

Blackrock Tennis Club AGM 2019
17thth November 2019 at
12.00pm



Minutes

Committee Members Attending: Peter Duff, Maire Madden, Stephen Church, Donal Quill, Valerie O'Brien and Liz McAlease.

Members present: Peter Robbins, Graine McGonnigle, Lita Griffin, Sally Finlay, Emily Conway, Sinead Cronin, Catherine Horrigan, Karl O'Connor, Mary Reynolds, Elmagh Killeen, Bob Reynolds, Des Powell, Deirdre Gallen, Ciara O'Shea, Deirdre Ryan, Jackie O'Sullivan, Patricia O'Donnell, Cariona Neary, Marita Gorman, Sara O'Reilly, Jane Carroll, Brigid Hanley, Michael Orr, George Wyntjes, Donal O'Kelly, Adhanhnan O'Sullivan, Alan Dagg, Mary Reynolds, Michael Orr, Ciaran Ryan, Dan O'Sullivan, Jackie Deane, Aoife Barry, Aileen Hughes, Louise O'Connor, Jenny Larkin, Miriam Hanley, Kay Kelly, Gillie Gunn, Jean Healy, Jean-Anne McKimm, Catherine Johnston, Blaithin Jordon, Joan McGarry, Gwen Browne, Bill Mitchell, Sarah Cahill,

Apologies: Robert Heron, Ailbhe Heron, Rory McFlynn, Ruth Orr.

The President, Peter Robbins, welcomed all present and thanked the outgoing captains and honorary secretary on behalf of the members.

The minutes of the 2018 AGM had been circulated to all members in advance by email. With no matters arising they were approved and adopted.

Appointment of Committee Members:

The following were elected to the Senior Tennis Committee:

- Elmagh Killeen (Honorary Secretary)
- Mary Reynolds (Ladies' Captain)
- Karl O'Connor (Men's Captain)
- Donal Quill (Treasurer)
- Bob Reynolds (Grounds and Facilities Manager)
- Valerie O'Brien (Junior Committee Liaison)
- Catherine Horrigan (Social Committee Liaison)

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Peter Duff summarized the contents of his report, which he said would appear in the minutes. He said that the membership was still at full capacity and that there is a waiting list of 30 for senior membership

Full report:

This year we admitted 59 new adult members (including 13 existing junior members who came of age) and there were 33 non-renewals, so the current total senior tennis membership is 388. We have 58 new junior members and there were 42 non-renewals (including junior members who came of age), bringing the total junior tennis membership to 323. There are 9 pavilion members, so the total current tennis membership is therefore 720, which is full capacity. Membership is therefore closed for the time being and we have 70 prospective members on the waiting list, 30 seniors and 40 juniors.

The Tennis Club's finances are in a healthy state at present and Donal Quill will provide the detail on that shortly.

Socially there has been plenty of activity at the Club. Our Social Committee, Liz McAlease, Jenny Larkin and Aisling O'Farrell organised a number of events during the year, notably the second annual charity lunch, which repeated the success of the inaugural lunch in 2017. More recently they hosted another excellent At Home event. Thank you very much to Liz, Aisling and Jenny for all their work on that event.

On behalf of the parents and guardians of the junior tennis members, I'd like to thank Valerie O'Brien who has been doing sterling work in chairing the junior tennis committee and acting as Junior liaison on the Tennis Committee.

On behalf of the tennis members, I would like to express special thanks to the outgoing captains, Maire Madden and Stephen Church for all their hard work during the year in organising teams and entries for the various DLTC leagues as well as other events within the Club. Maire and Stephen will be succeeded by Mary Reynolds and Karl O'Connor so we can rest assured that men' and ladies tennis in the Club will continue to be well managed.

I have very much enjoyed working with all the members who served on the Committee over the past several years and I thank them for their hard work on behalf of all tennis members.

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Donal Quill Summarised the Draft Tennis Section Accounts for 2019 (See Tennis Accounts appended).

The Ladies' Captain's report was presented by Maire Madden:

During 2018 the Ladies Section entered 11 DLTC Teams, 9 Charity League & 2 x Five Mile League Teams. A Total of 135 Players plus many dedicated subs. Without the help of all the Team Captains this would not have been possible.

