



NORTHERN IRELAND



FORUM ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018



VOICE OF SPORT AND RECREATION IN
NORTHERN IRELAND



o'neills

SINCE 1918

PROUD PARTNERS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND SPORTS FORUM

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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 CHAIRPERSON

Looking back at the Chairperson's Foreword from Roy Millar in November 2017, Roy rightly outlined his concern over the lack of an Executive at Stormont. Fast forward 12 months and the sports sector is becoming increasingly frustrated on the impact of a developed government is placing on the development of sport and physical recreation in Northern Ireland.

NISF stood shoulder to shoulder with the NI Commonwealth Games Council as they fought tooth and nail to retain hosting rights to the 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games which was awarded to Belfast. Having been encouraged by all political parties on numerous occasions to bid for the games, the lack of an Executive and effective decision making by the Civil Service saw the embarrassing development where NICGC informed the Commonwealth Games Federation that it was no longer possible to host the games in Belfast. Lessons should be learned from this process, however like NICGC we remain concerned over a lack of openness regarding the decisions taken by relevant departments and lack of engagement on how to learn going forward.

In recent days' time has been called on the award winning Curriculum Sports Programme which has been delivered by the Irish Football Association and Ulster GAA. We again communicated the impact of withdrawal of funding for this programme which caters for over 35,000 school children a year would have on fundamental movement skills and challenging obesity when only 4% of Northern Ireland primary school children get the recommended 2 hours of physical education time per week. This is a short sighted decision and again without ministerial direction made the life of civil servants difficult.

A lack of funding also saw the closure of a number of Outdoor Education Centre's. NISF worked alongside the RYA NI, CANI, Mountaineering Ireland, NI Orienteering and others to look at retaining effective services whilst acknowledging that some centres may have been closed. We were all disappointed by the level of engagement with the Education Authority surrounding this issue, something that was echoed by

the Education Committee at Stormont. Once the Executive collapsed however, the writing was on the wall and the provision of outdoor education experiences for the future will be again impacted upon.

We continue to work alongside Athletics NI, Triathlon Ireland and others to limit the impact of legislation last year surrounding events on roads. Clubs from various sports have faced increased bureaucracy in dealing with local authorities, the Department of Infrastructure and the PSNI when trying to improve the health and wellbeing of their local communities by hosting events. While there is some willingness to improve current processes, the lack of a functioning Executive means this current legislation cannot be changed until Stormont gets up and running again.

NISF has continued to maintain strong relationships with the Department for Communities and are encouraged by their continued support to the sport and physical recreation sector. We have also engaged with the Secretary of State Karen Bradley and will be meeting with Northern Ireland Office officials before the end of 2018 to discuss our concerns over a number of areas, including the lack of Sport NI representation on the Board of UK Sport. Despite the lack of a functioning Executive we have been encouraged by the support given to the All Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation at Stormont from MLA's and member organisations. The APG has played a vital role in engaging with relevant agencies and departments and taking forward issues outlined above.

This is the second year in succession that we have held an EGM as we work towards maintaining the highest governance standards possible. We believe it is important to ensure that we follow best practice as an organisation and that our Memorandum and Articles of Association adequately reflect that. Independent board members have added significantly to the NISF operations and a recruitment exercise in early 2018 ensured that our Board has the appropriate skills to grow as an organisation. The skills required became more evident as we became involved in a

lengthy process with Sport NI to secure funding for the continuation of activities and operations with the ultimate goal of supporting our members and the wider sector. In the coming months (and hopefully years), we will become more focused on the support provided to members in a range of areas such as income generation, support for non-funded bodies, representation and communication. We of course welcome any feedback and engagement with members on how we can support them better regardless of their size or capacity.

Thankfully there has been more success in the sporting arena over the past year. Rhys McClenaghan will certainly always remember 2018 as he followed up the amazing success of winning gold in the Pommel Horse in the Commonwealth Games and following it up with another gold at the European Games in Glasgow. Our boxers always deliver and must be congratulated in bringing 8 medals back from the Gold Coast. Further medals in shooting from Kirsty Barr and Gareth McAuley were added to by an historic bronze for Leon Reid in the 200m.

The Irish Women's Hockey team captured the imagination of the country as they produced a number of amazing performances to reach the World Cup Final in London before losing out to the Netherlands. The team certainly raised the profile of female sport here in Northern Ireland are wonderful role models. Bethany Firth, Jason Smyth, Claire Taggart and Brian Lenehan were among many athletes who achieved further success within the disability sport arena. I most also offer congratulations to Disability Sport NI who celebrated their 20th Anniversary recently.

