



## The December 2008 Newsletter

Hard to believe it's really December again. It sort of crept up there while we weren't looking. Not to mention the sudden Winter weather blitz of the last week. Not to worry, the Festive season is kicking off and maybe Santa Claus will bring you that Babolat racquet you've been craving. You have been good all year? Right? Or at least you tried? Good luck with that and a very Happy and peaceful Christmas to all our readers.

## A summary from the recent AGM

The AGM of the club was held in the clubhouse on Thursday November 27th and thanks to those who turned up on what was a very cold night. A review of the year was presented by the outgoing president Adrian Fingleton.

The key items from the past year were identified as the re-launch of the Junior coaching program in tandem with a greater range of events which were being promoted to the membership via the adult tennis committee. It was hoped to expand the range of these offerings to encourage members of all levels to participate and develop their skills and range of playing partners and this was intended to continue into 2009.

On the Junior front the very positive recent news was that the uptake for the second term of Junior coaching was strong with most of the juniors committing to the development program. Recognition was given at the meeting to the efforts put in by both coaches in the club and by the Junior and Adult committees in promoting and developing both social and coached events.

Through 2008 the greater level of league success was experienced by the ladies teams, though three separate Junior teams had also been successful in the Schools league earlier in the year and in the recent DLTC U14 and U17 leagues. Rathgar Ladies teams made both the Class 2 and 4 Over 35 league playoffs, and the Class 4 team made it to the semi-finals before being narrowly defeated.

Prior to that our 1st Mixed league team narrowly missed out on making the playoffs in July.. In the Summer league our ladies class 3 and 4 teams both made the quarter finals. And finally back in the Winter league played in early 2008 our ladies class 4 team lost in the final. So a very strong year in terms of league performance by the ladies teams and mention was also made of the Ladies participation in the Charity leagues which as always was very competitive and well supported.

It was also observed that the number of members in the club was increasing slowly which was a huge positive. The perception also was that there were more people out playing more often, which in its own way was of equal importance. **(more from the AGM overleaf)**

# More news from the recent AGM

In terms of developments the good news at the AGM was that all hurdles relating to the practice wall had now been surmounted in terms of permissions and clearances, and there was a very good chance that the structure would be in place by Christmas. Attention would be given in the Spring to refurbishing the playing surface of the front five courts, which had become compacted in recent times and thus prone to water-logging. Finally in this vein the paintwork in the clubhouse had recently been redone, as had a full upgrade of certain sections of the electrics in the clubhouse.

Moving on to the Treasurer's report Bill Collins presented the accounts to end of September 2008 which showed the club to be in good shape financially. A good fund had been built up in the bank account to cater for the costs of the developments mentioned above and in general terms once we can keep the membership numbers and thus cash-flow at or above current levels we should be in good shape moving forward.

Finally the meeting turned to changes on the main committee. During the year John Gleeson and Ruth Moore resigned from the committee, and as part of the annual cycle Veronica Donnelly, Gerry Walsh and Bill Collins were retiring from the committee. Also, in advance of the AGM the exec committee co-opted Siobhan O'Leary and Manus McClafferty onto the committee. Thanks were given to those who had left the committee, either during the year or at the meeting.

At the same time it was outlined that there were a number of new people coming onto the committee. The following people were all been proposed and seconded by members of the existing committee and were in turn endorsed at the AGM. Sean Brennan, Nuala O'Reilly, Orla Devane, Will Czerniak, Richard Parfrey, Niamh O'Grady and Niall Gibbons.

So after all those changes the main committee for the forthcoming year will be **Aidan Corcoran, Vincent O'Sullivan, Philip Hardy, Paul MacCarthy, Adrian Fingleton, Siobhan O'Leary, Manus McClafferty, Sean Brennan, Nuala O'Reilly, Orla Devane, Will Czerniak, Richard Parfrey, Niamh O'Grady and Niall Gibbons.**

Adrian Fingleton then announced that he was stepping down as President and was pleased to announce that Aidan Corcoran was prepared to go forward for this position for the forthcoming year. This was endorsed by the meeting and Aidan was duly deemed elected as president. Vincent O'Sullivan had agreed to remain as Hon secretary for the forthcoming year. As Bill Collins (Hon Treasurer) was retiring from the committee Adrian Fingleton indicated that he would be prepared to temporarily act in that capacity until one of the people joining the committee were ready to take that on, and both this and Vincent's continued appointment were confirmed by the meeting.

