



17<sup>th</sup> January

2023

**MALAHIDE LAWN TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB**

**The Square, Malahide, Co Dublin, K36TD90**

**MLTCC AGM 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

**Vice President's Report**

Dear Fellow Members,

I am pleased to present this report to the members of MLTCC for the 2023 AGM.

The past year has been characterised by significant and thankfully positive change for our great club. Last year's AGM was sadly one of the most divisive meetings that I personally experienced as a member of MLTCC. One unfortunate consequence was the absence of candidates willing to put themselves forward for various Management Committee positions, including the key officer roles of President, Vice President, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. During the weeks following the AGM, the duly elected Committee worked tirelessly to build a new leadership team whose ambition was to unify the club and drive a positive and inclusive strategic agenda.

Post-AGM 2022, I was approached by the Committee and agreed to take on the role of Vice President (and in the process become de facto 'acting President' since the position of President can only be elected at either an AGM or EGM). Karen Murphy was elected by the Committee as Honorary Treasurer. Graham Cure was elected as Honorary Secretary. Eimear Walsh was elected as Junior Co-ordinator.

I would like to take the opportunity to remember those you have passed during the year, including longstanding member and former men's captain, Dermot McCrudden.

On a personal note, it's been both an honour and privilege to be part of this fantastic Committee over the past year. I would like to share with you some of the key challenges and successes that have been delivered in 2022.

**(1) General Manager, Tennis Administrator and Office Administrator**

One of my first duties as Vice President was to receive and accept the resignation of Michael Byrne as our long serving General Manager. Michael made many friends during his time at MLTCC and on the behalf of the outgoing Committee, I would like to personally thank him for his contribution. Following an extensive recruitment process, I was delighted that we were able to recruit David Taggart as our new General Manager, who joined in September 2022.

In April 2022, Adele La Comber, took up the newly created position of Tennis Administrator. Adele is doing an incredible job supporting the General Manager,

the Director of Tennis, the Men's and Ladies Captains, the Junior Co-ordinator, as well as the broader membership.

After 17 years as Office Administrator, life-long member, Frank O'Brien decided to retire in December 2022. Frank is an absolute gentleman and his friendly face and willingness to help everyone will be sorely missed by all. On behalf of the outgoing Committee, I would like to extend my best wishes to Frank and his family with his well-earned retirement. The Committee, in co-operation with the General Manager, are undertaking a strategic review of all the roles and responsibilities of the Office Administrator before deciding whether to replace Frank or absorb his responsibilities into other areas.

**(2) Director of Tennis**

In July 2022, Alex Watt was appointed as the club's new Director of Tennis. Alex is a highly accomplished and dedicated professional tennis coach, with a wealth of experience in developing players of all ages and abilities. Alex was recently voted Ulster Coach of the year for 2022 by Tennis Coach Ireland. I am thrilled with the positive impact that Alex has made on the Club in such a short space of time and have no doubt that MLTCC will go from strength to strength under his leadership.

**(3) Junior Co-Ordinator and Committee**

Following a period of instability, I am really pleased that juniors are now in safe hands under the leadership of Eimear Walsh, who took on the role of Junior Co-Ordinator in September 2022. I would personally like to thank Denise Curtis for all her hard work in covering this role (in addition to that of Children's Officer) in the absence of a fully functioning Junior Committee support structure.

**(4) Social Committee**

The end of the pandemic has facilitated the return of social events, which are truly the lifeblood of the Club. Many thanks to the entire social committee, which has been led by the brilliant Maria Ahmed and Cliodhna Mahony. There have been so many successful events and we look forward to many more that are planned in 2023. For all regular patrons of the bar, I would like to express our appreciation to the tireless and professional work of Ronny Maiti.

**(5) Men's and Ladies Tennis**

It has been brilliant to see the return of League Tennis post-pandemic and I would congratulate all the members who contributed to the success by the Men and Ladies teams in 2022. There have been some wonderful team performances, notably the Ladies first team winning the Premier League, Summer and Floodlight League and the Men's over 45 and 55 teams winning Class 1 and Class 2, respectively. Even more impressive is the huge number of players representing the Club at all levels and the team spirit shown across all the league campaigns. Sincere thanks to our Captains, Evan Taylor, Arnaud Bonvarlet, Clair Whyms and Hilary McGee for all the hard work and dedication.

**(6) Club Refurbishment**

The refurbishment of the bar, upstairs lobby, staircase and junior room is largely complete and looking fantastic. I would like to personally thank Ronny Maiti,

David Taggert and Gillian Bell for all their tremendous work in bringing this project to life. Also special thanks to Peter McNally and his team who completed the refurbishment to such a high standard. I do hope that you will get the opportunity to enjoy this facility over the coming years. I look forward to working with my fellow Committee members, as well as the broader membership, in upgrading the rest of the Club in the coming year.

### **(7) Tennis Courts**

As many of you will be aware, the quality of the playing surface has become an increasing priority, both from a playability, as well as safety perspective. The Committee, in collaboration with the Director of Tennis and the General Manager, has undertaken works to explore potential options to replace the surface of courts 3 to 5 and will present these options to the membership at the forthcoming AGM.

### **(8) Club's Finances**

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 show that the Club's finances remain in a very healthy position. Further details are provided in the Treasurer's Report.

### **Conclusion**

It fills me with immense pride and excitement that the Club is in such a strong and vibrant position as we move into a new year. I would like to personally thank each of Committee Members, all of whom are very generous of their time and worked so well together over the past year.

Thank you all for your continued support for the Club as we look forward on building on recent achievements. I truly believe that the Club is heading in the right direction and no doubt you will see continued improvements throughout 2023 and in the years ahead.

Yours in tennis,

# Maurice Kenny

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Maurice Kenny  
Vice President  
MLTCC