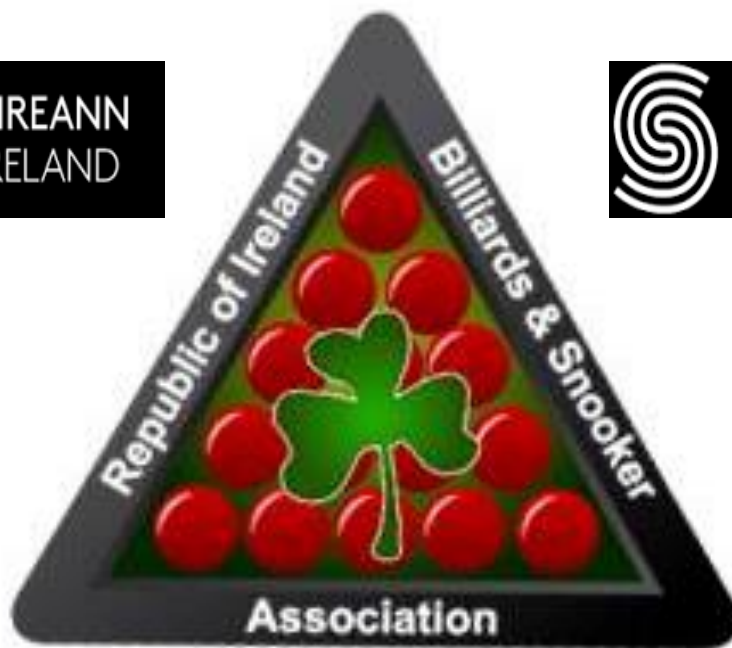


# R.I.B.S.A



*2016 © Designed by P.J. Nolan RIBSA™*

## **Profile of the Republic Of Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association**

**info@ribsa.ie / www.ribsa.ie**

# **The Current Republic Of Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association**

The Republic Of Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association is the official governing body for Billiards & Snooker In the Republic Of Ireland. RIBSA are funded by the Irish Sports Council with an annual grant each year.

RIBSA organise Billiards & Snooker Events all around the Country from September to May each year concluding with the National Finals in all Categories in May.

## **Contact Details :**

### **The Republic Of Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association**

Snooker HQ Unit 8 Barrow Valley Retail Park, Sleaty Road, Graigcullen, Carlow

Email : [info@ribsa.ie](mailto:info@ribsa.ie) / Text : 085 242 8701

## **Snooker Events**

Start at Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, Under 18, Under 19, Under 21, Intermediate and Senior Levels, Masters Events and Ladies Events are also organised

## **Billiards Events**

Events are held at Junior, Intermediate and Senior Levels

## **International Team Selections**

Each Category will contain a number of ranking events with a National Championship and a ranking list from each category will then select the players for the International Teams.

## **Club Affiliation**

Official RIBSA Events are only held in affiliated Snooker Clubs around the country

If any Snooker club wants to affiliate all they need to do is complete the form and pay the fees ( Depending on the number of tables in their club ) and post it to RIBSA .

## **Player Affiliation**

All RIBSA Events are open to anyone living in the Republic Of Ireland but everyone must complete a player membership form and pay the annual fees.

All Members and Clubs receive a Calendar Of Events and a by-monthly email Newsletter.

## **RIBSA Staff**

### **Coaching / Development Officer**

PJ Nolan works full time for the Association as National Coach / Development Officer .

RIBSA players and clubs can book coaching and training by ringing PJ on 086 8634507 or emailing him on [pjcoach147@hotmail.com](mailto:pjcoach147@hotmail.com)

PJ is the European head coach and an official World Snooker Coach. PJ has coached all over Asia and Europe and he travels with our players to international events.

# **The RIBSA Board 2015 – 2016 Season**



Chairman : Jim Leacy



Treasurer : Anthony Bonnar



Secretary : Tony Thorpe



Vice Chairman  
Ger Murray



President  
Eamon Kearns

## **2015 – 2016 Committee**

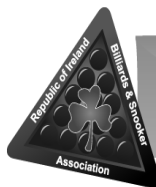
John Doherty, Tom O Driscoll, Brendan O  
Donoghue, James Bateman, Stephen Ryan

Garda Vetting : John Doherty

Children's Officer : Ger Murray

Anti-Doping Officer : Jim Leacy

PRO Officer : PJ Nolan



# **R.I.B.S.A**

Snooker HQ Unit 8 Barrow Valley Retail Park,  
Sleaty Road, Graigcullen, Carlow  
Email : [info@ribsa.ie](mailto:info@ribsa.ie) / Text : 085 242 8701

The following Snooker Clubs are Registered within the Republic of Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association for 2016. If any other snooker club wishes to become a registered club they should email [info@ribsa.ie](mailto:info@ribsa.ie) for more details or download the forms from downloads section in the top menu of [www.ribsa.ie](http://www.ribsa.ie)

## CONNACHT

|                           |   |                   |                 |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 North West Snooker Club | Letterkenny, Co. Donegal,                         | Mr John Doherty   | Tel 074 9121384 |
| 2 Embassy Rooms Sligo     | John F Kennedy Parade Sligo                       |                   | Tel 07191 61250 |
| 3 Ballinasloe Social Club | Embassy Ballroom  Social St Ballinasloe Co Galway | Mr Joseph Kelly   | Tel 0867317817  |
| 4 Leitrim Snooker & Pool  | Church Road Drumshambo Co Lietrim                 | Mr Maurice Collen | Tel 087 9120317 |
| 5 Mechanics Institute     | Middle Street Galway City                         | Mr Stephen Lydon  | Tel 087 3524094 |

