



NORTHERN IRELAND SPORTS FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022



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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

In my second year as the Chairperson of the Northern Ireland Sports Forum I am pleased to see that sport has returned in all forms and that the people of Northern Ireland are having the opportunity to enjoy sport, exercise, connect with others, compete and enable others to benefit from sport and activity.

The past year for the Sports Forum has been largely focused on supporting our members with the challenges they face as we emerge from Covid-19. The sector is facing economic and social challenges, which could have long term impacts on clubs and NGBs. Some of the challenges faced are the increase in the cost of living & utility bills, volunteers not returning to sport to the same level pre Covid-19, difficulty in recruiting board members, some facilities have not re opened or are less accessible for sports clubs as pre pandemic. The rise in utilities is going to make this more challenging and NGBs and clubs may be faced with using reserves to maintain normal activity. We continue to advocate for the sector to enable sport to operate as normal.

The past year has reinforced the relevance of sport to NI for health and wellbeing, social connection, and community engagement. This provides opportunities for our sector, but the challenge of meeting demands with the difficulties we currently face.

In January 2022 Ciaran Kearney left the Sports Forum to take a new opportunity with the GAA. I was both disappointed to lose Ciaran from the Sports Forum but delighted for him on his new role. I had the pleasure of working with Ciaran as both a board member and recently as the Chairperson. Ciaran was committed to supporting our members and to advocating for the Sports Sector. Ciaran was liked and respected by our members and our partners and was key to the success of the Sports Forum over the past 7 years. In February, we recruited Richard Honeyford as the Sports Forum's Executive Manager. Richard was previously the Chief Operating Officer for

RYANI where he was employed for 16 years. Richard comes with a breadth of knowledge of the sports sector and understands the challenges we currently face. Richard has embarked on the role with engagement with our members and partners to understand the needs of the role whilst delivering the business objectives of the Sports Forum. I am looking forward to working with Richard in the years ahead.

In September we secured funding from the Department for Communities Start Here programme which enabled us to build capacity in the team by recruiting two new roles. Niamh MacManus takes on a new role as the Member Services Officer and Natalie Niederman joins us as the Inclusive Participation Officer (Female Sports Forum). These roles will enable our Executive Manager, Richard Honeyford to provide additional support to our members and to explore new opportunities to benefit our members.

This year saw the publication of Active Living, the new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland and its vision of "a Lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity will deliver an active, healthy, resilient, and inclusive society which recognises and values both participation and excellence". Sport NI's Corporate Plan was also launched this year titled The Power of Sport with its Mission Statement "We are passionate about maximising the power of sport to change lives. By 2026, we want the power of sport to be recognised and valued by all". We welcome both strategic documents which provide sport with a vision for the coming years. Last year the board of the Sports Forum started the process of developing its next strategic plan. We will shortly be engaging with our members to complete this process.

The Commonwealth Games provided us with the joy of watching athletes from Northern Ireland compete on the Commonwealth stage. This Commonwealth Games presented challenges to the athletes and coaches

Rhys McClenaghan, Ewan McAteer and Eamon Montgomery competing at the Commonwealth Games, Birmingham 2022.



not only on the years before but in the lead up and at the Games. A particular challenge was faced by the Gymnasts, but we were delighted that their issue over representation was resolved in time.

Congratulations go to all of the athletes and coaches but in particular to the medallists Aidan Walsh, Michaela Walsh, Amy Broadhurst, Jude Gallagher, Dylan Eagleson, Carly McNaul, Eireann Nugent, Bethany Firth, Barry McClements, Martin McHugh, Sam Barkley, Ian McClure, Adam McKeown, Gary Kelly, Rhys McClenaghan, Daniel Wiffen, Chloe MacCombe, Kate O'Connor, Ciara Mageean, Nathon Burns and Yasmin Javadian. We would like to acknowledge the work of Conal Heatley and the team at Commonwealth Games NI for their work to support the athletes for the games. The logistics involved were unprecedented and the work behind the scenes was multiplied but because of the hard work and preparation our athletes, coaches and officials were able to go to the games and compete in safety.

In line with good governance and board member rotations this year we say thank you to Allan Rutherford who has served for 3 years on the board. During his time with NISF, Allan has chaired the Business Development Committee, helping engage with our Corporate Partners and look at the potential development of member services. He is a well-respected member of the Board, whose contributions are always well received. Thank you also to Elaine Reid, who stepped down from the Board in April. Elaine brought a wealth of knowledge and input of performance and inclusivity and we wish her all the best in her new role at SportNI.

