

NI SPORTS
FORUM

NORTHERN IRELAND SPORTS FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020



VOICE OF SPORT AND RECREATION IN
NORTHERN IRELAND



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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

Glancing over my Foreword from last year I expressed concern over the continued lack of a functioning Executive at Stormont. A level of positivity was felt across the sector only a couple of months from the production of that report when the Assembly was restored in early January 2020. Little did we know that the biggest challenge to face the all sectors in a generation was just around the corner.

The development of a strategy for sport and physical activity for Northern Ireland continues to be developed and thankfully has gathered pace since the restoration of the Executive. Alongside the development of the Sport NI Corporate Plan, the roadmap for sport and physical activity for the next 10 years should become clearer in the coming months. We welcome the ongoing engagement from both the Department for Communities and Sport NI with the sports sector and appreciate that whilst significant support is being provided in the short term to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, focus also remains on the long term requirements.

Since early March we all have had to live in unprecedented times and alter our daily habits and activities. Engagement in sport and physical activity has either radically changed for most, or been put on the backburner until sometime in the future. The one certainty however has been the positive impact that our members, their clubs and their members have made in their local communities. From supporting the vulnerable and isolated, to ensuring key messages are communicated, sport has shown tremendous leadership in times of crisis.

The NI Sports Forum has been at the forefront of outlining the impacts on our members and their clubs. We have worked hard to liaise with the Department for Communities, Sport NI and MLA's to ensure the needs of members are understood. We were delighted that the sports sector was able to avail of the Retail, Hospitality, Leisure and Hospitality scheme following lobbying

to have it extended to include sports. We also lobbied the Finance Minister Conor Murphy to include sport in the extension of a rates holiday for sports facilities and were delighted that the Minister did include sports facilities within this 12 month holiday which eased pressures on sports clubs. Sport NI has developed a number of support programmes such as the Sports Hardship Fund, Covid Safe Sports Pack and the anticipated Build Back Better programme and thank Sport NI for implementing these programmes and look forward to engaging with them in future activities.

At the end of October we were delighted to hear that the Communities Minister Carál Ní Chuilín announced a £15m Covid Relief Funding Package for governing bodies and their clubs. For members who rely on gate receipts, event participants, membership subscriptions and other forms of income this was a very welcome boost and will help ensure sustainability of those organisations. We look forward to engaging with the Department for Communities and Sport NI on this programme. The acknowledgement of the role that sport has played in local communities since March has been well received.

The Sports Forum has worked hard to understand the views and needs of members since March and has had various engagements from the very beginning of this pandemic with a meeting of a significant number of members on 16th March alongside DfC and Sport NI. Ongoing engagement has continued with bespoke support and advice from our Executive Manager to a wide range and type of members. We have also provided opportunities for members to engage with our elected representatives through the All Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation. This group has been vital in providing MLA's with information and updates on the impact that the pandemic has played on their sports. Many MLA's have taken the opportunity to highlight the concerns of the sector in the NI Assembly and we thank them for their

ongoing commitment to sport during this difficult time.

Whilst we are now all focused on getting through the difficult times we are currently experiencing, the Sports Forum should also reflect on the significant work undertaken before March. We have delivered a wide range of programmes and projects to support our members. Members who have engaged in our Board Recruitment programme have found this very beneficial and have taken the opportunity to recruit highly skilled and enthusiastic independents to their organisation. We've had significant engagement with Sport Resolutions UK regarding support structures for bodies who are facing challenges in terms of disputes and disciplinary cases. This work will continue in the coming years and we are thankful again to Keith McGarry of Sports Law NI for his continued support. Keith is instrumental in the development of the Sports Law Conference which had its eighth edition with a superb programme in November 2019.

Unfortunately one of our highlight events of the past year did fall foul in March. A strong line up of speakers was confirmed for our Building Capacity Conference with over 100 attendees confirmed in the weeks before deciding that postponing the conference was the most sensible decision. We have full intentions to revisit this in the coming weeks and months in different guises.

As an organisation we did spend some significant time in reviewing the performance and strategic direction of the Forum. We were delighted to have a significant number of members join us in September 2019 to outline their needs and requirement from the Forum whilst taking time to review our vision and values. We were delighted to call on a friend in Dr. Paul Donnelly to support this review of the Forum which has resulted in the development of a new strategic plan with our new purpose, values and strategic priorities laid out within this report. I thank all board members for

their commitment to this vital work and to those individuals from our membership who have helped shape the services and support we will provide in the years ahead.

As part of the development of our Strategic Plan we have also had significant engagement with Sport NI on our activity and complimentary services provided to the sports sector. I would like to thank Sport NI CEO Antoinette McKeown, Interim Director of Performance Sport Peter McCabe and Performance Governance Manager Ian Weir for their support to the Forum over the past year as we look towards continued partnership in the years ahead.

At this stage it would also have been time to celebrate the successes of our Olympians a number of months after the Tokyo 2020 games. Whilst this was postponed for a year, it has allowed our athletes an extra 12 months to prepare and I am sure that the athlete's and governing bodies are maximising this opportunity in difficult circumstances.

The amazing career of Jonathan Rea continues as he recently secured his 6th successive World Super Championship which is a remarkable feat. Colin Turkington also won a record-equalling four-time BTCC champion at Brands Hatch in October 2019. Portaferry athlete Ciara Mageean has had a remarkable year and in the space of a matter of weeks Ciara broke Sonia O'Sullivan's 27 record at 1k in Monaco and became the first Irishwoman to go under two minutes for 800m in Bern. Let's hope Ciara can continue that form for Tokyo.

The Northern Ireland Football team under Ian Barraclough had a very memorable night in Sarajevo as they defeated Bosnia-Herzegovina 4-3 on penalties to go through to the finals of the Euro 2020 Play-Offs in hugely dramatic fashion. This led to a winner tie against Slovakia in the Play-Off Final at the National Stadium at Windsor Park however despite a super battling performance the Slovakian side secured

their place at Euro 2020 with a goal in extra time to win 2-1. Ulster Rugby also faced some disappointment in the Pro14 Final against Leinster after some strong displays.