In the ladies' section in 2019, a combined total of 20 teams played DLTC leagues, Charity Leagues and the Five-mile league.

DLTC Winter League: 4 teams were entered for Winter League. The first team (class 4) came through top of their group but unfortunately lost to Malahide in the quarter finals. The 2nd team (class 4) and the 3rd team (class 5) enjoyed competitive games and both teams will stay in their class. The 4th team (class 6) came third in their group, narrowly missing out on play-offs.

DLTC Summer League: 3 teams were entered for Summer League. The class 3 team despite tough opposition, maintained their position in that class. The class 4 team won 4 of their 5 encounters and finished 3rd in their section. The class 5 team topped their section but lost to Glenalbyn in the playoffs.

DLTC Senior League: 4 teams were entered for Senior League. The second team (class 5) reached playoffs and beat Mount Pleasant to achieve promotion to class 4 and a place in the quarterfinals. They went on to beat Celbridge and progressed to the semi-finals but unfortunately lost to a very strong Donnybrook who were the overall winners of the class. So, a huge congratulations to the squad of 14 players, captained by Mary Reynolds who were involved in that campaign. It was the highlight of the ladies' tennis calendar this year!
Overall, this year we had a promotion and no relegation for the 11 teams in DLTC leagues.

Charity leagues: 4 teams were entered in both Spring and again in Autumn charity leagues. In Spring, although no silverware was won, the Monday non-league team reached the semi-finals where they were narrowly beaten by Deerpark. In Autumn, play is still underway with the Monday League and non-League teams both likely to make semi-final stages.

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Five-Mile League: BBTC were finalists in this competition at the end of June but narrowly missed out on a win against Sandycove.

Club Championships: 130 members played in the 2019 club championships. Thanks to Dave for scheduling matches. A very sociable semi-finals night was enjoyed on the second Thursday. A pop-up tennis shop by JC Sports also proved a popular addition to the event. Finals day provided a display of very competitive tennis played in pleasant weather. Huge thanks to the social committee Liz McAleese, Jenny Larkin and Aisling O'Farrell for organising a fabulous social evening for the 'At home' event.

Social Tennis Events:

The social tennis calendar kicked off with the Turkey Tournament on December 1st which was a mixed social tennis event enjoyed by 30 members.

This was followed in March by ladies' team tennis. Thanks to Sally Finlay and Lita Griffin for their assistance with this.

As part of the tennis for cancer weekend of activities, a mixed social tennis event was held on April 6th'.

Thanks to Jean Healy and Sarah Cahill who ran a Summer Mixed Social Tennis event in August. And finally, a mixed team tennis event run by Catherine Horrigan, Sinead Cronin and Emily Conway has just finished and was a hugely popular event as always. Thanks ladies for taking the reigns on that.

So to finish – I would like to thank all those who have assisted with leagues, tournaments and social events. Thanks to:

The captains of each of the league teams, all of whom took on the role without hesitation.

To the coaches Dave, Laura and Molly who do a great job with the juniors and try to teach some of us oldies new tricks.

To the men's captain, Stephen and all the members of the senior tennis committee who have been a pleasure to work with. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the huge contribution of three committee members who have all served for several years in their respective roles and are

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stepping down this year; secretary Peter Duff, groundskeeper Rory McFlynn and child protection officer Heidi Hickey.

I am eternally grateful to last year's captain Jean Healy who has been extremely helpful and continues to give very generously of her time to the club on the junior side.

A very special thanks to the incoming lady captain Mary Reynolds – she taught me that things are better sorted over coffee or in the bar than mulling over spreadsheets. Together with Sarah Cahill as vice-captain, they will be a fantastic combination. I wish them both well.

Finally, thanks to all the members - you were very generous with your support and as a result this was a very memorable and rewarding year for me as captain. Thank-you.

The Men's Captain's Report was presented by Stephen Church:

2019 was a very successful year on the men side with the highlight of course being the promotion of the Class 7 team and the winning of a treasured pennant! The first team qualified for the quarter-finals of the Winter League also.