Thanks to Richard Honeyford for his hard work and commitment to supporting our members over the 5 months he has been in post.

Yours in Sport
Ashley Hunter
Chairperson

*Ciara Mageean receiving
her 1500m Silver Medal at
Birmingham 2022*



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.



Northern Ireland Women's Football Team made history, qualifying for the Euros 2022.



Participants receiving their coaching award, Ulster Tennis.



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

It has been a privilege to take up the role as Executive Manager at the Northern Ireland Sports Forum. Over the course of my first five months, it has been great to meet so many motivated individuals across a wide range of sports and backgrounds. A key part of my work to date has been to engage, listen and get up to speed on aspects facing the sector; looking to assess priorities that the forum can continue to help organisations with, engage with government on key matters and to get our two new roles in place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ciaran Kearney for his 7 years at the NI Sports Forum, developing and expanding its reach and remit. Also to Gordon Reid who kept continuity over the course of five months as the Executive Manager recruitment process took place. Both remain engaged and supportive where questions have arisen, which is much appreciated.

2021-22 was another year where the pandemic was still being felt across the sporting sector. A number of sports had not returned to activity until the spring

and many faced new challenges such as increased rental costs or gaining access to facilities. The NI Sports Forum helped support these sports, continuously raising issues with MLAs and Ministers in order to help get all sport back on track. It has remained a difficult environment to operate in with volunteering, finances and participation impacted.

Funding support packages from the Department and SportNI were key to helping sports bodies and clubs survive Covid financial impacts. The NI Sports Forum advertised these packages wherever possible, sharing and highlighting across our platforms. The first half of the year saw updates to our funding webpage on an almost weekly basis, while this then reduced to monthly come October 2021.

The Sports Forum also remained engaged in multiple consultations across a broad range of areas that were impacting on sport, including Charity Legislation, Gambling Legislation and the Department of Communities Strategic Plan, to name a few. We presented to the Communities



*Northern Ireland Judo
Coach Ciaran Ward
working with local
athletes*



Committee on gambling legislation and female sport on International Women's Day. Our Member Services were in high demand, especially as sports restarted post covid, with 204 AccessNI Checks completed, governance reviews/ advice for eight sports and our Board Recruitment Programme taking off with enquiries once again. Following the Pandemic, this appears a key area of need in the sector with many organisations seeking help to fill Board posts.

Our events continued to be well attended and, of note, the annual Sports Law Conference saw a record number join online. The NI Sports Forum also delivered a number of support events in areas such as disputes resolutions, finding funding and Sports for Business.

Thank you to our Corporate Partners and funders who help and support the work of the NI Sports Forum, including SportNI, Department for Communities, Sports Law NI, 2into3, Cathedral Eye Clinic and

Kingsbridge. This investment and resource ensures the ongoing work of the forum and supporting our members.

I would like to thank the NISF Board for their continued support and advice while I settle into the role. Ashley Hunter, Chair has been of enormous help and advice as I look to get up to speed on matters affecting the sector. Thank you also to our Bookkeeper, Sharon Crossan and to all the Board and subcommittee members who put in such hard work and commitment in support of the Forum's work.

Looking forward, with our two new roles in place, we will see progression of our Member Services and the Female Sports Forum once again and I hope we will be able to enhance and develop our services on behalf of members.

Yours in Sport

Richard Honeyford
Executive Manager

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR'S WORK & ACTIVITIES

COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

2021-22 still saw restrictions on sport and activity early into the year. These gradually allowed a return to activity for most sports, but left an ongoing constraints for others, particularly indoor sports. The NI Sports Forum spent considerable time providing advice, guidance and support to members. We looked to engage with SportNI and Department of Communities, feeding back concerns and working closely on communicating guidance as it was issued. A process of ensuring communication towards non-funded bodies as agreed with SportNI to ensure messaging was provided as quickly as possible without. NISF has also provided bespoke advice and guidance to a number of organisations by various means. By the Autumn 2021 ongoing issues securing venues for indoor sports was raised with local authorities.

