



NORTHERN IRELAND

SPORTS FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016



SPORT

FIRST

Specialist advice and insurance solutions that put your sport organisation first.

We're ideally placed to deliver local expertise across Northern Ireland and provide all the services required for professional and amateur sports clubs, leagues, associations and governing bodies.

Contact our Belfast office today.

02890 941635

belfast@bluefinsport.co.uk

**Bluefin
Sport**



Proud to support

Mary Peters Trust

ABOUT US & WHAT WE DO

The Northern Ireland Sports Forum is the recognised umbrella organisation for the voluntary sector of Sport in Northern Ireland.

The majority of all recognised sport and recreation in Northern Ireland has its own Governing or Representative body and it is for these organisations that the Forum works, in order to protect, promote and provide for their interests.

Our membership encompasses a huge range of sports and activities with member organisations ranging from elite sport to organised recreation. Through our membership and support services the NI Sports Forum benefits around 400,000 individuals involved in sport and recreation. It is the breadth of our members and representation that lies at the heart of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum and is what makes us unique.

The Northern Ireland Sports Forum is committed to the provision of services, benefits; and information for our members.



FOREWORD FROM CHAIRMAN

Since our last A.G.M. there have been a lot of significant changes in sport in Northern Ireland. Sport now falls under the Department for Communities with a new Minister, Paul Givan of the DUP. The new Minister is to be congratulated on his grant of £250,000 to Women in Sport, which was launched at Stormont recently and has already proved to be an advocate for sport and physical recreation in his short time in post and we wish the Minister well during this mandate. We also now have eleven greater councils and it cannot be underestimated the power, and with power comes the responsibilities that the new councils have in the development of Sport and Recreation in Northern Ireland. We endeavour to get greater engagement with councils over the next 12 months.

In August 2015, I met with the former Sport NI Chairperson Brian Henning to ensure that services would remain unaffected by resignations from the Board and also to offer any support that may be required during that period. NI Sports Forum continues to offer support and will engage further with Sport NI to ensure relationships between our members and Sport NI are strong.

We now have two modern stadiums with the Kingspan for Rugby and the National Stadium at Windsor Park for Football. It is disappointing to hear that the GAA stadium at Casement Park is still at the planning stage. Rugby in particular will be disappointed in the lack of development at Casement Park as its bid to host the Rugby World Cup in 2023 depends on the availability of a stadium with capacity of over 25,000 spectators. We wish Ulster GAA well as this develops. The Rates Debate continues to consume time for Governing Bodies and the NI Sports Forum. Evidence was given to the Finance Committee and the Forum held meetings with the previous Minister Mervyn Storey. The Forum continues to give advice and support to all of the Sports Matters Committees.

Congratulations to those athletes who brought success from both the Rio Olympics and Paralympics to Northern Ireland. Bethany Firth with three gold and one silver topped the list while Jason Smyth and Michael McKillop also won gold. Carl Frampton has brought great accomplishment to Northern Ireland in winning the World Super Bantamweight title and Featherweight title and becoming the first boxer from Northern Ireland to win two world titles at different weights. Michael O'Neill and the Northern Ireland football team are to be congratulated in reaching the knock-out stages of the

European Football Championship in France. The atmosphere that the spectators brought to the games and the positive feeling it created shows the true value of sport to Northern Ireland. Rory McIlroy continues to promote sport in Northern Ireland by winning the Irish Open and topping the FedEx Championship in USA while Jonathan Rea continues to dominate in the World Superbike Championship.

Thanks must also go to the board members, particularly those who chair sub-committees for their sterling work during the year. Angela Platt as Vice-Chair has been the driving force behind the Female Sports Forum, Richard Johnston gives us continuity as treasurer and keeps a close watch on our finances and which is highlighted in the rating of Robust during the recent Financial Systems Control Assessment. Gordon Reid chairs the 'Strategy and Constitution Committee' with the support of Ashley Hunter. Kelly McVeigh and Dr Damien Gallagher have contributed greatly to the marketing / promotion and economic strategies while leading various seminars. Rosemary McWhinney and Dr Richard Briggs also donate greatly to board meetings and seminars. Our Company Secretary Ken Nixon continues to do exceptional work for the Forum, particularly on the Sports Law Conference where Keith McGarry our legal expert also contributes greatly.

Bluefin Sport, our main sponsor continue to work closely with our governing bodies and we thank them for their support. Our Executive Manager Ciaran Kearney, continues to enjoy the backing of the board and he leads the organisation from the front. He has made us a more politically strong voice. Thanks must also go to our part-time staff Sharon Crossan who works closely with Ciaran and Richard.