## DUBLIN

|                              |                                      |                       |                 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Roadstone Social Club      | Kingswood Nass Road Dublin West      |                       |                 |
| 2 Q's Snooker Club           | Old Nangor Road Clondalkin Dublin 22 | Miss Michelle Sherwin | Tel 087 4140864 |
| 3 D'Arcy McGees Snooker Club | Spawell Complex Templeogue Dublin 6w | Mr Richie McAuley     | Tel 014907710   |

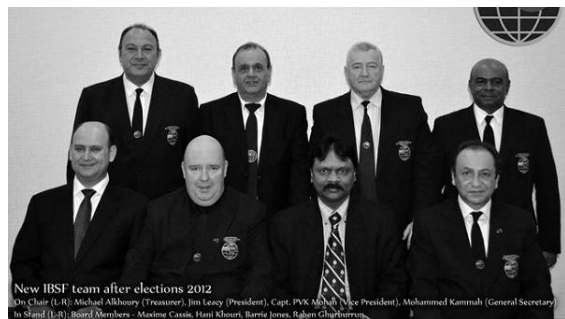
## LEINSTER

|                                  |   |                    |                               |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Ivy Rooms Snooker Club         | Barrow Valley Retail Park Graigcullen Carlow. | Marian Leacy       | Tel 087 6351163 / 059 9137714 |
| 2 Edenderry Snooker Club         | Edenderry Co Offaly                           | Mr Ger Murray      | Tel 086 2450509               |
| 3 St. Conlets CYMWS Snooker Club | Eyre St. Newbridge Co. Kildare                | Mr Jim Carrick     | Tel 045 435128                |
| 4 Portarlinton Snooker Club      | Catholic Club Main St, Portarlinton Co Laois  | Mr Chris La Cumbre | Tel 0872686960                |
| 5 Liam Mellows Snooker Club      | 103 Liam Mellows St Wexford Co Wexford        | Mr Rodney Goggins  | Tel 087 9948199               |
| 6 Kilkenny Shed                  | 3 Springfield Waterford Road Kilkenny         | Mr James Bateman   | Tel 087 2279988               |
| 7 St Particks Snooker Club       | 65 Main Street Gorey Co Wexford               | Mr John G Doyle    | Tel 087 9043996               |

## MUNSTER

|                                     |   |                       |                 |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 New Institute Snooker Club,       | St. Patricks Terrace, Nenagh, Co Tipperary                            | Mr Patsy Farrell      | Tel 067 32000   |
| 2 Fermoy CYWS                       | O Connell Place Fermoy Co Cork  | Mr Daithi Whealan     | Tel 086 2520319 |
| 3 Rathkeale Snooker Club            | Rathkeale Co Limerick   | Mr Anthony O Flaherty | Tel 087 6809100 |
| 4 St Johns CMWS                     | Mulgrave St Limerick Co Limerick                                      | Mr Denis McInerney    |                 |
| 5 Gleneagles Hotel                  | Gleneagles Hotel Killarney Co Kerry                                   |                       | Tel 064 6636000 |
| 6 Templemore Snooker Club           | Gurtacurrah Killea Templemore Co Tipperary                            | Mr Martin Burke       |                 |
| 7 Newcastle West & District Snooker | 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Nova House Maiden St Newcastle West Co Limerick |                       | Tel 0876144992  |
| 8 Hawks Nest                        | Waterford City  | Mr Tom O Driscoll     | Tel 087 7689945 |
| 9 Youghal CYMS Snooker Club         | Market Square Youghal Co Cork   | Mr Brendan Cooney     | Tel 087 4104347 |
| 10 AOH Snooker Club                 | 11 Morrisons Island, Cork City  | Mr Lloyd Myers        | Tel 086 1266278 |

The 2012 AGM of International Billiards & Snooker Federation took place at Sofia Princess Hotel in Sofia, Bulgaria where elections were conducted for the position of President. Jim Leacy of Ireland was elected as the new President of IBSF by winning the election by the margin of 2 votes and he replaced Mr. Pascal Guillaume of France.



New IBSF team after elections 2012

On Chair (L-R): Michael Akhary (Treasurer), Jim Leacy (President), Capt. P.V.K. Mohan (Vice President), Mohammed Kamrath (General Secretary)

On Stand (L-R): Brian Bonham - Massimo Gatto, Hans Kluiter, Barrie Jones, Robert Gough, Robert

The International Billiards  
& Snooker Federation  
IBSF Web Site :  
[www.ibsf.info](http://www.ibsf.info)



## HISTORY OF RIBSA

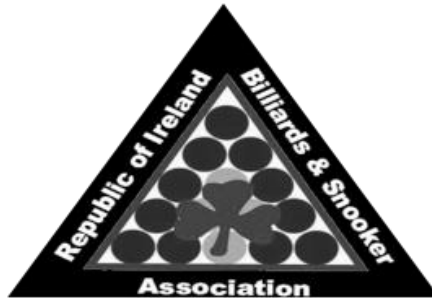
The modern RIBSA ( Republic Of Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association ) was started in 1959 at a meeting in Paddy Fenelons House in Dublin with **Paddy Fenelon, Jimmy Grace, Jimmy Connelly** and his son Jimmy Junior.