MEDIATION AND DISPUTES

The NI Sports Forum engaged with Sports Resolutions UK regarding the delivery and provision of this service. NISF hosted a webinar on Reviews and Investigations in Sport. The Sports Law Conference was also successfully hosted, with a record level of attendance online. We reviewed Constitutions /Governing Documents for eight bodies to help avoid potential conflicts. Thank you to Keith McGarry (Sports Law NI) and Ken Nixon for their ongoing support and advice and, of course, the Law society NI, for the delivery of the annual Sports Law Conference.

BOARD RECRUITMENT PROGRAMME

NI Sports Forum engaged with six organisations seeking to gain 33 candidates and place individuals. If this is something your organisation wishes to access or if

you are aware of individuals who may wish to provide an expression of interest for potential positions, please contact us.

ACCESS NI

The NI Sport Forum completed 204 Access NI checks from 20 bodies with four members joining the list in year. The requirement for checks increased substantially once again following a return to activity. If this is a service that your organisation may benefit from, please contact us.

REPRESENTATION

Representing our members and the wider sector has been of paramount importance over the 2021-22 year. We were regularly at the forefront of advocating for financial support from government and Sport NI. We engaged extensively with MLAs, political parties and governmental bodies to ensure the impact of COVID-19 was recognised and support schemes were put in place. We also held three meetings of the All Party Group on Sport and Recreation, raising wider issues such as Stadium Rates and ongoing challenges for indoor sports activity.

In the lead up to elections, the NI Sports Forum developed a Manifesto for Sport with 4 Big Asks. This was issued to five main parties with request for further engagement and is available on our website.

As always we do encourage members to get in touch regarding any of these groups we represent you on and if there are ways that you believe we can improve our representation or communicate your needs more appropriately.

CONSULTATIONS

Alongside continued communications with the Department for Infrastructure on the Road Closures Order, we engaged with various departments on consultations



including the SportNI Corporate Plan, the Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity from DfC, Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Bill, the Draft Environment Strategy, Charities Review and DoJ Abuse of trust consultation. We presented to the Committee for Communities on the Gambling legislation review and on the work of the Female Sports Forum on International Women's Day.

EVENTS

Business of Sport event in March was the first face to face event in two years, attended by 30 and across the sector. Presenters included IFA, Ulster Rugby Ulster GAA, and Bank of Ireland. Within the year, 70 attendees gained shared knowledge from the 2into3 funding seminar. We held ongoing webinars and support for members as needs arose.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the Ulster Rifle Association as a new member of the Sports Forum. Our new website provides significant information on the benefits of becoming a member of NI Sports Forum, the steps about how to do so and the costs associated with membership. Membership for the forum is a vital part of our work, ensuring we represent and support the sector as much as possible.

FEMALE SPORTS FORUM

Unfortunately the cessation of funding of the Female Sports Forum in 2020 led to activity stopping at a time when it had gained good momentum and when Covid 19 would adversely impact on female participants and leaders in the sector. The NISF has sought other avenues of funding to reassess this and thanks to the Department of Communities Start Here programme have secured a post to reinvigorate the Female Sports Forum in 2022.

SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT

NI Sports Forum has engaged with the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit to provide support for non-funded members. Ongoing meetings have taken place to understand support that can be offered and to support appropriate bodies. NI Sports Forum has engaged with nine member bodies in the year. Whilst certain safeguarding requirements are placed on funded bodies as part of Sport NI investment, it is important that all sports organisations have adequate safeguarding measures in place. In collaboration with the CPSU, NI Sports Forum provided an overview of the steps that members should be taking to safeguard their members and participants. We are now entering the final year as part of a three year programme and any member who would like support in this area should get in touch.

NORTHERN IRELAND SPORTS FORUM PARTNERS

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Bethany Firth and Amy Broadhurst, para- swimming and boxing Gold medallists, Birmingham 2022

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
- Safeguarding in Sport Strategic Group
- Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards
- Belfast City Council Sports Award
- NI Sport & Human Rights Forum
- UU Employers Advisory Board
- AccessNI Stakeholder's Forum



Northern Ireland
Men's 3x3 Wheelchair
Basketball Team in action,
Birmingham 2022

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COMPANY INFORMATION

Ashley Hunter (Chairperson)
Marc Scott (Vice Chairperson)
Kelly McVeigh (Company Secretary)
Catherine Quinn (Treasurer)
Katrina McCaughan
Chris Morrow
Allan Rutherford
Elaine Reid
Marc Scott
Marc Mulholland
Dr. Paul Donnelly



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MEET THE BOARD

CHAIRPERSON

Ashley Hunter

Ashley joined the board of the NI Sports Forum in 2014 and was Company Secretary from 2017-2020.

