



**17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Irish Squash Federation clg.**

**Report of the Board for 2021/2022**





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## President's Report for 2021 - 2022

Squash finally emerged from the clutches of the Covid pandemic in Ireland at the end of 2021. Irish Squash kickstarted a truncated season in November with the Connacht Junior Open. We appointed coaches for our junior and senior national teams to prepare for European Team Championships in April and May and the U19 Men's World Team Championships in August. The Irish Squash PSA Hub, established in May 2021 with strict Covid protocols, continued to evolve throughout the season and now includes an expanded number of players and coaches. Grassroots activities in clubs were supported with extra funding which was delivered by Irish Squash directly to the clubs or through the provincial associations.

We launched our Strategic Plan 'Connecting the Dots' 2022-2027 at the Irish National Championships in February in the company of Una May, newly appointed CEO Sport Ireland, and Shane Califf, NGB Director Sport Ireland. We continue to work closely with Sport Ireland across all aspects of our organization and we are extremely grateful for their support and expertise in this regard.

To facilitate the implementation of our strategic plan, the board appointed a Strategic Delivery Group (SDG) whose members are Christine Mooney (Hon Treasurer), Derek McGrath (Sport2Sport) and John Dineen. A comprehensive survey of our clubs was undertaken and working groups are being set up to progress the work required under each pillar of our strategic plan. Of importance, a review of our organisational structure is now underway, and the outcome should underpin how we will operate in the future and ensure the successful delivery of our strategic plan.

The board has greater stability with the change in length of terms of office after the EGM in 2021. In its present format, we manage a significant workload which is both operational and strategic. Our aim is to become more strategic at board level and expand our workforce to deliver on the essential operational functions of the organization.

It is with great pleasure that we look forward to a 'normal' squash season for 2022/23. We are introducing changes to our calendar such as Senior competitions being held over 2 rather than 3 days and the introduction of a new U23 National Championships (mindful of those U19 players who missed out due to Covid). We will be focusing our attention on grassroots activities with the aim of increasing participation in our sport.

I urge you all to read through this report to get a sense of how much activity sprang to life since squash in Ireland re-opened. We know that there is always more that can be done, and we rely on volunteers to support our sport. We are very grateful for the many (uncounted) hours of work put in by our volunteers. Please contact us should you have an interest in becoming involved in any way.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my fellow board members for their unstinting exemplary hard work, good humour and collaborative approach to all aspects of their roles as Irish Squash board members.

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

## Honorary Treasurer Report for 2021 - 2022

The attached financials, approved by the Board cover the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

### **Income**

Income increased by just over €85k primarily as a result of receipt of additional Covid support funding from Sport Ireland. The Core grant received from Sport Ireland remained at €200k and the WIS grant increased from €10k to €15k. Sponsorship income of €26.5k was received. Affiliation fees reduced as member clubs were not charged affiliation fees during Covid. Income from International competitions was reduced to zero as there were no International Competitions held during 2021.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure decreased by €145k primarily as a result of reduced activity. Salaries increased because there were no Covid related salary payments in 2021. Development expenditure related to the rollout of the SportyHQ technology platform, online training classes and consultancy work relating to the development of the Strategic Plan. Affiliation expenses were reduced, the 2020 payment related to refunds paid to clubs. High Performance training and competitions spending increased as the Professional Squash Association (PSA) Hub was able to continue to operate during Covid and competitions resumed in Q4 2021.

### **Balance Sheet**

Cash at bank has increased by €198k due to the increased Covid support funding and the surplus generated in the year through reduced spend. As Covid restrictions have been lifted and activity has recommenced it is the intention that the cash would be spent over the next couple of years in line with the Strategic Plan launched in 2022.

### **January to June 2022**

Sport Ireland Core Funding increased by €30k in 2022 to €230k for the year with 75% received in Q2. Income and expenditure have increased with the resumption of tournaments and coaching activity. Additional coaching and training sessions are being held to get players back on court and increase the performance of the national squads.

**Christine Mooney**

**Honorary Treasurer, Irish Squash**

## Honorary Secretary/Governance Report for 2021 - 2022

The board of Irish Squash for the 2021/22 comprised:

President	Rosie Barry
Honorary Treasurer	Christine Mooney (co-opted 19-01-22)
Honorary Secretary	Anne Costello
Junior Administrator	Christine Lowry
Refereeing Secretary	Lee Healy
Masters Secretary	Gerry Callanan
Child Protection Officer	Ann Sheppard
Connacht Representative	Gerry Galvin
Leinster Representative	Peter O'Halloran
Munster Representative	Eugene Walker
Ulster Representative	Shaun McKee

Between the 16<sup>th</sup> AGM and now the board have had 15 meetings. Meetings were held in person and on-line.