Sadly we recently learnt of the death of George Glasgow, one of our founder members. George worked firstly as a PE teacher then as Secretary of the NICPR and eventually as Director of Sport NI. George was an outstanding athlete and administrator in his own right. George was a real gentleman and he will be sadly missed as a leader of development of sport in Northern Ireland.

Yours in Sport
Roy Millar MBE
Chairman NISF



OUR VISION

“To lead the development of a cohesive and informed Sport and Recreation Sector in Northern Ireland”.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

SPORTS GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

- To lead by example and provide support to members and work with Government and Sport NI in the area of Sports Governance and Leadership for the benefit of our own organisation, our members and for the sport and recreation sector as a whole.
- To promote the importance of Governance principles in building capacity and efficiency which are the building blocks towards improved performance.

REPRESENTATION

- To promote and safeguard the interests and wellbeing of Northern Ireland Sports Forum members through effective representation and campaigning on relevant issues affecting the sport and recreation sector.
- To assist government and Sport NI by providing a suitable independent vehicle for consultation with sporting bodies.

COMMUNICATION

- To use all our communication platforms both present and potential to effectively communicate with our members, for our members and in conjunction with our wider stakeholders in order to promote sport and recreation in Northern Ireland and to allow the efficient transfer of information between those with an interest in sport.



MCNEWS
.COM.AU

1
**WORLD SUPERBIKE
CHAMPION
2015**
Kawasaki



OUR VALUES

INDEPENDENCE

We will ensure the Sports Forum's total independence from political influence and will aim to act only in the best interests of our member organisations.

INTEGRITY/TRUST

We aim to act at all times with transparency and openness building mutual trust with our members, and key stakeholders.

EQUALITY

We are committed to promoting equitable, ethical, diverse and sustainable sport and when necessary challenge poor practice, and exclusion.

PROMOTION OF VOLUNTEERING

We are committed to the promotion of the voluntary sector among all our stakeholders and encouraging better recognition and support for all our sporting volunteers.

COMMITMENT TO OUR MEMBERS

As a member led organisation we recognise that first and foremost our responsibility and accountability is to our members.

MEMBER SATISFACTION

As a member focussed organisation we are committed to working on feedback from members in order to constantly review and improve our member services.

ENJOYMENT

We want to encourage a culture of enjoyment whereby those involved in our organisation enjoy engaging, collaborating and working with us.

SUSTAINABILITY

We wish to reduce reliance on public funding and increase other income to enable us to deliver further services to our members.

COMPANY INFORMATION

Roy Millar MBE (Chairman)
Angela Platt (Vice Chairperson)
Ken Nixon (Company Secretary)
Richard Johnson (Treasurer)
Rosemary McWhinney
Gordon Reid
Dr. Richard Briggs
Ashley Hunter
Dr. Damian Gallagher
Kelly McVeigh

Northern Ireland Sports Forum

House of Sport,
2A Upper Malone Road,
Belfast,
BT9 5LA

Email: info@nisf.net
Twitter: @NIsportsforum
Facebook: Northern Ireland Sports Forum
Tel: 028 903 83825

www.nisf.net

Registered Number NI 10440



EXECUTIVE MANAGERS REPORT

2015-2016 was an extremely busy 12 months for Northern Ireland Sports Forum with many activities taking place in our key areas of Governance and Leadership, Representation and Communication.

Sports Leadership and Governance

Our annual programme of conferences and events proved hugely popular over the past year with over 240 people attending our Sports Law Conference, Governance Code seminar, Public Affairs consultation, Pension Auto-Enrolment information session and also our first ever Female Sports Forum conference in March at Girdwood Community Hub. These events received great feedback and we aim to build on these going forward. We also supported the Sport NI Athlete Selection seminars delivered by Sport Resolutions UK.

Our status as a Registered Body with Access NI delivers a very important service to our members with double the amount of applications processed than in the previous year and more members availing of the service. In November 2015 our application with the Charity Commission was successful as we secured charitable status.

Our work with the Female Sports Forum has also been very significant in the past 18 months. This was highlighted by the production of the Active, Fit & Sporty Strategic Plan at the conference. Through events such as the Conference, the leadership programme with Belfast MET and the

consultation event held in June we are building momentum with new FSF social media pages to raise the profile of the Female Sports Forum. We have recently appointed two Ulster University graduate interns, Hannah McGeown and Chris Hood to support this work.

Our corporate partnership with Bluefin Sport developed throughout the past year with some of our member organisations such as Swim Ulster and Netball NI securing significant savings on their insurance premiums. We will be working hard over the next 12 months to further grow our partnerships which will provide great benefit to members.