At this meeting it was agreed a new format was required to encompass the numbers outside Dublin who were playing. Prior to 1959 the IABA organised only two tournaments restricted to the top 16 and the new association was seen as a dramatic new development.

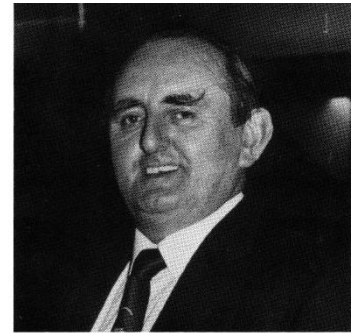
The first president of the Association was John Short from Dundalk and the Committee **Jimmy Grace** Hon Secretary, **Tommy Bisset** Hon Treasure, **Paddy Fenelon** and **Tony Duff**.



*Finbarr Ruane*



### The Early Years



*Paddy Thornton*

Representative Snooker & Billiards started in earnest in 1969 with the very first International Against Wales. In 1970 Republic Of Ireland players competed in the World Amateur Snooker Championships.

In 1972 the first modern International Open Tournament was staged by **Finbarr Ruane** and **Gloria Ruane** called The **Christopher Carroll** Tournament.

In 1985 RIBSA took part in the first Junior Internationals and In 1987 a new committee structure began with the provinces having representation on council.

Following this came today's calendar of events for Billiards and Snooker in Senior, Junior and Ladies event all over the country.

In the 41 years since the Association was formed, Many people contributed to helping RIBSA to have its present position in the scheme of European ( EBSA )and World Snooker ( IBSF )

**Paddy Comerford** was a former President of the Association and his contribution to Snooker and Billiards is legendary in the sport.

Paddy and others have died along the journey but they will never be forgotten like **Paddy Thornton, Paddy Williams, Finbarr Ruane,, Bill Trulock , Dermot Dalton, Miko Bodkin** and many others have all worked in making RIBSA what it is today and we are now Ranked N0.3 in the World IBSF Country Rankings.

## RIBSA Hosting International Tournaments

The Republic Of Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association over the years has hosted a number of successful major International events such as in 1974 and 1984 when we hosted the World IBSF Snooker Championships.

The Ivy Rooms Snooker Club in Carlow was the venue for most of the events run by RIBSA after that as in 1997 when RIBSA held the World IBSF Under 21 Championship.

In 1999 & 2012 RIBSA held the IBSF World Billiards Championships. In 2002 the European U-19 Snooker Championship and In 2004 we held the World Under 21 Snooker Championship. In 2006 we held the European Team and in 2007 we held the European Senior Snooker Championship. The World Under 21 Championship were held again in 2010 at the Northwest Snooker Club in Letterkenny Co Donegal. The latest International Snooker event staged was the 2013 IBSF World Men, Master and Women Team & 6 Red Snooker Championships. This was the biggest event ever held by RIBSA with competitors from over 30 Counties involved, which included 46 Irish players in the events.



Michael Russell won the Final of both World IBSF Billiards Championship in Carlow in 2012



Marco Fu won the World IBSF U-21 Snooker Championship in Carlow in 1997



Michael Judge reached the Final of the World IBSF 6 Red Championship in Carlow in 2013



Sam Craigie won the World IBSF U-21 Championship in Letterkenny in 2010



# World Amateur Snooker Championships Review



## IBSF World Amateur Championships

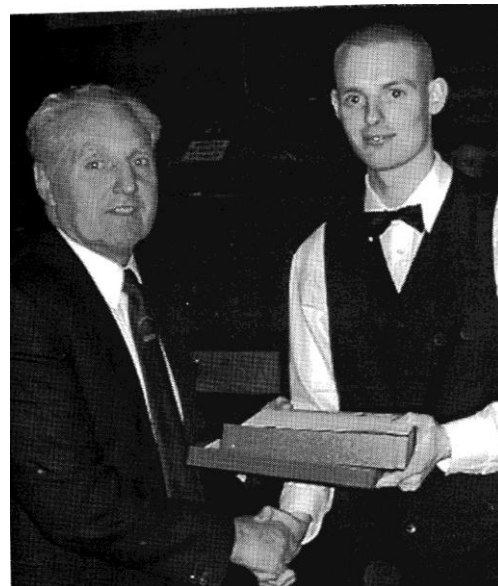
**Pascal Burke** was the first Republic Of Ireland player to make his mark at the World Amateur Championships coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1974 in South Africa.

**Gay Burns** also finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in New Zealand In 1986.

In 1989 a young **Ken Doherty** Won the World Championship in Singapore. In 1990 **Stephen O Connor** retained the World Championship for Ireland in Sri Lanka .

RIBSA almost won it three times in a row when **Jason Watson** finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and **Joe Canny** 4<sup>th</sup> after both lost in the semi finals in 1991 in Thailand.

In 2003 **Brendan O Donoghue** finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in China  
In 2008 **Colm Gilcreest** finished Runner Up in Austria and  
in 2010 **Rodney Goggins** finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Syria making a 147 break in the Championship.



## IBSF World Junior Championships

RIBSA players have performed exceptionally well in the World U-21 Championship over the years with **Ken Doherty** winning the title in 1989.

