



NORTHERN IRELAND

SPORTS FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017



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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 480,000 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 AGM the political situation in Northern Ireland has changed dramatically with the fall of the Executive earlier this year resulting in a lack of Minister for Sport. The Northern Ireland Sports Forum has continued to work closely with officials within the Department for Communities to ensure that the development of sport and physical recreation remains a high priority. We welcome their commitments to sector over the past year with a vast amount of projects and programmes supported.

The latest round of Sport NI Lottery Funding programme titled Sporting Clubs/ Sporting Winners saw governing body members apply for funding for a period of four years. The process itself created many challenges for our members and has left a number disappointed with the outcome following their submissions. We provided significant support to a wide range of members who applied to the process and welcome an upcoming opportunity to feed into a Sport NI review of the process for future learning.

One of the successes this year is the growth of the Female Sports Forum and the fantastic projects and programmes that they have developed as part of the Active, Fit and Sporty strategy. Significant funding has been provided by Sport NI and the Department for Communities with the FSF being led superbly by Chairperson Angela Platt and Project Manager Danielle McDowell. Credit must also go to the Irish Football Association for delivering a very successful UEFA European U19 Women's Championships in June and to Irish Rugby and the Ulster Branch for hosting the Women's Rugby World Cup with Finals and fringe events taking place in Belfast.

There were many notable sporting achievements during the year with Ryan Burnett recently unifying the WBA and IBF Bantamweight World titles with a superb display in Belfast. Jonathan Rea is to be congratulated on winning his record breaking 3rd World Superbike Championship in motor racing. Michael McKillop and Jason Smyth continued to increase their tally of gold medals with successes at the World Para-Athletics Championships in London. It was great to see the Northern Ireland Netball team secure their places at the Commonwealth Games in Australia next year with the Northern Ireland representatives at the Youth Games in the Bahamas securing 11 medals in July.

Unfortunately the NI Commonwealth Games Council were unable to take part in the handover ceremony in the Bahamas as there still remains uncertainty over the hosting of the Commonwealth Youth Games in Belfast in 2021. To have been awarded the Youth Games and to have to relinquish it would provide significant embarrassment to the Northern Ireland Executive and we will continue to drive the campaign to save the Games.

Michael O'Neill has again put the Northern Ireland football team on the brink of further success by reaching the World Cup Play-Offs as they seek to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. The Ireland Women's Hockey team have qualified for the World Championships with some great performers from Ulster including Shirley McCay who has achieved a remarkable 250 international caps.

Our advocacy work has continued to increase as we continue to represent our members and the voice of sport

and recreation. The All Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation has grown from strength to strength. We have campaigned to government and departments on issues such as Outdoor Education Centre closures, Rates on Sports Stadiums and Golf Clubs, charity legislation for sports clubs, curriculum schools programmes for Ulster GAA and the IFA alongside coordination of meetings regarding the Belfast 2021 Youth Games bid.

I must pay tribute to the NI Sports Forum Board Members for their continued support throughout the year. Our Vice Chairperson Angela Platt as outlined is a key component in the development of the Female Sports Forum. Our Constitution and Strategy Subcommittee led by Gordon Reid has had a challenging and busy year, our Treasurer Richard Johnson has led the Finance Subcommittee with Kelly McVeigh chairing the Public Affairs Subcommittee in a busy year where we have increased our advocacy on behalf of members significantly. Company Secretary Ken Nixon leads the planning for the Sports Law Conference which is always a highlight in the calendar. Other Board Members Rosemary McWhinney Ashley Hunter, Dr. Damian Gallagher, Dr. Richard Briggs provide significant support to these committees and our large programme of work. We must also thank Keith McGarry of Sports Law NI who has a major role in the running of the Sports Law Conference which increases in popularity and quality every year. Keith also provides a significant amount of pro-bono legal advice to members throughout the year and has assisted the Constitution and Strategy Subcommittee as we review our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

We welcomed O'Neills Sportswear as a sponsor this year and they provide great support for the Female Sports Forum. Our relationship with Bluefin Sport continues to grow and we thank them for their valuable advice and support to members and the sector.