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

- COVID19 – thankfully this item has now been removed from the Board meetings agenda and playing is finally back to pre-covid ways.
- Irish junior, senior and masters' teams were sent to various international events.
- Governance – Strategic Plan was launched, and Strategic Development Group set up; policies, memo and articles reviewed; ongoing board education, training and review; the following committees were appointed: -
  - Governance and Ethics
  - Strategy
  - Finance, Audit and Risk
  - Disciplinary
  - HR and Remuneration
- Finance – treasurer was co-opted in January: finance matters are reviewed at meetings.
- Liaison with Sport Ireland, Coaching Ireland, Federation of Irish Sport, WSF, ESF.
- Child protection – policies and website updated.
- SportyHQ was used for tournaments etc.
- PSA training hub and financial support for PSA players continued.
- Financial support was given for various training and coaching to junior, senior and masters' players throughout the season.
- Planning for the 2022/2023 season.

Governance and Ethics Committee – this committee consists of Christine Mooney (Chair), Anne Costello, Lee Healy and Paul Nugent. There have been four meetings held so far. Ongoing work includes reviewing the Governance Code for Sport, Constitution, Policies and Code of Conduct etc., supporting the Board in ethical matters and monitoring its own performance.

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

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

## National Children's Officer Report for 2021 - 2022

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

Launched by Sport Ireland March 2021. Irish Squash must ensure that all clubs complete the self-assessment questionnaire through the portal Formsite. Irish Squash contacted all clubs in September 2021 and informed them of the timeframe 27<sup>th</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> December. Clubs were followed up before Christmas. Twenty-three clubs completed the self-assessment. Irish Squash are following up on another 10 clubs that have juniors and have not completed the questionnaire.

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

Irish Squash Safeguarding Statement, Safeguarding Policy and Appendices and Risk Assessment have been updated in line with Sport Ireland's most recent document "Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport". There are on website under Junior Squash and Safeguarding Children.

### **Safeguarding Training**

Luke Murphy from Galway Lawn Tennis Club gave Safeguarding 1 course on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec., free of charge, to 5 board members, COO, and 3 referees.

### **Documents referring to Junior Players**

All documents referring to Junior players, junior players parents and junior players coaches and leaders have been collated together under the Junior Players drop down menu. Some new documents have also been drawn up e.g., Role of Coach of Irish Squash Junior Teams, Accident/incident report form, Application form for volunteers.

Code of conduct for parents and code of conduct for junior players is now up on Sporty HQ and must be ticked as a condition of entry for all junior tournaments.

Code of conduct for parents and code of conduct for junior players has been sent to all clubs that will host a junior tournament and asked to have on view during the tournament. Code of conduct for parents and code of conduct for junior players has been sent to parents of all juniors whose emails we have.

### **Ann Sheppard**

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

## Anti-Doping Report for 2021 - 2022

Squash competitive activity got underway in 2022 (2021/22) season.

The WADA List of Prohibited Substances and Methods came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022. It was particularly noted the changes made to the use of glucocorticoids and in-competition testing.

Two anti-doping tests were carried out at the Irish Open event – both were negative. Sport Ireland carried out anti-doping training for our top senior and Junior players at the Irish Nationals in February. About 30 players attended.

Irish Squash nominated Derek Ryan to World Squash who appointed him as an ambassador for the ITA (International Testing Agency) to act as an education ambassador, to help them deliver anti-doping education across the world.

Our players participated in the 2022 ITA Educational Webinar Series during the year.

The plan from last year's report to produce a questionnaire to ascertain the level of anti-doping awareness and knowledge is still outstanding and could be considered again for the coming season.

**Aidan O'Colmain**  
**Anti-Doping Officer, Irish Squash**

### Junior Secretary Report for 2021 - 2022

Junior Committee for the Season:

- Christine Lowry – Junior Secretary
- Ulster Rep – Brian Murray
- Connacht Rep – David Noone
- Leinster Rep: Andrew Gillespie
- Munster Rep: Brendan Connolly

There was a delay in the start of the squash season due to Covid restrictions, but thankfully the season did return to normal.

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

2021-11-13 – Connacht Junior Open

2021-12-11 – Ulster Junior Open

2022-01-15 – Munster Junior Open

2022-02-05 – Leinster Junior Open

2022-03-11 – Junior Nationals

2022-03-26 – Junior Interprovincials

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

The Irish Junior Open was cancelled for the season due to Covid restrictions.

