

## MLTCC Honorary Secretary's Report 2021

**In the absence of an elected Honorary Secretary, this report is submitted with inputs from the relevant areas of the club.**

### Overview

The year continued with the club being impacted by COVID 19 restrictions and lockdowns. The Management Committee met each month via ZOOM with regular subcommittee and officer discussions throughout the year. We look forward to future meetings and events in person in 2022

### Lady Captain's Report 2021 (Clair Whymys)

It was great to get back to tennis in 2021.

In May we had a shortened Round Robin with 3 rounds being run up until early September to get members back into competitive tennis. The prize giving for this took place in October after one of the Friday Night Socials. Over the summer we ran a number of Sunday afternoon mixed tournaments and tried an afternoon for members in the age category 18-25. The popular "Net Nuts" is starting back up again this year and hopefully will be well attended by members who are new to the club at beginner and intermediate level.

In August the Club Championships started, slightly later this year to accommodate the late start of the Round Robins due to Covid. There were 223 members entered and some great matches to be seen. Due to Covid restrictions we couldn't have the usual "At Home", but hopefully this will return in 2022.

DLTC decided that instead of Senior League at the end of 2021, they would run a Winter League which would be open to a wider cohort of tennis players and with this due to start, we set up a Selection Committee which was made up of coaches and players from different levels in the club. The aim of this was to have greater transparency in the selection of league teams and to have team selection early so that players could practice in advance of league starting. We had a League Blitz day in August and this was very well attended by league players. We had a good campaign with two teams being promoted and one team in a final. The selection process for Winter League 2022 began in early December and this league is underway at the moment.

We had hoped to have a Ladies Christmas party in December, but with Covid numbers on the increase, we ran an outdoor event instead and there was a great array of Christmas jumpers on display at the prosecco and mince pie afternoon in December. Our Queen of the Leagues trophy being awarded to Rosari O'Brien at this event.

We had a number of teams visit from different clubs in the latter half of the year and hopefully these visits will continue in 2022.

The Round Robin is running again and is due to finish in April when we will hold the prize giving in conjunction with the McMahan Cup.

I'd like to thank all the members who have helped me over the last year, whether it be organising a visiting club, looking after the round robins, making sure games were played on time in the Club Championships, agreeing to captain a league team or helping with social tennis tournaments. In particular, I'd like to thank my Vice Captain Hilary McGee for her support over the last year. Her advice and willingness to listen to me is greatly appreciated!

### Men's Captain Report

The start of 2021 was obviously a frustrating one for all tennis players with the Covid restrictions shutting the club down for several weeks and a slow return to tennis to follow.

Our first competitive tennis was the round robin tournament which took place during the Summer for the first time. It was great to see the enthusiasm of players to get back to match play. We had well over 100 entries in the men's singles. Thank you to all who competed and congratulations to the winners, Ray O'Gorman (singles) and Jim Ryan and Joe Stanley (doubles).

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The Round Robin acted as a warm up for the club championships which took place a month later than usual but luckily the weather was very kind and plenty of great tennis was played.

Our singles winners were, Cian Hurst(A), Peter Stanka Lopes(B), Derek Reid (C) and Barry Ward (D).

The doubles provided us with great entertainment on the Saturday of the finals as all the matches went to three sets. Our doubles winners were Alan Rooney and Florian Plass (A), Declan Bolger and Ian Grant (B), Peter Evans and James Evans (C) and Colm Brady and Shane Gilmartin (D). Thanks again to all competitors for making the tournament such a success and many thanks to the monitors of the various sections, Stephen Twaddell, Garrett French, Declan Bolger, Eamonn Dullaghan and Alan Buckley.

As Covid restrictions eased during Autumn interclub competition recommenced. MLTCC fielded 7 teams in the Winter League 2021, which took the place of the Senior League in the calendar so as players of all ages would be able to compete. We had a mixed campaign with 3 teams qualifying for playoffs but not getting promoted and we had one team relegated. We currently have teams in Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, 3 teams in Class 4 and one in Class 7. It will be an aim to include an eighth team in the roster to give more players a chance to experience league tennis.

We have been able to start the Round Robins for 2021/22 closer to their regular slot in the calendar. The current Round Robin will have 4 rounds in total and finish near the end of April. I would like to extend my appreciation to Declan Bolger and Eamonn Dullaghan for their help in organising the singles and doubles tournaments. Congratulations also to Declan for winning clubman of the year. Declan has helped with the round robin, the championship and the Winter League and has also helped the coaches by hitting with our up and coming juniors. A well-deserved prize.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members for all their help, advice and hard work over the year. I would also like to thank Michael and Frank for their help and constant good humour in the office.