Tuesday training was again very well attended from 7.00 - 8.30pm. We have reinstated men's social tennis from 8.30pm till 10 pm on Tuesdays.

Summer League is a pretty tricky one as our player numbers shrink considerably due to holidays. We had great support from the juniors in this regard, and we manage to survive all leagues! The Senior Championships were a great success, with so many people helping out. Particular mention should go to Maire and Dave Cooney for all they did. The men's final was a highlight! The Over 45s team qualified for the playoffs before losing out to Naas.

The Floodlight League has recently finished with both our Class 2 and Class 4 finishing mid-table.

A few notable mentions: Dave Cooney and Cormac Jennings represented Leinster in the Over 35s Inter-Provincials, winning the final rubber to secure victory!

Cormac Jennings played in the Over 45s world championships in Miami. Stuart Doyle represented Ireland in winning the Potter Cup in Barcelona.

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The Junior Liaison Report was presented by Valerie O'Brien:

Total number of juniors: 323.

The juniors are divided into five sections U18s, U14s, U12s, U10s and U9's. These groups are extremely active during the year playing several interclub competitions such as Stars & Stripes, Leinster League and DLTC League. The U8/9's and U10's don't play official interclub competitions but this year there has been a focus on organising internal match play competitions and inter-club friendlies.

U8/9's

- Fun Tennis was organised from January to May. It was then decided to change format from Fun Tennis to match-play format. September – December . We are currently running match play events every Friday evening 5-7pm for our Under 10s, Under 9s and Under 8s. This is been run by our TY Students under Sinead Lardner. A number of our Under 8's and 9's has competed in the Leinster 10s. External tournaments run by Leinster Tennis. 3 of our Under 8's were accessed by Leinster Tennis and received Leinster Tennis Passports to allow them to compete in the older age group.

U10's

- Played several friendly interclub matches V Leopardstown, Monkstown, Carrig and Elm Park. Very active group of boys who have successfully competed in several the Leinster Tennis 10s. External tournaments run by Leinster Tennis. Plan for 2020 is to develop girls group as currently very few girls in this age group.

U12's

- Stars & Stripes: March & October 2019. The Under 12's won The Shield in the Autumn Stars & Stripes.
- April-May: Leinster League. Submitted both a girls and boys team in the U12s Leinster League. While they did not progress to the next round, it was a great experience for the U12s.
- There is social tennis for U12 Group during the week run by Blaithin Rogers.

U14's

- An Introduction day was held in early April for players to get to know each other as the new batch of juniors came up from U12s.
- Stars & Stripes – Spring and Autumn.
- Sep/Oct 2019: U14 DLTC league – We entered an U14 girls' team into this year's DLTC autumn league. They had a strong campaign but were unfortunate to have the two teams that ended up

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being finalists in the overall League in their original Section. They finished up a respectable 3rd in their group. We also fielded a boys' team who came up against strong opposition.

U18's

- Spring Stars & Stripes – Great to see this age group running a Spring Stars and Stripes. We hope to run a one evening event in December for the Autumn campaign. Some clubs struggle to get teams at this age group.
- Leinster League - We entered a boys' team and a girl's team in this League which ran for 5 weeks. The boys won their league which was a tremendous achievement. The girls made it to the semi-final also a fantastic achievement.
- DLTC league - We entered a boys' team and a girl's team in this League which ran for 5 weeks. We were entered in Class 2 and the teams consisted of 4 boys and 4 girls with a number of Subs. The standard was very high this year and neither teams progressed out of their Sections.
- An Introduction day was held in January for players to get to know each other as the new batch of juniors came up from U14s. The session was split into 2nd & 3rd year first and then 4th year upwards.

*the Stars & Stripes (S&S) is a local inter club competition comprising 8/9 clubs and designed to encourage juniors (below Top 70 Ireland rankings) to play competitively but in a friendly environment. The U16/U14 and U12s play round robin matches leading to knockout semi/finals. There are 6 boys and 6 girls on a team, except for U16's where there are 3 boys and 3 girls.

