier
- Ballynafeigh A Division 1
- Lisburn Racquets C Division 2
- Mid Ulster A Ulster Cup
- Lisburn C Ulster Cup Plate

Tournaments

Ulster hosted a number of successful tournaments throughout the 23/24 season: -

- Ulster Junior Open October 2023
- Ulster Senior Open November 2023
- Ulster Junior Closed January 2024
- Ulster Masters Open February 2024
- Junior Nationals February 2024
- Ulster Senior Closed February 2024
- All Ireland Schools Final Scheduled May 2024
- Senior Interprovincials Scheduled May 2024



Arlene McVeighDirector Ulster Squash

Ulster players selected to represent Ireland season 23/24 Juniors

- Ellie Archer
- Gabby Curran
- Lydia McQuilan
- Shriya Drawid
- Yuv Pahuja

Seniors

- Emma Lundy
- Hannah Craig
- Hannah McGugan

Masters

- Tanya Scullion
- Sarah Keenan
- Mark Gilliland
- Conor O'Hare
- David Ayerst
- Robert Peel
- Robert Garvin
- Beverley Scott
- Adrian Leeson
- David Gotto
- Lynda Dunlop

Junior Coaching

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

New opportunities/Development: -

Ulster Squash successfully obtained funding with the support of Irish Squash for a development officer, this role was critical in assisting with programme delivery and new opportunities for Squash across Ulster. This included the following initiatives.

- Building relationships with up to 11 council sports development teams to allow inclusion of the vast majority of "clubs" and courts in NI that are based in council owned leisure centre facilities.
- Developing relationships with Queens and Ulster Universities to explore interest in intervarsity Squash across Ireland.
- Developing a £5k programme of short-term activities to drive engagement and participation with a range of initiatives focusing on: schools and universities, developing junior sections, women and girls' participation, geographical diversification.
- NW Development Provide support to rural clubs in the border region and facilitate cross-border connections with clubs in Donegal which has included home and away challenge games between developing clubs.
- Weekly club night at Shankill Leisure Centre building on successful women in squash.
- Pride in Squash Working in conjunction with Queens University.
- Ulster Squash, Ulster Badminton and Ulster Table Tennis joint programme in conjunction with Sport NI and CWG Council to assist with Junior player and Coach development/support.
- Ulster Squash player and coach pathway development in partnership with Sport NI and the CWG Council.
- Review of Ulster Squash policy and procedures in partnership with Sport NI.

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Safeguarding/Child protection

All areas compliant.

Partners

Ulster Squash continues to work with a number of partners including: -

- Sport NI
- Commonwealth Games Council
- Local Councils
- Northern Ireland Sports Forum
- Women In Sport Association NI
- Mary Peters Trust.