I must pay a big thank you to Executive Manager Ciaran Kearney who continues to enjoy the backing of the Board through what has been a difficult year for the Forum. Danielle McDowell has provided much needed support for the Female Sports Forum and has done a fantastic job since joining us early this year. Both Ciaran and Danielle are provided with support from Finance Administrator Sharon Crossan who does a very professional job looking after our finances.

After long service with the Sports Forum, both Rosemary McWhinney and Dr. Richard Briggs have decided to step down from the Board. Rosemary and Richard have been loyal and supportive servants for many years and I would like to wish them all the best for the future.

I myself have decided to stand down as Chairperson after six years. I wish to thank all board members and staff who have supported me over six enjoyable years and I wish the Forum continued growth and success in the coming years ahead.

Yours in Sport



Roy Millar MBE

Chairperson



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.



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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 MANAGERS REPORT

2016-2017 was an extremely busy year for the Northern Ireland Sports Forum with an increase in activity in areas while working towards outlining a key vision for the future of the organisation.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Throughout the year NISF focused on a number of areas of governance and leadership with one of the highlights again being the Sports Law Conference. This year we had our biggest conference yet with leading speakers in the field of equality and governance from Sport England, Sheridans Law and multiple Paralympic Gold Medallist Michael McKillop. We than Keith McGarry of Sports Law NI for his significant contribution to the Conference.

Significant work was undertaken throughout the year to advance the Sports Governance Guide which has been recently launched. We are delighted with the outcome of this work and thank the working group for the time and effort put into this. You can find the resources on www.sports-governancenai.net.

Board members Kelly McVeigh and Damian Gallagher delivered a seminar on Lobbying and Collaboration which gave attendees with a greater insight into how to engage with elected representatives of political parties.

Throughout the year, NISF provided significant support to member organisations in their submissions to Sport NI's Sporting Clubs/ Sporting Winners programme. NISF engaged with members on an individual and collective basis to provide greater understanding of the process and also communicated with Sport NI on a number of occasions with concerns over the process whilst working.

Our Access NI service is becoming increasingly popular with member organisations. We now process Access NI applications for over 20 member bodies with almost 150 applications completed each year.

REPRESENTATION

NISF has continued to build on our public engagement work which aims to increase the benefits of sport and physical activity.

We have developed relationships with elected representatives and we are delighted to see the growth of the All Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation at Stormont despite the political difficulties we have faced. A highlight was the Women's Sport Week event at Parliament Buildings in June 2016.

NISF engaged with the Education Committee and the Education Authority regarding the potential closures to a number of Outdoor Activity Centres and led a delegation of members and stakeholders to meet both to fight the case for maintaining a number of these centres.

NISF were delighted to see that the new rating rules to extend the level of relief for Community Amateur Sports Clubs have received passage through the Assembly in October 2016 following a long campaign by NISF, members and stakeholders.

NISF in cooperation with the NI Commonwealth Games Council worked to take forward the concerns surrounding the Commonwealth Youth Games bid for Belfast 2021.

NISF continues to pay an Active Role on the Sports Matters Monitoring and Implementation Groups. After 8 years

of service to the Monitoring Group, Ken Nixon has now stepped down and has been replaced by Kelly McVeigh. It was great to see the contribution Ken made recognised by DfC Minister Paul Givan and Sport NI.

You will see on page 15 the groups that NISF sit on to represent our members. We will work harder to outline our impact on these groups and how we represent member's views for their benefit.

COMMUNICATION

NISF has again increased our communications output and developed our social media platforms. Our website has seen a 52% increase in traffic with almost 23,000 page views and a 60% increase in unique users to almost 8,000 visitors. Our Facebook and Twitter activity has significant grown while our SportsWatch E-zine goes to over 1,000 people. We are keen to showcase the activities of our members and would welcome additional content that would promote member and sector activities.

We have rolled out a new membership database system which see further expansion in the coming year in an effort to increase direct communication to our members and various officers and staff within member organisations.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

We were delighted to add new members over the course of the year, namely Ulster Ladies Gaelic, Softball Ireland, Parkour UK and the Irish Coastal Rowing Federation.

As you will see from the Female Sports Forum report, there has been significant work undertaken since the launch of the Active, Fit and Sporty Strategy in March 2015. The workings of the

Female Sports Forum has drastically evolved in the period since with employment of a number of staff to support the Female Sports Forum which is a subcommittee of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum. This work has been led by FSF Chairperson Angela Platt who is doing a fantastic job in driving the profile of female sport alongside Project Manager Danielle McDowell. Danielle has been ably assisted by Ulster University Interns Hannah McGeown, Chris Hood and Connor White. We thank all three for their assistance in developing the Female Sports Forum.