Social

- **Halloween American Tournament:** was a great success on 31st October with a huge turnout of 48 and great fun had by all. There was a superb atmosphere with the boys and girls of all age groups mixing freely with their peers. The amazing work of the TY students who were just fantastic with the groups and who are such great role models for the little ones should be commended.
- **Teenage Team Tennis Autumn:** Smaller group of Teenagers signed up this year. One of the sessions got cancelled and so it was decided to run a one-night event. Tournament, pizza and table quiz on Sunday, November 17th.
- **Christmas American Tournament:** The Christmas American Tournament will be held on Sunday 08th December from 1.45pm to 5.30pm for the 7 to 6th class. It will be co-ordinated by Susan Doyle.

Other Initiatives in 2019

- **Summer Supervised Tennis**
This new initiative was a great success with over 60+ junior members joining the programme which was run from 10am-2pm over 3 weeks in July. Juniors signed up in advance and came down to the Club to play tennis in a safe, organised environment. Feedback from our junior members and

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parents was exceptionally positive. As this was a pilot programme the Junior Committee hope to look at how to make this fun initiative a permanent part of the Junior Tennis summer Calendar. Huge thanks to Molly O'Grady who looked after the juniors so well, ably assisted by Helen Hudson and Leo Fearon.

- **Pre-Competition Training:** For all teams league and Stars and Stripes there was pre-competition training for Teams. This will be overseen by Dave Cooney. The objective will be to improve skills such as net play, doubles play, and tactics in advance of competition matches.

Other

- **Junior Club Championships:** For a week at the end of August the juniors take over the courts to display the wealth and breadth of talent that we have in our club. This year we had 112 children taking part. The tennis is fabulous, parents watch proudly and perhaps a little enviously, friendship groups chat while waiting to play, siblings run around the clubhouse and 'help' run the tuck shop, dads turn dozens of burgers and a great time is had by all. A big thank you to Sinead Lardner and Karen Crowley for their running of this event. A huge amount of effort involved.
- **TY Programme:** The club's Transition Year ('TY') students ran our Fun Tennis (held on Saturday's from 12-1pmin early 2019) and are involved in the Under 10,9,8 match play tournaments. This fulfils the community service requirement of their Gaisce programme. This year's TY students are Emer Madden, Eavan Dowd, Aisling Lardner, Leah Crowley, Will Duff, Rory O'Shea, Tim Jordan, James Harvey and Jonathon Walsh Dowd.
- **Child Protection:** Thank you to Aibhe and Robert Heron for acting as our Child Protection Officers this year.
- **Summer Guests:** in order to fill the courts more during the quiet summer months the club has endorsed the plan to allow juniors to bring one tennis playing guest a week to the club for a nominal fee. This will be for July-August only and conditions apply.
- **Volunteers Needed:** As you can see from the above the Junior Committee have been working hard all year. If you feel you would be interested in joining the Committee would be delighted to have you. It may suit you better to volunteer to help out at some of our many events throughout the year either. **Please give some time to the Juniors so that we can continue to run so many varied events for your children**

The Child Protection Officers Report prepared by Robert Heron was read by Peter Duff in Robert's absence:

The Children's Officers for Blackrock Tennis Club are Robert Heron and Ailbhe Heron.

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Heidi Hickey stepped down after many years' service as female children's officer – for which we are very grateful - and has been replaced by Ailbhe Heron.

Robert Heron has completed Safeguarding 3 and is therefore replacing Heidi as the “designated liaison person” under the Children First Act 2015.

Under the Children First Act, the club has a legal obligation to ensure, as far as practicable, that each child is safe from harm.

Safeguarding the wellbeing of children in the Club is a priority for the club, reflected by the fact that the club is compliant with Tennis Ireland's child protection checklist.

However, as in other areas of life, regulatory requirements continue to increase. Tennis Ireland, as it is required to do by Sport Ireland, has introduced a new Safeguarding Manual. The children's officers attended a briefing by Tennis Ireland's National Children's Officer.

This development will require the club to review its child protection arrangements once again and it's likely that changes will be required. There will also be a detailed audit which we will perform in 2020.