Jonathan Rea and Colin Turkington's record breaking exploits further showcase the motorsport tradition within Northern Ireland and it would be great to see Jonathan go one step further in being named the BBC Sport Personality of the Year next month. The Irish Rugby squad added another Grand Slam in 2018 with Ulster's Rory Best again displaying excellent leadership skills throughout the victorious 6 Nations Championship.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the NI Sports Forum Board members who worked tirelessly throughout

the year in what has been a difficult period. Many robust discussions have taken place and we have very skilled and committed volunteers who put in a lot of time and effort to support our aims and objectives and support the staff team. After lengthy service, Ken Nixon will be stepping down from the Board. Ken has filled a number of roles and has always been a strong advocate for sport and recreation and I'm sure he will continue to be so with his other commitments and we are delighted that he will continue to play an active role in coordinating the Sports Law Conference. There has been significant work undertaken over the previous 18 months as part of the Female Sports Forum's Active, Fit and Sporty project and I thank Angela Platt for leading the team ably assisted by Emma McAleese and Danielle McDowell who has recently left the FSF. We thank Danielle for all her efforts.

Our newest Board Members, Allan Rutherford and Trev Keane have already showcased their business development skills as we focus on maximising the potential commercial opportunities for our members and ourselves. We have continued with our partnerships with Bluefin Sport, O'Neills Sportswear, Sports Law NI whilst also developing new partnerships with Klubfunder, Kingsbridge Private Hospital and the Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT). We hope our members continue to gain benefits from these relationships. All board members take their places on additional subcommittees within Business Development, Governance, Communications and the Female Sports Forum and I thank Ashley Hunter, Cath Quinn, Gordon Reid, Kelly McVeigh and Katrina McCaughan for their hard work and dedication.

I would like to thank Executive Manager Ciaran Kearney for his leadership and support to the Board over a difficult year. Sharon Crossan ably supported Ciaran and Treasurer Cath Quinn to ensure our finances are closely monitored and remain in a healthy place.

Yours in Sport

Richard Johnson
Chairperson



OUR VISION

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

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

RELATIONSHIPS

Northern Ireland Sports Forum aim to develop relationships with our member organisation and the wider sport and recreation sector, develop communication platforms for a well-informed sector. NISF will lead increased networking and engagement between members, local authorities and public bodies.

MEMBER SERVICES

NISF prides itself on the support and services it provides to members and will develop these services further in areas of governance, marketing and communications, staff support, corporate partnerships and sponsorship which will strengthen our member organisations.

THE VOICE OF SPORT & RECREATION

NISF has developed to become a strong advocate for the importance of sport and physical recreation to governmental bodies. NISF will continue as a strong representative for members and the sector on various groups and committees and impact on development of research and evaluation for the best interests of sport and physical recreation.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

NISF will continue the growth of active members, its brand development and recognition resulting in financial growth, governance improvement whilst committing to continue to drive the development of the Female Sports Forum.

PEOPLE

NISF understands that investment in staff and board skill development is key to the growth of the organisation and to support the development of services and operations.



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

2017-2018 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.

MEMBER SERVICES

Early in 2018 we held a meeting amongst interested members on joining forces in a number of procurement areas to reduce costs and use collective buying power to the benefit of our members. This process unfortunately has been a little slower than we would have liked however we are in the process of securing our first partner in the area of media and design work. Once this process concludes we will work towards securing other partners in specific areas.

Our popular Access NI service has been extended to almost 25 members. We are increasing the amount of applications year on year and this service is vital to our members.

Members were faced with the introduction of GDPR in May and support was provided in a number of seminars coordinated by Sport NI. Following this, we decided that there was an opportunity for members to guide each other through the GDPR process. A working group was established and has held two meetings to date. We anticipate further work in this area in the coming months.

A NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS

Throughout the year, NISF staff and board members have supported a number of our members throughout the year from governance support, branding and marketing and representation. We welcome the opportunity to engage more with members on an individual basis and ask that members get in touch to see how we can better support them.

RELATIONSHIPS

Earlier this year we had a minor redevelopment of our website to become more engaging for

members and stakeholders. We have added new sections for jobs and funding. Our job section provides members to promote the opportunities and vacancies they have while the funding section outlines funding opportunities that may be available for a wide range of sporting organisations.

