

Masters Interpros 2018 Galway by Ciarán Roche (Masters Sec.)

It was a great weekend with great squash, great camaraderie, great food and a superb venue. Much thanks to Jim and Michael Hynes and to Joe Higgins for his sponsorship. There were four groups:

Women's Masters

After such a poor Women's masters season, it was great to have a full four province tournament. And what a tournament! Connaught's Norrie O'Grady defying her years and Ciara Cullen made the difference between four otherwise well matched teams. The game between them both filled the gallery and a 3/2 had everyone riveted.

Munster ultimately prevailed, but Patricia, Anne, Sylvia, Joan and Kinny did us proud.

Mens Over 65

Leinster won an exciting group. Kyran Hurley predictably won all his games comfortably. Gerry Hand had two wins out of three. Martin Maher came from 2 all and 13/9 down to win the decisive rubber over Munster's Derry O'Connor 18/16.

Martin might have mentioned a few times that he has now won his last six matches for Leinster!

Mens Over 55

Munster, with virtually all of last years over 55s Irish team available, dominated this group. Leinster under Gerry Delaney's captaincy had some good results. He was well supported by Seamus Hickey and Damian O'Reilly in spite of his injuries. Our three interprovincial debutants, Richard Gallagher, Pat Fox and Brendan Murphy enjoyed the occasion and gained valuable experience.

Mens Over 45

Leinster and Ulster were the two dominant teams and fittingly played for the title on Saturday afternoon. Cuan Mac Aogáin as a new vet, had two impressive victories.

Tom Crowe dominated the first match against Ulster. Gerry Calanan didn't, and if truth be told was lucky to survive a few match balls before winning 3/2.

The Men's game of the weekend saw Brian Lalor match up against David Ayerst. A brilliant, high quality squash contest was won by David. It was nice to see him return from a year out with a serious injury.

John Dillon and Philip Coleman closed out the match for a 4/1 victory for Leinster.

It is a credit to the Curragh squash Club that with a membership of only 50, three of their players were on the Leinster Over 45 team and Kyran Hurley fronted the over 65 team.

It was a very enjoyable weekend and for the first time in a few years I felt that the Masters Interpros were seriously competitive.

