



The May early June 2008 Newsletter

The hot weather is here and there are lots of things going on. The Summer Leagues are heading toward the end of the group phases, Mixed league will be starting toward the beginning of July. Teenagers are packing their bags for the Gaeltacht and the French Open is sinking under the results of Global Warming. Read on below for the up to date news from RTC.

The Adult Tennis News round up

The biggest ongoing event at the moment is the DLTC Summer Leagues. We have our usual quota of teams in action and you can follow their progress or otherwise on the excellent www.dltdc.net website. It's fair to say that most of the teams could do with a bit of luck or an injection of pace at this stage, but we'll hope for the best in any case. In this vein we had previously agreed with DLTC that we would HOST some of their finals this time around, so on June 28th expect some disruption at the club and limited court availability during the daytime. We will send out a newsflash closer to the time in any case to remind you, but who knows, we might for once have an RTC team competing on the day. We will probably need a bit of help also to tidy the club up a little beforehand, so please do let us know if you could help with that for an hour or two.

The pyramid initiative on the men's doubles side came to an end on June 29th and it facilitated a number of interesting matches while it ran. We'll probably revisit this concept in the Autumn timeframe. We are pleased to announce that we will have a **Club night** running in RTC starting on Monday June 9th and running thru to Monday July 29th. The format is simple - come down, get paired off, enjoy some tennis and then some light refreshments afterwards. There is a small fee. The event will start with registration at 7.15pm sharp so do get down on time. Also, kicking off with a reckless disregard for hoodoos on Friday June 13th there will be a mixed event with pizza on the side. Hey, lets try something different!

As the Summer (hopefully) kicks in we will also be seeing Open weeks in places like Mount Pleasant (week commencing June 23rd) and other clubs - we will leave entry forms in reception as they come in to us but please also check out the websites of the clubs around Dublin - most are now quite good at publicising their individual events. We also intend to organise some adult round robin events in the club to keep everyone on their toes, so keep an eye out for announcements in that regard. But there's no substitute for picking up the phone and asking someone you know for a game...

Junior Tennis - Schools success with St Joseph's Boys NS....

We learned with interest last year in RTC that Tennis Ireland Leinster Branch run a whole series of schools events for all ages each year. We filed this information under 'must check that out next year' and in so doing almost missed the boat this year. Almost but not quite. Thanks to the assistance of Tennis Ireland we managed to register a team for/with St Joseph's Boys NS right on the deadline, knowing that we have a large number of junior members who attend that school.

What came next surprised us very pleasantly. With the assistance of school principal Matt Hume and - on the club side - Deirdre McHugh, we managed to identify 8 squad members that we could submit, and logged those asap with Tennis Ireland. While this is obviously a schools league we were happy to facilitate the team with the use of courts both for practice and for the matches themselves, which typically took place during the daytime when our courts are greatly under-utilised. There were four teams in the group, and after the group stage we knew that the quarterfinals and semi-finals were a possibility.

What was particularly great about this was that in fact the team we facilitated actually went on and WON out their class in the Primary Schools section. The Finals day on May 21st was held in the fantastic setting of Fitzwilliam and the opponents were Dalkey project school. Certainly a great finale to an exciting run for the eight boys in the squad. Thank you to the teachers from the school - including Matt Hume - who turned up on the day and to the supportive parents who also spectated. Most of all well done to the boys involved who, both on and off the court, conducted themselves in a sporting and responsible manner which was a credit both to their school and to the club. The full squad was as follows.....Michael Meenaghan, Cormac O'Herlihy, David Meenaghan, Conor Pender, Robert Beacom, Ben Murray, Fergal Moran and Kevin Moran

So what did we learn from the experience? Well a few things. Firstly we left it too late to enter and so were in panic mode when assembling the squad. If you were overlooked in that in St Josephs we do apologise, it was a function of the late entry, not deliberate, and we'll improve on that next time around. But there are **many schools other than St Josephs** where we have junior members attending, and we'd be very happy to facilitate your entering a team or teams in these leagues the next time out. All you need is someone among the parents who will look after the administration of the team and we'll do what we can thereafter to help out. As a starting point if you read this and want to express an interest e-mail us on rathgartennis@eircom.net and we will contact you in due course....

Some photographs from the Schools Finals day - St Josephs/Rathgar Tennis Club team





Annual Subscriptions

As you know the annual Club subscriptions were due on May 1st. So if you have not paid at this stage we'd hope that you will do so shortly. Remember access fobs will be turned off imminently so to avoid embarassment and angst please post them in as per the form or leave them in the letterbox in reception. Many thanks.

Friday Night Lights

We are curenly prototyping a Friday night session from 6.30 to 7.30 where adults can come down and hit for an hour with promising juniors. Hopefully everyone will get something from this event. Hosted (or at least organised) by Mick McAree and Dympna Kyne the first few weeks have been very successful, so do come down and check it out if you can....

Some frontline images from the Mens Italian Open in Rome in early May...



Summer fare for Juniors

As usual this Summer there will be a number of events taking place for Junior members. Coach Kieran Galvin's Summer Camp will run for four separate weeks through July, beginning Monday July 7th. This will feature separate age and ability graded sections, contains a session on Cardio tennis for older juniors, and the cost per week is €80. Classes run from 2.30 to 4.30 each day. Forms are available in the clubhouse or you can obtain further details from Kieran himself at the club. Completed forms can be sent to Ursula Morrissy - address is on the form.

In addition to this we will as usual be facilitating the Kit Kat parks tennis in July, and they will be registering kids at the club on Friday June 27th from 2-4pm for this excellent value introduction to tennis. This program runs in the afternoons 2.30 to 5.30pm

Finally we will as in previous years have supervised tennis running in the mornings in the club. This will afford all juniors a chance to come down and practice their skills in a safe and friendly environment. This will we hope kick off in early July and we'll get further details out to all toward the end of June. There is a reasonable daily charge for this facility, and non-members will be taken in at a higher rate if space permits.

Mixed League - Last Call!

The club has put in two teams to the DLTC mixed league which kicks off on Friday nights in early July. There has been a signup sheet on the board but we're going to firm up now on the teams for this event. As a last minute opportunity, if you wish to play or to sub (and we will need lots of subs because it's in the middle of the holiday season) please e-mail us on rathgartennis@eircom.net and tell us you wish to play. We need to know by end of day on Weds June 4th. Many thanks. PS This usually features exotic snacks on Friday nights after the tennis so if you are a gourmet disguised as a tennis player, this is the one for you!

Court Availability - please note

Because of the format of Summer League - three singles and two doubles - each match takes up 5 courts. We will have two ladies teams playing at home on Wednesday June 4th at 7.30pm. We will also have two mens teams playing at home on Saturday June 7th at 2pm. So effectively there will be NO COURTS available for casual play for around two hours from commencement time on those dates. We apologise for any inconvenience caused, but it does'nt happen too often so bear with us....Many thanks in advance

Some other stuff.... Junior social tennis will resume as usual on Saturday 7th June after the long weekend. There is a cardio tennis session starting this Thursday night June 5th at 8pm for one hour - for details contact coach Kieran Galvin. The practice wall planning is coming along well and we hope to have some quotes for same coming in soon. Good luck to all our Junior members facing into the Junior or Leaving cert exams. Next newsletter will have a feature on court etiquette. In the meantime a few basics - DONT retrieve balls behind people playing points, dont stroll across behind live matches, do walk thru the back courts to get to courts 2-5, dont swear, be tolerant of people playing beside you, pick up any rubbish on court when leaving (even if you didnt create it) and bin it. And enjoy the SUMMER.