



Malahide Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club

**AGM 1ST February
2023**

Secretary's Report

Dear Fellow Members,

I am pleased to present this report to the members of MLTCC for the 2023 AGM. I will try to avoid repeating topics already addressed in the Vice President's report.

Following the divisive AGM last year, a number of Committee members resigned. I was approached and agreed to become Honorary Secretary. Part of the Secretary's role is to ensure good governance and we have tried to make sure that everything the Committee has done this year conforms to the highest standards.

1. Governance. Following events of the last few years, I have received a few letters and emails from members concerning issues of governance. It became evident that our current Constitution needs to be strengthened in a number of areas, and to that end the Committee agreed to set up a sub-committee to review the Constitution. That Sub-Committee comprises Nicola O'Connor, Finian Matthews and me as Chairman. A first draft of a new, updated Constitution has

been drafted and the review of that draft by the Committee is nearly complete. The draft will shortly be posted on the Club website and comments from members will be invited. Following that iteration, an EGM will be called and members will have the chance to comment and vote on the changes. For that reason, the Committee is not proposing to discuss constitutional matters at this AGM.

At last year's AGM, the minutes of the 2021 AGM were not approved. Two motions are being proposed by the Committee at this year's AGM that if passed will rectify this. Motion 1 is to allow adoption of the 2021 minutes at this year's meeting by omitting the offending sentence. Motion 2, also proposed by the Committee is to adopt the Strategic Plan as presented at the 2021 AGM. No other motions have been received from members.

- 2. Tennis Courts.** I have also received letters both from members and from visitors playing league matches about the slippery and unsafe condition of our courts. Indeed, some injuries have been sustained although thankfully nothing too serious. The situation has improved following power-washing of the courts arranged by our new General Manager. Opportunities have been provided during the year for members who have not played on *artificial* clay courts to test these courts in nearby clubs. A decision on the type of surface must be made at the AGM so that upgrading works can be started as soon as weather permits. It is also necessary to deal with the tree roots that are lifting the road end of courts 3,4 and 5.
- 3. Membership.** The current membership stands at approximately 885 adult players, about the number of 100 per court suggested by Tennis Ireland, and 524 juniors. The limiting factor for juniors is court availability for coaching. Even with the considerable work done by the Tennis Administrator Adele La Comber and our Treasurer Karen Murphy we still have a waiting list of approximately two years.
- 4. Tennis Events.** In March, a coffee morning was run for Ukraine which raised €2566. The McMahon Cup took place on

April 27th with 72 members participating. The winners of the Round Robin 2022 were Ladies Singles – Beth Hughes, Ladies Doubles – Claire Dunne & Ann Kilemade and Mixed Doubles – Dermot McCrudden (RIP) and Geraldine Shiels.

Geraldine Shiels along with Swords Tennis Club have organized an annual competition to honour the memory of our past Men's Captain Dermot McCrudden. It took place in Swords in 2022 and will take place in Malahide this year.

A couple of new initiatives were tried during the year. Clíodhna Mahony set up Singles Sunday for those looking to improve their singles play and for those preparing for summer leagues. Clair Whyms set up the King/Queen of Aces with a small prize for the person who logged the most aces.

A number of tennis clubs visited us over 2022 including Clane, Clontarf, Kilkenny, Rockfield and Swords and of course visiting league teams.

The Club Championships were run differently in 2022. They were run over two weeks in June with matches being scheduled but with no plate competition. Whilst the format was well received, most agreed that the timing was not right and we hope to run it this year towards the end of August.

All of these events take a lot of time to organize and the Committee is grateful to all the members, too numerous to mention by name, who willingly gave up their time to help out.

5. Juniors. Eimear Walsh joined the Committee as Junior Coordinator part way through the year and has already made a substantial contribution. With guidance and help from our new Director of Tennis, Alex Watt, the coaching team, the Junior Committee and indeed Club members, the juniors have experienced tennis success at league level and have participated in a weekly programme of social tennis and monthly junior social events, the big ones being the Glow in the Dark party at Halloween and the Christmas party.

The Junior Room is now fully functional, complete with homework tables, games and bean bags. A room with more than a view, it is a place for junior Club members that is their own and where they are safe and welcome. Looking forward to the year ahead, Eimear is committed to working hard for our junior members and to continue to deliver a fun-filled calendar of tennis and social events.

6. Members' Contribution. All Committee roles involve hard work and dedication, to which we all wholly commit. I would like to thank all those Committee members that have helped me through my first year as Secretary. We invite all members to offer feedback, suggestions and advice, all with the common goal of providing the best possible Club experience.

Yours in tennis,
Graham Cure
Honorary Secretary