

The Future looks bright.

Last weekend I attended the Irish Junior Racquetball Open as a guest of the host club Touraneena under the very capable stewardship of ex RAI President Pat Keane. I have attended World, European & Local Championships but none can compare to last weekend's event.

The event was made even better by the presence of IRF President Keith Calkins.

In my view there were a couple of areas that made this event extra special.

- 1) The running of a B championship – we have to cater for everybody and judging by the standard of our B players it won't be long till they are very competitive A players.
- 2) The ability of the under 9 & under 11's. To see such joy & enthusiasm in their play was great.
- 3) To see the standard that our girls/ladies have achieved – I have never seen them play so well.
- 4) The awards ceremony on Saturday evening will I think live long in the memory of our athletes and the winners fully deserved their selection.
- 5) To see the Hynes family there to present their cup speaks for itself & the Touraneena club.
- 6) The banquet on Saturday evening – words fail me – the athletes loved it – Keith summed it up when he described the scene like something out of Harry Potter.
- 7) All visitors were accommodated by families associated with the host club – you would be hard pushed to meet friendlier people.
- 8) Despite the fact that the event took place in five locations – the competition went off like clockwork
- 9) With all the 130 plus athletes returning to the host club Touraneena for the banquet, it lead to a party and fun atmosphere,
- 10) To the local sponsors – it shows the esteem the Touraneena club is held in.
- 11) To the God that provided such glorious weather for the event- it was probably the only thing the host club were not in control of.

Events like this do not just happen – they involve a lot of hard work & planning

To the organizers Christy Slattery & Pat Keane with the able assistance of their partners Betty & Helen, the local organizing committee lead by Linda Skehan with Pat Dalton, John Skehan, Eithne Skehan, Karen Keirns Julie Skehan & Elanor Hickey – I say a very big THANK YOU- it was a brilliant competition – you have set the bar very high-as I started - THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT.

Sean Gargan  
President, Racquetball Association of Ireland.