Our recent seminar with Ulster Community Investment Trust and Bluefin Sport proved to be a huge success. We were delighted to engage with UCIT and provide members with alternative finance options and the governance considerations associated with any loan opportunities.

We have engaged with our friends at the Federation of Sport on a number of occasions throughout the year and this is evidenced in showcasing our support for the recent 20x20 campaign to improve media coverage, attendances and participation in female sport on an all-island basis. This compliments the work undertaken by the Female Sports Forum.

A showpiece of the sporting year always is the Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards. We were delighted to provide an input into the Awards judging panel and it was a highlight of the night to see our Chairperson Richard Johnson present the W.J. Paddy Patterson award to George Stevenson after years of dedicated service to tennis.

VOICE OF SPORT & RECREATION

Providing a strong voice for our members and the sector is a vital component of the work of the NI Sports Forum. Over the past year we have engaged with the Department of Finance with members Ulster GAA, Ulster Rugby, and the GUI Ulster Branch regarding rates relief for spectator facilities.

Alongside Volunteer Now we engaged with the Department for Infrastructure regarding introduction of legislation impacting on use of mini buses by the sporting and voluntary sector.

We play a key role as the Secretariat for the All Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation at Stormont. Throughout the year we have led the campaign on issues such as the Road Closures Order and the unfortunate loss of the Belfast 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games. We have worked closely with Triathlon Ireland, Athletics NI and the NI Commonwealth Games Council on these issues but unfortunately the lack of a functioning Assembly at Stormont has seen the sporting sector detrimentally impacted. The latest decision to cut the funding for the Curriculum Sports Programme coordinated by Ulster GAA and the Irish FA will see 50 redundancies and the loss of physical activity opportunities for 35,000 children lost. The decision came despite widespread support for the programme from all political parties and this outlines the need for a functioning Assembly as civil servants state they are not able to make decisions without ministerial approval.

NI Sports Forum plays a key role in representing members in a number of key strategic groups and committees. The groups and committees are outlined on page 15.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

A key task for NI Sports Forum in 2018 has been to expand the number of partners that we have. We are delighted to have recently announced partnerships with Klubfunder and the 3fivetwo Group. Klubfunder provide members and their clubs with opportunities to improve their communications output and take advantage of income generation opportunities created. At the Kingsbridge Private Hospital, members have a fantastic opportunity to get high quality medical treatments from the 3fivetwo Group.

These partnerships compliment the continued relationships with O'Neills Sportswear, Bluefin Sport, and Sports Law NI who we thank for their support.

In November 2017 we had the 6th Annual Sports Law Conference at Law Society House. This was the largest yet with multiple Paralympic gold medallist Tanni Grey

Thompson discussing the Duty of Care in Sport report as our keynote speaker.

In early 2018 a skills audit took place and two gaps were identified. Following this we were delighted to bring Trev Keane and Allan Rutherford onto the Board. This was followed by a review of subcommittee structures to ensure that NI Sports Forum remains fit for purpose.

NI Sports Forum had a lengthy exchange with Sport NI to review the way that we received investment. The outcome of this process which took a lot of work and effort by staff and board members will see increased support for non-funded governing bodies and increased advice and support on income generation activities. We encourage all members to get in touch for further information.

I'd like to thank the whole board for their support and assistance over the last year. We've had many late nights and difficult conversations but the evolution of the board in the past two years has strengthened the organisation and they all play a key role.

The Female Sports Forum evolution has continued under the leadership of Angela Platt as Chair and ably assisted by Danielle McDowell. Danielle has recently moved on to new pastures and we wish her well in her new role with the IFA. Emma McAleese brings great creativity to both the Female Sports Forum and NI Sports Forum and our increased brand identity reflects this. Thanks must also go to Finance Administrator Sharon Crossan who provides fantastic support in what has become an increasingly busy period for the Forum.

I'd finally like to thank Company Secretary Ken Nixon who has given remarkable service not only to ourselves but to the sporting sector. I look forward to being able to continue working with Ken in other areas as I don't believe he is ready for any sort of sporting retirement just yet!

Yours in Sport

Ciaran Kearney
Executive Manager

OVERVIEW OF THE YEARS' WORK & ACTIVITIES

SPORTS LAW CONFERENCE

The 6th Annual Sports Law Conference took place at a packed Law Society House with a theme of Duty of Care in Sport. We were absolutely delighted to welcome Baroness Tanni-Grey Thompson as our keynote speaker. The Baroness discussed the findings of the Duty of Care in Sport report which was commissioned by the Sports Minister at the DCMS. Ian Braid, former CEO of the British Athletes Commission provided an overview of the challenges facing the British sporting system. We thank Keith McGarry, Ken Nixon and Jennifer Ferguson for their hard work and dedication as this Conference continues to grow.