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 currently Head of Participation with Swim Ireland. Ashley is also an active canoe and kayak coach and sports tutor. Ashley enjoys a wide range of sport but mainly outdoor adventure sports.

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Marc Scott

Marc is currently the CEO of Ulster Hockey. Prior to his current role Marc has gained significant experience in the sports sector in various roles: Governance and Management Consultant with Sport NI (2009 – 2018), Development Officer with Scottish Hockey (2008-2009) and Programme Manager with the Scottish institute of Sport (2003-2008).

HONORARY SECRETARY

Kelly McVeigh

Kelly joined the board of the NI Sports Forum in 2015. Kelly is currently Head of Corporate Affairs at Open Strategic Communications which specialises in integrated communications, strategic PR and Media Relations, Public and Corporate Affairs, Crisis and Issues Management, Sustainability and Digital communications.

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.

TREASURER

Cath Quinn

Cath Graduated from Queen's University Belfast in Accounting and completed her Accountancy charter with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. Cath started her Accountancy training in the Construction and Facilities Management Industry and was subsequently employed there as a Company Accountant. Currently, Cath works as an Accountant in Financial Management and Budgeting in the Department for the Economy.

Outside of work she has been a member of the Ulster Hockey Union Management Board as Treasurer and Chair of Finance (2013-2016) and was a player and volunteer at her local club. Recently Cath has become involved in the disability sports sector as a player and volunteer within Wheelchair Basketball.

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.

Chris 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.

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 with McQuillan's Ballycastle. 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.

Elaine Reid

Elaine is the Performance Pathways Manager for Disability Sport NI, Northern Ireland's main disability sports charity, and has been involved in the sport sector for over 18 years. She has experience of supporting and developing sporting pathways for people with disabilities and works closely with a wide range of Governing Bodies in Northern Ireland, helping to develop inclusive pathways.

Elaine is a Board Member of Boccia UK and is currently a Director of Live Active NI, as well as representing Disability Sport NI on a number of performance committees both at a UK and regional level. She has been involved in sport as a player, coach, official and tutor and continues to stay active by running after three young children. Elaine stepped down as a Director on 6th April and we wish her all the best in her new role at SportNI.

Marc Mulholland

Following a lifelong involvement in Basketball and is now a Board Member for Basketball NI heading up their Return to Play, Strategy and managing their Marketing and Communications. Marc represented Ireland in Junior Men's European competitions and played across the US in a number of Scholar Athlete Games. Following on from

coaching roles with Lisburn Scorpions and Andersonstown Tigers, Marc also enjoyed a coaching stint as Basketball NI's, Team NI Head Coach for U16 & U18 Men's team.

Marc has worked with the Sport Changes Life Foundation where he helped showcase the prestigious Victory Scholar program through their Award Winning EHOOPS programme that helps disadvantaged youth engage with education through sport. Marc was the first Executive Director and Executive Producer of Broadcasting for the Basketball Hall of Fame Belfast Classic in 2017 & 2018, held at the SSE Arena Belfast, helping to bring the first Division 1 NCAA College Basketball tournaments to Europe.

With wide ranging experiences in media, digital content, strategy and commercial law, Marc now works as Executive Director for Inspirus Sports helping them bring their NCAA College Basketball events series to a global audience and also runs his own production company Scram Films where he specialises in bringing stories to life through moving image audio-visuals and photography. When not obsessing over sport, there is nothing more that Marc loves than spending time with his wife and two young sons Luca and Leon.

Dr Paul Donnelly

Paul has been a Lecturer in Sports Development and Coaching in the School of Sport at Ulster University since February 2021. He is a graduate of Ulster University (1993-1998) and Sheffield Hallam University, England (2013) where he completed his PhD investigating Physical Activity, Health and Wellness Levels Amongst Adults in Northern Ireland.

Paul leads the sport development curricula on Ulster University's undergraduate and post-graduate programmes, and has a particular interest in sport policy, strategy, and practice. He has worked with several universities in the UK and Ireland as an external examiner.

Previously, Paul was the Regeneration Director with the Gaelic Athletic Association (2018-2021) and Head of Policy, Planning and Research at Sport Northern Ireland (2002-2018). Currently, Paul is the Chairperson of The Camogie Association's National Development Plan Implementation Committee (NDPIC) and is Vice-Chair of PlayBoard NI.

GOVERNANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

2021-22 has been a reasonably quiet year for the Governance Sub-committee as we have concentrated on a return to normality post-COVID. The key focus has been the agreement of the operational plan.

There have been some changes to the committee due to Elaine Reid stepping down from the Board. I wish Elaine every success in her new position with Sport NI and look forward to continuing to work with her in this context. I am delighted that Gordon Reid has once again agreed to remain on the Committee as a member, providing his vast knowledge and passion for the area of sports governance and his exceptional attention to detail.

There has been significant personnel changes within the Forum and I am delighted with the appointment of Richard Honeyford to the post of Executive Manager. With Richard's vast experience of the sector and knowledge of governance issues in sport, Richard has hit the ground running in a short space of time and is already impacting positively on organisational governance. I wish Ciaran Kearney success in his new post with the GAA and we are all aware of the progress made by the NI Sports Forum under Ciaran's leadership, particularly through the COVID crisis. I wish to put on record my personal thanks to Ciaran for his assistance with all governance aspects of the NI Sports Forum. In addition we welcome Niamh MacManus continuing her employment with the Forum and more recently Natalie Niederman to the role of Inclusive Participation Officer.

Whilst the formal operation of the committee has been limited, there have been some key highlights:

- Continuing to monitor progress against the Strategic Plan and operational targets for the year;

- Full review of the Operational Plan to consider factors such as the agreed work plan with Sport NI, and the needs of our members as conveyed to us via a members survey;
- Continued review of the Board structure and governing documents to provide protection to the essential and skilled role of Treasurer in the voting processes; and to align the terms office for the Board members to ensure staggered elections and therefore protecting the continuity of the Board. Proposals have been made to the members to action these changes.

In 2022/23 the Forum will enter a crucial planning phase with the Governance Committee leading on the process of developing a new long term strategy for the future of the organisation. Terms of reference have been agreed for this essential piece of work and we hope to see progress in the coming weeks where there will be some key engagement opportunities with our members.

In conclusion, 2021/22 has seen significant change in the NI Sports Forum however from a governance perspective, things have been stable. As we enter the planning phase for the new strategic plan, these are positive times for the Forum and we have a great opportunity to create a clear pathway for our future and ensure we continue to make a significant impact for our members.

Marc Scott
Chairperson





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COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It was all change for the NI Sports Forum in early 2022, welcoming our new Executive Manager Richard Honeyford after colleague Ciaran Kearney left for pastures new. Whilst the personnel changed, the focus on supporting our members and raising awareness of the issues facing the sector did not.

The Communications Sub-Committee supported the NI Sports Forum and the Board in this activity, engaging and informing on a wide range of areas on behalf of members.

The effects of the pandemic are still being felt by clubs across the island of Ireland, add to that an NI Assembly Election, followed by a prolonged period of political stagnation, it has been another challenging year. In recent months, the cost-of-living crisis has severely impacted society and our members are similarly affected.

In spite of the challenges our members and the NI Sports Forum have done a lot of great work, engaging, and informing on a range of issues, developing partnerships, and putting in place initiatives aimed at supporting the sector.

The All-Party Group on Sport and Physical Recreation has continued to provide a useful platform for raising awareness of issues and engaging with elected representatives and members.

A 'Manifesto for Sport' was developed to highlight key 'asks' for the sector, with contribution from members at the heart of the document and work has been ongoing in supporting the Female Sports Forum.

The sub-committee has also worked with the Executive team to analyse and inform on a range of government lead support initiatives to our members, for example the recent Energy Bill Relief Scheme announced by the UK Government and what it means for our members.

Looking ahead to 2023, there are significant challenges that the sector will continue to face and as a sub-committee we will continue to support the NI Sports Forum in supporting members to understand and navigate these challenges.

With the potential of two elections in fairly quick succession (NI Assembly election and Local Government election) there will be plenty of opportunities to engage with decision makers and we are committed to working with the political institutions to facilitate the growth and development of the sports sector across the island of Ireland.

Thank you to the sub-committee members for their ongoing support and advice this year.

Kelly McVeigh
Chairperson



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Many sports have seen their income streams affected by Covid 19 during 2021 and earlier part of 2022.

Governing bodies are being forced to investigate new sources of funding to enable them to continue providing support to their members. As an organisation, the NI Sports Forum are always looking at new ways of providing additional added value services to our members.

