



# NORTHERN IRELAND SPORTS FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT  
2018-2019



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

12 months ago I started my Foreword by expressing the ongoing concern regarding the lack of a functioning Executive at Stormont and unfortunately we now stand at over 1,000 days since we had functioning government in Northern Ireland. Despite discussions between political parties we are still operating in a vacuum that is having grave consequences for sport and recreation in Northern Ireland.

The Sport Matters Strategy was due to finish this year and the Department for Communities were well advanced in their preparations for a follow on strategy to take us into the next decade. The 'Strategy 2020' working group had met many stakeholders and laid foundations to set the direction for sport and physical activity however this project has met unfortunate delays without Ministerial direction. We would hope that the planning will be able to continue to ensure we have an active and sporty nation.

NI Sports Forum has continued to engage with political parties, their MLA's, the All Party Group and government departments to express concerns and highlight issues in the absence of an Executive. Through our ongoing work with members and the APG we raised serious concerns regarding changes to legislation surrounding closing of roads for races and events. The Road Closures Order was one of those difficult issues that has continued to leave questions surrounding introduction and implementation across all council areas. Despite a number of meetings with positive engagement with the PSNI, Department for Infrastructure and our local authorities, this issue is still causing confusion and concern for a number of sports, particularly Athletics NI, Triathlon Ireland and Cycling Ulster.

As well as engaging with our MLA's we have also ensured we have retained positive relationships with the Department for Communities and took an opportunity to meet with the Northern Ireland Office officials to outline members concerns and views on various issues impacting on the sector. We hope to continue positive relationships with statutory bodies and of course Sport Northern Ireland.

On the subject of strategic plans, members

should be aware that we have been going through a long process on shaping the future of the NI Sports Forum. Our board has worked very hard over the last two years to really look at the vision, mission and purpose of the Sports Forum. At present we are in the process of developing a long term plan which will shape the direction of the organisation going forward and the services and activities we provide for members. We are now looking across the whole sporting sector on how we can positively impact on the sporting culture and habits of the general public. Over the past year we have received investment from Sport NI to work closer with non-funded governing bodies and are very keen to engage with them further. Whilst this only one area of focus we are also very proud of the other services we provide and this was showcased at our very first Income Generation Conference which was held in March at the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park. We received great feedback from this conference and look forward to following this up in March 2020. We are always keen to hear what our members would like to hear and would encourage members to get in touch.

In the performances landscape we have seen another remarkable year for Jonathan Rea in motorsport. His dominance in the Superbike World Championships has seen him capture an amazing 5th title. Rhys McClenaghan has come back from a significant injury to win Ireland's first ever medal at the Gymnastics World Championships by winning bronze on the Pommel Horse. This will give Rhys great confidence ahead of the Olympics in Tokyo next year. On the Badminton Court, the Magee siblings, Sam and Chloe won silver at European Games in Minsk while Banbridge athlete Philip Doyle and his fellow rower Ronan Byrne has won silver at the World Rowing Championships in Austria.

Our boxers always deliver medals on the international stage with Kurt Walker winning gold at the European Games in Minsk. Kellie Harrington and Michaela Walsh also won silver at the games with Michaela also winning gold at the World Cup in Cologne while Carly McNaul also won silver in Germany. At the 2019 Special



Olympics World Summer Games, Ulster athletes won 21 medals to help Ireland with their haul of 86 medals which was a fantastic achievement.

In disability sport Bethany Firth won two gold medals at the World Para-swimming Championships in London while skier Kelly Gallagher won National Lottery Legends Award and won a silver and 2 bronze at World Championships. Claire Taggart has now won six medals in 2019 after winning the UK Champion's International in June and followed that up with further medals at the Boccia European Regional Championships in Seville.

The Irish Women's Hockey team continue to inspire the nation with their passion and love of the game. They have secured a first ever place at the Olympic Games in typical nerve racking fashion. It was great to see Shirley McCay win her 300th cap in the play-offs with the heroic Ayeisha McFerran from Larne putting on another super goalkeeping display to ensure the side led by Katie Mullan of Coleraine will be travelling to Tokyo. There was heartbreak however for the men's team who were cruelly denied a spot at the Olympics after a controversial call from a video referee in favour of Canada before losing on a penalty shootout.