The past year has been a challenging time for the NISF Board and I would like to thank all board members who have spent significant time on development of strategic and operational plans, funding submissions and other activities. After 6 years as Chairperson of NISF I would like to pay tribute to Roy Millar MBE who will step down from the Board. Roy has been a fantastic Chairperson and great support for myself personally.

Thanks must also go to Finance Administrator Sharon Crossan who provides fantastic support in what has become an increasingly busy period for the 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 100 people in attendance. The theme was Good Governance and Equality. We were delighted to Principal In-House Solicitor for Sport England, Erin Stephens discuss the governance measures taken at Sport England. Johnny Madill and Andrew Nixon of Sheridan's Sport in London also discussed the emergence of E-Sports.

SEMINARS

We held a seminar on Lobbying and Collaboration to provide members with greater knowledge and understanding of political activities and how they can engage with Councillors, MLA's and MP's on how to gain support for their organisations. A further seminar was delivered by board member Dr. Damian Gallagher and Anne Pegoraro from Laurentian University in Canada titled 'Improving the Value of Your Social Media'. This was a very successful seminar with plans to build on this before the end of March 2018.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

NISF remain an active member of the Developing Governance Group which published the revised Code of Good Governance in 2016 and provided support for a number of Good Governance seminars which took place across Northern Ireland. The Sports Governance Guide working

group were able to put this finishing touches to the Sports Governance Guide which was recently launched by the All Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation at Parliament Building. The resources can be found at sportsgovernanceneni.net

SPORTING CLUBS/ SPORTING WINNERS

The Sporting Clubs/ Sporting Winners programme was a challenging process for our members. NISF provided significant support to a wide number of governing bodies with their applications, coordinated meetings with a large group of applicants to seek clarity on a number of issues and have continued to engage with Sport NI over the past 18 months on the process and how best to prepare for the distribution of the next phase of lottery funds.

ACCESS NI

There has been an increase in the number of members who now use our status as a registered body to process Access NI applications. Over 20 members receive support to process these applications with in excess of 100 annual checks completed. NISF also joined the Safeguarding Children in Sport Strategic Group.

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. Representatives on these groups are Kelly McVeigh, Ashley Hunter, Gordon Reid, Roy Millar and Ciaran Kearney.

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. Despite the ongoing political uncertainty NISF has worked hard to continue engagement with political representatives for the benefit of the sector and welcome. This group is benefited by the ability to host events at Stormont such as the very successful Women's Sport Week event in June 2016.

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 23,000 views within the year. Our twitter page @NISportsForum now has over 1,869 followers and a newly developed Facebook page has over 624 likes.

We have again updated our SportsWatch E-Zine which provides regular information for the sporting sector which ranges from funding opportunities, jobs, events, consultations alongside other relevant news for the benefit of governing bodies, clubs and the wider general public.

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 Ulster Ladies Gaelic, Softball Ireland, Parkour UK and the Irish Coastal Rowing Federation. Over the coming months we will be continuing to work towards improving our Database Management System to ensure that we have better communication with member organisations.

FEMALE SPORTS FORUM

A very busy year for the Female Sports Forum as they have now be 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. We have held conferences, consultation events, leadership programmes and added a range of staff members to support the Active, Fit and Sporty project. More information can be found at www.femalesportsforum.com

ADVOCACY

This area has become increasingly important considering the current political climate. You will see from the Public Affairs Sub Committee report the efforts NISF have made to ensure adequate outcomes to challenges facing Curriculum Schools Coaching Programme, Outdoor Education Centres and also the ongoing difficulties facing the Belfast 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games preparations which NISF has taken a lead on. We were delighted to see the length work NISF has put in on the issue of Rates Relief receiving passage through the Assembly in October 2016.

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) O'Neills International Sportswear (www.oneills.com)

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.