### Coaching and Squads

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

Namely:

David Noone and Stephanie Ryan – U19

Michael Conroy and Nigel Peyton –U17

Josh McVeigh and Nigel Peyton –U15

Andrew Gillespie and Gavin L'Estrange – U13

Summer Coaching (2022) was funded by Irish Squash for U13, U15, U17 and U19 squads. Irish Squash also funded grass roots junior coaching through the provinces during the summer period.

### **International Tournaments**

**WSF World Junior Squash Championships 2022** in Nancy in August – The Irish U19 Boys team are Denis Gilevskiy, Dylan Moran, Sean Murphy and Jack O’Flynn, coaching team are David Noone and Alex Fuller.

In preparation for this event, Irish Squash funded David Noone to attend the Junior Dutch Open to support the U19 players as well as all Irish players participating.

Congratulations to Denis Gilevskiy for winning the U19 event against some strong opposition.

**European U17 and U15 Team** Championships was held in Eindhoven in May.

The Irish U15 team consisted of Conal Jackson, Ismail Wahed, Sam Holman Keogh, Shriya Drawid and Zoe Yeomans. The Irish U17 team consisted of Daniel Lynch, Yuv Pahuja, Tristan Snodgrass, Sara Sabry and Leah Connolly. The coaching team and manager were Josh McVeigh, Michael Conroy, Nigel Peyton and Sinead Day. In the U15 event, Ireland finished 15<sup>th</sup> out of 20 countries, beating Scotland, Greece and Denmark. In the U17 event, Ireland finished 16<sup>th</sup> out of 20 countries, beating Norway and Portugal.

**European U19 Individual** and Team Championships were held in Eindhoven in April.

The team was Dylan Moran, Sean Murphy, Jack O’Flynn, Hannah McGugan, Sophie Thomas. Denis Gilevskiy was unable to travel due to injury. David Noone and Stephanie Ryan were the coaches. Ireland finished 6<sup>th</sup> out of 15 countries, beating Belgium, Denmark and Czech Republic during the tournament.

**Five Nations U13 and U15 Championships** were held in Coventry in April.

The Irish U13 team consisted of Adam Power, John Day, Conor Massey, Toby Holman Keogh, Rebecca Jackson, Lucy Walsh and Christine Pascual.

The U15 team consisted of Conal Jackson, Sam Holman Keogh, Christian Dromgoole, Frank O’Flynn, Shriya Drawid, Zoe Yeomans and Ella Walsh. Ismail Wahed was selected but was unable to travel.

The coaching team and manager were Josh McVeigh, Nigel Peyton, Andrew Gillespie, Gavin L’Estrange and Sinead Day. Ireland finished 4<sup>th</sup> in both age groups.

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

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 Sinead Day who travelled as Team Manager to two events.

Looking forward to a full and normal season in 2022/2023.

**Christine Lowry**  
**Junior Secretary, Irish Squash**



## Masters Report for 2021 - 2022

### Irish Masters Tour News

The tour recommenced with Irish masters challenge after covid test event with 54 entries. The last event Irish Nationals which had 96 entries. Numbers were considerably down from last year especially Munster due to the covid restrictions.

### Ranking News

Rankings are back up and running with 156 players live ranked down from 177 pre covid.

### Home International News

The Home Internationals went ahead after a two-year break. The Men's over 60s won there event. This was the first time it was won by anyone except England.

### ESF Tournament News

The Irish Open Masters in October has entries open and is going ahead after being postponed twice.

### Committee

Leinster Rep Karam Singh  
 Connacht Rep Dave Lalor  
 Munster Rep John Dineen  
 Ulster Rep Lynda Dunlop  
 35/40 Rep Kevin Knox

### Start 2022season

Our first Esf Event is 14<sup>th</sup> October.

### Training during summer

Online training went ahead with 80 entries for Derek RYAN'S STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING Series. The women's training weekend are constantly attracting 8 -12 players.

### Comparison of last few active seasons

	Season 21-22			Season 19-20			Season 18-19			Va
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	
Irish Masters Challenge	16	38	54							
Leinster Masters Open	12	77	89	23	77	100	14	72	86	
Connacht Masters Open	18	71	89	8	73	81	4	65	69	
Munster Masters Open	6	56	62	11	65	76	6	48	54	
Ulster Masters Open	5	53	58	8	70	78	3	40	43	
Irish Masters Nationals 35/40			0	9	19	28	11	23	34	
Irish Masters Close	18	78	96	26	78	104	15	60	75	
	Season 21-22			Season 19-20			Season 18-19			Gr
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	
TOTALS ENTRIES	75	373	448	85	382	467	53	308	361	
Rankings Live	35	121	156	43	134	177	27	98	125	

**Gerry Callanan**

**Masters Secretary, Irish Squash**

## Refereeing Secretary Report 2021 - 2022

### **General:**

In a 'post-Covid' season where the emphasis was on participation rather than competition there were no leagues throughout the Island of Ireland so the impetus to forward one-self as a Level 1 (Club Grade) Referee was largely absent. The late start to the Senior Circuit together with the cautious approach adopted by many players to involvement in competition further reduced the interest in Level 1 Grade referees graduating to Level 2 (Competition Grade).