It was a great summer for golf in Ireland with Royal Portrush doing a superb job of hosting the 148th Open Championship. The positive feedback from players, spectators and the international media has been remarkable with an excellent championship being topped off by having Offaly man Shane Lowry secure his 1st major title. At the World Invitational at Galgorm Castle, Jordanstown golfer Stephanie Meadow provided further local success in a landmark event combining male and female golfers in one week. Although Rory McIlroy did not manage to claim another major, he has been a very consistent performer on the PGA Tour and won multiple titles as he looks to regaining the spot at the top of the world rankings.

The Female Sports Forum continues to grow as an organisation and this ensures that it remains a priority for our Board. It is coming to the time where conversations need to be held on the structure of the Female Sports Forum and how it will

operate in the coming years. For too long the burden has been placed on a small number of people ably led by Angela Platt and we need to put in place a structure that ensures continued effective management of the Female Sports Forum but also allows for further growth in an environment where female sport is gaining greater recognition and expectations are rightfully increased. We were delighted to support the 20x20 initiative led by the Federation of Irish Sport and must congratulate them on the job they have done so far on a fantastic movement for female sport. I'd like to thank Emma Liebe for her creativity and passion which continues to showcase the best of female sport and also to Kerry, Niamh and Amina for their support over the last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the NI Sports Forum Board members who work tirelessly throughout the year. 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, Trev Keane, Allan Rutherford and Katrina McCaughan for their continued hard work and dedication.

We have continued to have robust discussions and I am delighted to lead a 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. Christopher Morrow has just recently joined the board and we are looking forward to Chris making a valuable contribution in the coming years.

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

Yours in Sport

*Richard Johnson*  
**Chairperson**



## OUR VISION

“To guide, support and empower our members in their role to govern and promote sport and physical activity in Northern Ireland.”

## OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

### MEMBER SERVICES

NISF will develop relevant services to empower and strengthen our member organisations relevant to their own needs and aspirations.

### COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS

Northern Ireland Sports Forum aims to facilitate collaboration develop relationships with our member organisations and the wider sport and activity sector. NISF will lead increased networking and engagement opportunities between members and relevant stakeholders across the sector.

### REPRESENTATION

NISF will act as a strong representative for members and the sector on various groups and committees including central and local government and impact on development of research and evaluation to ensure the best interests of the sport and physical activity sector are upheld.

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

NISF will build capacity of the Forum through seeking new opportunities and to provide support to develop our members.

### LEADERSHIP

NISF will invest in staff and board skill development for the growth of the organisation to enhance services and operations.



Transforming  
Not-for-Profits

## Transforming Not-for-Profits

### CONSULTING, RECRUITMENT & RESEARCH

**2into3** work with mission-driven organisations to build capacity, so that they can have a transformative impact on society in Ireland and the world.

How can we help **Sporting Organisations** in Northern Ireland:

- Our advice is **evidence-informed** and based on **best practice**. From experience, we favour a collaborative process in which we equip you with **tools** for the future.
- We provide you with a clear **understanding of the options** available. Depending on the scale of your organisation or the challenge you face, we can **support you** through a range of services.

To discuss further, please contact Darren McMahon at [darren.mcmahon@2into3.com](mailto:darren.mcmahon@2into3.com) or call **+353-1-234-3127**



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discount for  
members of NI  
Sports Forum



## OUR VALUES

- **LEADERSHIP**
- **INTEGRITY**
- **INDEPENDENCE**
- **INSPIRING**
- **PARTNERSHIP**
- **INCLUSIVITY**



# EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT

2018-2019 was an extremely busy year for the Northern Ireland Sports Forum with many successful events delivered and a wide range of services and activities delivered for and on behalf of our members

## MEMBER SERVICES

In March 2019 we launched our first ever Board Recruitment Programme with the intention of providing member organisations with an opportunity to recruit new board members and volunteers in their organisations. As this was a new initiative we were unsure as to successful this would be. I must say we were absolutely delighted with the quantity and quality of the candidates who put themselves forward for the programme. The challenge we now face is placing these volunteers to member organisations. We have a very skilled pool of people who are willing to give their time to assist organisations and urge member organisations to get in touch to avail of this programme. Those members who have engaged so far have found it very beneficial.

The introduction of the GDPR legislation in May 2018 presented a large challenge to members. On the back of this, we developed a GDPR working group which met a number of times in 2018 to support members through the process and to allow members to learn from each other. We also engaged with Briefed who are experts in the area of data management to provide analysis for members on their data management procedures with a very insightful seminar in February 2019.