ACCESS NI

Each year we see more member organisations who take advantage of the Access NI processing service on offer which allows them to ensure they meet their safeguarding requirements and follow best practice. Almost 150 applications were completed in the past year from 25 member organisations.

ALL PARTY GROUP

Despite the absence of a functioning Assembly at Stormont, we have ensured that sport and physical recreation remains to the forefront of thinking of our elected representatives. We have held a number of APG meetings and ensured that we continue to provide advocacy support for member's whether that be in areas such as Roads Closures, Outdoor Centres, Curriculum Schools Programme or the Commonwealth Youth Games. We thank the officers of the group Mike Nesbitt, Sinéad Ennis, Chris Lyttle, Carla Lockhart and others for the valued input in what has been a very unsettled period.

SPORTS GOVERNANCE GUIDE

We continue to promote the Sports Governance Guide which was launched in late 2017. This resource provides the sport and recreation sector with an overview of good governance practice. It also aims to provide organisations with principles, behaviours and case studies of what good governance looks like. This resource can be accessed at www.sportsgovernancenetwork.net

COMMUNICATION

The NI Sports Forum website has developed over the past year and we have tried to make it more supportive for members. We have advertised over 70 job and board opportunities whilst dozens of funding opportunities have been promoted. These are beneficial to all types of sporting organisations. You can access these at www.nisf.net or if you email us on info@nisf.net we will add you to our SportsWatch E-zine and you will get these direct to your inbox!

MEMBERSHIP

The NI Sports Forum membership is steadily increasing year on year and we now have 70 full member organisations. New members in the past year have included Archery NI, Irish Underwater Council, Community Watersports Company and the NI Federation of Sea Anglers. For the first time in 10 years, membership subscriptions were increased in April 2018. We thank members for their understanding on this.

REPRESENTATION

We pride ourselves on representing members on various groups and committees to ensure your views are heard and understood. You will see the wide ranging focus of these on page 15. If you would like to find out more information on our role on these committees then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

FEMALE SPORTS FORUM

The Active, Fit and Sporty project which has been funded by Sport NI and the Department for Communities grew rapidly over the past year. We were delighted to develop a programme of activities for our members and the wider sporting community under this project. Alongside the project partners we held workshops, seminars, conferences, leadership development programmes, media and networking events, highlighted role models, participation opportunities and more. Further information can be found at www.femalesportsforum.com.

SPORT MATTERS AND SPORT 2020

As the Sport Matters strategy enters its closing stages, NI Sports Forum continues to play a key role in representing members on the Monitoring and Implementation Groups. Kelly McVeigh, Roy Millar MBE, Ashley Hunter, Gordon Reid and Ciaran Kearney all represent the Forum on these groups. We have also engaged with Sport NI and the Department for Communities on Sport 2020, the follow up to Sport Matters. If members have views that they would like us to reflect during the co-design period then we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

FEDERATION OF IRISH SPORT

As we share many members with the Federation of Irish Sport, it is beneficial for both organisations to develop relationships to support member activities either side of the border. In late 2017, Mary O'Connor became the CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport and since this time we have developed a positive relationship with the Federation and will aim to work together in the coming years and months on projects and initiative's for the benefit of the sector across the whole island of Ireland.

GDPR WORKING GROUP

We established a working group for members in preparation for the incoming GDPR implementation. This group bounced views and ideas off each other and provided members with support through the process. We will continue work in this area as we continue to meet the legislative requirements.

FUNDING

The NI Sports Forum still receives a proportion of funding from Sport NI for our activities. We thank Sport NI for this support and look forward to working together in the future in ways that can benefit the sporting sector and meet the strategic needs of both organisations. We have also worked hard to diversify our funding sources and provide opportunities for members to benefit from these activities. We thank all our partners who are outlined on page 14.