This was all reflected in the continued low level of matches being refereed by qualified referees as opposed to being refereed by the players themselves. However, while that was largely the case with Senior and Masters competitions we succeeded in having almost all junior matches officiated by adult players (albeit not always 'qualified' referees).

### **Person-to Person Courses:**

Again, Covid had an impact on this in that few if any players were prepared to attend group in-person courses.

### **Plans for 2022-23:**

#### **Refereeing Courses:**

The WSO on-line Platform continues to be the optimal vehicle for players wishing to become referees during the summer Irish Squash will redouble its efforts to entice more players to get to at least Level 1 by continuing to cover the cost of that Level and to subsidise the higher Levels.

There will be at least 4 courses provided in the first half of next season and these will commence in September and will be promoted through social media, contact with the clubs and by means of the National and Provincial websites. All who played in competition this season will also be contacted direct. These courses will be either in-person or on-line as required.

### **Policy:**

I am optimistic that the incoming board will endorse a policy whereby we will advise all affiliated clubs to request all of their members to achieve WSO Level 0. This is free and an excellent way for beginners to come to grips with the basic rules so that their enjoyment and safety is enhanced. Irish Squash will also ask clubs to request their competitive players (Leagues and outside competition players) to achieve a Level 1 Grade. Irish Squash will request the Provincial Associations to implement a system whereby additional points are awarded where matches are refereed by L1 team members.

### **Thanks!**

I would like to thank my fellow board members for their positivity and hard work throughout the year and I look forward to a season of increased participation, increased competition and many more referees at the end of it!

**Lee Healy**

**Refereeing Secretary, Irish Squash**

## Connacht Squash Report for 2021 - 2022



### Westport Squash Club Season Report 2021/2022

#### Membership Numbers

From a very uncertain position in 2020 and 2021 we now have 162 members based on 40 + women, 40 + juniors and approx. 80 men. This was achieved through intensive promotion within the community with key messages that emphasised the fun and exercise value that squash offers and a very competitive, one-off renewal membership fee.

The club comprehensively used and tested SportyHQ in the management of members and interclub communications. We also provided feedback to SportyHQ on issues experienced.

For the coming season we face the challenge of retaining members as we will be forced to return to the normal membership fee level to help address servicing of credit union loan.

We are optimistic and prepared for this challenge.

#### Ladies

We see this as our major success in the season just ended. We now have over 40 women registered as members and just over 20 playing ladder. The initiative to dedicate one night per week to ladies squash only was central to this success and will be essential to sustaining it.

For the coming season we will focus on lifting playing standards and enjoyment through coaching and availing of any help that comes from “Women who Squash”.

#### Juniors

Our junior section is thriving. Like other towns, Westport offers many sporting options, so squash does compete for players. We will beef up coaching available to juniors in the coming season and encourage more participation in regional and national events.

#### Competitions

This season we ran our senior, ladies’ and junior ladders through the full season using the Box League feature in SportyHQ.

We also had an extremely successful team league (60) players.

In the coming season we will re-introduce our club championships and we will seek sponsorship from local businesses for all these events.

#### Coaching

John Rooney’s Sunday coaching sessions were very successful. The club now has 3 level 1 coaches to support coaching with juniors and beginning adults.

#### Facilities

Credit Union loan remains a significant burden but we have been prudent and innovative in managing our finances. Our fundraising initiatives (table quiz, flag day, church gate) are well staffed and supported. The club makes a conscious effort to contribute to the broader community.

#### Next Season

- More coaching
- Maintain membership numbers
- Play more external events
- Grow female participation on committee
- Continue to ask our members formally and informally what they want from the club. We ran a Survey Monkey initiative towards the end of last season and will repeat this in 2022/23

#### Gerry Galvin

#### Connacht Squash Representative

### **Ballina Stephenites Squash Club Report 21/22 Season**

**Membership:** Approximately 100 members total. (Approx. 40 still to return post covid).

Approx. 70/30 split male/female. Juniors very low at approx. 12 - lost a lot of juniors to colleges during Covid.

We hope to commence a recruitment drive early August to increase membership to previous levels along with enticing back the remainder of existing members.