Representation

We have also spent significant time increasing our advocacy work to increase engagement with the Department of Communities, our MLA's and local councils. We established the All Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation outlining events and priorities for moving forward. I have met with nine of eleven new councils to improve our relationships and to build understanding of the roles of sports advisory committees. We represented our members at a Finance Committee session at Stormont on the requirement for Rate's Relief for sports clubs, which was very well received. We also met with former Finance Minister Mervyn Storey to outline further need for support for our sector and responded to consultations such

as the Draft Programme for Government Framework.

You will see on page 15 the groups and committees that NI Sports Forum sits on to represent our members. Over the next year we will work to provide our members with greater information on the latest developments of what happens as a consequence of representing our members.

Communication

Our communication platforms have also significantly developed in the past year. Our redeveloped website has seen almost 5,000 unique visitors with almost 15,000 page views. We have developed a new Facebook page and our activity on Twitter has grown significantly. Our SportsWatch E-zine now goes out to 850 people with increased regularity of distribution. We are always keen to get a broad range of content and encourage our members and other organisations to get in touch to promote your activity.

We have also put an importance in meeting with our members at events to build our relationships and this is reflected within our membership figures and subscriptions at a very high level with new members in the past year including Sported, NI Civil Service Sports Association and Northern Ireland Weight Lifting. We are delighted that a recent survey showed member satisfaction has increased from 79% to 86%.

Over the next number of months we

will have a number of events and launches of various programmes and projects. We have been working hard to develop a sports specific framework for the Code of Good Governance. We will have increased Female Sports Forum activity and engagement with members through the development of an action plan in what will be a Year of Female Sport in 2017. We are currently in the process of developing a strategic plan for 2017-2021 as we look to strengthen our support for members, improve capacity of governing bodies and clubs and strengthen our relationships with stakeholders across the sector. We are always keen to ensure that we reflect the views of our members appropriately and provide the necessary support for all members to grow and would welcome the opportunity to engage further with members. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I would like to thank all of our Board Members for their dedication to the Sports Forum and their enthusiasm and passion in developing our organisation and driving sport and physical recreation in Northern Ireland. I would also like to thank our Finance Administrator Sharon Crossan for the very professional work that she undertakes for the Sports Forum.

Yours in Sport

Ciaran Kearney

Executive Manager

OVERVIEW OF THE YEARS WORK & ACTIVITIES

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Sports Law Conference

The NI Sports Forum in association with the Law Society of NI hosted its fourth Sports Law Conference at Law Society House. Another fantastic conference was held with over 80 people in attendance. The theme was Sports Injuries and the Law. We were delighted to have former Ireland and Ulster Rugby star Paddy Wallace join us to talk about his career and injury battles and David Christmas of our partners Bluefin to discuss risks and liabilities from an insurance perspective.

Seminars

Seminars for the past year included a Governance Code seminar, a Public Affairs Consultation and support for the Sport NI Athlete Selection seminar, which was delivered by our friends at Sport Resolutions UK. We also coordinated a Pension Auto-Enrolment session which was delivered by Kerr Henderson.

Governance Code

NISF remain an active member of the Developing Governance Group which published the revised Code of Good Governance. We continue our work on the development of the sports specific framework for this code.

Access NI

We had a very large growth in the amount of Access NI applications come through our office, with an increase of ninety applications to a high of 140 applications from almost 20 member organisations.

Charity Commission

NI Sports Forum gained charitable status in November 2015 following a lengthy process which enabled us to provide advice to our members on their own application processes.

Sport Matters

NI Sports Forum represent our members of the Sports Matters Ministerial Monitoring Group as well as the Implementation Groups on Places, Participation and Performance. We thank our Secretary Ken Nixon for his dedication to the Ministerial Monitoring Group. Ken has now stepped down as our representative on this group and will be replaced by the Chair of our Public Affairs Subcommittee Kelly McVeigh.

All Party Group

Our All Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation is now in to a new political mandate and will continue to be chaired by Mike Nesbitt with other officers including Chris Lyttle, Justin McNulty and Caoimhe Archibald. We were delighted to have such a big turnout of members at our second meeting which showcased the need for sport to greater engage with government and programme for government consultation processes.

Communication

Website, SportsWatch and Social Media
Over the last year we have made significant improvements to our communication outlets. Our website www.nisf.net has had an increased amount of content with information on latest news, jobs, funding opportunities and consultations. The website also reached 15,000 views within the year. Our twitter page @NISportsForum now has over 1,570 followers and a newly developed Facebook page has over 400 likes.