In 1999 **Rodney Goggins** won the World U-21 while in 1998 **Robert Murphy** reached the U-21 final.

**Vincent Muldoon** reached the semi finals in 2005 in India and 2010 in Ireland while **Josh Boileau** reached the World U-21 final in UAE in 2013

## IBSF World Masters Championship

**Joe Delaney** (Wexford) reached the final of the IBSF 2005 Masters Championship. In 2012 **Mark Tuite** Reached the semi finals as did **Alen Matic** in 2015.

**Ger Delaney & Alan Cusack** reached the semi finals of the Team Championship in 2013



# European Amateur Snooker Championship Review



At European level the inaugural meeting was held in Antwerp and was attended by **Finbarr Ruane** and **Paddy Thorton** and RIBSA were honoured at this meeting with the appointment of **Paddy Thorton** as Chairman but sadly he died within months.

The EBSA run eight events with Singles Championships in Men's, Masters, Ladies, U-21 and U-18 along with Team Events in Mens, Ladies and Masters Championships.

## European Championships

On the table our players have had excellent results over the years in EBSA events with **Rodney Goggins** reaching the final and **Vincent Muldoon** finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2007 in Carlow



In 2009 The Republic Of Ireland Association sent 3 players to the European Championship in Belgium. This proved to be a very successful for RIBSA with all three reaching the semi finals. **David Hogan** became the first Irish man to win the European Snooker title, **Mario Fernandez** reached the final and **Brendan O Donoghue** finished 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Vincent Muldoon** also reached the Final of the 2011 Championships in Bulgaria. In 2012 **Brendan O Donoghue** reached the final and **Rodney Goggins** finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Latvia.

## European Team Championships

The Republic Of Ireland team has won the 2008 European Team C-Ships with **Martin McCrudden**, **Brendan O Donoghue** and **David Hogan** in Scotland and **Robert Murphy** & **Michael Judge** in 2015 in Malta.

## European Junior Championship

In the European Junior Championship **TJ Dowling** Won the Title in 1997. **Vincent Muldoon** reached the final on two occasion in 2006 & 2007. In 2014 **Josh Boileau** reached the final and two years later in 2016 **Josh Boileau** won the European U-21 title and qualified for the WSA professional tour.

## European Masters Championship

RIBSA players have won the Masters title on three occasions with **Eugene Hughes** in 2000, **Joe Delaney** (Wex) in 2001, **Mark Tuite** in 2014. **Brendan Thomas** reached the final in 2016.

## European Master Team Championship

**Joe Delaney** and **Patsy Farrell** won the Masters Team Title 2004 title and **Joe Delaney** and **Brendan Cooney** Reached the final in 2009. In 2013 **Mark Tuite** & **Anthony Bonnar** won the Championship.





# RIBSA Coaching Academy

The RIBSA Coaching Academy was initially set up by Terry Griffiths in 1997 at the World Under 21 Snooker Championships in Carlow.

**Terry Griffiths** was the Director of WPBSA Coaching and ran a seminar to qualify a number of RIBSA coaches and shortly after **PJ Nolan** was appointed RIBSA National Coach

RIBSA now run Seminars based on the Coaching Ireland & Irish Sports Council approved coaching syllabus to train snooker coaches at Intro level.

**Coaching Ireland** has now replaced the NCTC as the governing body of all coaching in the Republic Of Ireland

The seminars are open to any paid up member of the Republic Of Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association and registration forms are available from the RIBSA Office and online via our web site on [www.ribsa.ie](http://www.ribsa.ie).

The Candidates who attend the seminar will receive training in coaching skills to coach players in the basic skills within their local club, they will then act as talent scouts within the Republic Of Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association.

In 2011 RIBSA held the first Level 1 coaching course to qualify coaches within RIBSA to the next level within Coaching Ireland. This Syllabus is being updated regularly to allow RIBSA to hold these seminars. **Liam Moggan** from Coaching Ireland assisted RIBSA in launching the two day Coaching Ireland / RIBSA level one course in Carlow.



PJ Nolan became the first Irish man to be appointed an official W.P.B.S.A. World Snooker Coach after receiving a scholarship from World Snooker in 2010.

# Home Internationals Championships Review



## Seniors

The Republic Of Ireland Senior Snooker Teams have won the Home International on Four occasions. In 1993 **Tom Gleeson , Joe Delaney, Paul O Donoghue, John Farrell, Colm Gilcrest, John Buckley , James Lenihan , Jason Watson** and the team was managed by **Mick Kelly**.

In 2000 **Eugene Hughes, Jason Watson, Robert Murphy, Martin McCrudden, Pat McCafrey, Rodney Goggins, Gary Hardiman** and **TJ Dowling**. The team was managed by **Don O Donoghue** and Coach **PJ Nolan**

In 2001 **Gary Hardiman, Martin McCrudden, Rodney Goggins, Eugene Hughes, Brendan O Donoghue, John Sutton, Johnny Farrell ,** The team was managed by **Don O Donoghue** and Coach **PJ Nolan**

In 2012 **Brendan O Donoghue, Rodney Goggins, Johnny Williams, Greg Casey** and **Robert Redmond** and the Coach was **PJ Nolan**.