The Female Sports Forum held a number of significant events and programmes within the last year to build on the Active, Fit and Sporty plan. This culminated in an excellent Awards night in early March. Our dedicated Female Sports Forum Chairperson Angela Platt opened the event with a look back on the last 10 years of the organisation. It was great to have the support of the Minister for Communities Deirdre Hargey MLA who then spoke about the importance of sport in the community and expressed her delighted of the gathering of some of the finest elite athlete's alongside dedicated grassroots volunteers and participants. I'd like to thank Amina Martin, Emma Liebe and Stacey Maxwell for the support and dedication to the Female Sports Forum and associated projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the NI Sports Forum Board members who work tirelessly throughout the year. We have expanded the role of our sub-committees with all Board members taking their places on additional sub-committees within Business Development, Governance, Communications, Finance and the Female Sports Forum and I thank Ashley Hunter, Cath Quinn, Kelly McVeigh, Trev Keane, Allan Rutherford, Chris Morrow and Katrina McCaughan for their continued hard work and dedication.

After years of lengthy service, I would like to pay a particular thanks to Gordon Reid and Angela Platt who are stepping down from the Sports Forum Board at our AGM.

Gordon has always been able to outline the views and challenges facing a number of sports but with a particular focus on water sports activities. It must be noted however that Gordon's input into the governance

standards of the Forum and continued modernization of our Articles of Association leaves us in such a strong place going forward and we are immensely indebted to Gordon for this.

Angela has been involved with the Female Sports Forum since its inception in January 2012 as well as serving as Vice-Chairperson for the past five years and I, for one, am grateful for the support that she has given me during my term in office. I have no doubt that Angela and Gordon will not be lost entirely to the Northern Ireland Sports Forum as they have both agreed to lend their experience and advice to their relevant sub-committees.

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.

I have decided to step down as Chairperson at the conclusion of my first three year term in office which will enable my successor to take the Forum to a new level.

I wish to thank the Board members as well as Ciaran and his staff who have all supported me over the past three challenging, and yet, enjoyable years.

Yours in Sport

Richard Johnson
Chairperson

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

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.

MEMBER SERVICES

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

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.



The organising committee and special guest speakers at the 2019 Sports Law Conference at Malone Golf Club.



Northern Ireland players celebrate with winning penalty taker Liam Boyce in their European Championships Play-off Semi-Final victory against Bosnia.



Chair of the Sports Law Committee Ken Nixon with Lady Mary Peters launching her new book- Passing the Torch.

OUR PURPOSE

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

OUR VALUES

LEADERSHIP

The NI Sports Forum will act as a strategic leader for the sport and physical activity sector and will be a strong advocate for members and stakeholders.

INTEGRITY

The NI Sports Forum is committed to acting with strong principles and engaging with stakeholders with honesty and respect.

INDEPENDENCE

As a membership body, the NI Sports Forum expresses its freedom to represent the interests of member organisations and the sector without influence.

INSPIRING

The NI Sports Forum is committed to supporting our members to be progressive organisations and assisting them to realise their full potential.

INCLUSIVE

The NI Sports Forum strives to embed inclusivity in its own operations and promote best practice with member organisations and the wider sector.

PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

The NI Sports Forum is committed to developing partnerships which will benefit our members and facilitating collaboration to allow members achieve their aims and objectives.

EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT

Like each year we plan a wide range of activities and programmes to support the needs of our members and 2019-2020 was no different in this regard however the final few weeks of this year has had a long lasting impact.

MEMBER SERVICES

One of the key work areas where we support our members is through capacity building and governance, particularly for those non-funded sports. During the year we were able to engage on a one to one basis with a number of non-funded sports with advice and guidance relating to their own individual needs and requirements. This support ranged from board composition advice and skills analysis, challenges faced by outdated articles of association and resolving some levels of internal disputes. We are also continuing our work with the Developing Governance Group in revising the Code of Good Governance and look forward to this resource providing further advice to the sport and wider voluntary and community sectors.

In February we hosted a very informative and interactive session at Malone Golf Club on Changing Your Constitution. During this session we outlined steps taken by CANI and ourselves in changing our articles and I thank Stephen Craig of CANI and our own board member Gordon Reid for providing an overview of how changes were achieved. As ever we are thankful for the support of Keith McGarry of Sports Law NI who provided examples of good and bad practice in relation to governing documents and the steps sports can take to avoid future issues. We still are in the process of further developing our peer support system for disciplinary issues alongside Sport Resolutions UK and this will continue in ongoing months.

In November 2019 we hosted our largest ever Sports Law Conference in collaboration with the Law Society of NI. Mediation in Sport was our theme for our 8th Conference and again there was growth in attendance

from the legal profession and Sports Forum members. Our keynote speaker Michael Beloff QC has been described as “probably the most eminent sports lawyer in the world”, and “the go to man for sporting disputes” by major UK media outlets and his presence certainly raised the event profile and attendees were delighted to learn from his extensive experience. We were also delighted to have former Royal Portrush Golf Club Manager Wilma Erskine share her experiences of the preparations involved with hosting the 148th Open Championship in Portrush in July.

When we launched our first ever Board Recruitment Programme in March 2019 with the intention of providing member organisations with an opportunity to recruit new board members and volunteers in their organisations we were unaware as to how successful it would be. The quality and quantity of applications received went beyond our expectations. We have worked with quite a number of members to place highly skilled and enthusiastic candidates onto their boards and still have a large pool of candidates who are willing to get involved with members. For further information please get in touch as our candidates have a wide range of skills and are eager to support your organisations.

In November 2019 we were delighted to welcome Rob Hartnett from Sport for Business to deliver a seminar on Understanding Your Offer which provided support members on how to build a sponsorship package for their organisation and how not to undersell their activities and offerings. This was taken as part of our AGM ensuring a large interaction of members and some further insights from our partners 2into3 with Darren McMahon.