In 2015 our SportsWatch ezine was revamped into a more user friendly and cleaner layout and, where possible, has been sent out on a weekly basis. We always welcome more content from our members and partners.

Representation

Our staff and board members represent our members on many groups and committees that you can see highlighted from page 15 of this report. If you would like to find out more information about our role on these groups please get in touch.

New Members

New members have included Sported, NI Civil Service Sports Association and Northern Ireland Weight Lifting. We are now in a position to work towards a more active database of members and hope that through our new Strategic Plan we can pledge to create greater services for our members and also work to showcase why it is beneficial to become a member of the NI Sports Forum.

Female Sports Forum

A very busy year for the Female Sports Forum as they have now been incorporated as a subcommittee of NISF. There has been lots of activity and partnership opportunities with Sport NI, Department for Communities and a wide range of various member organisations.

Advocacy

NISF has worked hard to increase our political engagement. We now believe that our elected officials have a greater understanding of the role of NISF as we have engaged with many political party annual conferences, through attendance at events and through appearing in front of the Finance Committee to discuss rates relief.

Funding

A huge thank you to all our members for their continued support of the forum by returning your subscription fees. Your contributions are vital in allowing us to continue our work and in return provide better services and represent you better.

Sport NI continue their crucial and valued support of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum. We thank our partners Sports Law NI (www.sportslawni.com); Bluefin Sport (www.bluefinsport.co.uk) and Traveleads (www.traveleads.co.uk)



SPORTS FORUM'S PARTNERS

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

Sport NI is the leading public body for the development of sport in Northern Ireland. Their vision is 'a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport which contributes to a healthy, fair and prosperous society'.

www.sportni.net

SPORTS LAW NI

Sports Law NI is Northern Ireland's first specialist sports law company led by Keith McGarry.

www.sportslawni.com

SPORTS RESOLUTIONS UK

Their aim is to see a sporting community in the UK which is free from conflict, unresolved disputes and litigation allowing those involved to be better placed to enjoy fully the considerable benefits of sport.

www.sportsresolutions.co.uk

MARY PETERS TRUST

Giving Ulster's Youth a Sporting Chance through financial grants to our elite athletes.

www.marypeterstrust.org

CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH SPORT

Represents, supports and promotes the interests of non-governmental sports and recreation across the UK.

BELFAST TELEGRAPH SPORTS AWARDS

Identifying sports achievement and recognising those individuals, teams and organisations whose contribution to sport in Ulster is outstanding.

FEMALE SPORTS FORUM

The Female Sports Forum is a collaboration of governing bodies aiming to increase opportunities for women and girls to participate in sport, as well as raising the profile of women and girls sport within the media in Northern Ireland.

BLUEFIN SPORT

Bluefin Sport is a specialist team at Bluefin Insurance Services offering insurance solutions and risk management advice to professional and amateur sports clubs, leagues, associations, governing bodies and individual sports professionals and agents.

www.bluefinsport.co.uk

TRAVELEADS

We have over 30 years' experience of working at the highest levels in professional and representative sport and have toured the world with our sporting clients.

www.traveleads.co.uk

DEVELOPING GOOD GOVERNANCE GROUP

Bringing together a range of voluntary organisations to develop and promote best practise Governance principles.

www.diycommitteeguide.org

REPRESENTATION

Northern Ireland Sports Forum represent our members on a number of groups and committees. We act as the voice of sport and recreation. Here are some of the groups and committees.

- Secretariat to All Party Group on Sport & Physical Recreation at Stormont
- Sport Matters Ministerial Monitoring Group
- Sport Matters Implementation Groups - Places, Participation & Performance
- Developing Governance Group
- Active Living: No Limits Project Board
- Sport for Change Network
- NI Commonwealth Games Council
- Mary Peters Trust
- Confederation of British Sport & Home Countries Sports Associations
- Sport Resolutions UK
- Female Sports Forum
- Governance Research Project Advisory Group
- Coca-Cola Thank You Fund
- Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards
- Sport NI Coaching Awards
- Belfast City Council Sports Awards



*Anya O'Connor accepts the
W.J. Paddy Patterson Award from NISF
Chairperson Roy Millar on behalf of her
grandfather Danny O'Connor*



THE W.J. PADDY PATTERSON O.B.E AWARD

‘For individuals who are either currently serving Ulster sport with great distinction or have done so in the past’.

‘Paddy’ was a great public servant giving service throughout his lifetime to the education and sport sectors and in particular his beloved Rugby Football.