Thanks to the Start Here funding, we have recently employed Niamh MacManus, whose role is to enhance and develop the services offered by the Sports Forum. This has proven positive for our colleagues in Scotland and Wales and we look forward to developing this area to best support the needs of members. If you require any support or advice, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We already have in place several partners providing opportunities to our members to avail of discounts based on a larger buying group or providing strong services. This is an area we hope to expand and develop to meet the needs of member organisations going forward.

I'd like to thank Patricia Keenan from 2into3, Gareth Crudden from Kingsbridge Private Hospital, Keith McGarry of Sports Law NI and Gary McArdle from Cathedral Eye 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





FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Over the course of the year the Finance Sub-Committee continued to meet virtually to review quarterly management accounts and budgets, review future projections, provide financial oversight to grant applications 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.

The past 12 months saw a return to a more positive financial position for the Sports Forum with the successful return of the Sports Law Conference in a virtual format along with opportunities to host in person events and develop both new and existing partnership arrangements. This was reflected in the Sports Forum recording a healthy surplus in the annual accounts for 2021-22. This was a welcome result after a difficult year financially in 2020-21. Robust previous financial years enabled the Sports Forum to manage the cashflow impact of that deficit and ensured NI Sports Forum was well positioned and resourced to provide for our members and resume activities at the appropriate time.

The outlook for 2022-23 is more conservative due to a number of factors. With some staff changes, particularly the welcome appointment of Richard Honeyford as the Sports Forum Executive Manager, it is set to be a year of consolidation and development, which I am confident will have a positive impact financially for future years.

Much thanks goes to the members of the Finance Sub-Committee for their support and smooth operation of the financial procedures all year. Special recognition must go to former Executive Manager Ciaran Kearney for all his work and invaluable support in the past number of years. Thanks must also go to Gordon Reid for his support as interim Executive Manager, Sharon Crossan who as always ensured financial procedures were adhered to and transactions were carried out efficiently; and last but not least Richard Johnson who continued to provide a valuable contribution to the Finance Sub-Committee after stepping down from his role as Sports Forum Chair.

Catherine Quinn
**Treasurer &
Committee Chair**

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Income		
Sport Northern Ireland	35,000	33,250
Membership Income	14,443	9,767
Other Income	33,755	9,865
Bank Interest	221	141
Total Income	83,419	53,023
Expenditure		
	2022 £	2021 £
Wages & Administration	49,368	45,743
Printing and Stationery	2,189	1,175
Accountancy Fees and Sundries	2,820	2,070
Programme Costs	15,114	8,472
Access NI Fees	409	475
Course Fees	-	-
Website Expenses	576	576
Total Expenditure:	70,476	58,511
Surplus for the Year:	12,943	(5,488)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Current Assets		
Debtors	18,154	41,308
Cash at Bank	81,539	74,816
	99,693	116,124
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors and accruals	11,458	40,832
Net assets	88,235	75,292
Capital Fund		
Opening Balance	75,292	80,780
Surplus for the year	12,943	(5,488)
Total Charity Funds	88,235	75,292

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
Golf Ireland
Gymnastics Ireland
Horse Sport Ireland
IABA Ulster Branch
Inline Hockey Ireland
Irish Indoor Bowling Association
Irish Football Association
Irish Underwater Council
Irish Bowling Association
Irish Coastal Rowing Federation
Irish Women's Indoor Bowls Association
Irish Women's Outdoor Bowls Association
Motor Cycle Union of Ireland Ulster Centre
Motorcycle Racing Association
Mountaineering Ireland
Mounted Games Association
Netball NI
NI Association of Aeromodellers
Northern Ireland Cross Community Angling
NI Horse Board
NI Ju Jitsu Association
NI Judo Federation
NI Orienteering
Northern Ireland Pool Association
NI Smallbore Shooting Association
NI Volleyball
NI Women's Football Association
NI Weightlifting
Northern Ireland Fencing Ltd
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
Showjumping Ireland Ulster Region
Softball Ireland
Swim Ulster
Table Tennis Ulster
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 Rugby
Ulster Squash
Ulster Tennis
Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting Association
Ulster Gliding Club
Ulster Council Ladies Gaelic Football
Yoga Fellowship NI

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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



VOICE OF SPORT AND RECREATION IN
NORTHERN IRELAND

Company No: NIO1O44O