NORTHERN IRELAND SPORTS FORUM 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 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

BELFAST TELEGRAPH SPORTS AWARDS

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

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. www.femalesportsforum.com

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

KLUBFUNDER

Klubfunder helps clubs raise funds. Klubfunder is a bunch of technologists with a passion for sport who want to change the industry. Klubfunder do this by offering clubs the use of their online software for free. www.klubfunder.com

O'NEILLS SPORTSWEAR

O'Neills aim is to produce high quality garments suitable for all sporting and leisure activities. They customise garments in their embroidery and print departments to satisfy demand for crests, logos, sponsorship etc. www.oneills.com

3FIVETWO GROUP

3fivetwo is a local organisation of trusted healthcare professionals, clinics and hospitals, providing excellence and choice in the diagnosis, education and treatment of all your health and well-being needs. www.3fivetwo.com

SPORTS LAW NI

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



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 Monitoring Group
- Sport Matters Implementation Groups- Places, Participation & Performance
- Strategy 2020 Co-Design Group
- Developing Governance Group
- Active Living No Limits Forum
- Mental Health and Wellbeing In & Through Sport Strategy Group
- 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 Awards





*Sarah Shimmons from Linwoods,
2017 Paddy Patterson Award
Winner George Stevenson MBE
and Richard Johnson, NI Sports
Forum Chairperson.*

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.

George Stevenson, the 2017 W.J Paddy Patterson Award winner has had a long and distinguished service to the game of tennis.

At a local level, George has been involved with Bangor Tennis Club as an active player and committee member since 1987 and at Provincial level has served on the Ulster Branch of Tennis Ireland for 30 years and in that time held roles as Secretary and UBTI President. He has also served on the Board of Tennis Ireland and has been President on two occasions.

George has refereed at 4 Nation Championships, Interprovincial Championships and Ulster Tournaments, covering a wide range of age groups and levels and been heavily involved in the coordination of Davis Cup matches.

He has tirelessly championed wheelchair tennis in Ulster from grassroots to performance level and has volunteered as tournament referee at the annual Belfast International Wheelchair Tournament which celebrated its 20th year in 2017 and has been central in planning, organizing and delivering the event with the Spokes in Motion Tennis Club.

George was given a special award by the European Tennis Association for his services to tennis in 2011, acknowledging his dedication to the sport at an Irish level. He received an MBE award from the Queen in 2013 for services to tennis.

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 Millar
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
2017	G Stevenson

COMPANY INFORMATION

Richard Johnson	(Chairperson)
Angela Platt	(Vice Chairperson)
Ken Nixon	(Company Secretary)
Catherine Quinn	(Treasurer)
Katrina McCaughan	
Gordon Reid	
Trev Keane	
Ashley Hunter	
Allan Rutherford	
Kelly McVeigh	



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Richard Johnson (right) who succeeded Roy Millar MBE as NI Sports Forum Chairperson at the 2017 AGM





MEET THE BOARD

CHAIRPERSON

Richard Johnson

Richard joined the Board in October 2008, was elected Treasurer 24 months later and became Chairperson in November 2017. Richard currently sits on the Boards of a number of Northern Ireland based companies including being Finance Director of Johnson's Coffee and Barry's Amusements. Richard has been involved with cricket in Ireland for over 45 years including two spells as Chairman of Instonian's Cricket Club in the 1980's and 1990's, a two year stint as NCU Chairman in 2000 and 2001, two 3-year spells as Chairman of the Cricket Ireland Finance Committee (of which he is still a member), was President of Cricket Ireland for the 2011-12 year and has been recently elected NCU President for a two year term of office. He was Tournament Director/ Organiser of all major cricket tournaments held in the Greater Belfast area between 2002 and 2013.

During the summer months Richard umpires senior league cricket in the NCU area as well as being a member of Malone Golf Club and Royal Portrush Golf Club. During the winter months he can be found supporting Linfield Football Club having been elected to its Board in 1983 and is the Club's Honorary Treasurer.

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

Catherine Quinn

Catherine completed her accountancy charter with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and started her finance career in the Construction and Facilities Management Industry. In 2014 Catherine left the private sector and joined the Department for Employment and Learning (subsequently the Department for the Economy) as an Accountant in Financial Management and Budgeting. Outside of work Catherine was a member of the Ulster Hockey Union Management Board as Treasurer and Chair of Finance (2013-2016). Catherine played hockey for her local club CI Ladies Hockey and still takes a keen interest as a volunteer and committee member.

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 Club & Workforce Development Officer for the Royal Yachting Association (NI), 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

Allan Rutherford

Allan is an accomplished Managing Director / Leader with extensive experience across various industry sectors managing Operations, Sales, Human Resources and Finance. Allan has extensive experience in both sales development and profit improvement from one of Ireland's top Field Marketing and Outsourcing Businesses. Allan has a keen interest in a wide range of sports and has represented and captained Ireland at every level of international Cricket. This included the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur where Allan also had the honour of carrying the Northern Ireland Flag in the game's Opening ceremony. Allan is also a director at the Northern Cricket Union and former Cricket Ireland board member.

