

Super day in badminton as Deirdre and Vienna strike gold on the treble

Contributed by Liam Horan
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Two Irish Badminton players today (TUESDAY) dominated the badminton tournament at the 17th World Transplant Games in Gold Coast, Australia.

Not alone did Dubliner Deirdre Faul and Donegal woman Vienna White win individual gold medals in their age categories, but they also teamed up to win the doubles title too.

“This was a superb performance by Deirdre and Vienna,” said team manager Colin White. “The badminton was extremely competitive but they pulled out all the stops to go all the way. It was a great day for the Irish team.”

Deirdre adds the two gold medals to the gold she won in the Squash court on Monday, and these triumphs will help to boost Irish morale for the remainder of the week.

Fifty countries have sent athletes to the games which celebrate the gift of life.

The 19-strong team, ranging in age from 22 to 64, have travelled Down Under with 13 new kidneys, five new livers and one new kidney-pancreas.

“Every day, the athletes remember their donors, and each performance, let alone victory, is a way of saying thank you to the donors who gave them the gift of life,” added Colin.

The full Irish team is:

Paul Donohoe (Cavan); Michael Dwyer (captain, Dublin); Deirdre Faul (vice-captain, Dublin); Tony Gartland (Wicklow); James Hannon (Longford); John Loftus (Limerick); Philip Martin (Dublin); Tom Metcalfe (Dublin); Linda Meyler (Galway); Catherine Murphy (Cork); James Nolan (Kildare); John Paul O’Neill (Kilkenny); Paul Prendergast (Dublin); Orla Hogan-Ryan (Tipperary); Charlie Ryan (Cork); Leonard Ryan (Dublin); Angela Sherlock (Dublin); Harry Ward (Dublin); and Vienna White (Donegal.)

The team is accompanied by manager Colin White; team doctor Emer Kilbride; physio Clare Hogan; and Mark Murphy, the CEO of the Irish Kidney Association.

A special website has been built – www.transplantteamireland.com – where supporters can follow the team’s progress. For an organ donor card FREETEXT the word ‘DONOR’ to 50050.