

# The April 2011 Spring is here Newsletter

## Whats going on....



Well you possibly wondered 'what happened to the Newsletter'? A victim of the recession? Well, not really. The reality is that there has been such a string of great e-mails coming out that we felt, sort of, well, unnecessary. But now and again, a sort of taking stock don't go amiss, not to mention a few colour pictures to brighten up the news. So we're making a comeback and promise to appear with greater regularity as the evenings lengthen. Which leads us neatly to the fact that (gasp) Summer League is just around the corner. Get out there, start practicing, starch those whites, etc. etc....

## The first Turkey tournament to span two decades....

Yes, it started back in mmm - late October 2010 and - thanks to the coldest spell in Dublin since records began - finished in mid February 2011. Un-verified reports suggest that some people claimed to have no recollection of what team they had started off on, others might have left the club during the duration of the event. But nonetheless and thanks to the persistence of John Foley and key helpers, the event was actually brought to a fitting conclusion, just before the Spring Chicken event commenced.

The winning team was Luxembourg and the team members were Sean O'Donnell, Mary Cody: Sean O'Gorman, Angela O'Gorman: Richard Parfrey, Imelda Martyn: James Byrne, Louise Haughey: Barry Walsh, and Phillipa McCormic. Italy came second and the team was Pat Caden, Veronica Donnelly: John Foley, Rachel Moloney: Andy Burdon, Mary Caden: Patrick Kinsella, Angela Skinner: Stephen O'Donnell, and Angela Beatty.

Congratulations to all who participated, and not just to those who finished 1st and 2nd. The Spring Chicken is now running and scheduled to climax just before Easter. Sadly one other casualty of the weather was the annual Rathgar Christmas Party, but in fairness to everyone it was not a time to take risks due to the inclement weather, and we're sure we'll make up for it as the year goes on.



## The Champions.....finally.

More Pix on the next page, PTO

# More pix from Turkey finale

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## And how did we do in the Winter Leagues?....

Well it's great to be able to answer that question in a positive way. The facts speak for themselves and - as usual in recent years - the Ladies led the way with four out of the five League teams making the playoffs. Pride of place has to go to the Ladies third team, playing in Class 4, who made it all the way to the Class Finals in late March (and obviously got promoted to Class 3 in the process, which means RTC now have two teams in that class. Wow).

Sadly in the final the ladies 3rd team came up against a really strong Glasnevin team, and finished second on the day. The RTC team that played in the final was 1. Margaret McCarthy and Thelma Jones, 2. Orla Devane and Caroline McArdle, and 3. Brid Dunne and Audrey Redmond. So well done ladies on flying the RTC flag on finals day.

It's really great to see that in nearly every league now we have one or two teams making the finals, something we used to dream about not so long ago. So we must be doing something right! As for the other Ladies teams, from the top our 2nd team for to the QF in Class 3 before going down to Sandycove. Rathgar 4, playing in Class 5 also got to their QF stage before losing to Clontarf, and the Ladies 5th team made it out of the group but went down to Lansdowne in the round of 16.

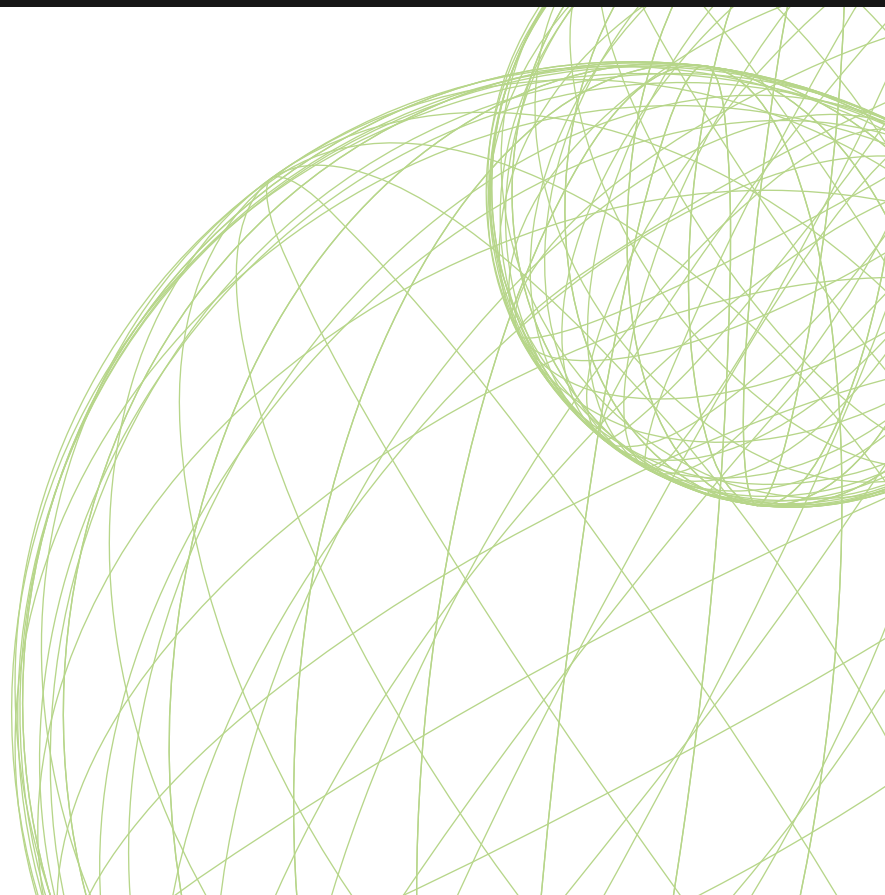
Trying to not be outclassed entirely, two out of the four mens' teams got out of their groups. But in the rarified heights of Class 2 our first team went down to Clermont/Railway in the QF and the Mens 4th team went out in the round of 16 to Aer Lingus. But overall getting 6 out of 8 teams into the playoffs offers us a good springboard for the Summer Leagues so lets hope we again see Rathgar making progress in the coming months.

