

Leslie Bows Out as County Chairman

Our long serving County Athletics Chairman, Leslie Smyth from Coolquill A.C. recently stepped down from his role at the County A.G.M in January. Leslie, who has faithfully served the County for well over 15 years had previously served as N.A.C.A.I Chairman since 1996 and was at the helm during the amalgamation of the two organisations, N.A.C.A. I & B.L.O.E. in 1999/2000. In Tipperary during this time, two men served as Joint Chairmen, Niall O'Sullivan, Clonmel A.C. & Leslie Smyth & they brought in the new A.A.I in the County. After that historic task was successfully completed, it was back to business as normal for Leslie as he served his County as Chairman for the next 12 years.

Leslie's motto has always been ***"The Athlete Comes First"*** and ever since he first pulled on his spikes for Coolquill A.C. back in 1984, this has always been the case. Leslie is a frequent competitor at County & Munster Road & Cross Country races & has won numerous County and Munster titles both as an individual and on Club, County & Munster teams. Only as recently as last year, he took part in the European Olympic Masters Games in Lignano, Italy where he placed an excellent fourth in his event, the 20km road race. He has been a regular and familiar face at Munster Conventions and National Congress all over the country throughout the years and is well known far and wide both inside & outside the athletics community.

We thank Leslie for his wonderful commitment, dedication and service to athletics over the years. He has always approached everything with great integrity & with a firm but fair hand. At each & every County Board Meeting, he always ensured that every Club, no matter how big or small got their say & he was always open to new ideas & opportunities. We wish him health & happiness for the future, continued success with his running & look forward to his long lasting presence & support within County athletics.