



21st February '22

MALAHIDE LAWN TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB

The Square, Malahide, Co Dublin, K36TD90

MLTCC AGM 28th February 2022

Vice President's Report

Dear Fellow Member,

I am pleased to present this report to the members of MLTCC for the 2022 AGM.

It has been a difficult but eventful year for our Club. Last year's AGM marked the anniversary of the pandemic, and we have endured a 2nd year of restrictions and disruption, with no tennis permitted until May 2021. Since then, the Club has worked tirelessly to enable tennis to continue to the greatest possible extent as the restrictions were gradually lifted. I would like to thank Michael Byrne for his excellent management of the ever-changing rules and keeping members informed.

I was nominated by Des Allen as VP last at the last AGM in March 2021.

During the middle part of 2021, as our President Des required more treatment for his illness, as VP, I stepped more and more into Des's role, and he was fully accepting of and grateful for this. The Management Committee gave me their full support and our work rate was maintained.

The following summarises the work that your Committee has progressed :

- (1) The planning application for **Covered Courts Facility** was submitted in mid-February. In advance of this, the Facilities Committee, led by Patricia Cullen, held 2 members' information evenings in December and also met with the neighbours surrounding the Club one evening at The Grand Hotel. They also met separately with Malahide Yacht Club in January, our nearest neighbours, and Malahide Community Forum earlier this month. The Club's Architect attended all of these to answer questions from those attending.

The covered courts project should be seen as a medium-term project and part of the vision for our Club to provide the best possible playing facilities. A member's motion has been submitted for this evening's meeting to withdraw this application and this will be debated later.

- (2) The committee has formed the **Court Booking & Usage Subgroup** which has introduced some changes to increase the number of available court booking slots, and measures to improve behaviour re checking in, and cancellations. It will have an active and ongoing role to monitor and modify the booking arrangements so that access is improved, and that block bookings at peak times are avoided. The over-riding objective is to provide fair and equal access for all members.

The Subgroup is led by Jonathan Law and comprises 8 members (including the captains) representing all member groups, to analyse the problem in detail. The subgroup's recommendations are based on data analysis, visual observation, feedback, examining other clubs' booking arrangements and best practice from Tennis Ireland.

They will also communicate to raise awareness, promote best practice and improve the functionality of the booking system.

(3) The **Facilities Committee** is also an initial stage to address 2 areas :

- a) An arrears of repairs – drainage at corner of Court 6 and various issues in the Clubhouse. Leaks in stairwell, bar and lounge area.
- b) Refurbish & redecorate the Clubhouse – focussing on the Bar / Lounge, Stairwell, Landing, and Junior Room. Our clubhouse is dated and functional : it would benefit from being refreshed so that members will make greater use of the Clubhouse after matches and be attractive for members to attend Club social events.

(4) Junior Committee and Tennis Resources

A new committee comprising 5 members has been formed to set out the vision and objectives for Junior Tennis and Coaching in our Club and to deliver on these by recruiting a Director of Tennis and a Tennis Administrator to support the DoT. These roles have now been defined and advertised, and when filled, the work to implement appropriate structures to deliver an effective programme to improve coaching and playing standards, and related admin can commence. Currently, the Club relies on its General Manager and Junior Coordinators to deliver on these, and frankly, it's not the GM's job, although he has been massively supportive in this. As Rosari & Caitriona know 1st hand, there is a very large amount of detailed admin and communications involved, and this is not sustainable solely for volunteer members.

In the meantime, the Junior Committee is organising a calendar of activities and events which will be communicated in due course.

(5) Social Committee

The pandemic has severely limited social events in our Club. While the Monday mornings and Friday Clubnighters continued weekly since May, thanks to Maria Ahmed and her assistants, a Club of this size needs a larger team to plan and arrange a calendar of social events throughout the year, for all categories of members. So, a new Social Committee has been formed, led by Clair Whymms and Maria Ahmed, with a total of 10 members. They have already held some very successful events – Halloween and Valentines, and we look forward to many more that are planned, so that we can bring life and laughter back into our Club.

(6) Other Potential Initiatives – IT & Communications

The Club is lacking in IT / Social Media / Communications skills and it would be great if member volunteers would come forward to assist the Committee in these areas. We should not be dependent on the Club's GM to manage this entire area given that there are approx. 1,490 members. There is a lot of activity in a Club of this size, and effective IT & communications will help improve the member experience – e.g. management of the Court Booking System, Events Admin, Round Robin, Club Championships, Junior Open, Newsletters, etc.

In the meantime, the website will be updated and re-vamped in the next couple of months, and a communications App for the Club will be implemented in the coming weeks.

Club's Finances

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts to 30th September 2021 show that the Club's finances continue to improve since the previous year. This reflects membership at capacity, additional costs re covered courts project, and pandemic grant income. The year ahead will hopefully see costs and revenues normalise, although the Clubhouse & courts are expected to incur some costs for repairs & maintenance work.

Des Allen

The year ended with the passing of our President, Des Allen, on 2nd December, a huge loss to the Club.

Des was synonymous with Tennis in Ireland, having played from an early age and given so much of his time to the sport, both as a player, and professionally as Tennis Ireland CEO for 20 years. He was a member of Malahide for over 30 years and viewed it as his home in tennis. He was a very active member, playing Summer and Senior League throughout the 1990's, and was Men's Captain for 1995 -97. He was elected as President of MLTCC in February 2020 and had great ambition and vision for our Club. This is evident from the 5-year Strategic Plan that he initiated, and which was adopted by the Club in March 2021.

We remember him this evening and are grateful for all that he has done on behalf of our Club.

Conclusion

In Summary, the Club has weathered the pandemic storm very well and enabled play to continue to the greatest extent possible. There has been a general lack of resources to enable it to reach its potential in terms of competitive tennis and the social aspects. The passing of our President at the end of 2021 was a huge loss. There is a now coordinated, collaborative effort in motion to restore the energy and vibrancy within the Club.

I have given this job 110% as have each of Committee Members, all of whom are very generous of their time, capable and committed. It has been a fantastic committee and I am proud to have been part of it.

The Club would be lost without its General Manager who has been immensely supportive to me personally, and the Committee through the year, and we are most grateful for his professional and unbiased help.

Finally, and most importantly, I wish to thank you for your continued support for the Club and continuing with your membership during the pandemic. The future is bright now, and the Club will no doubt see continued improvements throughout 2022 and in the years ahead.

Yours in tennis,

David Duffy

David Duffy
Vice President, MLTCC