And, as always, just as soon as you are looking forward to a few weeks off, the League signup sheets appear again. They are currently up on the boards in the Club so c'mon, sign up, what else would you be doing?

## Something different....

Remember this? So in early March we were exceedingly pleased to tell you that as part of World Book Night we had managed to secure 50 copies of the magical 'Love in the time of Cholera' by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. We were a bit worried they wouldn't 'go' but in fact they disappeared in a mad rush. Happily some people actually followed up on our suggestion to use it as a trigger to start swapping books, and if we manage to get that promised bookshelf up in the near future we're hopeful that the 'what goes round comes round' selection of books will start to reappear. And even if they dont, take the time to check out the website associated with the event, and remember the whole point of the apparent 'let's shoot ourselves in the foot' exercise driven by publishers was to get people to READ. So keep up the good work.

**A million reasons to read a book**



# Playing better tennis.....

Hats off to the Tennis Committee who are determined to get people out there and developing new skills. The week night events for the past two months or so have been really well supported and - to be frank - have certainly contributed to the league performances. The singles competitions have - to pick just one example - been a great workout and certainly one's game comes on quicker when there's no-one else on your side of the net to blame. So we make no excuses for reproducing below the latest smorgasbord (been waiting for about two years to use that word) of offerings.....

Each Wednesday & Thursday for next 10 weeks the schedule is as follows:

**Wednesdays Ladies 7.30-8.30pm Fitness with Kieran & Audrey All levels**  
**Wednesdays Ladies 8.30-9.30pm League Training with Kieran & Mark Ladies League Standard**  
**Thursdays Men & Ladies 8-9pm Training with Kieran & Mark Recreational Players**  
**Thursdays Men 9-10pm League Training with Kieran & Mark Mens League Standard**

**6/7th April Slice Workshop**  
**As Summer League approaches, emphasis will be on more on singles topics:**

**13th/14th April Tactical Serving**  
1. Serve mechanics  
2. The wide serve  
3. Effective 2nd serve

**20/21st April Tactical Returning**  
1. The neutralising serve return  
2. Aggressive 2nd serve return  
3. Returning percentages

**27/28 April Playing the baseline**  
1. Building from the baseline  
2. Attacking from the baseline  
3. Defending from the baseline

**4/5th May Playing the net**  
1. Positioning at the net from approach situation  
2. Instinctual net play  
3. Using anticipation at the net

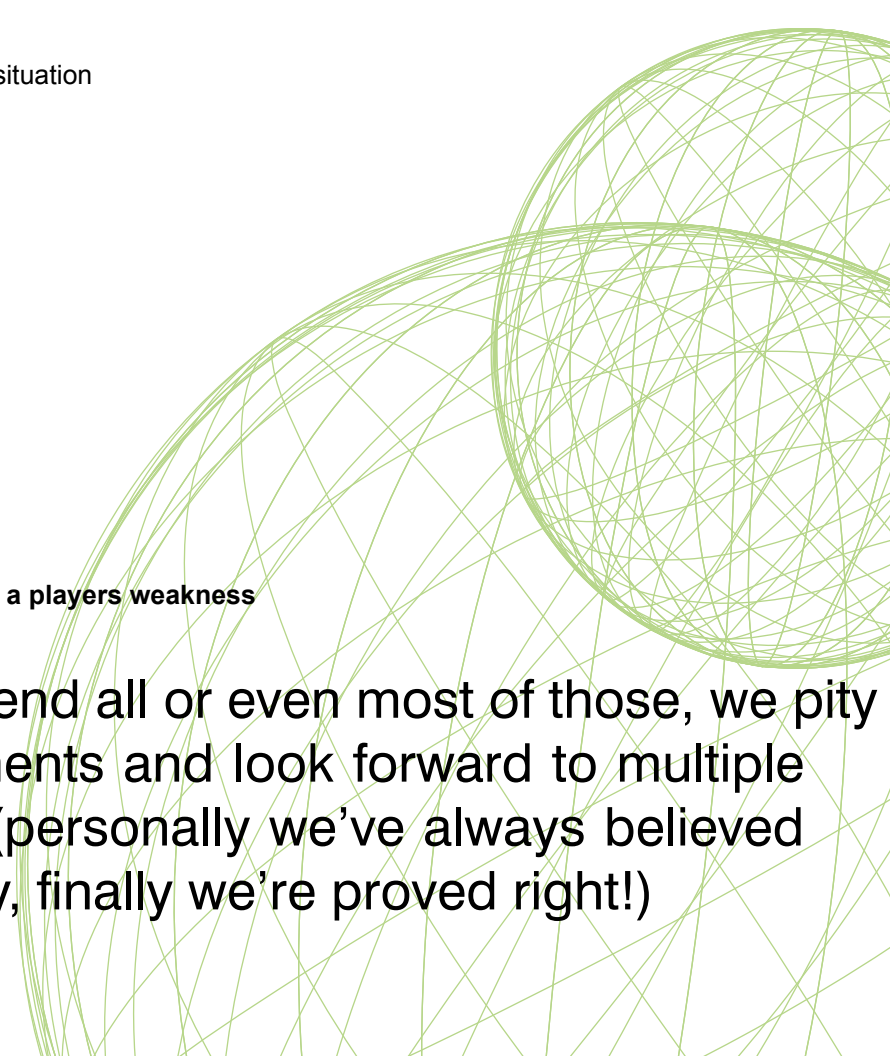
**11/12th May Opposing the net player**  
1. 2 ball pass  
2. Lob  
3. Defending with the double bluff