DEVELOPING 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 at Stormont
- Sport Matters Ministerial Monitoring Group
- Sport Matters Implementation Groups- Places, Participation & Performance
- Developing Governance Group
- Active Living No Limit's Forum
- Mental Health and Wellbeing In & Through Sport Strategy Group
- Sport for Change Network
- NI Commonwealth Games Council
- Mary Peters Trust
- Home Countries Sports Associations
- Sport Resolutions UK
- Female Sports Forum
- Safeguarding Children in Sport Strategic Group
- Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards
- Sport NI Coaching Awards
- Belfast City Council Sports Award



*NISF Chairperson Roy Millar with
the 2016 WJ Paddy Patterson
Award winner David Seaton*



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 N.I.C.P.R Service to Sports Award.

The 2016 WJ Paddy Patterson Award was presented to David Seaton who is one of the most important figures in the history of Northern Ireland athletics.

He has been involved in athletics for nearly 60 years, first as an international level competitor and for the past 45 years as an administrator and event promoter.

He has also been a member of the Belfast Marathon organising committee since its inception in 1982 and has been race director since 1992. Most recently he has become Chair of the Belfast Marathon Company Board, working tirelessly to ensure the continued success of the capital city’s Marathon and more recently the Belfast Half Marathon.

He has also been Chair of Athletics Northern Ireland (ANI) since 2007 and has overseen a significant expansion in ANI’s activities and workforce.

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
2016	D Seaton

COMPANY INFORMATION

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



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Registered Number NI 10440





MEET THE BOARD //

CHAIRPERSON

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 General Manager of the Northern Cricket Union. Prior to her current role she was the Executive Manager of the Ulster Hockey Union (2009-2017) and has significant experience of working in Local Government as Sports Development Officer with Carrickfergus Borough Council (2002-2004) and Sports Development Officer and Child Protection Officer for Castlereagh Borough Council (2004-2009). Angela also represents the Forum on the Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards Selection Committee and Chairs the Female Sports Forum.

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, Chairman of the Trustees of Lisburn Racquets Club and a board member of the Mary Peters Trust. Ken served as our representative on the Sports Matters Ministerial Group for six years which is chaired by the Sports Minister.

Gordon Reid: Gordon is a long standing NISF board member. He is involved in rowing as a sculler, coach, umpire, coach tutor, club secretary, Ulster Branch committee member, ex Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and ex Rowing Ireland Secretary & Development Officer. He also has interests in Sailing, Paddlesports and Powerboating and is an instructor in each. He is employed as a kayaking instructor, and is an Architect by profession. On the Forum he chairs the Strategic Planning & Constitution 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 Chief Officer for The Canoe Association of Northern Ireland. Prior to his current role he worked in the voluntary sector for Ocean Youth Trust Ireland as Youth Development Coordinator / Operations Manager (2003-2007) and for 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 where she specialises in Public Affairs, Strategic Communications, Stakeholder Engagement and Public Relations. Kelly has extensive experience working across private, public and voluntary sectors with a specific focus on health, business, planning, energy and local government.

Since joining the NI Sport Forum board she has worked with other members to raise the profile of the organisation, helping to develop long lasting relationships across political, business and partner organisations. Kelly also plays a role in monitoring key legislative and policy developments that will have an impact on the work of the NI Sport Forum.

Kelly is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR), a member of the Northern Ireland Government Affairs Group (NIGAG) and Association of Professional Political Consultants, she also sits on the Department for Communities Sport Matters Monitoring Group. 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 Vice-President. Through her teaching at Victoria College and Methodist College she also worked at promoting women's sport and is currently on the coaching staff at Victoria College. Rosemary was PR Officer for the Ulster Women's Hockey Council, PR Officer for Ulster and Ireland Women's Cricket Union and recently re-joined the Netball NI Board. Rosemary was a regular contributor to the print media for all three governing bodies. She represented the NISF on the Mary Peters Selection Committee and the Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards Selection Committee.

STRATEGIC PLANNING & CONSTITUTION SUB COMMITTEE

– CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

This committee comprised Ashley Hunter, Angela Platt, Ciaran Kearney, and Gordon Reid, depending on the topic.

During the year this group has been active in developing a new strategy for 2017-21 and using this to shape an application to Sport NI's Sporting Clubs Sporting Winners programme, and a business case for Sport NI funding. It has also steered a revamp of the NISF constitution.