To close the meeting Aidan Corcoran said that he looked forward to a good year in the club with a wide range of activities on offer, and that he looked forward to working with the new committee. There being no other business the meeting ended.

## Turkey Finals Night and Christmas Party 2008



The Turkey tournament for teams is coming to a climax this week with a lot of great matches having been played. As is traditional the final night of this event is timed to coincide with the Club Christmas Party which is on this Friday Night, December 5th, at 8.45pm (Ish).

This year to encourage people to stick around we will have a free of charge catered meal (though sadly you'll have to pay for 'refreshments'). So if you have signed up to attend, please do, we're going to have food there for you. And if you want to drop in and take your chances you are more than welcome too - we're sure we'll find something for you to nibble on! The bottom line is that we do want to revive this very convivial event, but we need your help to do that, so come on down and prepare to be sociable....

## Adult Tennis

The main news on this front currently is the large number of people who are availing of the follow on to the progressive doubles event to get in shape for the Winter league and to try out new partnerships. It's very encouraging to just see all the lights on these Winter nights, with most of the courts occupied. Not to mention beginner/improver events being run also.

We'd hope that this enthusiasm will carry through into the New Year when we're putting the squads and teams together, and it's also great to see (notably on the mens side of the house) a lot of teenagers starting to play with older members - it can only help the continuity of the teams in the longer run.

Moving along, we'll almost certainly have a sort of 'turn up and run around for a bit before having a mince pie' event on St Stephens' morning. But in fairness that seems like a lifetime away at this stage so when we know more and have a definite starting time we'll let you know by e-mail and with a newsflash on our website.

You will also have recently received an e-mail from coach Kieran Galvin setting out integrated coaching programs for singles tennis and doubles play. Definitely worth checking out and - dare we say - the ideal Xmas present for the man or woman in your life or even yourself - you know you're worth it! Kieran can be reached on 086-2100440

## Lots of news from the Junior Viewpoint.....

In recent times two junior social events were played. Firstly on 15th November 10 of our 11-13yrs boys played Riverview in Rathgar, Riverview beat us but the boys put up a good show and a lot of good tennis was played. The following Sunday eight Rathgar boys played against Donnybrook in Donnybrook, and we had a good win against them. The players for Rathgar were: Conor Pender, Fergal Moran, Eoin Donohoe, Oisín Farrell, Conor Kieran, Jake Moore, Luke Corcoran and Sean Quinlan.

Teen tennis will finish up on Wed 10th December at the usual time. To thank all those who played league for Rathgar this year, and mark the success of the teams, there will be a party in the clubhouse afterwards. So do come down and help us to mark what has been a very good year for the Junior end of the club (you can see a separate report on the recent league success overleaf). As noted at the AGM we have seen a very good take-up for the second (Winter) Junior coaching term, which in itself proves the first one was a positive experience for all the Juniors concerned. And if we get that practice wall in place soon who knows - it'll be possible to 'get that groove' going and build on all that's being learned on court at the moment.

Finally well done to Ali McClean (6), Saoirse Darby (7) and Molly McClean (7) who have been selected by the Parks Tennis to join an elite squad of juniors who will train in Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club for the next year. You can read more about their adventure on our website.

# Rathgar Juniors do well in recent DLTC leagues

Rathgar had two U14 teams in the DLTC league this year. The boys team were : Marco McVey (Captain), Michael Meenaghan, Cormac O'Herlihy, James Pender, Jack Fingleton, Matthew Flanagan and Rory Devitt . The team did very well to make it through to the semi-finals but unfortunately were beaten at that point by Wicklow County. We also fielded a girls U14 team from a squad of Marianne McClafferty (captain), Aoife Ryan, Criostina Martin, Alexandra Owens, Anna Roopnarisingh, Kate Barry, Lauren Walsh, Melanie McAleese and Kalli McClean. The girls came very close to making the playoffs but were just pipped for this at the end.

We also had two U17 Boys teams in action and pride of place has to go to the group that made it all the way through to the final. On the day Tim Gleeson, Todd Harrisson, Nick Walsh and Fergus O'Herlihy put up a good fight against Glasnevin but it was not to be on the day. Well done to all the boys involved in this great run. The good news is that Rathgars' 1st team will be promoted to Class I next year which in itself is a massive achievement.



**Great to be in a Final!**



**En route - the Playoffs...**



**The U14s who made it to the semi-Finals**

**Time to wish all our readers and the members of RTC a really great Christmas 2008. It's been a memorable year - lets finish it off in style and have a great break. See you back in print in early 2009 with news for a new year...**