We ran one competitive league with a good uptake (64 members) along with several successful blitz events.

**Beginner Players** - A very successful season of Sunday “Coach & Play” sessions encouraged over 20 new members to find the sport, a great initiative ran by Yvonne Lavelle and Ray Mehigan.

Junior Coaching was still available all be it that we had to reduce to 2 sessions due to low numbers.

Again, we hope a good recruitment drive once schools return will encourage membership for juniors, we have 2 local schools expressing interest in daytime sessions - we hope to be able to provide coaching for these but it will depend on coach availability.

#### **Sports Capital/Equipment Grant:**

Just under €30k awarded. All equipment now purchased and in place:

Gymnasium Equipment €20k

Thanks to the purchase of extensive gymnasium machines, exercise equipment and weightlifting devices we have worked with the Stephenites GAA Club to develop a modern gym open to all members of The Stephenites Complex, with new access routes designed specifically for squash members it will enable warm up/cool down sessions on treadmills, exercise bikes, rowing machines etc.

Direct Squash Equipment €10k - This includes 2 squash cannons for either solo practice or coaching, a full range of squash rackets for beginners or members to “try before you buy”, along with much more coaching equipment.

**Ukraine Fund Raiser** - The club held a fundraiser “Blitz Night” to help raise funds for the Irish Red Cross Ukraine appeal, over €2100 was raised on the night and this was matched by “Vermillion Energy” thus raising a total of over €4200 for the Red Cross.

**Generally.** We have a few small projects to complete over the summer months - replace damaged lighting with led lighting on court 1 and to construct a storage area for the new squash equipment. We have received small grant funding of €800 from Mayo sports partnership to assist with these improvements.

The floor on court 1 continues to prove its worth as an underfloor heated surface, this enables the court to be maintained at a good temperature for play and we noted ZERO condensation or mildew on the walls over the season, even on busy “Finals Nights” with a full house of spectators too. A big thanks to Irish Squash for the Covid grants that have assisted us with running costs to offset membership losses during the Covid period.

**Coaches:** We achieved 2x WSF level 1 coaches, David Roache and Louise Concannon. We wish them every success as they develop their coaching within the club.

**Club Management** - it is likely that the current committee will stand down at the end of their current 3-year tenure - it is hoped a new committee can be recruited prior to the AGM in October. Kevin Povall has announced his resignation as chairperson after 6 years in this role, again it is hoped that this position can be filled prior to the AGM and Kevin will assist this person with the role for the first 12 months.

### **Galway lawn tennis club 2021-2022**

**Connacht Junior Open.** Smaller than usual, no entry fees as IS sponsored entries and tee-shirts. Less than 100 entries and notable less playing in the younger ages after the covid break.

**Connacht SO:** Similarly, to the JO, less entries and very few from outside the ‘performance players’ but a great sense of being back to some normalcy.

**Connacht Masters:** Much bigger entry than others, successful event. Ran over Friday and Saturday.

### **Coaching etc:**

Junior coaching program resumed. Numbers down by roughly 60%. Still a great appetite for junior squash, just a few barriers to overcome before the ball gets rolling fully again.

Senior coaching, good attendance. About par with pre covid.

Senior box league/ladder, numbers down dramatically. Again, good future but new season will be needing a strong start.

West of Ireland senior open cancelled from lack of interest, just 3 entries.

Huge success with the visit of Nick Matthew, probably the seasons highlight. All levels encapsulated and great atmosphere created!

### **Killala Squash Club 2021-2022.**

Not much going on in Killala. We're organising a relaunch for new season later in August. It'll be interesting to see what level of interest we have, but we'll organise our autumn league and resume junior training with whatever we do have.

### **Claremorris Squash club 2021-2022.**

We had 4 players qualify as Level one coaches.

Our juniors won the Connacht Girls U11, U13 and U15 titles. We also won our first ever boys U13 Connacht title.

We had 15 juniors and 16 adults this year.

Senior activity only started in mid-February and our club season ended at the end of March.

We hope to see a better year for 2022/23.

### **Connacht Report.**

To summarise, the last year has seen a drastic improvement in membership and player participation in all of our clubs in the province, huge thanks to the committee's and club volunteers.

As this is my final year on the board of Irish Squash, I would like to thank all past and present board members for your support and advice on an unforgettable five-year journey.

It's time to pass the baton to my successor, Paul Bree from Westport SC. I wish him every success in the future on the new board.

Mise le meas,

**Gerry Galvin**

**Connacht Squash Representative**

## **Leinster Squash Report for 2021 - 2022**



This year saw Leinster Squash emerging from the impact of Covid. In light of this we sought through a series of initiatives to rebuild lost ground of inactivity to help get people back to the game.