The committee advised on a survey of members to gauge satisfaction with NISF services and initiatives. A good response indicated that satisfaction levels are improving, and highlighted a number of areas where the forum could and should offer new services. These areas became the pillars of a new strategic plan, which were presented to the last AGM in 2016. Since then, the committee continued its reporting of NISF progress against targets from the previous strategic plan. It also developed the detail for a new plan, under the main headings of Relationships, Member Services, The Voice of Sport & Recreation, Business Development, and People. In turn this allowed us to develop a work programme for the next 4 years. This was incorporated into our Sporting Clubs and Sporting Winners application, and then our business case. More work remains to be done to finalise the plan, and to ensure that it can be implemented over the coming years,

The constitution has been under review for a couple of years now, with minor alterations made in 2016 and subsequent transition to charitable status. The more large scale alterations to reflect best practice along with some grammatical changes, have been developed in time for an EGM in November 2017. The main thrust of this was to amend the terms of office for Board members, and the methods of election and nomination. Classes of membership have also been reviewed.

It remains a challenge for the Board to implement any changes, and to ensure that we set an example to members and others by remaining faithful to the letter and spirit of our latest constitution. The Charities Commission are also showing an interest in the wording of our objects. I am confident that the improvements proposed are in the best interest of the Forum, and I would conclude by thanking the Board and Mr Keith McGarry for their input, and the Strategy & Constitution Committee members in particular for their ongoing work throughout the year.

Gordon Reid.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUB COMMITTEE

– CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

2017 has seen much political upheaval in Northern Ireland and as a result many organisations have faced uncertain and difficult times. The NI Sport Forum and specifically the Public Affairs Sub Committee have taken a proactive and positive approach in the face of this uncertainty, continuing to engage and influence on behalf of our members.

A POLITICAL SNAPSHOT

We have had two elections this year, starting with an Assembly election in March which saw Sinn Féin gain on the DUP in the new 90-member Assembly. We also saw new leadership announcements from Sinn Féin, with Michelle O'Neill taking over from Martin McGuinness in January and the UUP with Robin Swann taking over from Mike Nesbitt in April. A period of talks started following the Assembly elections but were halted when a snap General election was called by Prime Minister Theresa May. The snap General Election results lead to gains for the DUP and Sinn Féin, but the UUP and SDLP lost all their Westminster seats. With no majority for the Conservative Party they agreed a confidence and supply deal with the DUP which saw a negotiated £1bn added spending package for Northern Ireland. Uncertainty around Brexit has continued and more than a year on from the vote to leave the European Union we as an organisation, like many others are unsure of the impact it will have on the organisation or the sector as a whole. We have been operating in particularly challenging times but we will continue to be positive and proactive in our approach, which is aimed at achieving our goals for members and continue to be the Independent Voice of Voluntary Sport in Northern Ireland.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

We have continued to engage with stakeholders to strengthen our position in the sector, and while in 2016 our sole focus was to raise awareness this year we have moved a step further, engaging and influencing on behalf of our members and

the sector. We have engaged across the political spectrum, coalescing support and understanding for a wide range of issues.

We have lobbied government officials and other bodies on a number of top level issues impacting our members and Northern Ireland as a whole, specifically funding, the Curriculum Sports Coaches Programme, the closure of outdoor activity centres across NI and the hosting of the Belfast 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games.

We have further strengthened our relationships with the media in NI, providing a strong independent voice for the sector and our members, where appropriate.

Despite the political situation at present we have had positive political support for our Sport & Physical Recreation All Party Group for 2017, with Mike Nesbitt continuing to Chair this important forum. I would like to extend my thanks to all those elected representatives who have taken an active interest in the APG and we look forward to continuing this dialogue into 2018.

CONCLUSION

The NI Sport Forum will continue to engage with stakeholders of all levels and look forward to continuing this into 2018. We welcome the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with those who see the value in what we are doing for voluntary sport in NI.

Thank you to all members of the sub-committee for their ongoing support and advice during a challenging year for the NI Sport Forum: Ken Nixon, Ashley Hunter, Angela Platt and Damian Gallagher. Final thanks goes to Ciaran Kearney who has undertaken the bulk of our engagement over the past year.