In the past year we processed our highest amount of Access NI applications for members. We now have over 25 members requiring support in processing Access NI applications in what is a vital service for member organisations.

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. In particular we would like to engage more with our non-funded members and would encourage those members to avail of opportunities to develop their organisations with sessions such as the Effective Organisations session that took place with Strictly Boardroom in January 2019. We continue to be represented on the Developing Governance Group and consultation is currently ongoing on the 3rd revision of the Code of Good Governance. We of course worked with members to provide the superb Sports Governance Guide which can be found at [www.sportsgovernanceneni.net](http://www.sportsgovernanceneni.net)

Sustainability and income generation have been key challenges for our members and the sector. I was delighted to see the interest in our Income Generation & Building Capacity Conference at the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park with key contributions from Titan Experience, Klubfunder, Pundit Arena, Volunteer Now and Otium Leisure. The feedback from this inaugural conference was really positive and will look forward to our second conference in March 2020. Diversification of funding is also key for members and Ulster Community Investment Trust delivered a seminar on Alternative Finance with a key input from Bluefin Sport.

## VOICE OF SPORT & RECREATION

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. We were however delighted to see some restored

funding for Ulster GAA and the IFA for the curriculum schools programme. We hope that Ulster GAA will receive positive news in the coming weeks and months regarding the redevelopment of Casement Park

We recently held a meeting to discuss the outdated laws regarding gambling, societies and lotteries. We had very positive engagement from the PSNI, Department for Communities and Sport NI following some renewed interest and understanding of the difficulties caused by the legislation. Our MLA's were united in their understanding that legislation from 1985 has to be modernised. Whilst there is no Executive in place, we are encouraged that DfC are embarking on consultation in this area in the next number of weeks and we will of course keep members informed of all developments.

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**

Over the past 18 months we have added more partners to our portfolio with a key aim of providing high quality support services to our members. At our Income Generation Conference Klubfunder were able to outline to members and their clubs how their platform could improve their communications output and take advantage of income generation opportunities created. With Kingsbridge Private Hospital, members have a fantastic opportunity to get high quality medical treatments from the group and provide savings on treatments and scans which can be done very quickly for the requirements of athletes and governing bodies. Our newest member 2into3 will provide insight into the services they can provide for the benefit of members in a range of areas.

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

NI Sports Forum continues to work alongside Sport NI in particular areas

and receives investment to deliver on objectives. As a members organisation our priority has and always should be to consider the needs and requirements of our members in the first instance. We are thankful for the investment we receive and continuation of further agreements with Sport NI will be on the basis of trying to add value to our member organisations and to strengthen the sector in line with our values. Members will be aware that we are in the process of developing a long term strategic plan and two consultation activities have been completed to date. I'd like to pay a special thanks to Dr. Paul Donnelly for his support for this work and look forward to sharing a new strategy with members in the coming months.

The role of the Board in developing a new strategy is key and I am delighted to work alongside passionate, experienced and supportive board members. Challenging conversations continue to take place and as an organisation we are all the stronger for that. Thanks to you all.

The Female Sports Forum evolution has continued under the leadership of Angela Platt as Chair and throughout the year the support of Kerry Jones, Niamh Connolly and Amina Martin has been invaluable. In an ever changing world, Emma Liebe has ensured that brand identity and marketing activities for the Female Sports Forum and NI Sports Forum evolves with style and I thank Emma for this. Thanks must also go to Finance Administrator Sharon Crossan who continues to provide significant support in the budgeting and monitoring of finances.

Yours in Sport

*Ciaran Kearney*  
**Executive Manager**

# OVERVIEW OF THE YEARS' WORK & ACTIVITIES

## **INCOME GENERATION & BUILDING CAPACITY CONFERENCE**

In March 2019 an Income Generation conference was held at the National Stadium at Windsor Park with over 75 attendees from the sporting sector. This conference provided some fantastic speakers on a range of subjects through two key notes and three workshops. The feedback for this conference was really positive and it also provided members with a great networking opportunity to share learning. This also provided some insight for ourselves on possible future needs for our members.

The Income Generation Activities session delivered by the Sportego provided members with some insight on how to work more effectively with members and to utilise the data at their disposal. Practical tips on how to utilise their social media accounts to generate more traffic and become more attractive to potential sponsors and partners which was delivered by the Female Sports Forum Media & Marketing Officer and was very well received.