It was unfortunate that COVID-19 caused the cancellation of our Building Capacity Conference in March. Over 100 attendees were due to join us to learn from great speakers such as Wellbeing Ambassador Oisín McConville, Gareth Murphy of We Are

Vertigo and Mark Prendergast and we hope that we can still host this conference in the near future.

We were able to coordinate some joint activities with the Female Sports Forum throughout the year with further commitment to non-funded sports resulting in expanding our Leadership Development Programme with Performance Matters. This was a great success with very positive feedback from all involved in the programme. Further marketing and communication opportunities such as video production and one to one training allowed members to further showcase their outstanding work. I would like to thank former FSF Marketing & Communications Officer Emma Liebe for her superb work during her time with the Female Sports Forum. Staci Maxwell and Amina Martin also played in a key role over the last year and have been passionate advocates for the development of female sport.

Continuing our advocacy work has been vital to our members as we continue to engage with MLA's and political parties to

raise the profile and understanding of sport at the NI Assembly. The All Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation continues to provide significant engagement for members and MLA's. We were pleased to have the opportunity to accompany Athletics NI and Triathlon Ireland in a meeting with Infrastructure Minister Nichola Mallon which was facilitated by Andrew Muir MLA. We were delighted that the Minister committed to review legislation introduced recently which has significantly impacted on many outdoor sporting activities and since this meeting in February 2020 this review has commenced.

The APG formally responded to the consultation on the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements Order following a meeting in early 2020 and the recently published consultation report from the Department Communities indicated there had been strong engagement from the sporting sector with widespread support for updating the legislation which has been in place since 1985. We were delighted to have the Department for Communities, the PSNI and NICVA join us for an introductory meeting in October



Members at the 2019 NI Sports Forum AGM

2019 which provided further clarity on the challenging nature of outdated legislation. We have some very engaged MLA's as members of the All Party Group and I thank them for their ongoing support.

As the world started to turn upside as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, like many others the sports sector started to worry about the consequences on sporting activity, events competition and the financial implications caused by the shutdowns. With guidance and support for our members we have had regular engagements with Sport NI and the Department for Communities in relation to the impact on sport. We have been pleased to see a number of support measures being put in place in recent months and are proud of the role we have played alongside others in securing these support mechanisms.

We engaged with DfC and Sport NI in the early part of the pandemic and were pleased to see action taken to support clubs through the development of the Sports Hardship Fund and this has continued with further interventions such as the Covid Sports Pack and the anticipated Build Back Better programmes being developed and we must thank Sport NI and DfC for their willingness to engage and support sport. Our members and their clubs have shown outstanding leadership throughout this pandemic by supporting their local communities whilst facing their own challenges and we are delighted that this has also been recognised by the NI Executive when the £15m COVID Relief Fund was established.

Establishing a Return to Sport Expert group was sought by NI Sports Forum members and has been vital for bodies throughout the pandemic and we thank Sport NI and DfC for leading this important piece and their ongoing engagement. The Return to Sport guidance which has dealt with such a large number of queries has also been very beneficial and provided clarity for the sector.

The Department of Finance were able to extend a rates holiday to sport for the financial year and the Department for Economy extended the Retail, Tourism and Hospitality grant programme to include Leisure after strong campaigning. It was

unfortunate however that facilities with a lower level of NAV were unable to avail of the £10k scheme.

I am lucky to have been supported by a fantastic Board since 2014 and two of those members who have been dedicated servants to the Forum from before then are now stepping down. Both Gordon Reid and Angela Platt have provided so much guidance and support not just to myself but to our members and staff over the years and I am glad that they will still be on hand to support the Forum in the future. Like any organisation there are some challenges to face from time to time. During the last three years Richard Johnson has led the Forum as Chairperson with remarkable positivity and a strong work ethic. Although he is remaining on the board to support our incoming Chairperson, it would be remiss of me not to thank Richard for his unwavering support and friendship and I look forward to continuing working alongside Richard in the times ahead.

I would like to thank all board members for their continued dedication to the Forum and to the sport and physical activity sector. Your leadership is greatly appreciated by myself and our members. I also thank our Finance Administrator Sharon Crossan for her management of our financial affairs and engagement with our membership.

In closing I must say that in recent months particularly we've had significant engagement with our members as try to understand their challenges and represent them as best we can. I would like to thank all our members for their communication and engagement with the Forum when they are faced with so many challenges within their own organisations. At all times our members should be immensely proud of the positive role their organisations and their clubs play in their local communities however during recent months the power and resilience of sport has never been more evident.

Yours in Sport

Ciaran Kearney
Executive Manager



Angela Platt (Female Sports Forum Chairperson), George Lucas (Sport NI Chairperson), Department for Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey, NI Sports Forum Chairperson and Denise Watson at the Active, Fit & Sporty Awards



Athletes Katie Mullan (Irish Hockey Captain), Bethany Firth (Multi Olympic Swimming Gold Medallist), Erin McConnell (Triathlon) and Leah McCourt (MMA) also at the Active, Fit & Sporty Awards.

OVERVIEW OF THE YEARS' WORK & ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT TO NON-FUNDED MEMBERS

Individual support was provided to a number of non-funded members in various areas throughout the year. Some of the engagements with individual bodies were supporting them through significant governance challenges which have caused difficulties for those organisations whilst NISF also were able to provide guidance and support in regards to disputes within particular sports. Further advice was provided on the requirement for strategic focus and requirement of a skills based board.

PEER SUPPORT SYSTEM

A scoping exercise amongst members in November outlined the support for a 'buddy system' for disciplinary, appeals and complaints procedures. We were delighted to have Richard Harry, CEO of Sport Resolutions UK provide members with an outline of a programme, with the intention of members getting support independent of their organisation in resolving and handling of complex sporting issues.

