



## The April 2008 Newsletter

Well it's still April (just about) but it may well be early May before you get this edition. Blame the number of events going on in the club, and the fact that there seems to be a big match on TV every night. Both of which impede our publication effort. Never mind, we're here now. So what's been happening of late?

### The 2008 Club Championships....

The 2008 club championships kicked off on or around April 7th, with the Gala Finals day on Saturday April 19th. The event was alternately blessed with balmy dry weather and atrocious hailshowers. Neither of which were predictable in any shape or form. It did also snow on one of the days (we cant remember which) but in fairness the overall schedule was adhered to.

As always there were some great matches, many hard luck stories, and most interestingly some new faces pushing through to finals day. On many of the nights - especially during the second week - there was a great atmosphere upstairs in the club with people coming and going and enjoying the nibbles on offer. The semi-finals and finals certainly threw up some great matches. While it would be unfair to pick out any single game, the Ladies A doubles match which effectively closed the finals day around 9pm was a cracker on court one and a great match to end the day with. And after that we all went upstairs and enjoyed the enticing spread of food on offer. A great night was had by all, hard luck stories were explored again, and it was great to see some new faces being recognised on the podium.

On the basis that a picture tells a thousand words, there are a selection of photographs from the championships hereunder. There are also many up on our website (we've finally figured out how to do it) and some more of the incriminating ones in the members zone. Finally all the ones that were fit to print are on the board upstairs in the clubhouse - so stop and gaze next time you are down.

Finally a few thank you's - with the misgiving that we will miss out on some people - but you know who you are anyway. So here's to the tennis committee, who firstly made the draw and then manned the bar and the oven (which came into it's own) most nights. It's probably fair to say that Aidan Corcoran and Nuala O'Reilly clocked up most of the mileage but obviously many others also helped out. Thanks to those brave souls who picked and purchased the prizes, to Frank Gaynor for collating all the initial entry data, to the catering organisers and finally to Alana Gibney who again proved imperturbable and coped with the software crashing after three days with great adaptability. But most of all thanks to everyone that took part and who contributed to an enjoyable, entertaining and sporting thirteen days in April. Take a bow, you deserve it.

## Results of the 2008 Club Championships

**Ladies B Doubles:** Pauline Scannell & Orla Devane bt Ruth Moore & Nuala O'Reilly

**Mixed A Doubles :** Alison O'Riordan & Keith Lyons bt Claire & Michael Dempsey

**Mens B Singles :** Niall Gibbons bt Tim Gleeson

**Ladies Singles Plate:** Eileen Giblin bt Dervila McGarry

**Mixed B doubles:** David Walsh & Orla Devane bt Veronica Donnelly & Aidan Corcoran

**Husband & Wife:** Johnny & Aideen Quinlan bt Mick McAree & Dympna Kyne

**Ladies A Doubles:** Fiona Shackleton & Siobhan Kelly bt Gillian Daly & Lucy Flynn

**Mens A Doubles:** Keith Lyons & Dec Harrington bt Adrian Fingleton & Gerry Walsh

**Mens B Doubles:** Tim Gleeson & Robbie McGuinness bt David Walsh & John Gleeson

**Ladies A Singles:** Claire Dempsey bt Fiona Shackleton

**Mens A Singles:** Ken Murphy bt Keith Lyons



**Some photographs from the Championships - more are available on the website and on the noticeboard in the upstairs function room**



## LADIES CLASS Four WINTER LEAGUE FINALS PHOTOGRAPH



This is (most of) the ladies Class 4 squad that made it to the finals of that class in the Winter League and thus were promoted. It took a while to get the pic, but we persevered. Missing on the night were Oonagh Collins, Ruth Moore and Ann Kerr. We hope to get a copy of the team photo to you shortly ladies....

### The Brookfield Tournament

We were pleased to field two teams in the recent Brookfield invitational tournament, which inconveniently fell during our Club Championhips. Last year we won the B class, and our A team featured in the final. Sadly this year we didnt do quite so well, our A team going out in the semis. Still a good time was had by all and the tournament template seems to be one we could perhaps implement at some stage in 2008....Who knows. Photo below is the A team that played on Thursday night and made the semis...



### St Marys. Episode Three....

You may recall that in 2007 we played one home and one away challenge against St Mary's of Donnybrook, the event having it's genesis in a memorable league match which brought the two clubs together. The 2007 experiment having been so memorable we decided to repeat it in 2008 and the two clubs got together on April 4th to play a bit of tennis and do a lot of socialising - this time St Mary's were hosting the event.

We have no photographs of the event but it was definitely memorable and some well known songs were butchered effectively toward the end of the night. A great time was had by all, no animals were harmed in the course of the event, and we hope to have a return leg in 'our place' sometime during the Summer. Watch this space and sign up quickly once the opportunity permits.

## Development News

Well we are very pleased to say that the practice wall is BACK on the agenda. In the last gripping instalment of this saga we had to obtain Dublin City Council's assent to our plan, prior to reapplying for planning permission. We're glad to say that following an on-site visit we got that agreement in writing and then re-submitted the application. So we're waiting to see if there may be any objections (hopefully not, given where it will be located) and once we get through that process we'll be looking for tenders. This is our flagship project for 2008 but if you are aware of anything else that you think is worthy of attention (and is - ideally - low cost) do let a committee member know...

## Summer League is here!

It's back. The Summer league starts in early May and as always we have our quota of teams entered. The format encompasses singles which is an area that RTC always seems loath to get too involved with. So if you prefer to have no-one to blame but yourself then now is your time.

