

**NI** SPORTS  
FORUM



ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013





## ABOUT US



The Northern Ireland Sports Forum was established in 1955 and is the recognised umbrella organisation for the voluntary sector of Sport in Northern Ireland.

The majority of all recognised sport and recreation in the province 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 350,000 individuals involved in sport and recreation in the Province. It is the breadth of our membership and representation that lies at the heart of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum and is what makes us unique.



## FOREWORD FROM CHAIRMAN

It has been a fantastic sporting year for Northern Ireland. The World Police and Fire Games was a huge success thanks largely to the fantastic work of our Governing Bodies of Sport. The feedback from competitors and visitors alike was second to none and everyone involved from event organisers to volunteers should be very proud of themselves.

We have also achieved success in the international sporting arena with Martyn Irvine cementing himself as one of the stars of track cycling collecting World titles and plenty of silverware. Northern Ireland's boxing fraternity are going from strength to strength and of course we need to congratulate AP McCoy who recorded his 4000th winner in jump racing, creating records that will probably never be broken.

Closer to home work continues to progress with 'Sport Matters' the 10 Year Strategy for Sport in Northern Ireland! One of the key considerations of the Sport Matters Monitoring and Implementation groups, on which the Sports Forum plays a key role, is to address the issue of sports facilities in NI. Much progress has been made to date, but more still needs to be done to address our lack of Elite facilities in NI.

One of the key initiatives developed by Sport NI is the 'Your School Your Club' initiative which provides guidance on achieving community use of school sports facilities. It highlights various approaches to community use of sports facilities; the core principals of

community use; a vision for community use and a number of examples of best practice from across Northern Ireland. This will officially be launched very soon and we have great hopes that this will be a great benefit to the sporting community.

The Northern Ireland Sports Forum has this year produced a new Strategic Plan which outlines our vision 'To lead the development of a cohesive and informed Sport and Recreation sector in Northern Ireland'. The plan outlines some ambitious targets but with the focussed work of our staff and volunteers along with the support of our members we are confident we can achieve them.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our outgoing Company Secretary Doreen Miskelly who has served on the board of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum for many years. Doreen is the perfect example of the incredible sporting volunteers we have in Northern Ireland, she has given her time and considerable energy to a number of sports over the years including Sailing and Bowls and has been a fantastic ambassador for the Northern Ireland Sports Forum.

I would also like to thank our Executive Manager, Katie and our serving board members for their continued enthusiasm and commitment to the work of the Forum.

**Roy Millar, MBE**  
Chairman, Northern Ireland Sports Forum



## OUR VISION

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

## OUR STRATEGIC AIMS

### 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.



# 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.



## EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT



Let me start by saying thank you to all our members for your continued support of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum. It's been another busy year for us and something of a transition year where we are beginning to put in place the building blocks required to achieve our ambitious targets as set out in our Strategic Plan 2013-2017.

As ever, our number one priority is our members and we aim to meet your needs by focussing on three core areas.

**Governance and Leadership:** The sports sector has evolved so much over the last 10 years and with greater pressure on public spending it is essential the sector can prove it is fit for purpose, effective and offers value for money. We want to continue working with Governing Bodies to support the staff and volunteers to ensure that the sector continues to thrive. Last year we delivered a number of Governance specific workshops and seminars to help members continue to build capacity. For example we worked with our partners Sports Resolutions UK to continue to keep you informed of the latest best practise in the area of dispute resolution. We also offered our Chairs a Forum to share best practise and learn from others and we will continue to identify and address issues and areas of concerns for our members.

**Representation:** This is a key focus for the Northern Ireland Sports Forum moving forward. It is essential that sport can have an independent voice to promote the sector, highlight the importance of continued funding in sport and demonstrate and highlight all of the incredible work that goes on. This year we have been working towards setting up an All Party Group on Sport, this will allow us a consistent platform and direct contact with our MLAs and policy makers. We are hopeful that this will be up and running in the New Year.

**Communication:** As ever we want to continue to keep you fully informed on what's happening in the sports sector. You may have seen our new look SportsWatch, and we are continuing to grow our presence in Social Media. We are always interested in your feedback and what you are keen to hear about.