**18th/19th May Developing winning**  
1. Crosscourt patterns of play  
2. Inside out  
3. Line – line

**25/26 May Serve volley for singles**  
1. When and how to use it in play

**1st/2nd June Assessing your opponent & identifying a players weakness**  
**8th /9th June Top spin Workshop**

And frankly if you dutifully attend all or even most of those, we pity your Summer League opponents and look forward to multiple league finals in the offing.....(personally we've always believed strongly in instinctual net play, finally we're proved right!)



# The Junior News is here!

## RTC Junior News - Jan / Feb / Mar 2011

Well, it has taken a little while to get back into the swing of junior news. The last time I attempted to put something down on paper the ice was thick on the ground which put a halt to just about everything including the newsletter. In fact the opening paragraph in January was *'With the weather not on anyone's side pre and post Christmas the junior committee is happy to report that the first coaching term of 2011 is at last up and running and officially started on 24th January.'*

Now that we are heading into April having had a glorious month of March, the first item to report is that the junior coaching term is now *officially finished!* **Easter Camps** are next so check RTC website, emails and handouts from Mark and Dympna for all the necessary info.

**Morgan Dunne (junior coach)** is still with us but in a lesser capacity as he is leaving to take up a job with McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors which is terrific new for him. Morgan's classes during the week have been taken up by Mick Lynch & Tristan Farron Mahon, both highly regarded coaches and players in their own right. We are delighted to have them at RTC.

As all you juniors know there have been challenge ladders up for U12 & U14's and U9 & U10's round robins for the last couple of months. It is great to see they are all just about finished. Thanks to you all for making the effort to complete your matches and for realising the importance of match-play.

We are so proud of our U16 boys who won their social league and played in Donnybrook against Donnybrook in the final. This was a terrific win for the lads who having lost to Donnybrook during the course of the event, then pulled it out of the bag for Rathgar in a nail biting final. Huge congratulations lads, you did us proud! The team was as follows: Marco McVey, Michael Meenaghan, Edgar Henihan, Adam Lunan, Sean Quinlan, William Dunleavy, Luke Corcoran & Luke O'Brien

U12 mixed leagues have started with two teams entered. **Rathgar 2** are doing well having won both their matches to Naas & Templeogue on a score line of 2 - 1. The team is as follows: Simon Clear & Rossa O'Reilly - O'Kane (capt.), Sophie Roosnarinesingh & Eleanor Donohoe, Elizabeth Bolger, Oscar Gleeson & Senan Barrett. Keep going guys, you are doing well!



# Junior Easter Camp.....print and use

## EASTER TENNIS CAMP

RUN BY MARK O'NEILL AT  
RATHGAR TENNIS CLUB

- 4 day morning tennis camp
  - For juniors aged 7 to 13
  - **Price:** €80 Deposit: €30 to secure place
- Time:** 10am to 1pm  
**Dates:** Mon 18th April to Thurs 21st April  
Members have priority over non-members

*For older age groups: lots of tennis practice; technique and tactical tips*

*For younger age groups: lots of tennis practice and lots of fun*

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Junior(s):

1.	_____	2.	_____
3.	_____	4.	_____

Date(s) of Birth:

1.	_____	2.	_____
3.	_____	4.	_____

Parent/Guardian's Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign here if you **OBJECT** to photographs being taken during the camp \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit/Full Payment (amount): \_\_\_\_\_

Note: A 10% discount can be taken for second and subsequent children i.e. charge for camp for first child is €80; charge for second and subsequent children is €72 each.

Please sign below if you give parental/guardian permission for medical assistance to be given if required for minor incidents.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Places are limited. Members can sign up to the easter camp during March and April.

Non members will only be taken if spaces are available one week prior to camp commencing, and at a cost of €100.

Bring snacks, rain jacket, sun cream and lots of drinks. Camp will move inside for heavy rain.