These include the following;

- **The Leinster Senior Open in December 2021** - covered elsewhere in this report
- **The Leinster Junior Open in February 2022** - covered elsewhere in this report

- **Leinster Return to Squash League** - Held as a non pennant league between March & May 2022.
- **Three Rivers League** - This is a new league that included 5 clubs in the South Leinster & Munster Region
- **Summer Squash Camps and Coaching** - we helped fund a variety of Squash Camps this summer.
- **Support of U19** - Along with Irish Squash, we were very happy to contribute to the fundraising efforts for our players attend the WSF World Juniors in August 2022
- **Coaching Course** - fund one Level 1 coach over the year which saw an additional 8 coaches joining our ranks
- **Single Platform** - The members of the Committee have been active Team Members of the Single Platform Project. Over the past year we helped establish the social player rating and develop the brochure which will be circulated in September.

And looking forward;

- **The AGM** - We shall be holding our next AGM (virtually) in late September 2022. This is an opportunity for Leinster players and representatives from the Clubs to join the committee and contribute to the direction of Leinster Squash.
- **Leagues & Tournaments** - We shall be introducing a full pennant League in late September early October. We are in the process of designing further events to reach new groups of players of different standards. Apart from the Leinster League we will be looking to develop the new Three Rivers League in South Leinster.
- **Coaches Forum** - We shall be implementing a Leinster Coaches forum to help Coaches collaborate and develop programmes over the course of the year. This will not just include coaching initiatives but also tournaments that will encourage people to develop their skills either within or beyond the club they are in.
- **Referees Forum** - We shall be developing a forum to promote the referee community and establish an active network for registered referees to share ideas and best practice.
- **Squash Parents Forum** - Develop resources to help parents of emerging players understand the game and engage in the sport.
- **Funding** - Over the season we will be always open to any proposals that will deliver development opportunities for the game in the province. So if as a club, club administrator, coach or referee wish to share your ideas and financial requirements with us we would be happy to review and help if it falls within our remit to do so.
- **Non-Affiliated Clubs** - We have a total of 45 active squash facilities in Leinster. Many of those are not affiliated with Irish Squash. We will be exploring ways to assist those facilities to further develop their structures and engage in the broader Squash community by developing targeted Coaching & Development programmes to build participation in their local community.
- **Website & Season Calendar** - Leinster Squash plan to migrate their website to the SportyHQ platform and as part of this we shall be presenting the Leinster Squash Calendar for the season.
- **Succession Planning** - We are looking for fresh voices to join us on the committee. In light of this we shall be reaching out to the community for people willing to contribute in any way they can to assist us deliver the events and programmes we need to drive the sport forward in Leinster.

In conclusion this has been a positive year, as we got back playing in our clubs. Our focus next season will be to get back to offering a variety of opportunities for the Leinster player of all standards to compete and develop their game - getting the most enjoyment out of their time on court. We are

also working with Irish Squash to contribute to the realisation of the new Strategy “Connecting the Dots”.

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

They are;

***Gerry Delaney (Hon Treasurer), Noel Story (Hon Secretary), Alan Sheehy-Skeffington, Andrew Gillespie, avin Lestrangle, Penny Turner, Sylvia Doyle, Kate Yeomans and reporting to committee the League Administrator Mick Collins.***

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

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

## Munster Squash Report for 2021 - 2022



### **Introduction**

Munster Squash has had a successful year in the province, after what was one of the worst periods our sporting communities have been through with COVID. We are very grateful to Irish Squash and the sports council for providing Munster Clubs with funding from various grants to get our game back on track after the COVID pandemic.

The feedback from Munster clubs as regards, competitions held in the province such as the Opens and Closed tournament and also the Munster leagues has been positive, we managed to run all opened and closed tournaments this season and we would like to thank our committee members and the volunteers in the clubs for their support in making every effort so that we could run these competitions.

We continue with our rotation policy where we see the Opens and Closed tournament being shared around the province where courts are available. The headings below summarize some of the activities for Munster Squash during this season.

### **Junior Coaching**

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

### **Junior Nationals**

This year the Junior nationals was held in Waterford, the competition was a success with both Celtic and the new court in the De La salle college in use.

### **Women's Squash**

We have successful and ongoing coaching programmes in place in Thurles, UCC, Highfield and Celtic, with participation number steady and consistent, Ladies from Munster Clubs have participated in One day events i.e. Women Who Squash event held in Highfield.

### **Munster Leagues**

Because of government guidelines we could only managed to run 4 of the 6 leagues, we completed divisions 1, 2 and 4, and division 5 could not be completed because of government guidelines.