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 board of the NI Sports Forum in 2015. Kelly is currently Account Director with Weber Shandwick NI, a Global Communications firm, where she specialises in Public Affairs, Corporate Communications, Stakeholder Engagement and PR. Prior to this, Kelly spent three years with a small Public Affairs Consultancy. She has previously worked in an in-house Communications role with a local mental health and well-being charity.

Kelly is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR), a member of the Northern Ireland Government Affairs Group (NIGAG) and The Association of Professional Political Consultants (APPC). Kelly also sits on the Department for Communities Sport Matters Monitoring Group. Kelly has an interest in a variety of sports including Gaelic, Camogie, and football and is a keen runner. She spent a number of years playing camogie for her local GAA club, An Ríocht.

Katrina McCaughan

Katrina has worked within local government as a Sports Development Officer for 12 years with Ballymena Borough Council and currently with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. Outside of work Katrina has been involved in Camogie both as a player and as an administrator and currently sits as Vice Chair of McQuillan GA & CC. Katrina takes a keen interest in several other sports and is a mum to 3 young girls and wants to ensure that children and young people get access to a wide range of sporting opportunities from an early age.

Trev Keane

Trev joined the board of the NI Sports Forum in 2018. Trev is currently head of business development for Sportego and is also the co-founder of Profile 90. Prior to his current roles he worked in the financial services industry for 14 years. He has a BA in Account and Finance and is a twice published author, Gaffers (2010, Mercier Press) and Running through walls (DB Publishing, 2012)



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3 FIVE
TWO
GROUP

CONSTITUTION & STRATEGIC PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

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

Following last year's AGM we had to implement the new constitutional changes, and to tailor our work programme for the year to suit the freshly adopted Strategic Plan. We also undertook monitoring of NISF progress & reporting against the plan and Sport NI targets.

An early task for the Sub Committee which was at that stage tasked with Strategic Planning and Constitutional matters, to review all standing sub committees and propose a new set of sub-committees to better reflect our business areas.

This Sub Committee had an expanded remit to cover all Governance matters, and we guided the Board to retain the Female Sports Forum and Finance sub committees, but to add 2 new sub-committees, to take on Communications and Business Development.

This exercise was completed and with new Terms of Reference the Sub Committees have worked well this year.

From late January 2018 our attention turned to the development of a fresh business case for Sport NI funding towards the NISF work programme. Allan Rutherford and Trev Keane were recruited

to lead this exercise and after a lot of drafts and meetings a document was submitted in July and approved in October, leading to a further meeting regarding what can be delivered in the remaining months. The focus will be on support to bodies without Sport NI funding, and on Income Generation for member bodies.

In the lead in to the AGM we have advised on further minor changes to the Memo and Articles, to meet the latest wishes of the Charities Commission, and to tidy up some minor anomalies remaining from 2017.

Our next task will be to recommence the cycle of preparation of yet another business case, so that we can avoid a protracted period of funding uncertainty early in the next funding term.

I am grateful to all who have served on the sub committee in all its forms during the year, and I conclude by thanking the Board members, other sub-committees, and Mr Keith McGarry for their input to our work.

Gordon Reid

Committee Chair



Klubfunder

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Klubfunder is a leader in digital transformations in the sports industry and is branching out from grassroots platforms to corporate collaborations and governing body E-Learning software. One example of this is the innovative new E-Learning platform for Ulster GAA.

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUB COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Despite another challenging year without an Executive in place, the NI Sport Forum (NISF) has worked hard to engage and raise awareness on behalf of members. The Public Affairs Sub Committee has supported the NISF in a range of communications and engagement activity aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the Sport and Recreation Sector in Northern Ireland.

The Sub Committee has continued to advise and guide on the political landscape in Northern Ireland, including identifying key policy and legislative areas that may affect members or the sector as a whole, identifying opportunities to engage and providing analysis on key departmental decisions and appointments.

There have been a number of high profile issues that the Sub Committee has supported the NISF and partners in engaging on over the last twelve months, most notably:

- The Roads (Miscellaneous Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010
- 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games in Belfast
- Mini-Bus Legislation
- Curriculum Schools Programme

Many key decisions and opportunities have been delayed or even lost due to the current political impasse, and although we hope this will change, it is imperative that we continue to engage and inform on behalf of our members in the hope that decisions will be made at an Executive level soon.