## Juniors

The Junior Team won the title 3 times **Anthony O Connor, Stephen Murphy, Ken Doherty** and **Paul O Donoghue** in 1988

**Robert Murphy, Declan Murphy, Philip O Rourke** and **James Lenihan** in 1992.  
**Martin McCrudden, TJ Dowling, Robert Murphy** and **George Tierney** in 1995.

In the last few years the Home Internationals Series has grown to include Ladies, Masters, Under 16, Under 21 Snooker and Billiards was also added to the series.



# National Junior Snooker Review



Our Association have been very lucky to have some many talented Juniors playing snooker in the Republic Of Ireland.

**Ken Doherty** was the first Irish Junior to really break through at the World Junior Level and he was followed over the years by **Joe Delaney, Stephen O Connor, Anthony O Connor, Paul O Donoghue, Rodney Goggins, Robert Murphy, TJ Dowling, Martin McCrudden, Brendan O Donoghue, David Morris, David Hogan, Vincent Muldoon** and **Josh Boileau** have all progressed to play Senior International snooker for Ireland.

More National Junior Champions include **Robert Redmond, Cameron Fidgeon, Michael Mullen, Brendan Byrne, Jonathan Grant, Trevor Dunne, Tom McKeown, Jason Waters, Damien Shoer, Tom Hogan, Philip O Connor, Stephen Reddington, Jason Devaney, Sean Conway, Greg Casey, David Cassidy, Aaron Tobin** and **Ryan Cronin**

In 2009 & 2010 RIBSA set up an Elite Squad for the most promising juniors to receive coaching and free entry into event for the complete season. **Josh Boileau, Tom Hogan, Andrew Doherty, Aaron Tobin, Kenny Wight, Dylan Scully, Stephen Bateman, Ross Doyle** benefited from this scheme and it is hoped they will continue to progress.

In 1997 TJ Dowling won the Pontins Festival. In 2008 **Jason Devaney** won the Junior Pontins Festival and the Junior Pot Black Title in the Crucible in Sheffield. In 2009 & 2014 the **Republic of Ireland Juniors** team won the Celtic Snooker Challenge in Wales



New Juniors have come on the scene like **Charlie Sweeney, Jason O Hagan, Fergal Quinn, Corey Ramsbottom, Sean Devenney, Eamon Harkin, Adam Fitzgerald, Aaron Goldrick, Ross Bulman, Ronan Whyte, Noel Landers, Aaron Hill, Darragh Cusack, Ryan McGuirk, Patrick Daly, John Landers, Aaron Smith, Ronan McGuirk, Gavin O Donnell, Adam Quinn, Oisin Bateman, Leone Crowley, Alex Currid, Noel Gleeson** and **Luke Bateman** to make the next chapter as exciting and RIBSA will help them all to become the future Champions.



# National Senior Snooker Championship Review



The first Rep Of Ireland National snooker final was in 1931 and was won by Jack Ayres.

A look down the list of champions you will see some of the all time greats of Irish Snooker. Each year the event has got bigger and bigger and nowadays the National Senior Champion is offered a place in the IBSF World Amateur Championship.

In the early years a few players dominated the championship with players like **Seamus Fenning** winning it six times in 1933, 1935, 1939, 1949, 1954 and 1955 and he also lost in three finals. **W. Browne** won it three times 1952, 1956, 1961. **PJ O Connor** won also won it three times in 1937, 1942, 1951 and **Jack Rodgers** won it in 1963, 1964 and lost two finals in 1966 and 1967



In the modern era only one player has won it four times with **Martin McCrudden** winning it in 2001, 2009, 2010 and 2014. Four others have won it three times like **Dessie Sheehan** in 1969, 1970 and 1980. **Jason Watson** won it in 1991, 1992 and 2002. **Vincent Muldoon** won the title in 2007 and 2008 and 2012. **David Morris** is the only player to win it three years in a row in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

A number of players have won it twice **Eugene Hughes** in 1978 and 1979. **Pascal Burke** in 1974 and 1976. **Gay Burns** in 1985 and 1986. **Ken Doherty** in 1987 & 1989. **Joe Canny** in 1996 and 1999. **TJ Dowling** in 1997 and 1998 and **Brendan O Donoghue** in 2003 and 2015.

Other great champions have won it once **Fergus Murphy** in 1973, **Jim Clusker** in 1977, **Paddy Brown** in 1982, **Jimmy Long** in 1983, **Paul Ennis** in 1984, **John Buckley** in 1988, **Stephen O Connor** in 1990, **Mick Kane** in 1994, **Tom Gleeson** in 1995, **Rodney Goggins** in 2000 and **Jason Devaney** in 2011.

This Championship is still the one all players want to win and have their name on the cup with all the other great champions.

**David Morris** won the championship three times in a row and was presented with the old perpetual cup. Jim Leacy donated a new cup in memory of his father.

The National Championships has been a great stepping stone for players to win other titles like **Eugene Hughes**, **Ken Doherty**, **Stephen O Connor** and **Rodney Goggins**.



# The 147 Breaks



Four RIBSA players are in history books for making the magical 147 Maximum break as in 1993 **John Buckley** from Carlow made RIBSA history when he made the first maximum 147 break in ranking event when playing in the Connacht Masters in Galway.



Martin McCrudden, Rodney Goggins and David Hogan followed John's break in making the perfect 147 break in RIBSA ranking events in Carlow in 2002, 2006 and 2013.