A mathematician at Grosvenor High School, founder of Grosvenor post primary club and also founder of the Ulster Referee’s Society and driving the IRFU to start its Charitable Trust.

Paddy was a founder member of the N.I.C.P.R which is now the Northern Ireland Sports Forum and sat on the Board for many years including a decade as Chairman from 1978-1988 and inaugurated the first NICCPR Service to Sports Award.

The recipient of the 2015 Paddy Patterson O.B.E award is Danny O’Connor, a former Head of PE at several schools and colleges. Danny made a huge contribution to the Belfast City Marathon, the Belfast Hills Partnership, Belfast Play Forum and the Irish Basketball Association.

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

1988	D Simon
1989	H Cavan
1990	RJ McColgan
1991	DF Coyne
1992	M Kyle
1993	W Bingham
1994	JC Lapsley
1995	Sir E Bell
1996	S Milar
1997	J McKeever
1998	J McCloy
1999	G Glasgow
2000	K Reid
2001	D Rose
2002	M Brodie
2003	A Strong
2004	T Welsh & P Welsh
2005	M Whyte
2006	B Stewart & D McColgan
2007	R Torrens
2008	Dame M Peters
2009	B Platt
2010	B Colhoun
2011	D Murphy
2012	K Nixon
2013	J Monaghan
2014	D Miskelly
2015	D O’Connor

STRATEGIC PLANNING & CONSTITUTION SUB COMMITTEE

– CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

The committee has had a quiet year, with a recent flurry of activity, as we prepare a new Strategic Plan and consider amendments to our constitutional documents.

Memorandum & Articles of Association

These were updated in 2015 to reflect current practice and our charitable purposes and public benefit. As a result, our registration with the Charities Commission was completed.

We have considered a number of other alterations to the Memorandum & Articles, primarily to ensure that the requirements are achievable and are in line with current best practice. This process is ongoing and will not be completed before October 2016. It is hoped, however, to call an EGM for this purpose during the coming months. Obvious items for alteration are the board terms of office and election arrangements. We are satisfied that the Female Sports Forum now becomes part of NI Sports Forum as a standing sub-committee.

Strategic Plan & Funding Agreement

The regular business of the Sub Committee has been the monitoring of delivery against our Strategic Plan for 2013-2017. Monitoring has involved reporting to the Board generally quarterly, with a RAG rating against KPIs. We are now well advanced with our new

Strategic Plan for 2017-2021, and the responses to a recent survey of members and their organisations have been very useful in setting priorities, as well as giving a level of feedback.

As the funding agreement with Sport NI runs to March 2017, and we are still somewhat reliant on external funding, we have had some discussion about possible funding. We have been encouraged to follow the Sporting Clubs and Sporting Winners application route, and this has created a mountain of work for the Executive Manager and others. This highlights the need for us to make further progress towards independence and sustainability.

Conclusion

I thank Ciaran Kearney along with Richard Briggs, Ken Nixon, Ashley Hunter and Angela Platt for their sub-committee work during the year. We also thank Keith McGarry of Conn & Fenton Solicitors for his advice on the Memorandum and Articles.

Gordon Reid



PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUB COMMITTEE

– CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

The political landscape of Northern Ireland has seen much change in the last 12 months, which has impacted on the work and approach of the Public Affairs Sub-Committee as well as the NI Sports Forum as a whole.

The streamlining of Northern Ireland Executive Departments from 12 to nine provided yet more challenges for the sub-committee. The Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure was amalgamated into the new Department for Communities, but with a considerably wider area of policy responsibility. The challenge here is to ensure sport is considered a priority in what is a wide ranging department with competing demands and policies.

The changes in local government, stemming from the reduction of local councils from 26 to 11 in April 2015, continue to provide challenges for political engagement and influence. The imperative is on engaging and working with local councils and having a much more 'collaborative' approach than before.

The sub-committee has worked hard to raise awareness of the impact lobbying and engagement can have for our member organisations to advance their individual needs and priorities as well as for the Forum as a whole.

Consultation with members

In September 2015 the sub-committee held a consultation event with members to discuss and identify key priorities for our manifesto. The event was aimed at giving members the opportunity to voice their concerns and priorities for the year ahead. It also provided the forum with an opportunity to hear member's views on how we as an organisation can better represent their needs to stakeholders. The event provided members with an insight into stakeholder engagement, PR and media and how it can have a positive impact for their organisations. Going forward into 2017 we will roll

out more events like this, which will provide members with the tools to take their own organisations forward.