## **ALTERNATIVE FINANCE**

The Alternative Finance session with UCIT and Bluefin Sport in November 2018 another strong showing of representatives from across our membership. This session provided members with an insight into different ways to seek future long term funding and how to be prepared as an organisation for any future projects with governance and insurance considerations.

## **FUNDRAISING MASTERCLASS**

A session with our new partners 2into3 provided members of an analysis of their current income and expenditure and also highlighted areas where members were missing opportunities. It provided members with some insight on how to be more strategic in their thinking, to plan

fundraising for the long term and provided an example of some potential fundraising initiatives.

## **GOVERNANCE SUPPORT FOR NON-FUNDED SPORTS**

In January 2019 a session was delivered by Strictly Boardroom on Effective Boards and Organisations. This provided non-funded members with some insight on how to improve their governance and looked at the Effective Organisations targets from Sport NI in line with Code of Good Governance. The members who attended took some strong learning from this session.

## **BOARD RECRUITMENT PROGRAMME**

The Board Recruitment Programme was one of the most successful projects that the NISF has conducted in recent years. Over 70 applications were received with candidates expressing a high level of skills and experiences across many different sectors. Already a number of our members have recruited new Board Members and we encourage members to get in touch to avail of this great scheme.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We are delighted to be in a position to continually add new members to the Sports Forum. Over the last year we have welcomed British Kickboxing Council, British Taekwondo, Special Olympics Ulster, NI Football League, Train to be Smart Soccer, Multi Ethnic Sport and Cultures, NI School's Football Association, Ethnic Minorities Sports Organisation Northern Ireland and the Belfast City Marathon.

## **REPRESENTATION**

Representation of members is central to the work of the Sports Forum. You will see on page 15 the various groups and committees



that we represent members on. We understand that we need to communicate more effectively to members on the impact of representation on these groups and ways to remedy this have been discussed at board level.

## **STRATEGY FOR SPORT**

As Sport Matters comes to the end of its tenure we have continued to engage with the Department for Communities on the next strategy for sport and physical activity. We will continue to meet with DfC to provide insight, feedback and support to the ongoing development process and look forward to more in-depth consultation on Strategy 2020 in the coming months. Sport NI have also embarked on consultation regarding their own Corporate Plan and we have shared member's views on engagement in sport from governance and participation to performance.

## **SPORTS LAW CONFERENCE**

In November 2018 we decided to move our Sports Law Conference to the fantastic setting of Malone Golf Club and alongside a great line up of speakers this became our largest conference to date. Northern Ireland manager Michael O'Neill was our keynote speaker and was very open and honest in discussion with Mark Sidebottom of the BBC. Former NI International Footballer, FA Registered Lawyer & Intermediary Colin Murdock provided great insight to his experience of Anti-Doping cases while Barrister and CEO of Briefed, Orlagh Kelly provided an enjoyable and informative insight into the world of GDPR which complemented regular contributions from Prof. Jack Anderson and Keith McGarry.

## **FEMALE SPORTS FORUM**

The Female Sports Forum is soon to be approaching 10 years in existence after Ulster Hockey, Ulster Camogie, Ulster Ladies

Gaelic, Ulster Rugby and the Irish Football Association came together with an aim to raise the profile of women and girls in sports and to increase opportunities for females to participate in sport and physical activity. In recent years the Female Sports Forum has grown substantially and we thank Sport NI and the Department for Communities for their assistance. There has never been a more exciting time to be involved in female sport and the NI Sports Forum looks forward to continuing our support for the Female Sports Forum in the years ahead.

## **WEBSITE GROWTH**

Significant time has been put into redevelopment of our website alongside ensuring we have up to date relevant content for our members. This has seen a massive growth in users and page views of our website where in the previous 6 months we have had 50% more page views and almost double the amount of users in the comparative period for the following year. We have found the addition of a dedicated funding section as great resource for sports clubs and organisations alongside jobs and event opportunities



# NORTHERN IRELAND SPORTS FORUM PARTNERS

## SPORT 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.sportresolutions.co.uk](http://www.sportresolutions.co.uk)**

## MARY PETERS TRUST

Giving Ulster's Youth a Sporting Chance through financial grants to our elite athletes.  
**[www.marypeterstrust.org](http://www.marypeterstrust.org)**