BOARD RECRUITMENT PROGRAMME

We were delighted to work with a number member organisations to provide them with additional board members with a range of skill sets including Marketing & Communications, Finance, Public Affairs, Organisational Development and Governance.

REPRESENTATION

Representation will always be one of the key activities of the NI Sports Forum and we represent our members on a wide range of groups which can be found on Page 15. As part of this representation piece it is always important to understand the views of our members when reflecting your views, needs

and concerns and we thank all members who engage with us to ensure their views are reflected. We do encourage members to get in touch regarding any of these groups and if there are ways that you believe we can improve our representation or communicate your needs more appropriately.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

This year we coordinated a leadership development course delivered by Podium Leadership in partnership with the Female Sports Forum. There were 14 representatives from different member organisations with 5 males taking part. There were 6 representatives from non-funded member organisations. Feedback from the course was very positive with a great relationship built up between participants.

CHANGING YOUR CONSTITUTION SESSION

This interactive workshop led by the NISF Governance Subcommittee was provided to support members on how they can effectively modernise their constitution or Memorandum and Articles of Association to more accurately reflect the current climate. Thanks to Keith McGarry of Sports Law NI, Stephen Craig of CANI and our own Gordon Reid who delivered a very engaging session for 25 attendees.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR OFFER

We were delighted to have Rob Hartnett of Sport for Business deliver a session which outlined how members could build a sponsorship package for their organisation and how not to undersell their activities and offerings. This session took place as part of our AGM and certainly added a new dynamic to the AGM with over 40 people in attendance.

MEDIA & VIDEO SUPPORT

During the year our Media & Marketing Officer Emma Liebe provided support to members on how to improve their communications and marketing output. This included working on how properly promote and develop their social media accounts to attract new audiences, increase event attendances and increase sponsorship potential. Some members also were able to avail of the production of promotional videos to promote their sport to reach new audiences.

SPORTS LAW CONFERENCE

Our 8th Sports Law Conference with the Law Society of NI continued to attract a large number of sporting and legal representatives on Friday 15th November 2019 at Malone Golf Club in Belfast. Our keynote speaker was Michael Beloff QC who has had a long and distinguished career in sports law and was Ethics Commissioner for the London 2012 Olympic bid and has been, since 2014, Chairman of the IAAF Ethics Board. Michael was one of a number of speakers presenting at this year's sports and law conference on the overarching theme of Mediation in Sport. We were delighted to hear from Wilma Erskine, former Secretary Manager of Royal Portrush Golf Club following a hugely successful staging of the 148th Open Championship in July. A first ever interactive 'moot mediation' process was led by Sport Resolutions UK and we were delighted to have Bernie Fox and local solicitor and athlete Peter Jack join our Q&A panel while Professor Jack Anderson who is now the head of the Sports Department in the University of Melbourne provided an overview of the worldwide sports law issues. This year we were delighted to provide a 50% reduction on non-funded member's registration fee.

CONSULTATIONS

As part of our representation work we also reflect the views of members in any relevant public consultations. We worked with members and the All Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation to respond to consultations regarding liquor licensing,

gambling legislation and access changes to Strangford Lough. Direct representation was made to the Minister for Infrastructure alongside Triathlon Ireland and Athletics NI regarding special events on roads.

NEW MEMBERS

We are just about to hit the 100 members mark with significant growth in members in recent years. We are delighted to be able to attract new members on an ongoing basis as organisations seek support in a range of areas. Over the last year we have attracted British Taekwondo, Ireland Esports, American Football Ireland, Leave No Trace Ireland, and Inclusive Skating as members.

FEMALE SPORTS FORUM

The work of the Female Sports Forum has been integral to the NI Sports Forum. Superbly led by Angela Platt, the Female Sports Forum celebrated 10 years with an absolutely wonderful awards event in March at the Crowne Plaza in Belfast. We were delighted to be joined by a fantastic array of speakers, sports stars and dedicated grassroots sporting volunteers as the Active, Fit and Sporty Awards celebrated the development of female sport. We thank all at Sport NI and the Department for Communities for their support to date.

ONGOING WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

A new NISF Funding section of the website was developed in early January and then redesigned again in mid-March to ensure full range of funding opportunities are available on nissf.net/funding due to ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. The development of this funding section was largely responsible for 48% increase in website page views from 18/19 to 19/20 which is remarkable as the same growth was reported in the previous year.

NORTHERN IRELAND SPORTS FORUM PARTNERS

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





A delegation from Athletics NI, Triathlon Ireland and the NI Sports Forum meet with Department for Infrastructure Minister Nichola Mallon alongside Andrew Muir MLA.

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 Task & Finish Group
- Developing Governance Group
- Active Living No Limit's Forum
- Northern Ireland Wellbeing in Sport Forum
- Home Countries Sports Associations
- Sport Resolutions UK
- Female Sports Forum
- 20x20 Steering Group
- Safeguarding in Sport Strategic Group
- All Island Physical Literacy Forum
- Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards
- Belfast City Council Sports Award
- NI Sport & Human Rights Forum
- UU Employers Advisory Board

THE W.J PADDY PATT



Eric Cunningham receiving the WJ Paddy Patterson Award for 2019 from Paddy Barnes & Julie Hastings of Hastings Hotels (left) and NI Sports Forum Chairperson Richard Johnson (right)

PADDY PATTERSON O.B.E AWARD

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

'Paddy' was a great public servant giving service throughout his lifetime to the education and sport sectors and in particular his beloved Rugby Football. A mathematician at Grosvenor High School, founder of Grosvenor post primary club and also founder of the Ulster Referee's Society and driving the IRFU to start its Charitable Trust.

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

The 2019 W.J Paddy Patterson Award winner Eric Cunningham has had a long and distinguished service to the game of Hockey.

He has given selfless commitment to the game in Ulster and Ireland for well over 50 years, as a player, umpire, administrator and volunteer.