Along with the above we will continue to work for the best interests of our members and for our members. Our door is always open and you can contact me to discuss any issues, areas of concerns or improvements you want to make in your own sport.

Here's to an even more successful year next year.

Yours in Sport,

**Katie Nixon**  
Executive Manager.

# OVERVIEW OF THE YEARS WORK AND ACTIVITIES:

## Sports Leadership and Governance:

- **Sport and the Law Conference:**  
In our first annual conference developed by the Forum and the Law Society NI we gave legal professionals working with sport an insight into the ever changing legal challenge facing our member bodies. A better informed legal profession ensures better advice for the sports sector.
- **Chairs Forum:**  
Our Chairs Forum continues to look at issues specifically related to the challenging role of a Governing Body Chair, providing access to best practise, shared experience and continued learning.
- **Child Protection and Safeguarding Workshop:**  
An ever present and exceptionally important issue for our members. We continue to keep you informed of all the latest developments relating to Safeguarding in order to ensure your sport is protected as well as your participants.
- **Continued one to one support for members providing guidance on best practise and policy development.**

## Representation:

We have been as busy as ever this year looking at issues affecting our members and working with partners and government to ensure that sports views are fully represented.

### **Sport Matters:**

The Forum is actively represented at all levels of delivery for the Sport Matters

Strategy. We are represented by our board members on all three Implementation Groups; Places, Performance and Participation and sit on the overarching cross departmental Monitoring Group chaired by the Sports Minister. Our role is to ensure that GBs and their essential role in the delivery of this Strategy is fully recognised and to keep you informed on the progress of the Strategy. We provide an essential link between the Strategic work of these groups and the delivery partners on the ground.

### **Working with Government & Consultation Responses;**

We are often asked to respond to consultations that can impact the sports sector both in NI and the UK. For example most recently we responded to the HMRC's consultation on Community Amateur Sports Clubs.

DCAL asked us to deliver a Research paper on Rates Relief for Amateur Sports Clubs in NI in which we were able to outline the considerable financial burdens currently facing our sports club sector.

### **Lobbying**

We are continuing our campaign to extend the Provision of 100% Rates Relief to Sports Clubs in NI. We are currently supporting the launch of a consultation on a Private Members Bill to this effect and would encourage all our members to respond in due course.

## Communication:

### **Website & SportsWatch:**

The Forum continues to lead the way by providing our members and wider stakeholders with all the latest developments/initiatives and news affecting sport in NI. We are also keen to widen our subscribers net, so if you find a benefit in receiving the Ezine tell a colleague and we can get them signed up if they email [info@nisf.net](mailto:info@nisf.net).

### **Social Media:**

As part of our continued effort to raise our profile and to become as accessible as possible to as wide a range of sporting stakeholders as possible, we promote the NI Sports Forum through social media platforms. To connect with us on Twitter just search for @Nisportsforum. You can also connect with us on Facebook and LinkedIn.

## 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 to help us continue our work.

Sport NI continue their crucial and valued support of the NI Sports Forum.

A special thank you also to our partner organisations who provide invaluable support to the Forum for the benefit of our members. Our existing partners include, Sports Law NI ([www.sportslawni.com](http://www.sportslawni.com)); Traveleads, the leading sports travel company in the UK ([www.traveleads.co.uk](http://www.traveleads.co.uk)) and Perkins Slade, sports specialist insurance provider ([www.perkins-slade.com](http://www.perkins-slade.com)).





# SPORTS FORUM'S PARTNERS



## Sport Northern Ireland

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

[www.sportni.net](http://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](http://www.sportslawni.com)

## Sport and Recreation Alliance

The Sport and Recreation Alliance is the national alliances of governing and representative bodies of sport and recreation.

[www.sportandrecreation.org.uk](http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk)

## 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](http://www.sportsresolutions.co.uk)

## Mary Peters Trust

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

[www.marypeterstrust.org](http://www.marypeterstrust.org)

## Confederation of British Sport

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

## BT Sports Awards

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

## King George VI Youth Council

Investing in youth; enabling their interest to grow and providing financial assistance to help young people develop their life skills.