## 2INTO3

2into3 work with mission-driven organisations to build capacity, so that they can have a transformative impact on society in Ireland and the world. **[www.2into3.com](http://www.2into3.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](http://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 is by offering clubs the use of their online software for free. **[www.Klubfunder.com](http://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](http://www.oneills.com)**

## KINGSBRIDGE PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Kingsbridge Private Hospital 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.kingsbridgeprivatehospital.com](http://www.kingsbridgeprivatehospital.com)**

## SPORTS LAW NI

Sports Law NI is Northern Ireland's first specialist sports law company led by Keith McGarry. **[www.sportslawni.com](http://www.sportslawni.com)**

## SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

Sport NI is a 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](http://www.sportni.net)**



# 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
- Developing Governance Group
- Active Living No Limit's Forum
- Northern Ireland Wellbeing in Sport Forum
- NI Commonwealth Games Council
- Mary Peters Trust
- Home Countries Sports Associations
- Sport Resolutions UK
- Female Sports Forum
- Safeguarding in Sport Strategic Group
- Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards
- Belfast City Council Sports Award
- NI Sport & Human Rights Forum







*Terry Crothers receiving the WJ Paddy Patterson Award for 2018 from NI Sports Forum Chairperson Richard Johnson (right)*



*Terry Crothers with Sports Awards host Ruth Patterson*



# 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.

Terry Crothers, the 2018 WJ Paddy Patterson Award winner has been an outstanding volunteer in Sport, mainly with NI Commonwealth Games but also with the Mary Peters Trust and with her chosen sport of Golf.

After a significant 25 year career with BBC NI Sport started Terry's involvement with the NICGC started in 1994 and went on to be closely involved with 6 Commonwealth Games and 3 Commonwealth Youth Games. Terry's first Council officer role was as Assistant Hon Secretary and travelling to the Kuala Lumpur Games in 1998 as part of the NI HQ Team and she played a similar role in the 2002 Manchester Games while in between Games carrying out key administrative and policy roles. Terry was Team Manager for the 2014 Glasgow Games with her final games being the 2018 Gold Coast games and she recently retired as Honorary Secretary of the Council.

Terry served for many years as a trustee and more recently a Board member of the Mary Peters Trust. Terry is also a former Hon Secretary and Lady Captain at Royal Belfast Golf Club and has held further roles with the Irish Ladies Golfing Union Ulster Branch. Terry received a fantastic reception

upon receiving the WJ Paddy Patterson Award which emphasised how appreciative athletes and administrators are of Terry's long commitment to sport in Northern Ireland.

## PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

<b>1988</b>	<b>D Simon</b>
<b>1989</b>	<b>H Cavan</b>
<b>1990</b>	<b>RJ McColgan</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>DF Coyne</b>
<b>1992</b>	<b>M Kyle</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>W Bingham</b>
<b>1994</b>	<b>JC Lapsley</b>
<b>1995</b>	<b>Sir E Bell</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>S Millar</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>J McKeever</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>J McCloy</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>G Glasgow</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>K Reid</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>D Rose</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>M Brodie</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>A Strong</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>T Welsh &amp; P Welsh</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>M Whyte</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>B Stewart &amp; D McColgan</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>R Torrens</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>Dame M Peters</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>B Platt</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>B Colhoun</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>D Murphy</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>K Nixon</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>J Monaghan</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>D Miskelly</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>D O'Connor</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>D Seaton</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>G Stevenson</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>T Crothers</b>

# COMPANY INFORMATION

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



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Registered Number NI 10440



*Chairperson Richard Johnson (centre) presenting a token of appreciation for long service to former board members Ken Nixon, Rosemary McWhinney, Roy Millar and Dr. Richard Briggs.*





# MEET THE BOARD

## CHAIRPERSON

### Richard Johnson

Richard joined the Board in October 2008 and was elected Treasurer 24 months later. 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 and finally was elected President of Cricket Ireland for the 2011-12 year. He was Tournament Director/ Organiser of all major cricket tournaments held in the Greater Belfast area between 2002 and 2013. Richard is currently NCU President having been elected for the 2019 and 2020 seasons.

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 Graduated from Queen's University Belfast in Accounting and completed her Accountancy charter with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. Catherine started her Accountancy training in the Construction and Facilities Management Industry and was subsequently employed there as a Company Accountant. 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 she has been 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

### Ashley Hunter

Ashley joined the board of the NI Sports Forum in 2014. Ashley has been involved in the sports sector for over twenty years and has worked for charities and governing bodies in director and chief officer roles. Ashley is also an active canoe and kayak coach and sports tutor. Ashley enjoys a wide range of sports but mainly outdoor adventure sports.