Eric played for Beechlawn Hockey Club in the 1960s, before it merged with South Antrim Hockey Club in Lisburn in 1972. From then until now has been an integral member of South Antrim hockey Club, playing competitively well into his 70's but continuing to umpire on a regular basis for the Club's junior teams.

Eric has been Club Chairman and has held the Club in a financially sound position as their Club Treasurer for well over 30 years and was President of Ulster Hockey Men's Branch in 2001-2002.

Eric was Treasurer of Ulster Hockey's Men's Branch from 2000 - 2009 and was responsible for securing great sponsorship deals for Ulster Hockey through his work as a Financial Director for Guinness, Belfast. When the Men's and Ladies branches in Ulster Hockey amalgamated in 2009, Eric continued his volunteer role and became Treasurer of the Ulster Hockey Union and has continued that involvement to this day.

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
2018	T Crothers
2019	E Cunningham

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



Keith McGarry from Sports Law NI at the 2019 Sports Law Conference.



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MEET THE BOARD

CHAIRPERSON

Richard Johnson

Richard joined the Board in October 2008, was elected Treasurer 24 months later before becoming 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 Instonians 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 completes his two year term as NCU President in early December 2020.

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

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.

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 have 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.

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 Secretary, and ex Chair. He has been Rowing Ireland Secretary & NI Club and Coach Development Officer, and is currently the RYANI Development Officer. He has strong interests in Sailing, Windsurfing, Paddlesports and Powerboating, and is an instructor in each. He is an Architect by profession. On the Forum he has chaired the Strategic Planning & Constitution sub-committee, and taken an interest in governance, representation, and strategic planning.

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 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, and Stakeholder Engagement.

Kelly currently sits on the Board of the Southern Area Hospice Services, providing strategic advice and guidance. 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.

Katrina McCaughan

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 is currently a committee member 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.

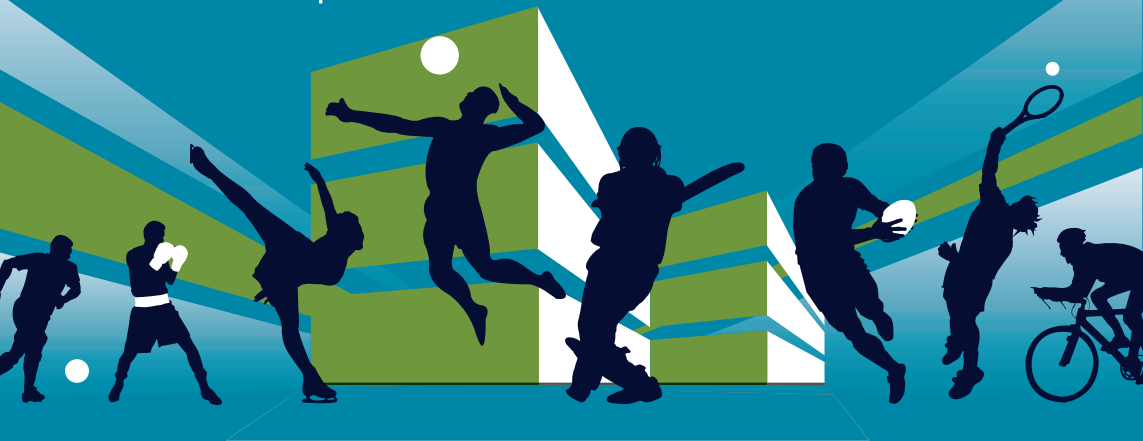
Trev Keane

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 we have felt it unnecessary to make further amendments to the NISF constitution this year.

We continued to monitor progress against the Strategic Plan and operational targets for the year to March 2020, and the subsequent part year, for the Forum and its Female Sports Forum. Specific meetings and work were centred around the development of an Operational Plan and further business cases.

Particular success stories were the workshop on changing Governance Documents, and the quality support made available to all members through the Sports Law Conference, with 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, organisational development, and now dispute resolution. New shared services are being added to our portfolio constantly, to provide real benefits and savings to all bodies following this route.

We have continued to feed into the Sport Matters process and the new 'Strategy 2020' development and consultation.

A number of events have had to be changed or relocated online in the face of the Covid 19 restrictions. One major loss was the Building Capacity Conference. We do hope to deliver the relevant content in whatever time and format becomes viable.

As we focus in on our Strategy we are developing existing areas of success but more importantly finding new ways to support and engage with members, and in particular those 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.

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 other staff for their persistence and drive to deliver our extensive work programmes. I must also thank Keith McGarry who has always been willing to step in with advice and guidance.

I am stepping down from the NISF Board this year and I am confident that the Governance Committee will be in good hands and will make as good or better impacts on the efficient running of NISF business in future. Thanks to everyone for your support!

Gordon Reid
Committee Chair



Kingsbridge Private Hospital benefits for NI Sports Forum members

- ✓ MRI rapid access and preferential rates
- ✓ Access to our highly skilled sports physio
- ✓ Special rates on surgical procedures
- ✓ Access to a wide range of specialist consultants
- ✓ 10% off health screenings

For more information, please call us on **07484 072026**
or email **cruddeng@kingsbridgehealthcaregroup.com**

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

T: 028 9066 7878
E: info@kingsbridgeprivatehospital.com
kingsbridgeprivatehospital.com



Part of Kingsbridge Healthcare Group.

COMMUNICATIONS SUB COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Although much of the last year has been dominated by Covid-19, the NI Sports Forum has continued to advocate on behalf of members on a range of areas that are affecting the operations and growth of clubs across the sporting sector. This sub-committee has supported the organisation in communicating and engaging effectively on behalf of members.

At the start of this year the NI Executive was re-established, after three years without a local government. This followed the agreement of a cross-party deal - New Decade, New Approach which was announced by the British and Irish governments on 9 January 2020 and subsequently endorsed by NI's main political parties on 10 January. Within this document, a number of commitments were made for the future of sport and physical activity and will play a key role in shaping the future of the sector.

