



RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Annual Report

The Club Scene.

2023 was the first full year, since Covid-19, that the RAI seen a full calendar of events. With 31 clubs affiliated and nearly 1600 players, the club season promised to be a lot better than the previous years.

468 players registered as competitive insured players and many competed in 18 Tournaments across the Country.

Established Tournaments like the Fermoy Open, Ballinrobe Open, Kilkenny Open, Tralee Open, Castlebar Open, Kingscourt Open, Galway Open and the Arklow Open attracted a total of 347 entries.

The Women's Open's attracted 44 players while the Provincial Tournaments attracted 50 players. The aim is to increase the number of competitors in Provincial tournaments.

The All Irelands again attracted 218 entries across all the grades (including 60 x 30) giving a total of 659 entries in 2022/2023 season. Those numbers, after Covid-19, give us hope that the sport is returning stronger to all areas.

On the Club scene, we welcome Davidstown with a new club in Wexford and Callan in Kilkenny has had their facilities upgraded.

Clough/Moneenroe have started to fundraise for their development of a 40 x 20 and a 60 x 30 premises and the RAI have promised to back them anyway they can. Various fund-raising initiatives will be brought forward for the new season to try and help.

Castlebar also had refurbishment work done and the floors in both courts were sanded and re-surfaced.

A new court has been installed in Trinity College, Dublin.

Irish Open

With the help of the RAI and Mike Kinkin, Team Dovetail attended the Irish Open in Arklow in May. A fantastic atmosphere prevailed for the entire weekend. The professionals from Team Dovetail, along with some of our own players, treated the spectators to mouth watering racquetball at a breakneck speed. A couple of our own athletes were able to compete with these professionals and it is a testament to the development of our game that the standard has risen to that level.

Coaching.

On the coaching theme, the RAI organised a Foundation Level Course in Arklow in the 1st Quarter of the year with 9 new coaches being certified. This is the minimum required for anyone to coach racquetball in clubs. Frank Pastor, along with Majella Haverty, Mick Cunningham, Patrick Hanley and Jimmy Gannon have started work on the development of a Level 1 coaching course and Frank hopes to have progressed this very important work by early September.

RAI Tournament Entries

Tournament	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (Covid)	2020-21 (Covid)	2021-22 (covid)	2022-23
Women's Open	14	27	0	0	19	23
Kilkenny Open	49	61	0	0	28	43
Ballinrobe Open	44	64	0	0	44	47
Fermoy Open	56	62	22	0	33	33
Fermoy Open 2nd	0	0	0	0	30	0
Irish/Arklow Open	42	29	35	0	35	66
Castlebar Open	61	50	0	0	37	42
Tralee Open	47	43	35	0	0	39
Mitchelstown Open	na	na	na	na	30	na
Kingscourt Open	56	50	28	0	0	43
Galway Open	44	52	47	0	32	34
All Ireland Singles & Doubles	57	44	0	0	60	46
Overage All Irelands	0	22	0	0	17	20
Junior Fundraiser	0	35	na	na	na	na
Junior Return to Racquetball	0	0	0	0	57	0
Irish Junior Open	47	68	75	0	23	42
Junior Even All Irelands	48	48	0	0	40	30
Junior Uneven All Irelands	56	42	0	0	0	28
Connacht Close Championships	23	23	0	0	0	0
Munster Close Championships	25	36	0	0	0	23
Connacht Women's Tournament	na	na	na	na	na	21
Leinster Close Championships	10	12	0	0	0	27
60 X 30 All Irelands Doubles 2023						52
Number of Entries	679	768	242	0	485	659

RAI Junior Tournament Entries

Tournament	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (Covid)	2020-21 (Covid)	2021- 22(covid)	2022-23
Irish Junior Open	47	68	75	0	23	42
Junior Even All Irelands	48	48	0	0	40	30
Junior Uneven All Irelands	56	42	0	0	0	28
	151	158	75	0	63	100