During the 2010 IBSF World Amateur Championships in Syria, **Rodney Goggins** became the first player from Ireland to make a maximum 147 break in an International event.





Irish Referees : Neil Shanahan, Patrick English, Ger Murray, Breda Doherty, Tony Thorpe, Peter Dunne and Eamon Kearns

## Professional Snooker

To play Professional Snooker is the dream of many players when they start playing the game and for some of our National Champions their dreams came through.

Ken Doherty won numerous events including the World Professional Title in 1997 and Fergal O'Brien won the British Open in 1999. Eugene Hughes won the World Cup with Alex Higgins and Dennis Taylor in 1985, 1986, 1987.



A glance through the Republic Of Ireland Record books shows how many familiar names have followed the difficult path of playing professional snooker.

Eugene Hughes, Jimmy Long, Paddy Browne, Dessie Sheehan, Gay Burns, Ken Doherty, Fergal O'Brien, Stephen O'Connor, Anthony O'Connor, Paul Watchorn, Peter Donegan, Michael Judge, Stephen Murphy, Joe Canny, Joe Delaney, Colm Gilcreest, David Morris, Rodney Goggins, Brendan O'Donoghue, Vincent Muldoon, Darren Lennox, John Benton, David Hogan, Jerry Jones, Pat Mahon and Josh Boileau are playing or have played on the WPBSA Professional Circuit and Represented the Republic of Ireland.





## Masters Events Review



One of the most successful categories within RIBSA is our Master series and over the years the standard and entries have gone up in our National events each season.

The International Masters have performed superbly  
With **Eugene Hughes, Joe Delaney and Mark Tuite** winning the European Masters Singles Championship in 2000, 2001 and 2014.

**Joe Delaney & Patsy Farrell and Mark Tuite & Anthony Bonnar** won the European Team Championship



The first Rep Of Ireland Masters Championships was held in 2007 and it was won by **Eugene Hughes**. Each year the Masters Championship has gotten bigger and bigger and a look down the list of other champions you will see some great former Irish Champions.

In 2008 Kevin Monroe beat Richie Nolan, In 2009 Brendan Cooney beat Richard McHugh, In 2010 Richard McHugh beat Anthony Bonnar, In 2011 Mark Tuite beat Frank Sarsfield, In 2012 Tom Gleeson beat Brendan Cooney, In 2013 Mark Tuite beat Marty Hayden. In 2014 Colm Gilcreest beat Frank Sarsfield and in 2015 Colm Gilcreest beat Johnny Farrell.

The IBSF World Master Singles Championship has also been successful for the Irish with **Joe Delaney** reaching the final in 2005 and **Mark Tuite** reached the semi final in 2012 in Bulgaria.

The IBSF Masters Team Championship is a new event that has been introduced by the IBSF and **Alan Cusack & Ger Delaney** reached the semi final in the inaugural year.

The Irish Masters team compete in the Home Internationals each season and with seven RIBSA ranking events plus the Championships it is always exciting to see who qualifies.

With so many of our top senior players reaching the 40 age group it bodes well for more success for RIBSA in the years to come.



## Ladies Events Review



The first Ladies national Championship was in 1978 and was won by **Maureen Butler** from Fairview. The players competed for the Marie Rogers Perpetual Cup.

The Championship has run every year since, yielding many great champions and some excellent international players.

**Mary Raymond** from Pioneers in Dublin won it 3 years in a row from 1979-1981.

Other notable champions are

**Ann McMahon** from Dublin who has lifted the trophy 5 times, winning it in 1994, from 1999-2001, and again in 2005



**Margaret O'Driscoll** from Limerick won the cup 4 years in a row from 1987-1990 and then made a comeback 12 years later to win it in 2002, bringing her tally of titles to 5.

With a total of 7 titles to her name **Julie Kelly** from Wexford holds the 2nd highest amount of championship wins, winning it from 1991-1993, and then from 1995-1998. Julie went on to become the World professional ladies 9-ball pool Champion in the USA in 2000.

With 10 titles under her belt to date **Michelle Sherwin** from Q's S.C. in Dublin is by far the most successful Irish female player to date. She won the title in 2003 and has retained the title from 2006 - 2015.



In 2008 Michelle was presented with the Marie Rogers cup after winning it 3 years in a row. Michelle then herself donated the current shield 'The Edward and Annastatia Sherwin Memorial shield' in memory of her mother and father.

Michelle has also won the Home-Internationals with **Paula Judge**, and has reached the semi-final of the World and European Championships. Michelle still competes and hopes to add more national titles to her name. Other winners of the ladies championship were: **Lorna Connolly**: Peirrot, **Bernie O'Sullivan**: Sully's, **Celine Burke**: Bray S.C., **Martina Wendell** Kings Cross and **Cathy Dunne** from Celbridge S.C.

Throughout the years the championship has had some brilliant matches, there has been much laughter and tears along the way, but there can be no doubt that it is the event every snooker player looks especially forward to competing in year by year on RIBSA events.



Billiards has been played in Ireland since the nineteenth century, even beyond. The first recorded Championship, in pre-Republic days was held in 1902, the winner is recorded as **Maurice Fitzgerald**. A notable example of the standard of play at the time was the (in those days, All-Ireland) 1902 Championship held in Strabane, when local player J. Duncan defeated J. Brady in the final, making breaks of 167, 123, 123, 114, 103.