Political engagement

The Forum has undertaken political and stakeholder engagement in 2016 aimed at raising awareness of the Forum, sport in Northern Ireland and its overall impact in society. This engagement has been across all parties in Northern Ireland and has largely been positive. We attended the political party conferences and raised awareness through our #isupportsport campaign. Ciaran Kearney has been a catalyst in developing and maintaining these stakeholder relationships.

At the end of June the All Party Group on Sport & Physical Recreation reconvened and discussed ways to influence the sector going forward. A number of events and priorities have been outlined by our members and this will shape our agenda going forward.

The other business of the sub-committee has been to monitor local and regional government and to identify opportunities for the Forum to engage and influence. The Forum has engaged with government on the recent programme for government and the rates relief for amateur sports clubs (including responding to the consultation).

Conclusion

We hope to roll out a number of these seminars in the year 2017-18 with input from members on their needs. Thank you to all members of the sub-committee for their ongoing support and advice: Ken Nixon, Ashley Hunter, Angela Platt and Damian Gallagher. A special thanks to Ciaran Kearney who has undertaken a large amount of the workload for this committee also.

Kelly McVeigh



MEET THE BOARD //

Chairman: Roy Millar MBE

Roy has been a long standing member of the board of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum and was the former Vice Chairman. He is the former Technical Director of the IFA (1975-2009) where he was in charge of the U-17, U-19 and U-21 International sides and coach education & player development. Roy currently works as a FIFA instructor and is the former Chairman of Cliftonville Cricket Club, member of the board of the Confederation of British Sport and a member of the Participation Sport Matters Implementation Group.

Vice Chairperson: Angela Platt

Angela joined the board of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum in 2011. Angela is currently the Executive Manager of the Ulster Hockey Union. Prior to her current role she worked in Local Government for seven years as Sports Development Officer with Carrickfergus Borough Council (2002-2004) and Sports Development Officer and Child Protection Officer for Castlereagh Borough Council (2004-2009). As an athlete Angela has achieved significant international success as a Senior International Hockey player for Ireland from 2000 – 2006 gaining 75 international caps and has Senior International Honours in Women's Football (2006-2008).

Treasurer: Richard Johnson

Richard joined the Board in 2008 and took on the role of Treasurer in 2010. Richard who currently serves on the Board of nine Northern Ireland based companies is the Finance Director of Johnson's Coffee and Barry's Amusements. Richard has been involved with cricket in Ireland for many years and is a former President of Cricket Ireland and currently sits on its Finance Committee. He was Tournament Director/Organiser of all major cricket tournaments held in the Greater Belfast area between 2002 and 2013. Richard is also the NCU Director of Finance as well as being

NCU Vice-President. He umpires senior league cricket in the NCU area during the summer months and is Chair of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum Finance Committee.

Honorary Secretary: Ken Nixon

Ken Nixon is a Lawyer and a past Chairman of the NISF. His main sport is Badminton with approximately 40 years of voluntary service to badminton. Ken is a past President and Chairman of Ulster Badminton as well as a member of the Board of Badminton Ireland and GB Badminton. He is a past Chairman of the Confederation of British Sport; a founding Director of Sports Resolutions UK; a Board member of the NI Commonwealth Games Council; Chairman of Holywood CC and a board member of the Mary Peters Trust. Ken recently stood down as our representative on Sports Matters Ministerial Monitoring Group which is chaired by the Sports Minister.

Gordon Reid

Gordon became involved in the Forum in 2000. He is involved in rowing as a sculler, coach, umpire, club captain, ex Ulster Branch Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, and ex Rowing Ireland Secretary. He also has an interest in Sailing, and is a Dinghy Instructor and competes at international events. He is employed by Rowing Ireland as Club and Coach Development Officer for NI, and is an Architect by profession. On the Forum he chairs the Strategic Planning sub-committee, and takes an interest in governance, representation, and communications

Dr Richard Briggs

Dr Richard Briggs: Richard has a long standing involvement in Judo and is a former International player. He is an experienced sports administrator, a past NI Judo Federation Chair and is still coaching judo. Richard is currently President of the NI Judo Federation, a board member of the NI Commonwealth Games Council and Vice



President of the Commonwealth Judo Association. He is active in the Coleraine area as a member of the Coleraine Sports Council and their Grants Committee. A scientist by profession who has formally worked for DARD/AFBI/QUB and is Treasurer for the NI Branch of the Royal Society of Biology.