### **Munster Tournaments**

We have successfully held the Munster Senior Open and Closed, Junior Open and Closed tournaments with tournaments being rotated around the province which have been very successful and we as an organization have received some very positive feedback from the squash community. Participation numbers are consistent year on year. We have also been actively promoting Masters Squash in the province with both O35 and O40 and O45+ in both Ladies and Gents.

### **Internationals**

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

### **Referring**

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

### **Coaching**

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

Eddie, Frank, and all the coaching tutors who work tirelessly for Irish Squash have been busy in the background this year, delivering 5 Level 1 courses all around the country (Belfast, Mayo, Waterford, Tipperary, and Kerry).

They also ran the 'Leaders' course which is an introduction to Squash as an appreciation course in Cork, Limerick, and in Donegal. There is a lot of work going on now in clubs in Munster an

### **Munster Junior Squash Report**

Despite the challenges of last season due to Covid the Munster Squash Committee still managed to host and run the following tournaments in Munster:

#### **Munster Junior Open**

This tournament was hosted between Highfield and Sunday's Well Squash Clubs in Cork the weekend of January 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>. The highest covid restrictions were adhered to for this tournament with antigen testing of each junior on the Saturday morning prior to playing, mandatory mask wearing for all parents and juniors (whilst not on court), parents to provide proof of vaccination and single guardian attendance.



Whilst running this tournament had its challenges it was a very successful event with no junior testing positive on arrival. There were 64 juniors who participated in the event from all provinces with some very high standard squash and excellent games.

### **Irish Junior Nationals**

This tournament was hosted between the Celtic and De La Salle College Squash Clubs in Waterford the weekend March 11<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>. This was the first time the De La Salle College hosted a junior squash tournament with the courts having been refurbished in advance of the tournament. It is fantastic for Munster and Irish Squash to have another new squash club and make it success continue to grow. A big thank you to the Waterford representatives on the Munster Squash Committee for getting this new club ready for the tournament.

This was another very successful tournament with 75 juniors who participated from all provinces. As this was the last open junior tournament of the season there were a number of places for the Junior National Teams up for grabs resulting in some very competitive and exciting matches.

### **Munster Junior Close**

This tournament was hosted in the Dunhill Squash Club in Waterford the weekend 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that this tournament would be split into 2 one day events resulting in the U11s and U13s being run on the single day Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> whilst the remaining age categories U15s, U17s & U19s were all run on the single day Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>. This change in format was very successful for both parents and juniors in not having to travel both days of the weekend.

This was a very successfully run tournament for the Munster juniors with 39 juniors participated and for some of the younger juniors this was their first ever tournament which was a great experience for them. A lot of new friendships between the various Munster clubs were formed that weekend.

### **Munster Junior Invitational**

This tournament is similar to the Munster Junior Close only available to Munster juniors. This tournament whilst normally held in early December had to be rescheduled until the weekend April 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> in the Thurles Squash Club. It was important to run this tournament to give the Munster juniors who don't participate in the provincial open tournaments another opportunity of playing competitive squash before the end of the season. There were 32 juniors that participated adapting the 2 one day events for the tournament which resulted in it being a big success.

### **National Teams**

Munster juniors Adam Power (Celtic Squash Club) & John Day (Dunhill Squash Club) were both selected to represent Ireland in the U13Bs Five Nations tournament in Warwick, England in April. And Leah Connolly (Highfield Squash Club) was selected for the U17Gs for the European Team Championships in Eindhoven, Holland in May. These three Munster juniors had a fantastic experience at these international tournaments and proudly represented their country.

### **Munster Squash Coaching conference**

This will be held in Celtic Squash Club on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The main idea behind this series of Coaching Conferences is to connect our community of coaches throughout Munster with the aim of embedding a culture of coaching within our clubs. Also, to understand best practice to grow our game by offering a fun and engaging experience especially to those new to squash our juniors' starters and improvers. The conference is for qualified coaches and leaders, club officials, volunteers etc. For information, please contact Munster Squash.

### **Eugene Walker**

#### **Munster Squash Representative**

## Ulster Squash Report for 2021 - 2022



### Ulster Update

New committee in place.

All discipline areas represented except players rep.

New comprehensive strategy in place with clear SMART objectives. This strategy is closely aligned with Irish Strategy.

Emphasis over the next 4 years will be on tier 2 and below. As a board we felt tier 1 players are adequately supported through Irish calendar, Ulster leagues and tournaments and PSA events.

Squash season will begin in September following AGM 30/8/22.

New president will be in place.

### Finance's

Financially sound

Working with Sport NI to maintain funding streams and explore new opportunities, post COVID.