The Grounds and Facilities Report prepared by de facto Grounds Manager, Rory McFlynn was read by Peter Duff in Rory's absence. (See report appended)

After reading the grounds report, Peter Duff mentioned that there is an ongoing issue with members not always leaving the Courts and the Pavilion in a tidy state and referred to the Members' Code of Conduct posted on the Notice Board

Deirdre Gallen complained to sympathetic ears about the issue of drivers leaving their engines running in the car park.

Miriam Hanley complained about the use of the car park by non-members [a matter for the Board].

The Social Committee Report was presented by Liz McAlease:

Committee Members: Aisling O Farrell, Jenny Larkin, Liz Mc Aleese

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Carols at the Clubhouse:

Carols at The Clubhouse was run on Sunday 9th December at 730pm. This event was a fantastic success and run as part of the annual fundraising by the club for Simon Community. Tennis and Mince pies event was run on the previous Friday morning by Sorcha Brady which raised €908 and the Carols followed on Sunday. We made a few changes this year by holding our Christmas event a little earlier on the 9th and also decided to hold a Carol service and not a Craft Fair this time. Guests were welcomed with alcoholic and non alcoholic mulled wine and mince pies. Blackrock College Adult Choir performed a beautiful Christmas recital coordinated by Killian Grumley Traynor and Chris O Sullivan from the music department of the college. It was a fantastic success and very well received by a huge turnout of members who very generously donated to the raffle. All prizes were very generously donated by members of the club and €1022.50 was raised. This was then combined with Friday's proceeds and a total of €1930.50 was donated to Simon Community .

Annual Table Quiz Friday 18th January 2019 at 730pm.

The annual table quiz was held in the Clubhouse and run by Social Committee with the very generous help of quizmaster Michael Harty, one of our members. We had a full house on the night with 22 tables taking part. First, second and third prizes were very well received with a playoff for third place between three tables , adding to the fun.

Tennis 4 Cancer Weekend 5th to 7th April 2019

BBTC Social Committee would like to say a sincere thank you to all our members who supported Tennis 4 Cancer weekend from 5th to 7th April. The generous support and goodwill was overwhelming and all events were very well supported. Thank you to Lady captain Maire who coordinated the mixed doubles event on Saturday evening which was great fun and also huge thanks to the junior committee led by Sinead Lardener who ran a great afternoon on Sunday for the juniors.

We are delighted to let you know that a total of €13, 659.20 was raised in total. This is a fantastic result which was formally acknowledged by both charities to the club in writing.

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Summer Barbeque August 2019

The annual summer BBQ was run by Sarah Cahill and Jean Healy on Saturday August. Mixed doubles followed by BBQ was the format and it was well supported.

A special word of thanks to Sarah and Jean for organizing this event on behalf of Social Committee.

At Home Saturday 28th September 2019

Finals day of the club championships culminated in the At Home event on Saturday 28th September. We had a fantastic turnout on the night. Members were welcomed with a glass of prosecco on arrival followed by a delicious meal prepared by caterer Lynda O Connor. This was followed by presentation of prizes and disco and the night was a great success with very positive feedback from our members.

As you know Aisling, Jenny and I have completed our two years on Social Committee. We would like to say a sincere thank you to our members who gave us great support on all the events we ran. A special word of thanks also to Mary in the office for her unending support, to Mick in the bar for all his help, to our captains Jean Healy, Patrick Fearon, Maire Madden and Stephen Church who gave great support.

We wish Catherine Hourigan, Sinead Cronin and Emily Conway every success for the next two years. We hope you have as much fun as we had and have no doubt that you will do a fantastic job judging by the great contribution you have made to the club already.

Thank you.

Q&A / Motions

No Questions were raised.

Other Business

Peter Duff read over the email from Smurfit School Tennis about use of the Courts on Sunday evenings, which he said the committee had decided should be voted upon initially by the members at the AGM. Ciaran Ryan commented that the request from Smurfit should be a matter

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for the Board. Peter Duff agreed that if the tennis section appeared to be in favour of the proposal, the matter have to be approved by the Board, but that if not, the Board need not be troubled with it at all. In the event a show of hands showed that members were overwhelmingly against the proposal.

Peter Duff thanked everyone attending and closed the meeting.

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