Ashley Hunter

Ashley joined the board of the NI Sports Forum in 2014. Ashley is currently the Development Manager for The Canoe Association of Northern Ireland. Prior to his current role he worked in the voluntary sector with Ocean Youth Trust Ireland as Youth Development Coordinator / Operations Manager (2003-2007) and with The Share Centre as a Senior Instructor / Outdoor instructor training course co-ordinator (1998-2003). Ashley enjoys a wide range of sports but mainly outdoor adventure sports.

Kelly McVeigh

Kelly joined the NI Sports Forum Board in March 2015. She is a Senior Account Manager with Weber Shandwick Northern Ireland, a global communications firm. Specialising in Public Affairs, Strategic Communications and Public Relations, she has been with the organisation for two years. Prior to this, Kelly worked with a boutique Public Affairs agency, also based in Belfast. She has represented clients in a wide range of sectors, including sport; retail; planning and local government. She also has experience working in an in house communications role with NIAMH (Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health).

Kelly is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) and a member of the Northern Ireland Government Affairs Group (NIGAG) and Association of Professional Political Consultants.

Kelly spent a number of years playing camogie for her local GAA club, An Ríocht and still takes a keen interest and support in the club.

Dr. Damian Gallagher

Dr Damian Gallagher joined the Board in March 2015. He is the MSc/PgDip Marketing Course Director in the Department of Marketing, Entrepreneurship and Strategy at Ulster University. He is the current External Examiner at the University of Portsmouth Business School and the University of the West of England (Bristol). In 2013-14 he was the Fulbright Northern Ireland Public Affairs Scholar based at the University of South Carolina's Department of Sport and Entertainment Management where his research explored the marketing management and strategic development of Minor league sports in the US. He is the current Chair of the Academy of Marketing Sports & Events Marketing Special Interest Group - the leading UK body for marketing researchers, educators and professionals.

Rosemary McWhinney

Rosemary is a long serving member of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum board. She is a teacher by profession and taught in England before returning to Northern Ireland. She was a member of Pegasus Hockey Club and later moved to Victorians where she is a Life Vice President. Through her teaching at Victoria College and Methodist College she also worked at promoting women's sport and was PR Officer for the Ulster Women's Hockey Council, Honorary Secretary including PR and Marketing for Northern Ireland Netball and PR Officer for Ulster and Ireland Women's Cricket Union. She represented the NISF on the Mary Peters Selection Committee and the Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards Selection Committee.

FEMALE SPORTS FORUM

– CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

The Female Sports Forum has made great progress during the past year through further engagement with its key partnerships with the NI Sports Forum, Sport Northern Ireland and Ulster University.

A clear strategy titled **“Active, Fit and Sporty”** has now been agreed, which focuses on achieving the vision for **“every woman and girl across Northern Ireland to feel that participating in sport and being physically active is a vital part of their everyday life”**.

The Strategy outlines four key aims that will shape the future work of the Forum –

- Media – increasing the visibility of female success
- Leadership – driving cultural change to involve more females in leadership roles
- Roles Models – Inspiring Role Models can have a significant impact on participation
- Research & Evaluation – providing an evidence base to support extending the reach of sport and physical activity.

Through these aims the Forum wants to provide opportunities for every woman and girl to be **“Active, Fit and Sporty”**

The Strategy was launched during the Forum’s successful Women and Girls insight conference held in March, which was extremely well attended and engaged a wide range of organisations in supporting the work of the Forum. This was followed by a consultation event with key stakeholders in June which has enhanced partnerships and delivery opportunities for an extensive range of programmes supporting the aims of the Strategy.

The Forum also secured additional support through our partners Ulster University and Sport Northern Ireland to employ staff resources to help deliver its aims and objectives. We welcomed Hannah McGeown as our Social Media and Marketing Intern which focuses on increasing the exposure that female sports get in Northern Ireland. We also welcomed

Chris Hood as our Project Officer Intern who aims to assist us in creating more sporting opportunities for women and girls to be Active, Fit and Sporty. Both have been excellent additions and will assist us in developing the future work of the Forum. We also look forward to adding to the staff team over the coming months. Overall it has been a busy and successful year and we will continue to work hard to deliver success and expand the work of the Forum further. We look forward to engaging with our members and partners to achieve our aims and objectives in the years ahead.

Angela Platt

Finance Sub Committee Chairpersons Report

The Committee meets two or three times a year to review projections for the following year/years, amend current year budgets and ultimately recommend approval of the Financial Statements to the Board.

In addition, the committee regularly reviews the Membership list as regards slow payers and potential deletions (new members are approved by the Board). In 2014 we were delighted to secure corporate partnership agreements with Bluefin Sport and Traveleads to provide benefits to our members in the areas of insurance and travel. The Finance committee will continue to look at ways for providing greater incentives to our members through partnership arrangements.