### **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, Paddle sports and Powerboating and is an instructor in each. He 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. He 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 had the honour of carrying the Northern Ireland Flag in the game's Opening ceremony. Allan is also a member of the Northern Cricket Union's board where he is Director of Representative Cricket.

### **Kelly McVeigh**

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 a sports marketing consultant, working with the European Cricket League and Christian Fuchs, prior to that he was head of business development for Sportego and the co-founder of Profile 90. He has a Msc in Marketing and BA in Account and Finance and is a twice published author, Gaffers (2010, Mercier Press) and Running through walls (DB Publishing, 2012).

### **Christopher Morrow**

Chris joined Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NI Chamber) in March 2009 and leads on all policy and communications activity for the organisation. As part of the senior management team he works closely with the Chief Executive, President and NI Chamber Council to ensure that the interests and needs of business are fully understood and appreciated throughout government. He also represents NI Chamber on a number of forums and panels across key policy areas such as Brexit, skills and infrastructure. He is also responsible for all aspects of NI Chamber communications including public relations activity, marketing and external publications (Ambition magazine) and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR). As a father of three young children, Chris is passionate about creating an environment for local sport to continue to thrive into the future.



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# GOVERNANCE SUB COMMITTEE

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Following the 2019 AGM the updated constitution has become more relevant to the Forum and easier to live by.

We continued to monitor progress against the Strategic Plan and operational targets for the year to March 2019, and the subsequent part year, for the Forum and its Female Sports Forum. Specific meetings and work were centred on planning and the development of a Business Case.

Particular success stories were the Board Recruitment Programme, and the quality support made available to all members through the Sports Law Conference, and the various workshops and presentations offered. It remains a source of frustration that more member bodies (whether Sport NI funded or not) are unable to directly benefit from these opportunities, or the offers of governance support by Forum staff.

The administration of Access NI applications remains a valued service, along with the offering from partners providing insurance, GDPR support, club funding, medical cover, and organisational development. Shared services provide real potential for benefits and savings to all bodies following this route.

We have continued to feed into the Sport Matters process and the strategy to succeed it, but with efforts somewhat curtailed by the political vacuum.

A new Leadership Development Programme promises to be popular and successful in the next few weeks, and a review of the Code of Good Governance for the Voluntary Sector may herald the need for a new guide for the sporting sector. A programme to support members through managing constitutional change is also in the pipeline.

As we focus in on our new Strategy we will develop existing areas of success but more importantly seek new ways to support members, and in particular members without Sport NI funding. We are quite satisfied that our work is of real value, but it remains a challenge for all of us to collect and present evidence of this. Consultation on the new Strategy is well advanced and we are grateful to Dr Paul Donnelly for his contribution to this work.

I believe it is safe to say that every board member has contributed to the work of this sub-committee during the last year, and I would express my thanks to everyone, and in particular to Ciaran Kearney and our other staff for their persistence and drive to deliver our extensive work programmes.

*Gordon Reid*

**Committee Chair**



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MRI, CT and Outpatient Centre  
801 - 805 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7GX

T: 028 9066 7878  
E: [info@kingsbridgeprivatehospital.com](mailto:info@kingsbridgeprivatehospital.com)  
[kingsbridgeprivatehospital.com](http://kingsbridgeprivatehospital.com)



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# COMMUNICATIONS SUB COMMITTEE

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

In the last year, the NI Sport Forum Board took the decision to widen out the scope of the previous Public Affairs Sub Committee to incorporate a wider Communications element. Since I last reported on the activity of the Sub Committee, the NI Sport Forum has further extended both our reach with members but also external stakeholders. This led to the inevitable need to broaden out our communications and advocacy support.

The NI Sport Forum has continued to deliver much needed services for our members, offering a range of advocacy and communications led support and advice. With no NI Executive in place for more than two years it has been difficult for the sector as a whole to proactively plan for the future, lack of decisions around policy and legislation and of course funding has meant many members are uncertain of their long term futures.

We have worked hard to offer advice and guidance during this period, including identifying opportunities for engagement and raising awareness of key issues as well as the Sport and Recreation Sector in Northern Ireland. We have continued to raise the profile of the NI Sport Forum and its role as well as locally for member organisations.