## Developing Good Governance Group

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

[www.diycommitteeguide.org](http://www.diycommitteeguide.org)



# COMPANY INFORMATION



## Executive Committee

Mr R Millar – Chairman  
Mr G Reid – Vice Chairman  
Mr R Johnson – Honorary Treasurer  
Mrs D Miskelly  
Dr R Briggs  
Mrs R McWhinney  
Mr K Strong  
Mr K Nixon  
Mr K Armstrong  
Ms A Platt

## Company Secretary

Mrs D Miskelly

Registered Number: NI 10440

## Contact:

If you would like any information about our work, our membership or how we can help you, please get in touch.

**Website:** [www.nisf.net](http://www.nisf.net)

**Email:** [info@nisf.net](mailto:info@nisf.net)

**Twitter:** @Nisportsforum

**Tel:** 028 90383825

**Address:** Northern Ireland Sports Forum  
House of Sport, Upper Malone Road, Belfast, BT95LA.

# MEET THE BOARD



Picture L-R: Gordon Reid; Richard Briggs; Ken Strong; Angela Platt; Ken Nixon; Doreen Miskelly; Roy Millar; Katie Nixon (Executive Manager); Richard Johnson; Ken Armstrong. Missing for photo Rosemary McWhinney

## 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 Chairman - 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.

## Treasurer - Richard Johnson

Richard joined the Board in 2008 and took on the role of Treasurer in 2010. Richard is the Finance Director at Johnson's Coffee and an experienced accountant. Richard has been involved with cricket in Ireland for many years and is a former President of Cricket Ireland and currently sits on the Cricket Ireland Finance Committee. He is an experienced referee and has been tournament referee at all major cricket tournaments held in the greater Belfast area since 2002 including this year's World Police and Fire Games. Richard is also the Assistant Director of Finance and Policy for the NCU as well as the Chair of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum Finance sub-committee and a Director of Barry's Amusements.

## 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).

## 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. He is a past President and current Chairman of Ulster Badminton as well as a member of the Board of Badminton Ireland. 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. He is also the NISF representative on the Sport Matters Monitoring Group.

## Dr Richard Briggs

Richard has a long standing and significant involvement in Judo. He is the current President of the NI Judo Federation and a board member of the Commonwealth Games Council. Richard is an experienced coach and sports administrator and a former NI and Irish International Judo player. He is currently the Vice President of the Commonwealth Judo Association. Richard is a scientist by profession and has formally worked for DARD/AFBI/QUB and has a BSc (Hons) and PHD in Zoology. He is a Fellow of the Biology Society and a Fellow of the Linnean Society.

## Ken Strong

Ken has been a Board member since 2003 and is the International Director and Company Secretary of the Irish Table Tennis Association as well as being a former Chairman. He has been involved in the sport for more than 40 years and has

held the positions of President, Chairman and Secretary of the ITTA's Ulster Branch. Ken is a hugely experienced coach having coached Irish Junior, and Senior teams at World and European Championships. Ken has also gained Senior County and Interprovincial playing honours. Ken is a member of the Mary Peters Trust Selection Committee as well as a founder member of Omagh Sports Forum of which he is a former Chairman. In his professional life Ken was a senior civil servant in the NI Civil Service prior to early retirement in 2003.

## Ken Armstrong

Ken Armstrong joined the Board in 2011 as a representative of the Association of Irish Indoor Bowls. He is the current President of the AIIB and holds the position of Secretary of Lisnagarvey Bowling Club and is also the Secretary of Belfast Indoor Bowls Club at Shaws Bridge. Ken is also a member of the Caseltreagh Sports Development Association. Ken is a former teacher and during his 34 year career taught at BRA and Friends School.

## Rosemary McWhinney

Rosemary is a long serving member of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum board. She is a teacher by profession and having initially taught in England she worked in Victoria College and is currently at Methodist College. Having played for Pegasus and Victorians hockey clubs she was recently included as one of Victorians Life Vice Presidents. Through teaching her interest in promoting women's sport led to administration experience in a number and she has held positions, on the Northern Ireland Netball council, Ulster Women's Hockey council and Ulster and Ireland Women's cricket and the Mary Peters Selection Committee. Rosemary has also contributed in the press on women's netball, hockey and women's cricket.