The All Party Group on Sport & Physical Recreation has provided a strong platform for engaging and communicating members' concerns and has allowed us to develop relationships across the NI Executive and wider partners. Some key policy areas we have engaged on in 2019-2020 include:

- Rates Revaluation
- Roads Closure Order
- Consultation on Gambling Regulations in NI
- Covid-19

This engagement has led to a number of important media contributions by the NI Sport Forum, and when appropriate members and their individual sports, allowing us to raise awareness of our work and key concerns to a wider audience. Covid-19 has had a detrimental impact on the sector, with many sports closing operations

for an extended period. This has led to a loss of revenue and jobs, not to mention the wider impact on local communities and the health and wellbeing of participants, coaches, volunteers and spectators.

As the situation evolved we committed to ensuring that members were kept informed at every stage. Communicating this was a vital part of our member support service over the last 9 months. This has included:

- Updates on financial support packages for the sector
- Updates on other key announcements relevant to members and their sports
- Engagement with NI Executive Departments and Ministers
- One to one engagement with Ministers and MLAs highlighting key concerns and asks
- Advice and guidance on how to communicate effectively to members' own clubs

As would be expected a number of commitments that we had hoped to fulfil in 2020 have been put on hold due to the pandemic and we plan to include these in our 2021 priorities.

In what has been a very challenging year for the sector it is important to acknowledge the support provided to this sub-committee by the wider NI Sport Forum Board and the Executive Managers team. We will continue to support members through this difficult period in the hope that we can focus on the recovery of the sector and wider sports related areas in 2021 and beyond.

Kelly McVeigh
Committee Chair

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The 2019-20 year was an exceptionally busy year for the Female Sports Forum. Further support and investment from the Department for Communities (DfC) and Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) enabled the FSF to expand its work. By engaging a broader range of partners, the FSF worked collaboratively with those partners to 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.

During the year Amina Martin joined as the FSF Project Co-ordinator 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 our partners and member organisations to improve their communications and promotional activity for female sport and physical activity as Media and Marketing Officer.

During the year, several key programmes were delivered, all co-ordinated by Amina and Emma and a summary of these are outlined below.

MEDIA NETWORKING EVENT

This event, hosted by Nicola McCarthy was held on Wednesday 18th September, at Windsor Park, with 28 people in attendance. The event involved presentations from Karen Rollo (Executive Manager Netball NI)

and Damian Kelly (Ulster Rugby). The final section of the event was a discussion and then Q&A with Nigel Ringland (BBC), Jim Gracey (Belfast Telegraph), Jerome Quinn (freelance) and Emma Patterson (UTV).

CULTURAL CHANGE IN THE MEDIA WORKSHOPS WITH CLIONA FOLEY

These workshops were delivered by Cliona Foley November and January. Three regional workshops were delivered in Belfast, Newry and Cookstown, with 27 people attending the sessions.

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOPS

Practical sessions were delivered by Emma Liebe on a 1-to-1 basis with a range of organisations. The organisations that received this support were CANI, DSNI, Ulster Badminton, Ulster University, Netball NI, NIWFA, NI Orienteering and Ulster Camogie. 8 workshops up to March 2020 but further delivery was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEDIA AWARENESS HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO REELS

Throughout the year Emma Liebe also supported the development of highlights videos for a range of organisations and individuals including Basketball NI, Tina Hannon and Ceat McElDowney (Slaughtneil GAC), Mickey Glover (Slaughtneil GAC Coach), Marissa Callaghan, Captain of the NI Senior Women's Team (Electric Ireland involvement in IFA grassroots), Coaching Week with Gail Redmond (IFA Domestic Women's Football Manager), Staci Maxwell (NCU Cricket), GLAMS- Youth Sport Trust, Sport Leaders UK 19, EXPO 2019, Archery NI, Ulster Badminton, Golift Weightlifting Club and NI Orienteering.

GOVERNING BODY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The NGB Leadership Development Programme with NISF was held again this year which saw 14 people (5 males and 9 females) from various governing bodies take part in the programme, facilitated by Jo Hopkins and Eliza Downey from Jo Hopkins Consulting. The programme ran across 5 days from November to March at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast. Unfortunately, the final session had to be postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic.

SPORTS LEADERS AWARDS

The year also saw the successful delivery of Sports Leaders UK courses at Level 2 and Level 3 for young leaders. The Level 2 course positively impacted on 13 young females (aged 15+) starting their leadership journey and it has been great to see their progress since the programme has been completed. The course ran across 3 days at Ulster University, Coleraine. The Level 3 This course involved 9 females with course taking place across 6 days at Ulster University, Jordanstown.

COMMITTEE TRAINING

Eileen Mullan (Strictly Boardroom) facilitated 3 regional workshops in Belfast, Cookstown and Derry in February and March. The Belfast workshop was well attended with 20 attendees.

BOARD TRAINING

Eileen Mullan (Strictly Boardroom) also facilitated board training with 4 governing bodies (Ulster Boxing, Swim Ulster, NI Judo and North West Cricket Union). Eileen engaged directly with a representative from each organisation prior to the training so that the training could be tailored to the needs of each organisation.

AMBASSADOR TRAINING

Ambassador Training was held in February with 10 athletes and their mentors (coach/parent) attended from sports including

angling, climbing, weightlifting, taekwondo, rugby, cricket, camogie and gaelic football. Guest speakers included Erin McConnell (Triathlon) and Gail Redmond IFA, as well as a workshop on leadership and resilience, facilitated Reboot Careers (Sinead Sharkey Steenson and Lisa Strutt) and a delivered by Nicola McCarthy (BBC Sports Presenter) on the area of social media.

SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY EXPO EVENTS

5 expo events were planned to coincide with International Women's Day (Sunday 8th March). 21 organisations were involved. Events were held in the following venues:

- Tollymore National Outdoor Centre – An Adventure Day was held on Saturday 7th March with 49 people in attendance
- Unfortunately, the other four events scheduled for Botanic, Lisburn and Craigavon all had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic

ROLE MODELS

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 16 females nominated for the monthly awards with the relevant winners each receiving a £50 O'Neills voucher. 7 females were also highlighted during the year in a series of videos used to promote sporting activities and 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.