The first Championship after Partition was held in 1928 and from then to the start of the more modern era, the game was dominated by no more than about a dozen players, most notably multiple winners **Seamus Fenning** (7 times Champion), **Mick Nolan** (5 times), **Larry Codd** (4 times), **Jack Ayres** and **Tommy O'Brien** (3 times each), **K. Smith** and **Jack Bates** (twice each). From about 1970 onwards, multiple winners, all of whom are still active in the game today, include **Eugene Hughes** (8 times Champion), **Larry Drennan** (6 times), **Aidan Murray** (5 times), **Victor O'Gorman** (4 times), **Dick Brennan** (3 times) and current Champion **Rodney Goggins**, 3 times.

It is notable also that in the early days, most players played competitively in both Billiards and Snooker and a check through the archives will reveal a number of names that have achieved top honours in both games. Only three players however, are in the records as having achieved both Billiards and Snooker Championship titles in the same year. They were **Jack Ayres** (1931), **Seamus Fenning** (1935, 1949) and **Eugene Hughes** (1978).

The Irish National Billiards Championship, in keeping with the World Championships, is now contested in two formats, the Long-up game, now 750-up, and the short format game, being the best of 5 games of 150-up.

Today, there is a core of approximately 20 players competing in the Senior Billiards series and a further 20 or so contesting the Intermediate, handicapped series.

RIBSA have made efforts to introduce a Junior Billiards Ranking series and a National Championship during recent years. It was won by **Ross Doyle** who

is the younger brother of **Wayne Doyle** who in 2014 was the Irish Senior number 1 billiard player and one of the stars of the future in the game of Irish Billiards.



Of late, the games of Billiards and Snooker have tended to drift away from each other, with the top proponents concentrating their efforts on their chosen game. This is understandable, given the very full calendar of events, particularly in the more popular game of Snooker.

This is something of a pity, bearing in mind the skill levels achieved by our top Snooker players, there is no doubt that with their cue skills, they would quite certainly excel at the three-ball game.

By way of confirmation of this assertion, there is one player, **Rodney Goggins** who, in addition to his outstanding achievements at Snooker, is also the 2014 Billiards Double National Champion, having won the Championship in both formats.



Rodney's achievements at Billiards have not gone unnoticed in Snooker circles. Billiards, for all its similarities with the game of Snooker, has, in its greater variety of strokes, a particular fascination of its own. Perhaps Rodney's successes may persuade some of our top Snooker players to try their hand at the skilful game of Billiards.



The Irish Billiards Teams regularly compete in the World Billiards Championships, The Home Internationals, The four Nations Championships. Over the years RIBSA have won the Tri-Nations in Northern Ireland in 2003 and won the Home International title in 2011.

The RIBSA Senior tournaments are organised by **Brendan Devlin** and the RIBSA Intermediate tournaments are organised by **Liam Byrne** each season. The success of Billiards in Ireland most go to them both in promoting this special game of Billiards.



## RIBSA Success Photo Gallery



David Hogan became the first Irishman to win the European Men's Champion in Belgium in 2009 In Photo Jim Leacy Chairman and PJ Nolan ( Coach )



The 2009 European Championships Mario Fernandez ( R/up ) David Hogan ( Champion ) Brendan O Donoghue ( 3<sup>rd</sup> ) and Joe Delaney Masters R/up



Colm Gilcreest became only the third Irishman to reach the Final of the IBSF World Amateur Championships in Austria when he lost in the final in 2008



Jason Devaney became the first Irish Junior player to win the WPBSA Junior Pot Black on BBC TV.

The Final was Played in the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

Terry Griffiths

Ex World Professional Champion presented the cup to Jason in front of a large audience



## RIBSA Success Photo Gallery



Brendan O Donoghue and Vincent Muldoon both reached the final of European Men's Championship in 2011 and 2012 while Rodney Goggins also finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2012.



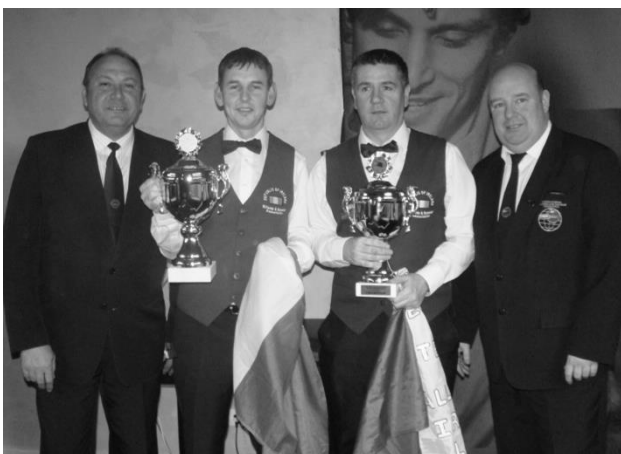
Brendan O Donoghue, David Hogan & Martin McCrudden won the European Team Championship in 2008



Josh Boileau reached the European U-21 Championship Final in 2014



Josh Boileau reached the World IBSF U-21 Championship Final in 2014



Anthony Bonnar & Mark Tuite won the European Masters Team Championship in 2013 and Mark Tuite won the European Masters Championship in 2014



# RIBSA Success Photo Gallery



The Home International from the past with Anthony O Connor, Alan Clarke, Gay Burns, Ken Doherty, Robert McCrumb, Richard Nolan, Damien McKerian, John Buckley and Stephen Murphy.