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Sport Northern Ireland	41,316	37,768
Membership Income	3,410	3,547
Sponsorship Income	4,524	
Bank Interest	17	12
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>49,267</b>	41,327
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administration expenses	2,408	1,475
Wages	34,245	32,937
Printing and stationery	3,635	922
Accountancy fees and sundries	750	1,256
Course Fees	797	1,683
Website	840	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>42,675</b>	38,273
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>	<b>6,592</b>	3,054

# BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	5,231	5,924
Cash at Bank	18,525	11,240
	<b>23,756</b>	17,164
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Sundry creditors and accruals	480	480
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>23,276</b>	16,684
<b>Capital Fund</b>		
Opening balance	16,684	13,630
Surplus for the year	6,592	3,054
	<b>23,276</b>	16,684



# MEMBERS

## Representative Members

Association of Irish Indoor Bowls  
Association of NI Car Clubs  
Athletics NI  
Basketball NI  
British Horse Society  
Canoe Association for NI  
Cricket Ireland  
Cycling Ulster  
Dancesport NI Ltd  
Eventing Ireland Northern Region  
Fitness NI  
GAA  
Golfing Union of Ireland (Ulster Branch)  
Irish Amateur Boxing Association (Ulster Council)  
Irish Football Association  
Irish Ladies Golf Union (Northern District)  
Irish Rugby Football Union (Ulster Branch)  
Irish Water Polo Association (Ulster Branch)  
Irish Water Ski Federation (NI Sub Committee)  
Irish Women's Bowling Association  
Irish Women's Indoor Bowling Association  
Motorcycle Union of Ireland (Ulster Centre) Ltd  
Mountaineering Council of Ireland  
Netball NI  
NI Archery Society  
NI Association of Aeromodellers (NI Area Committee)  
NI Blind Sports  
NI Darts Organisation  
NI Federation of Sub Aqua Clubs  
NI Fencing Ltd  
NI Ice Hockey Association  
NI Jui-Jutsi Association  
NI Judo Federation  
NI Karate Board  
NI Wrestling Association  
NI Orienteering Association  
NI Pool Association  
NI Smallbore Shooting Union  
NI Sports Association for People with learning Difficulties  
NI Surfing Association  
NI Tenpin Bowling Federation  
NI Tug of War Association  
NI Volleyball Association  
NI Women's Football Association  
NI Karting Association  
Northern West of Ireland Cricket Union  
Northern Cricket Union  
Racquetball Association of Ireland (Ulster Council)  
Royal Yachting Association of NI  
Skate NI  
Speleological Union of Ireland  
Swim Ulster  
Table Tennis Ulster  
Taekwondo Association of Northern Ireland  
Ulster Angling Federation Ltd  
Ulster Badminton  
Ulster Branch Irish Amateur Rowing Union  
Ulster Branch Irish Triathlon Association (UBITA)  
Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland  
Ulster Camogie Council  
Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting Association  
Ulster Coarse Fishing Federation  
Ulster Deaf Sports Council  
Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs  
Ulster Flying Club Ltd  
Ulster Gliding Club  
Ulster Handball Council  
Ulster Hang Gliding & Paragliding Club  
Ulster Hockey Union  
Ulster Provincial Council of Irish Federation of Sea Anglers  
Ulster Squash  
Weightlifting NI  
Yoga Fellowship Northern Ireland

## Individual Members

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

## Associate Members

2&4 Wheels  
Antrim Sports Advisory Association  
Armagh Sports Forum  
Association of NI Education & Library Boards  
Belfast Urban Sports  
Boys Brigade NI District  
British Red Cross, NI Branch  
CIYMS  
Cerebral Palsy Sport Ireland  
Church Lads & Church Girls Brigade  
Craigavon Sports Advisory Council  
Disability Sports NI  
East Antrim Invitational Youth League  
Community Games  
NI Association of Boy's Club  
NI Association of Youth Clubs  
NI Boy's Football Association  
NI Commonwealth Games Council  
NI Outward Bound Association  
NI School's Football Association  
North Down Sports Advisory Council  
Omagh Sports Forum  
Outdoor Recreation NI  
Scout Association  
Shooting Federation & U.R.A.  
Skills Active  
Sport Lisburn  
St John's Ambulance Brigade NI Headquarters  
The Duke of Edinburgh Council  
The Royal Lifesaving Society  
University of Ulster Sports Union





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**

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