### Opportunities

Commonwealth games, it was agreed with the commonwealth games chair that a graduate would work alongside us to help us achieve a place back in the games. At present unless we have a medal contender, no place is available.

### Challenges

Lack of volunteers

Lack of points of contact within clubs.

Lack of bespoke squash clubs.

### Good news

Seeing increase in student players.

### Shaun McKee

Ulster Squash Representative

## PSA Hub Report for 2021 - 2022

In June 2022 Irish Squash took a more active role in the administration and operation of the PSA hub with Gerry Callanan heading this role temporarily for Irish Squash.

The Hub has now been expanded to include the full under 19 squad as well as the original group. The group was heavily impacted by the severe covid restrictions in Ireland however they now have

full access to events and facilities. It will take them time to make up for the lost time though. This group needs more funding to attend international events.

Over the summer David Noone Angus Kirkland Derek Ryan and Alex Fuller joined Eoin Ryan as Coaches and Trainers to the hub. The players started paying their fees though SportyHQ in August with IS matching this up to €1k a month.

For July and August more emphasis was placed on S&C with Derek Ryan taking 2 sessions a week. There had been no S&C since 2021 for the group. The S&C will continue once a week as season begins.

Eoin Ryan Runs 2/3 sessions a week in Sutton. David Noone and Angus Kirkland are now running additional weekend sessions in Fitzwilliam. A plan has been drawn up until the end of October and agreed with the players and coaches.

	Ranking 2021	Ranking 2022
Breanne Flynn	430	124
Sean Conroy	150	145
Sam Buckley	275	156
Conor Moran	385	237
Oisin Logan	485	268
Alex Smith	465	297
Denis Gilevskiy		301
Gavin L'Estrange		368
Michael Creavan		424
David Ryan	755	432
Dylan Moran		486
Dean Drumgoole		672
Jack O'Flynn		703
Elliot Kelly		
Sean Murphy		

**Gerry Callanan**  
**Masters Secretary, Irish Squash**

### Women in Sport Report 2021 - 2022

Irish Squash have received funding from Sport Ireland for the Women in Sport Programs. Thankfully these programs have begun following the lifting of Covid pandemic restrictions. The following clubs are running these programs, Ballyshannon SC, Celtic SC, Highfield SC, Thurles SC, Sutton SC and Westport SC. The programs vary widely and range from introducing primary and secondary girls, families, mother and daughters to play squash, women only squash evenings, qualifying female coaches, coaching for women, introducing squash imagery in clubs to reflect female accomplishments in squash etc.

Coaching for senior and masters' women was funded by Irish Squash during the season and over the summer months.

Irish Squash sponsored Breanne Flynn in attending Women in sport Leadership Program run by Lisa Clancy and Sarah O'Shea.

**Rosie Barry**  
**President**

## Single Platform Project Report from October 2021 - September 2022



**The Single Platform**

Irish Squash launched the Single Platform in September 2021. It is a comprehensive Sports Management service that is there to support the Squash Community on the island of Ireland.

We have partnered with SportyHQ to bring you this exciting and innovative initiative that will enhance and develop Squash on the island.

The platform connects Player, Club, Events & Competitions together to assist the community participate in the game and drive the sport forward.

If your Club is already a member of Irish Squash, then the great news is that this new service is offered as part of club affiliation.

Read on to see what is on offer and get in touch with us to on-board.

**Player**

**Events & Competition**

**Irish Squash**

**Club**

*If you wish to know more please use the link [Club Request Form](#) or call us on +353 (01) 625 11451*

**SportyHQ**

**IRISH SQUASH**

The “Single Platform” is now fully up and running as a service. The platform maintains a single repository of players with each player in the country operating against a standard rating. It now supports the operation of Irish Squash, the 4 Provinces, all sanctioned competitions and is used by 16 clubs.

We shall be further promoting the platform over the coming year, processing member affiliations (so each player will have their Irish Squash Id) using the platform and plan to upgrade the Irish and Provincial Websites (in tandem with the Strategic Plan) to provide a better opportunity for the community to engage and stay informed.

In the meantime if you want to get a better understanding of what is on offer please see the following;

- [Single Platform Brochure](#),
- view the videos [SportyHQ Channel](#)
- alert is of your interest filling in the [Expression of Interest in the Single Platform](#) form or
- simply contact me using the email below.



This is a great service and presents real value to the community and your club - so please get in touch.

**Thanks**

**Peter O'Halloran**

**Project Lead of Single Platform Service**

**Leinster Representative Irish Squash**

[leinsterrep@irishsquash.com](mailto:leinsterrep@irishsquash.com)