We have continued to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to strengthen our position in the sector, including

departmental officials, Northern Ireland Office, media and local councils. In the absence of an NI Executive, it is important that we are able to inform and engage across the political, business, community and media platforms to ensure our independent voice for the Sport and Recreation Sector in the region is heard.

The Sport & Physical Recreation All Party Group has continued to engage across all the main political parties, coalescing support for a range of areas and drawing very good attendances at our meetings. This platform is important to continue to develop these relationships across the political spectrum.

Following a review of this year's activity, it was agreed that the Sub Committee would reconfigure into a Communications Sub Committee, which would broaden the remit to include a wider range of activity for the NI Sport Forum, meeting the demand of our members. This now includes:

- Public Affairs
- Stakeholder engagement
- PR and media
- Online and social media
- Marketing opportunities
- Brand awareness

Thank you to all members of the Sub Committee for their ongoing support and advice during a challenging year.

Kelly McVeigh
Committee Chair

FEMALE SPORTS FORUM COMMITTEE



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The 2017-18 year was extremely successful following additional investment for the Female Sports Forum. This investment from the Department for Communities and Sport Northern Ireland enabled the FSF build momentum and work towards achieving the four key aims within the "Active, Fit & Sporty" Strategy, which 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.



Danielle McDowell, the FSF Project Manager, settled well into her role during the year and was instrumental in ensuring the continued progress and delivery of the Active, Fit & Sporty objectives. Danielle was also joined on the FSF staff team by Emma McAleese as media and marketing officer. Emma's role was designed to improve the profile of FSF activities as well as supporting other organisations to improve their communications and promotional activity for women's and girls' sport and physical activity.

There have been many highlights from the past year. In March the FSF extended its partnership with O'Neills to ensure the continuation of the monthly Active Female Awards. The awards enabled three Female nominees to be 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. An extremely successful initiative which has helped to raise the profile of success in female sport and physical activity and has also created new role models for others to be inspired by across Northern Ireland.

The FSF Governing Body Leadership Development Programme was launched for the first time this year which saw 12 female leaders from a wide range of sports securing a place on the course. An excellent programme delivered by Jo Hopkins has assisted in developing more female leaders. The programme has also resulted in a broader leadership network through governing bodies and the establishment of a mentor network to support the ongoing needs of each participant.

November saw the highlight of the year with the successful delivery of the Active, Fit & Sporty - Building Momentum Conference, held in the Titanic Conference Centre. A superb event with excellent keynote speakers Louise Martin, Maria Costello and Denise Lewis. Their differing messages throughout the event helped to inspire nearly 200

delegates. Many of the delegates were motivated to play their part in continuing to build momentum and develop greater opportunities for women and girls to be Active, Fit and Sporty.

The conference also saw the launch a Female Sports Forum's new Podium Leadership Development Programme for elite female athletes, in partnership with Podium Performance. This project aims to foster the relationship between sport and business. The brand-new programme allowed participants to engage with female business leaders and provide them with the opportunity to develop skills which will allow them to lead at the highest level.

The year also saw the successful delivery of Sports Leaders UK Level 2 & 3 courses for young leaders, as well as a range of seminars on Media training for Governing Bodies and Athletes. In March the Female Sports Forum received additional investment from the Department for Communities to deliver an Activity, Fit & Sporty Expo, in partnership with a range of sports governing bodies. The event held on Saturday 31st March was delivered across a range of venues including the Valley Leisure Centre, Abbey Centre, Park Centre and Connswater Shopping Centres. It was designed to encourage more women and girls to engage in sport and physical activity and provide links to local.

The Active, Fit and Sporty project has also expanded significantly during 2017-18 through the excellent work of the delivery partners Disability Sport NI, Ulster University, Sported NI, Youth Sport Trust and WISPA and we thank them for their continued commitment to their respective projects. The Female Sports Forum and all of the Active, Fit & Sporty Partners are grateful to the Department for Communities and Sport Northern Ireland for the continued investment in the Active, Fit and Sporty Strategy that has enabled further momentum to be made 2017-18 year.

Angela Platt
Committee Chair

NISF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Many traditional sports have seen an injection of capital and financing in recent years, however in today's climate some of our NI Sports Forum members have either seen their funding reduced or withdrawn.

This new financial dimension is testing existing governance structures, which are placed under additional scrutiny given the wider commercial and other interests affected by sporting decisions.

As an organisation we are always looking at new ways of providing additional added value services to our members.