ACTIVE, FIT & SPORTY AWARDS

March also saw the successful delivery of an inspirational Active, Fit & Sporty awards evening held on Wednesday 4th March at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast. The night began spectacularly with a flashmob from Killicomaine Junior High School which celebrated body positivity and a range of options people available for to get Active, Fit and Sporty.

The Minister for Communities, Deirdre Hargey MLA, attended the event and spoke about the importance of sport in the community and highlighted the intention for the Department for Communities to continue its support of women and girls in sport.

A range of awards were presented by various special guests including Deirdre Hargey MLA, Lady Mary Peters (Olympic Gold Medallist), Hannah Shields (Adventure Climber and conqueror of Everest), George Lucas (SNI Chairman)

A special thanks must go to Denise Watson our fantastic host for the evening and she has been a supporter of the Female Sports Forum since its launch. Thanks also to our sponsors for the event O'Neill's Sportswear, Sport NI, Volunteer Now and Cathedral Eye Clinic.

AWARD WINNERS:

- Champion School Award- St. Louise's College
- Rising Star Award- Rachel McCune
- Male Ally Award- Adekanmi Abayomi
- Research Award- Grainne Donnelly
- Community Sport Champion Award- WISPA
- NGB Champion Award- RYA NI
- Leadership Award- Rebecca Hillis
- Inspiring Young Person Award- Chloe Jones
- Media Award- Electric Ireland
- Role Model Award- Katie Mullan

Congratulations to all our inspirational award winners.

MAXIMISING PARTICIPATION LEGACIES PROJECT

This year also saw additional funding awarded to FSF by the Department for Communities and Sport Northern Ireland for "Maximising Participation Legacies Project" in conjunction with Netball NI, Ulster Hockey and Northern Cricket Union. Staci Maxwell was appointed project co-ordinator to deliver the project from December to March. The project was focused on the following key areas for the three Governing Bodies of Sport:

- Sporting workforces that enables the delivery of quality experience for women and girls
 - o Coaches Reflective event - 9 coaches identified from the three Governing Bodies
 - o Social media training - 4 social media workshops delivered by Nicola McCarthy highlighted the importance of being safe on social media for young athletes.
 - o Media awareness training -Two sessions were delivered (with two falling due to Covid), saw 7 organisations represented and each participant gained knowledge and resources to improve their social media presence.
 - o CPD courses for teachers with resources provided - FSF partnered with the Youth Sports Trust (YST) to deliver CPD training for both Primary and Secondary teachers. The one "My Personal Best" course which survived Covid was delivered in Derry/Londonderry to 7 secondary school teachers.
- Women and girls participating in grassroots sports
 - o Leadership training course - The three participating governing bodies engaged in a "club captains" training day facilitated by Kate Hills (Swim Ireland) and Tom Causer. This gave development officers within each NGB the guidance and resources to deliver the club captains training to participants within their sports. Each sport is now looking at ways to deliver it to their own club structures.
 - o Coaching opportunities to create role models - 10 females were given the opportunity to undergo a coaching qualification relevant to their sport. 4 females from Ulster University (UU) underwent their UKCC Level 1 (Netball), 3 females from UU underwent their ECB level 2 (Cricket) and 3 females from SERC underwent their Hockey Ireland level 1.
 - o Festival of social sport - A 6 week Social Sport programme was delivered in 3 local council areas. Namely, Lisburn and Castlereagh (LCCC),

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (ABC) and Antrim and Newtownabbey (ANBC).

- Women & Girls are supported to adopt and sustain a sporting lifestyle
 - Nutrition workshops - 2 nutrition workshops were being delivered by Josh Williamson. These were delivered to u17 girls and their parents from the 3 participating sports. These focused on “the athlete” and “the nutrition”. To provide longevity/legacy, each of the NGB’s were given 8 diet plans to offer to their athletes. These were facilitated by Gillian Killiner. These were tailored to each of the athletes to assist them making relevant and wise nutritional decisions going forward.
 - Body Image workshops - A more holistic view of athletes highlighted the importance of providing workshops to underage players which focused on body image and the perceptions that go with it. Shauna Gibson and Tom Magee delivered workshops for RDS players from each of the 3 participating sports. Players were given information on a variety of topics. The nutrition workshops and body image workshops gave over 70 participants the opportunity to increase their knowledge and promote a “healthy” lifestyle.

As outlined above the Active, Fit and Sporty project has had an exceptionally busy year.

Thank you to all FSF staff who contributed greatly to the FSF work during the year:

- Emma Liebe for her excellent work in raising awareness within various media platforms. Emma has now moved on to a new opportunity within Sport Northern Ireland and we wish her well for the future.
- Amina Martin who provided excellent organisational skills to manage the busy project delivery across the year. Amina continues to work with the NI Sports Forum and FSF on a part time basis.
- Staci Maxwell who expertly oversaw the Legacy project despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic curtailing some of the planned delivery within this project.

The Female Sports Forum and the Active, Fit & Sporty partners extend our gratitude to the Department for Communities and Sport Northern Ireland for the investment in the Active, Fit and Sporty Strategy that has enabled further progress and positive impacts to be made 2019-20 year. With no confirmation of any further investment beyond this year it remains to be seen what further impact the FSF can have in the future.

Thank you to everyone who has played their part in the journey so far, which I hope will be continued for many years to come.

Angla Platt
Committee Chair



Portaferry athlete Ciara Mageean who broke the Irish 800m record in Switzerland

NISF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Many traditional sports have seen an injection of funding in recent years, however in today's climate some of our NI Sports Forum members have either seen their funding reduced or withdrawn. Covid-19 may have further impacted on our members finances.

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 2019 was a massive success and we have continued to offer further activities focused on making member organisations more self-sustainable.