Stephen Nolan

### **Junior Report 2021**

Junior members make up over one third of the total club membership, with just over 500 junior members.

Unfortunately, Covid continued to have a huge impact on the junior tennis programme in the last 12 months and for the second year running, the club was unable to run a wide range of events including junior league, school's tennis, the Fingal school's tennis initiative, stars and stripes, match play as well as many annual social and fun events. For the second year running we were also unable to run the Junior Open.

In spite of Covid, our coaching team continued to offer a full junior coaching programme and junior camps throughout the year and I would like to thank all of the Coaching team for their ongoing effort and commitment over the last two challenging years. As restrictions eased at different points during the year we were able to run a few fun events and also a full week of tennis for all junior members in August with the Junior Championships, sponsored again by the Grand Hotel. I would like to thank Matt Ryan and his family for their ongoing support. Towards the end of the year the club and coaches were able to run two Tennis 10s events in conjunction with Leinster Tennis.

Stephen Nugent the Head of our Performance Coaching Programme moved onto other opportunities towards the end of the year. Stephen personally coached a number of talented young players who have achieved notable successes. He brought a huge amount of energy to the coaching team and connected with all juniors at all age levels. I would like to thank him for the huge impact he made in a short time and wish him all the best in the future.

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Two years ago, the club approved the hiring of a much broader Director of Tennis role and a new Tennis Administrator role, however these roles had to be put on standby due to Covid. The Committee is now moving ahead to hire both roles which will be critical to the development of junior tennis in the club. While this process is ongoing, the club has appointed Liz Ford as Interim Head of Coaching. Liz has been working closely with the other coaches and the new Junior Committee to develop the coaching programme as well as to create new playing opportunities such as Saturday match play. I would like to thank Liz for stepping up to this challenge and bringing so much to the role.

A new Junior Committee was formed in December to develop the future plan for junior tennis in the club. I wish this committee every success in continuing a body of work that has been in development for the last couple of years including the creation of two new roles, the creation of a club performance programme and the putting in place of a wider and recurring range of playing opportunities for all junior members including Saturday match play etc.

With Covid restrictions now easing, members can look forward in 2022 to the new Junior Committee and Coaching team being able to organise a range of playing opportunities including junior league, school's tennis, match play and different interclub events. While the new roles being created are of course critical to enabling this, the ability of the club to actually run these events will always be reliant on members volunteering to help with. If you can make yourself available to help with just one event, please volunteer.

Finally, after four years I am stepping down as Junior Co-ordinator and I would like to thank all of the coaches and the committee for their help and support over the last few years. I would also like to especially thank Shirley Coleman and Caitriona Cahir as Vice Junior Co-ordinators and also Michael Byrne for the huge commitment they have all given to Junior Tennis in the club.

Rosari O Brien

### **Social Report - 2021 Tennis Activities**

The year started with new restrictions that resulted in the tennis club being closed.

Tennis resume in May 2021 and social tennis events were allowed resume later in June.

Our Monday morning and Friday evening mixed social tennis events returned but without indoor social activities. The events were well supported nonetheless as the members got back on the courts. All courts allocated were full and everyone was enjoying their tennis.

Monday morning tennis continues to grow, was well attended with everyone enjoying the games and the morning coffee in the bar afterwards when Covid guidelines allowed.

Friday evening social tennis also restarted with strong attendance including many new faces. All 9 courts were in use most of these evenings. When possible, we adjourned to the bar or had outdoor drinks on the balcony depending on the guidelines at the time. There was a lovely atmosphere afterwards in the bar as members reconnected.

On 25<sup>th</sup> October we held a Monday morning Halloween tournament, our first full event after the lockdown. Light refreshments and prizes awarded for winners and best dressed.

On 29<sup>th</sup> October we held our first bumper night of the year (1 of 3). The event was fully subscribed with some extra players popping down for the prize giving event. Great tennis and great evening afterwards. Prizes awarded for winners and best dressed. Food was purchased from pizza dog,

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December we held a mini-Christmas tournament from 7pm - close. Mince pies and cream were served. Prizes were awarded and the members enjoyed a BYOB evening in the bar.

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As part of planning for 2022, the club reached out to members in November to see who would be interested in joining an expanded social committee. The aim of the committee is to work with the Social Co-ordinator and Vice Social Co-ordinator towards having events, both social only and social & tennis. There was a good deal of interest and the first meeting was held in January 2022. The first event was a Valentines Social Tournament on 12<sup>th</sup> February which was well attended and enjoyed by all. The next event will be a Painting & Prosecco afternoon on 26<sup>th</sup> March. We hope that members will support this new approach to the social aspect of the Club.

Many thanks to my team who helped me organising the tennis. Looking forward to running a full 2022 calendar.

Maria Ahmed