There have been a number of areas that the Sub Committee has supported the NI Sport Forum and partners in over the last twelve months, including:

- Member consultation
- Media engagement
- Stakeholder engagement
- Local Council engagement

Engagement around specific legislation has also been important, even though changes may not be possible without a Minister it is imperative that these issues are engaged on and the views of members highlighted. For example, we have been engaging with a range of stakeholders on the legislation relating to Societies/ Lotteries within the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. An area that is impacting how local clubs operate and develop.

In the absence of decision making in NI we have also worked hard to give members the opportunity to engage with stakeholders who can support them in their plans to grow, including local councils, potential sponsors and other partners. We have also continued to engage with elected representatives (MLAs, MPS) on key issues that are impacting members. It is important that these relationships continue as we hope to see the return of an NI Executive in the future.

The Sport & Physical Recreation All Party Group has continued to engage across all the main political parties, meeting regularly and raising concerns of our members. We have been pleased to see continued support from all political parties in this forum.

Thank you to all members of the Sub Committee for their ongoing support and advice during a challenging year. We look forward to continuing to support our members in their pursuits to grow and develop.

*Kelly McVeigh*  
**Committee Chair**

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The 2018-19 year has again seen further progress for the Female Sports Forum following continued investment from the Department for Communities and Sport Northern Ireland. Support from both organisations had enabled the FSF to expand its work with a wide range of partners who have all collectively been working 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.

During the year Danielle McDowell, FSF Project Co-ordinator, moved on from her role to a new position with the Irish FA. We thank Danielle for her hard work during her time with the FSF and wish her well in her new role. Kerry Jones replaced Danielle in October and settled well into her role ensuring continued delivery of the FSF objectives. Emma Liebe also continued in her role playing a key part in improving the profile of FSF activities as well, as supporting other organisations to improve their communications and promotional activity for female sport and physical activity.

The FSF continued its partnership with O'Neills through the monthly Active Female Awards to enable increased profile of females in sport and physical activity. This year saw 36 females nominated for the monthly awards with 12 winners each receiving a £50 O'Neills voucher. 27



females were also highlighted during the year in a series of videos used to promote sporting activities and their role models. 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.

The FSF Governing Body Leadership Development Programme was held again this year which saw 14 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 within a wide range of Governing Bodies of Sport.

The FSF Podium Leadership Development Programme also concluded during the year. This programme involved 10 high profile female athletes considered role models in their sport who were provided with an opportunity to develop as leaders alongside female leaders from the business sector in NI. Mentoring support was also provided during the programme and we thank Jo Hopkins for her excellent delivery of that programme.

The year also saw the successful delivery of Sports Leaders UK Level 2 course for young leaders. This course positively impacted on 25 young females (aged 15+) starting their leadership journey and it has been great to see their progress since the programme has been completed.

In March the Female Sports Forum delivered a range of Active, Fit & Sporty Expo's, in partnership with a range of sports governing bodies and local sports clubs. The Expo events took place in 6 shopping centres throughout NI across three weekends, with local sporting clubs showcasing their sport and giving people the opportunity to get involved. Expo events took place in Craigavon, Enniskillen, Newtownards, Bangor, Belfast City Centre and Derry/Londonderry. The Expo events concluded with 1 large Expo held at Ulster University, Coleraine on 23rd March, which involved a variety of sports and activities for participants to try. All the Expo events were designed to encourage more women and girls to engage in sport and physical

activity and provide links to local clubs.

March also saw the successful delivery of another inspirational Active, Fit & Sporty Conference, held in the Stormont Hotel Conference Centre on 12th March. The conference theme was "The Ultimate Goal: Embedding Cultural Change". Another superb event with excellent keynote speakers Ali Oliver, Kate Grey and Amy Williams. Their differing messages throughout the event helped to inspire 150 delegates with many motivated to play their part in embedding cultural change and developing greater opportunities for women and girls to be Active, Fit and Sporty.

2018-19 also saw the FSF undertake two pieces of research. One piece focused on the impact of the Female Sports Forum and its activities over the 2016/17 & 2018/19 years, to find out what attendees and participants have benefitted from the opportunities and how they have utilised their experience on the programmes or courses. The second piece of research has focused on the coverage of female sport in the Northern Ireland media with the findings helping to provide more focused interventions to improve media coverage for females in sport in the future.