During 2020 we have had to postpone several workshops and seminars designed to support our members in developing new ways to generate income. We have planned to run these workshops in 2021 as we all work together to support our members.

If you require any support or advice, please do not hesitate to contact us.

MEMBERS BENEFIT SCHEME

We already have in place a number of partners providing opportunities to our members to avail of discounts based on a larger buying group or providing strong services. I'd like to thank Darren McMahon from 2into3, Alyn Spratt of Bluefin Sport, Gareth Crudden from Kingsbridge Private Hospital and Keith McGarry of Sports Law NI for their continued support to the Forum and to our members. We continue to hold discussions with other potential partners which will provide a range of support services and activities for the benefit of our members.

Allan Rutherford
Committee Chair



Above left: Active, Fit & Sporty Awards Presenter Denise Watson with Triathlete Erin McConnell and multiple Paralympic Swimming Champion Bethany Firth. Above right: Angela Platt, Chairperson of the Female Sports Forum

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

In what has been an unprecedented year for sport in 2020 so far, the NISF board approved the Finance Sub Committee recommendation to support our members by freezing membership fees in 2020-21 at the 2019-20 (and 2018-19) levels and not introduce the approved uplifts from the 2019 AGM.

We were delighted to continue our corporate partnership agreements with Bluefin Sport and Sports Law NI. We also thank O'Neill's as our sponsor for the monthly competition winner in respect of the Female Sports Forum through 2019. The

NI Sports Forum continued exciting new partnerships with 2into3 and Kingsbridge Hospital and have recently welcomed on board Vira Hygiene as a corporate partner.

The 2019-20 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 and timing of programme investment required. Additional reserves achieved in 2019-20 above the level forecast were due to a reduction in programme expenditure in March 2020 and these will be invested in future year programme related expenditure.

Much thanks must go to the members of the Finance Sub Committee for their support and smooth operation of the financial procedures all year.

Catherine Quinn

**Treasurer &
Committee Chair**



Above left: Our Q&A Panel at the 2019 Sports Law Conference. Above right: Winner of the Active, Fit & Sporty Role Model Award with Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey and Johnny Murphy of O'Neill's Sportswear.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Income		
Sport Northern Ireland	148,698	145,563
Membership Income	10,741	11,001
Other Income	8,179	10,637
Bank Interest	141	116
Total Income	167,759	167,317
Expenditure		
	2020 £	2019 £
Wages	72,717	74,520
Administration Expenses	5,567	4,444
Printing and Stationery	598	510
Accountancy Fees and Sundries	1,020	1,032
Programme Costs	69,905	73,447
Access NI Fees	891	759
Course Fees	1,249	577
Website Expenses	580	504
Total Expenditure:	152,527	155,793
Surplus for the Year:	15,232	11,524

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Current Assets		
Debtors	63,040	56,764
Cash at Bank	35,242	18,617
	98,282	75,381
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors and accruals	17,502	9,833
Net assets	80,780	65,548
Capital Fund		
Opening Balance	65,548	54,024
Surplus for the year	15,232	11,524
Total Charity Funds	80,780	65,548

REPRESENTATIVE & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

American Football Ireland
Archery NI
Association of NI Car Clubs
Association of Irish Indoor Bowls
Athletics NI
Basketball NI
Baseball Ireland
British Horse Society
British Gymnastics
British Kickboxing Council
British Taekwondo
Canoe Association of Northern Ireland
Cricket Ireland
Cycling Ulster
GUI Ulster Branch
Gymnastics Ireland
Horse Sport Ireland
IABA Ulster Branch
Ulster Rugby
Irish Indoor Bowling Association
Irish Football Association
Irish Underwater Council
Irish Bowling Association
Irish Coastal Rowing Federation
Irish Womens Indoor Bowls Association
ILGU Ulster Branch
Irish Womens Bowls Association
Motor Cycle Union of Ireland
Motorcycle Racing Association
Mountaineering Ireland
Mounted Games Association
Netball NI
NI Association of Aeromodellers
NI Cross Community Angling
NI Fly Fishing Association
NI Ju Jitsu Association
NI Judo Federation
NI Orienteering
NI Pool Association
NI Smallbore Shooting Association
NI Ten Pin Bowling Federation
NI Volleyball
NI Womens Football Association
NI Weightlifting
NI Fencing Ltd
NI Federation of Sea Anglers
North West Cricket Union
Northern Cricket Union
Parkour UK
Pitch and Putt Union Ireland

Racquetball Association of Ireland (Ulster Council)
Rowing Ireland Ulster Branch
Royal Yachting Association NI
Softball Ireland
Swim Ulster
Table Tennis Association Ireland (Ulster Branch)
Taekwondo Association of NI
Triathlon Ireland
Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs
Ulster Provincial Council of Sea Anglers
Ulster Angling Federation
Ulster Badminton
Ulster Camogie Council
Ulster Coarse Fishing Federation
Ulster GAA
Ulster Hockey Union
Ulster Squash
Ulster Tennis
Ulster Hang Gliding & Paragliding Club
Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting Association
Ulster Gliding Club
Ulster Council Ladies Gaelic Football
Yoga Fellowship NI

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

2 & 4 Wheels
Ards and North Down Sports Forum
Belfast City Marathon
CIYMS
Disability Sports NI
Ethnic Minority Sports Organisation NI
Fermanagh & Omagh Sports Forum
HSE Community Games
Inclusive Skating
Ireland Esports
Leave No Trace Ireland
Mary Peters Trust
Multi Ethnic Sports and Cultures
NI Boys' Football Association
NI Commonwealth Games Council
NI Civil Service Sports Association
NI Football League
NI Schools Football Association
Outdoor Recreation NI
Royal Lifesaving Society
Sport Lisburn & Castlereagh
Special Olympics Ulster
Sported Foundation
Straight to Swimming
Train To Be Smart Soccer
Ulster University Sports Union



VOICE OF SPORT AND RECREATION IN
NORTHERN IRELAND