The committee monitors salary scales as well as liaising with the NI Sports Forum payroll and pension providers regarding possible/actual legislation changes. I'd like to thank Executive Manager Ciaran Kearney and Finance Administrator Sharon Crossan for their support throughout the last year.

Richard Johnson
Treasurer

MEMBERS

Representative Members

Association of Irish Indoor Bowls
Association of NI Car Clubs
Athletics NI
Basketball NI
British Horse Society
British Gymnastics
Canoe Association of NI
Cricket Ireland
Cycling Ulster
Gymnastics Ireland
Golfing Union of Ireland (Ulster Branch)
Horse Sport Ireland
Irish Amateur Boxing Association (Ulster Council)
Irish Bowling Association
Irish Football Association
Irish Ladies Golf Union (Northern District)
Irish Rugby Football Union (Ulster Branch)
Irish Underwater Council
Irish Women's Indoor Bowling Association
Motorcycle Racing Association
Motorcycle Union of Ireland (Ulster Centre) Ltd
Mountaineering Council of Ireland
Netball NI
NI Association of Aeromodellers
NI Cross Community Angling
NI Federation of Shooting Sports
NI Fencing Ltd
NI Fly Fishing Association
NI Jiu-Jitsu Association
NI Judo Federation
NI Wrestling Association
NI Orienteering Association
NI Pool Association
NI Smallbore Shooting Union
NI Ten Pin Bowling Federation
NI Volleyball Association
NI Weightlifting
NI Women's Football Association
Northern Cricket Union
Northern West of Ireland Cricket Union
Racquetball Association of Ireland (Ulster Council)
Royal Yachting Association of NI
Rowing Ireland Ulster Branch
Swim Ulster
Table Tennis Ulster
Taekwondo Association of Northern Ireland
Triathlon Ireland
Ulster Angling Federation Ltd
Ulster Badminton

Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland
Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting Association
Ulster Camogie Council
Ulster Course Fishing Federation
Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs
Ulster GAA
Ulster Hang Gliding & Paragliding Club
Ulster Hockey Union
Ulster Provincial Council of Irish Federation of Sea Anglers
Ulster Squash
Yoga Fellowship NI

Associate Members

2 & 4 Wheels
Ards Borough Sports Development Committee
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Council
Boys Brigade NI District
CIYMS
Disability Sports NI
HSE Community Games
NI Boy's Football Association
NI Commonwealth Games Council
NI Civil Service Sports Association
NI Scout Association
Macmillan Cancer Support
Outdoor Recreation NI
Skills Active
Sported
Sport Lisburn
St John's Ambulance Brigade NI
The Royal Lifesaving Society
University Of Ulster Sports Union
Ulster Rifle Association

Individual Members

Ian Bamford
Sheila Barrett
Maeve Bell OBE
Brian Hanna CBE
Maeve Kyle OBE
Jos Lapsley
Joan McCloy OBE
Jim McKeever
Dr Danny Murphy
Sean O'Neill
Dame Mary Peters
Stuart Pollock
Dawson Stelfox MBE
Billy Stewart MBE
Tommy Welsh MBE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2015

	2016 £	2015 £
Current Assets		
Debtors	11,138	18,410
Cash at Bank	27,892	13,645
	39,030	32,055
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors and accruals	3,412	942
	35,618	31,113
Capital Fund		
Opening Balance	31,113	27,497
Surplus for the year	4,505	3,166
	35,618	31,113



INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2015

	2016 £	2015 £
Income		
Sport Northern Ireland Membership Income	47,513	40,000
Other income	5,582	5,362
	7,434	4,253
Bank Interest	71	28
Total Income	60,600	49,643
Expenditure		
Administration Expenses	4,186	4,664
Wages	34,633	31,998
Printing and Stationery	1,772	2,720
Accountancy Fees and Sundries	480	1,005
Course Fess	14,628	5,731
Legal and Professional Fees	396	359
Total Expenditure	56,095	46,477
Surplus for the Year	4,505	3,166





For all your sporting needs contact **KEITH McGARRY** who provides specialist advice in the following areas;

- **Governance of Sport**
- **Disciplinary hearings for athletes**
- **Individual or Corporate Representation**
- **Sports Injuries**
- **Merchandising Contracts**
- **Athlete Endorsement Contracts**

TEL: (028) 9267 2760

Email: k.mcgarry@lisburnsolicitors.com

Sports Law NI is a trading name of Conn & Fenton Solicitors
of 39 Bow Street, Lisburn, Co antrim BT28 1BJ