MEMBERS PROCUREMENT SCHEME

NISF are in the process of developing further tenders for our member shared services Procurement Scheme. The first tenders have been received back from suppliers in the last few weeks, these are currently being reviewed and the outcomes will be communicated with members.

MEMBERS BENEFIT SCHEME

We already have in place a number of partners providing our members' opportunities to avail of discounts based on a larger buying group. During the year we have seen a number of new partners introduced. Our Business Development subcommittee will continue to investigate new partner opportunities.

NISF WEBSITE

Over the past 12 months we have invested in making significant improvements to our communication methods. Our website has increased the amount of content with information on the following:

- Latest news.
- Advertise Funding Opportunities.
- Sport Governance Guide development.
- Free Job/Board Advertisement (over 70 opportunities advertised in the last 12 months).
- SportsWatch E-zine.
- Staff & Governance Support.
- Members Board Placement Support
- Funding application support
- Media Training and Support
- Members Funding Support

If you have any ideas or proposals how we can further support your organisation please do not hesitate to contact us.

Allan Rutherford
Committee Chair

FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Finance Sub Committee meets two or three times a year to review quarterly management accounts and budgets, review future projections and 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). The Finance Sub Committee made the difficult decision to propose increases to members' fees for the first time in nine years for the 2018-19 year. This decision was made to ensure the NISF continues to deliver a quality service to all of its members. We are delighted to continue our corporate partnership agreements with Bluefin Sport to provide benefits to our members in the area of insurance and O'Neill Sports as our sponsor for the monthly competition winner in respect of the Female Sports Forum. In 2018 the NISF has secured exciting new partnerships with the 3fivetwo Group and Klubfunder and looks forward to the funding and communication benefits these partnerships can offer to our members.

The committee monitors salary scales as well as liaising with the NI Sports Forum payroll and pension providers regarding possible/actual legislation changes.

Much thanks must go to former Treasurer and current Chairman Richard Johnson for his work in relation to the 2017-18 accounts and his support as a member of the Finance Sub Committee in handing over the role of Treasurer. I'd also like to thank Executive Manager Ciaran Kearney, Finance Administrator Sharon Crossan and Sub Committee member Rosemary McWhinney for their support throughout the last year.

Catherine Quinn

**Treasurer &
Committee Chair**

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Income		
Sport Northern Ireland	141,740	80,929
Membership Income	8,145	7,161
Other income	7,963	8,945
Bank Interest	93	67
Total Income	157,941	97,102
Expenditure		
	2018 £	2017 £
Wages	76,901	39,758
Administration Expenses	4,338	4,195
Printing and Stationery	1,130	538
Accountancy Fees and Sundries	1,002	780
Programme Costs	61,495	40,407
Access NI Fees	528	693
Course Fees	1,155	2,804
Website Expenses	456	456
Total Expenditure:	147,005	89,631
Surplus for the Year:	10,936	7,471

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Current Assets		
Debtors	59,190	32,616
Cash at Bank	20,083	18,936
	79,273	51,552
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors and accruals	25,247	8,462
Net assets	54,026	43,090
Capital Fund		
Opening Balance	43,090	35,619
Surplus for the year	10,936	7,471
	54,026	43,090

MEMBERS

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

Association of NI Car Clubs
Athletics NI
Archery NI
Basketball NI
British Horse Society
British Gymnastics
The Canoe Association of NI Ltd
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 Indoor 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 Bowling Association
Irish Women's Indoor Bowling Association
Motorcycle Racing Association Ireland Ltd
Motorcycle Union of Ireland (Ulster Centre) Ltd
Mountaineering Council of Ireland
Mounted Games Association NI
Netball NI
NI Association of Aeromodellers
NI Cross Community Angling
NI Federation of Shooting Sports
NI Fencing Ltd
NI Fly Fishing Association
NI Federation of Sea Anglers
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 Ireland
Racquetball Association of Ireland (Ulster Council)
Royal Yachting Association of NI
Rowing Ireland Ulster Branch
Softball Ireland
Swim Ulster
Table Tennis Ulster

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 Gliding Club
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 & North Down Sports Forum
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council
NI District of The Boys Brigade
CIYMS
Community Watersports Co CIC
Disability Sports NI
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
HSE Community Games
NI Boy's Football Association
NI Commonwealth Games Council
NI Civil Service Sports Association
Mary Peters Trust
Outdoor Recreation NI
Sported Foundation
Sport Lisburn & Castlereagh
Royal Lifesaving Association
University Of Ulster Sports Union

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
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