Make yourself known to the Tennis Committee as they finalise the teams. And, the forms having come in today, just a trailer for the mixed leagues which will begin in early July. And finally just a reminder that RTC will in fact be hosting some of the Summer league finals in late June - wouldn't it be nice to have a home team in the final shakeup?

## Junior news roundup - (Also see website for full list of activities)

**League news:** The U17 Riverview league is going well for Rathgar players.

We have won 2 out the 3 matches played, with only one to go. Players for Rathgar are Dervala Malone, Eve Roseingrave, Naomi and Sophie Saberwal, Eimear McCrann and Marianne McClafferty, Tim Gleeson, Nick Walsh, Robbie McGuinness, Todd Harrison and Fergus O'Herlihy

**DLTC mini/midi tennis:** Well done to the younger Rathgar players who represented Rathgar Tennis Club in Lansdowne in the April Midi Tennis, they were Sinead Kieran, Aisling McAree, Eleanor Donoghue, Brian Moran, Eoghan Flanagan and Ciaran Flanagan.

**Social tennis** is starting this Wednesday (30th April) at 6.30pm for ages 10-13 years. Run by club coach Kieran Galvin, it costs €4.00p/p. We hope to see all juniors in this age group turn up for this weekly fun event. Teen tennis continues on Wednesday nights as before.

The U14 RTC/St Josephs Terenure **Boys School League team** is also going well in the Tennis Ireland Primary schools league. They have won their first two group matches 3-0 and hope to keep this run going. The squad is The squad is Michael & David Meenaghan, Kevin & Fergal Moran, Cormac O Herlihy, Conor Pender, Robert Beacom and Ben Murray

## Renewals Time

It's never pleasant to ask for money, but it is that time of year again and we rely primarily on our annual subscriptions to fund the upkeep of the club. Increases on last years rates are marginal, you will have received by now the renewal form, so please dont hesitate - fill it in and post it back or drop it in the club postbox. We continue to offer great playing facilities at a fraction of the cost of other clubs so if you have any friends or neighbours that might also be interested in joining then please do also send them our way. We'd be pleased to take them on board. Subscriptions are due on May 1st so we look forward to hearing from you.

## So are Open Weeks....

With Leinster TC leading the way, expect to see a raft of Open week entry forms hitting our front desk in the forthcoming months. We'll bring them to your attention as time allows, but just keep your own eyes open also. These are great fun, help your tennis hugely in the sense that most people perform better under pressure, and many of them are excellent social events also. So we'd really urge everyone - both Senior and Junior - to enter some of these events as they come along.

## The Junior Doubles Championship - April 2008

Hot on the heels of the adult club championships came the Junior Doubles event. We saw some very competitive matches over the course of the week and Finals Day was on Saturday 26th of April. Well done to the organising committee for putting together such a well run event. The final results are below.....

**U17 Plate Runners up Ronan O'Gorman and Rory Devitt**  
**U17 Plate Winners Hugh O' Flanagan and John Sheridan**  
**U17's Not yet played- TBA**

**U14 Plate runners up Aine McCran and Anna Roopnarisingh**  
**U14 Plate winners Aoife Ryan and Alexandra Owens**  
**U14 runner up Edgar Henihan and Andrew Mackey**  
**U14 winner Michael Meenaghan and Marco McVey**

**U12 plate runner up Jack Gleeson and Jake Moore**  
**U12 plate winners Conor Kieran and Sean Flynn**  
**U12 Runner up Cormac O'Herlihy and Sean Quinlan**  
**U12 winner David Meenaghan and Conor Pender**

**U10 Runner up Derval Quinlan and Brian Moran**  
**U10 winner Aisling McAree and Kate Moore**



# We'd like to pick your brains....

Led by the Tennis Committee we are currently looking at the organisation of tennis in the Club with a view to putting in place by next September a comprehensive and varied tennis programme. We recognise there is a need to broaden our horizons and appeal and we do already have some thoughts on this. However on the basis that the more suggestions we get the better, we're asking you for your thoughts.

The review is addressing all aspects of tennis in the Club but including:-

- **Junior tennis**
- **Women's tennis – morning and evening social groups and league participation**
- **Men's tennis – social and league**
- **Mixed social and competitive events**
- **Coaching initiatives**

We are interested in obtaining members' views on the organisation of tennis in the Club generally but specifically on the need/demand for the following:-

- A weekly (evening) women's open social event
- The organisation of women's morning tennis
- A weekly (evening) men's open social event
- Regular mixed social/competitive events – e.g. is there a demand for a monthly mixed tournament on, say, a Friday night?
- Changes to Spring Chicken/Turkey Tournaments.

We would also welcome views on how we might achieve better utilisation of the Club courts over weekends.

Members' feedback by the end of May to the club email ([rathgartennis@eircom.net](mailto:rathgartennis@eircom.net)) or to anyone on the tennis committees or main committee would be hugely appreciated. To get you started, John Gleeson (086-6899950) or Ruth Moore (087-2931556) would be happy to take your calls after 6pm, but in fact it's probably easier for us to consolidate your thoughts if you e-mail us.

Many thanks....and we look forward to hearing your suggestions

And that's it for another month. The evenings are getting longer, the weather (sort of) better, no excuses. Pick up the phone and call that person who beat you in the championships and look for...revenge! Enjoy your tennis and see you soon