Ireland won the Home International Title in 1993 when Tom Gleeson, Joe Delaney, Paul O Donoghue, John Farrell, Colm Gilcreest, John Buckley, James Linehan, Jason Watson and Mickey Kelly (Manager) won the title



Ireland won the Home International Junior Title in 1992 when Declan Murphy, Philip O Rourke, James Linehan and Robert Murphy won the title with Mick Kelly as Manager



Ireland Ladies team at the Home International in 1992 with Jean McGregor, Julie Kelly and Ann McMahon



In 2009 Ireland Junior won the Celtic Challenge beating a very strong Welsh team when Glen Doyle, Daniel O Regan, Craig Roberts, David Cassidy, Daniel Dempsey, Tom Hogan, Aaron Tobin, Ryan Cronin, Dylan Scully, Kenny Wight and Josh Boileau with Team Coach PJ Nolan.



In 2010 Michelle Sherwin won the EBSA European Ladies 6 Red Snooker Championship in Malta and was presented with her trophy by Jim Leacy and was joined by team mate Tressa Kegan



In 2009 RIBSA launched a RIBSA Elite Junior Squad when our National Coach PJ Nolan travelled around the country looking for snooker stars of the future



PJ selected Tom Hogan, Josh Boileau and Aaron Tobin to receive free Entry fees to RIBSA events and free coaching for the season. Nigel Power from firststep.ie sponsored the 2009 Squad and RIBSA President Eamon Kearns sponsored the 2010 Squad

# RIBSA Success Photo Gallery



Two of the all time great champions  
Eugene Hughes & Ken Doherty



The RIBSA Chairman John Doherty along with  
out going Chairman Jim Leacy in 2014



Pat O Sullivan, Julie Kelly, Leading  
Coach Larry Codd and John Buckley



Irish Junior Stephen Murphy from Dublin



Tommy Martin, Tos Reilly, Pat O Sullivan, Victor O Gorman, Larry Drennan



Josh Boileau – Under 21 Champion with Tony Thorpe and Jim Leacy



Josh Boileau – 2016 European Under 21 Champion with PJ Nolan



Set up of the RIBSA Coaching Academy in 1997 with Terry Griffiths



Home International Junior Champions 1992



## RIBSA Success Photo Gallery



Robert Murphy & Michael Judge won the European Team Championship in 2015



Josh Boileau reached the Semi Final of IBSF World U-21 Championship in 2015

## RIBSA Billiards Photo Gallery



2000 Home International Senior Champions in Pontins Wales



EBSA U-18 Semi Finalist  
Ross Bulman -2016



2016 EBSA Men's  
Championships High Break  
winner – Michael Judge



2015 IBSF World Masters  
Championships Semi Finalist  
Alen Matic

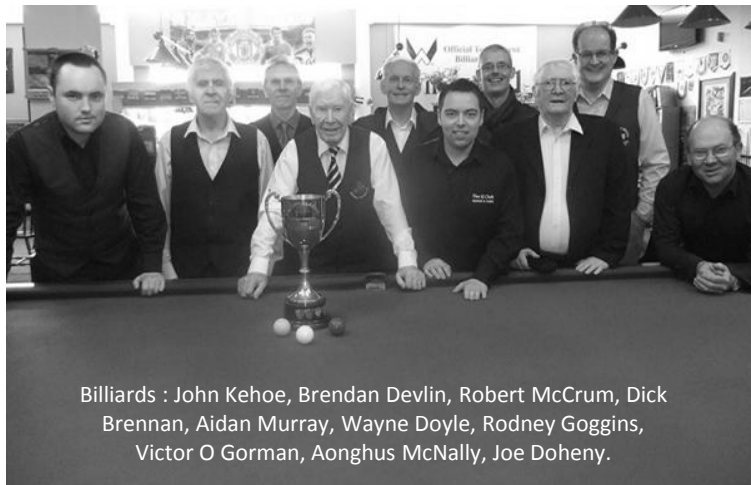
## RIBSA Success Photo Gallery



The RIBSA Ladies Promotion Day 2016 with Ladies National Coach Michelle Sherwin



## RIBSA Photo Gallery



## RIBSA Web Site / RIBSA Facebook / Twitter page

The [www.ribsa.ie](http://www.ribsa.ie) website contains all the latest news, rankings and photographs from all the various events throughout the season. It is regularly updated to keep all our members informed with all the news

Up to date calendar with Dates, venues of all the different age groups and categories are available in the main menu.

The Promotion and Development of Snooker and Billiards is vital for the RIBSA Association If we are to help produce more champions.

This is because success at any level brings confidence and this confidence is enhanced when the players get publicity on their victory or performance which in turn gives the player more confidence to do it again and again.

RIBSA have also a Facebook and Twitter page to keep all our members up to date as this type of communication is now vital in any association.





## RIBSA Billiards Photo Gallery



11 time Irish Ladies Snooker Champion  
Michelle Sherwin



The Timmy Murphy Billiards Memorial  
Champion 2015 Joe Doheny



The RIBSA Irish Billiards Players in 2016



The RIBSA Under 16 Players in 2016

# www.147academy.com

## “The Academy Of the Champions”



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