The Active, Fit and Sporty project has also made further progress during the year 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 the Active, Fit & Sporty partners extend our gratitude to the Department for Communities and Sport Northern Ireland for the continued investment in the Active, Fit and Sporty Strategy that has enabled further progress and positive impacts to be made 2018-19 year.

*Angla 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.

The result of this is testing existing governance structures, which are placed under additional scrutiny given the wider commercial and other interests affected by sporting decisions. Governing bodies are being forced to investigate new sources of funding to enable them to continue providing support to their members

As an organisation we are always looking at new ways of providing additional added value services to our members. Our first ever Income Generation Conference in March was a massive success and we have continued to offer further activities focused on making member organisations more self sustainable

### 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. We are delighted to have 2into3 come on board as our latest partner and are currently in discussions with other potential partners which will provide a range of support services and activities for the benefit of our members.

### NISF WEBSITE

We continue to improve our methods of communication. 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
- Sports watch E-zine.
- Staff & Governance Support.
- Members Board Placement Support
- Funding application support
- Media Training and 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, with new member applications approved at board level.

The Finance Sub Committee has held the fees for 2019-20 at the levels introduced in 2018-19, ensuring 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. The NI Sports Forum continued exciting new partnerships with the Ulster Community Investment Trust and Klubfunder providing funding and communication benefits respectively to our members along with new healthcare partner Kingsbridge.

The 2018-19 Annual Accounts continue to show a growth in reserves, essential to maintain a healthy cashflow for the NI Sports Forum. The Finance Sub Committee monitors these closely taking into account the future plans of the Board.

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 the members of the Finance Sub Committee Chairman Richard Johnson and Rosemary McWhinney for their support throughout the year. I'd also like to thank Executive Manager Ciaran Kearney and Finance Administrator Sharon Crossan for their support on the Sub Committee and for the smooth operation of the financial procedures all year.

*Catherine Quinn*

**Treasurer &  
Committee Chair**



# INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Income</b>		
Sport Northern Ireland	145,563	141,740
Membership Income	11,001	8,145
Other income	10,637	7,963
Bank Interest	116	93
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>167,317</b>	<b>157,941</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
	2019 £	2018 £
Wages	74,520	76,901
Administration Expenses	4,444	4,337
Printing and Stationery	510	1,130
Accountancy Fees and Sundries	1,032	1,002
Programme Costs	73,447	61,495
Access NI Fees	759	528
Course Fees	577	1,155
Website Expenses	504	456
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>155,793</b>	<b>147,005</b>
<b>Surplus for the Year:</b>	<b>11,524</b>	<b>10,936</b>

# BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	56,764	59,191
Cash at Bank	18,617	20,083
	75,381	79,273
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Sundry Creditors and accruals	9,833	25,247
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>65,548</b>	<b>54,026</b>
<b>Capital Fund</b>		
Opening Balance	54,024	43,08
Surplus for the year	11,524	10,936
	<b>65,548</b>	<b>54,024</b>

# MEMBERS

## REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

Association of NI Car Clubs  
Athletics NI  
Archery NI  
Baseball Ireland  
Basketball NI  
British Horse Society  
British Gymnastics  
British Kickboxing Council  
British Taekwondo  
The Canoe Association of NI Ltd  
Cricket Ireland  
Cycling Ulster  
Gymnastics Ireland  
Golfing Union of Ireland (Ulster Branch)  
Horse Sport Ireland  
Irish Athletic Boxing Association (Ulster Branch)  
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 Fencing Ltd  
NI Fly Fishing Association  
NI Federation of Sea Anglers  
NI Jiu-Jitsu Association  
NI Judo Federation  
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  
Belfast City Marathon  
CIYMS  
Disability Sports NI  
Ethnic Minority Sports Organisation NI  
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council  
HSE Community Games  
Multi Ethnic Sports and Cultures  
NI Boy's Football Association  
NI School's Football Association  
NI Commonwealth Games Council  
NI Civil Service Sports Association  
NI Football League  
Mary Peters Trust  
Outdoor Recreation NI  
Special Olympics Ulster  
Sported Foundation  
Sport Lisburn & Castlereagh  
Straight to Swimming  
Royal Lifesaving Association  
Train to be Smart Soccer  
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 OBE  
Mr Sheila Barrett  
Mr Syd Millar  
Mr Tommy Welsh MBE  
Mrs Joan McCloy OBE  
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