Kelly McVeigh

FEMALE SPORTS FORUM

– CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

The Female Sports Forum has delivered another successful year of projects working towards achieving the four key aims within the “Active, Fit & Sporty” Strategy. The aims outlined in the Strategy are -

- Media – increasing the visibility of female success
- Leadership – driving cultural change to involve more females in leadership roles
- Role 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.

The year also saw the FSF receive additional investment of £45,000 from the Department for Communities and Sport Northern Ireland to expand the Active, Fit and Sporty project to include new delivery partners Disability Sport NI, Ulster University, Sported NI, Youth Sport Trust and WISPA. The partnerships developed through this project have enabled wider impact across the four key aims of the Strategy.

The Female Sports Forum investment assisted in supporting the continuation of the intern roles Chris Hood (event management) and Hannah McGeown (PR and marketing). Both made a significant contribution to the programmes delivered by the Female Sports Forum. In particular Hannah was instrumental in leading the developments of the FSF

social media platforms and the implementation of the new FSF website. An important part of the successful delivery of the FSF investment included the addition of funding for a Project Manager to manage the FSF programmes. In January 2017 Danielle McDowell joined the organisation and in the three months to March 2017 was instrumental in delivering some key objectives for the programme.

These included the successful delivery of Sports Leaders UK Level 2 & 3 courses, four Upskilling Female Volunteer Workshops and the implementation of the new Active Female of the Month awards in conjunction with O’Neills Sports. During January, February and March three Female nominees were short listed each month for their active contribution to sport or physical activity with the public given the opportunity to vote for their favourite on FSF social media channels. Each monthly winner was announced and awarded a sportswear voucher for O’Neill’s Sports. A successful initiative which helped to raise the profile of success in female sport and physical activity and has created new role models for others to be inspired by across Northern Ireland.

The year finished on a high with the Female Sports Forum Leadership Conference held on 24th March in the Park Avenue Hotel. Over 110 sports sector staff, volunteers and professionals, from across Northern Ireland, were inspired by two fantastic keynote speakers Baroness Sue Campbell CBE, the Chair of Youth Sport Trust and Head of Women’s FA, and



Maggie Alphonsi MBE, England Rugby World Cup Winner and the face of international women’s rugby. Many left the conference inspired and motivated to play their part in continuing to develop greater opportunities for women and girls to be Active, Fit and Sporty.

The Female Sports Forum is grateful to the Department for Communities and Sport Northern Ireland for the continued

investment in the Active, Fit and Sporty Strategy that has enabled significant progress to be made during the 2016-2017 year.

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

Richard Johnson
Treasurer

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

	2017	2016
	£	
Income		
Sport Northern Ireland	80,929	47,513
Membership Income	7,161	5,582
Other income	8,945	7,434
Bank Interest	67	71
Total Income	97,102	60,600
Expenditure	2017	2016
	£	
Wages	39,758	34,633
Administration Expenses	4,197	4,186
Printing and Stationery	536	672
Accountancy Fees and Sundries	780	1,005
Programme Costs	40,407	5,731
Access NI Fees	693	396
Course Fees	2,804	2,882
Website Expenses	456	1,100
Total Expenditure:	89,631	56,095
Surplus for the Year	7,471	4,505

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2017

	2017	2016
Current Assets		
Debtors	32,617	11,138
Cash at Bank	18,936	27,892
	51,553	39,030
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors and accruals	8,463	3,411
Net assets	43,090	35,619
Capital Fund		
Opening Balance	35,619	31,113
Surplus for the year	7,471	4,505
	43,090	35,619

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 Athletic Boxing Association (Ulster Council)
Irish Bowling Association
Irish Coastal Rowing Federation
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 Aeromodeller
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
Parkour UK
Pitch and Putt Union Of Ireland
Racquetball Association of Ireland (Ulster Council)
Royal Yachting Association of NI
Rowing Ireland Ulster Branch
Softball Ireland
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 Ladies Gaelic
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 Sport NI
Fermanagh & Omagh Sports Forum
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

Dame Mary Peters
Mr Brian Hanna CBE
Mr Dawson Stelfox MBE
Mr Ian Bamford
Mr Jim McKeever
Mr John F O'Neill
Mr Jos Lapsley
Mr Maeve Kyle
Mr Sheila Barrett
Mr Syd Millar
Mr Tommy Welsh
Mrs Joan McCloy OBE
Mrs Maeve Bell



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