



## Whole Lotta News....

So here we are, it's the middle of Summer and for once the weather is perfect for playing tennis. So despite the plethora of fantastic sport on TV you really should get out and see the club at it's best. The courts are in great condition, the nights are long and if you are ever going to 'get back into it' - now's the time. And it's also great to see so many people already using the courts so keep it up. Also in this issue, a look back at the fantastic 25th anniversary celebrations, a Junior update including our recent Open event, a Summer League update and much much more. So enjoy.....

### **It was 205 years ago today, Sgt Pepper taught the band to play....**

Imagine you are back in the mid 80s. Mullet hairstyles are everywhere. Women have 'big hair'. Men wear really short shorts. Tennis racquets are made of wood. Dunlop and Slazenger are king. John McEnroe is Wimbledon champion and to his astonishment (he doesn't know this yet) is about to be eclipsed by a wunderkind (note multilingual ability) called Boris Becker. And someone has a great idea. You know that old quarry that they just filled in. Why dont we build a Tennis Club on top? And you know what? It could have been a boating lake, or a greyhound track. Or even a basketball arena. But no - it was a Tennis Club. And they built it and we came. So well done to all those people with the guts and the energy to get it off the ground.

We hope in the next (less rushed - do you know how draining the world cup really is - I mean. C'mon) issue to go back into the archives and reprint some material from that period. Well if the Irish Times do it all the time, why cant we? In the meantime on a Friday night about three weeks ago we marked the 25th anniversary in style with what was generally agreed to have been **THE BEST NIGHT EVER** in the club. If you were there, we doubt you would disagree.

On the night we had every President of the club since its foundation in attendance apart from one unlucky person who simply couldn't make it, we saw the new state of the art practice wall officially opened by ex-president Oliver Nugent, we had an exhibition of quality tennis, we had a Junior competition that showed how vibrant our ongoing program has become, we had a social American tournament, we had burgers, a jazz band, we had a balmy night and a fantastic turnout. So it's definitely not about looking back, though that is important. It's about looking forward to the next 25 years and beyond.

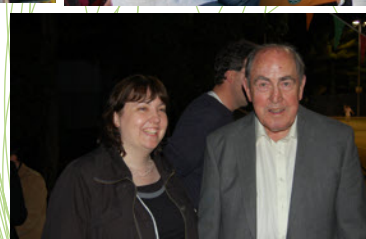
We got a lot of photographs of the great night to ensure it was recorded for posterity. If you go to the website and look there you will see a gallery of the best of them which you should be able to download. And if you have any difficulty doing that and there's an image you would like a copy of, ask a committee member and we'll figure out a way to get them to you.

Lastly a huge hand to all that did the behind the scenes work to pull the night together. Simply fantastic, no other word for it. Thank you, one and all. And in effect that's why it's a great club. Because when we need help we ask for it and we get it. Always have and hopefully always will. Over to you. Carry that weight.

# Pictures from the 25th anniversary night .....



All the Presidents of the Modern Era (bar one) on the night. From L to R (deep breath).....Aidan Corcoran (2009-2010), Gerry Walsh (2005-2007), John McKiernan (1993-1996), Ann Garland (2003-2004), Adrian Fingleton (2008), Fiona Lindsay (1989-1992), Oliver Nugent (1997), John Foley (2000-2002), Dermott Flynn (founding president 1986-1988). Frank Gallen (1998-1999) was absent on the night



# The last of the 25th pix.....

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# The Junior News starts here

## The U9 and U10 Open event - June Bank Holiday weekend 2010



Many of you will already know that we ran an U9 and U10's open over the June bank holiday weekend and that it was hugely successful. The U10's were lucky on Saturday with blue skies and sunshine and a strong entry of 32 boys turned up for match play throughout the morning. The winner was a young man called Conor McCabe from Naas LTC.

Then 20 girls took on the heat of the afternoon. Our own Kate Moore reached the final and was narrowly pipped at the post in a riveting tie-break scene by Laura Noble. Thanks Kate for keeping us all on the edge of our seats! It was a terrific match to watch with some beautiful tennis played. As you can see from the image Kate is always smiling!

On to Sunday and the U9's, which turned out to be quite a different story on the weather front.....oh well, this is Ireland, anything is liable to happen and it did! It was a bit like the G8 summit in the check-in



area as it appeared the courts were becoming water clogged by the minute. iphones and laptops were on full alert as tournament organisers became meteorologists and it was decided to cancel our start time until 12, because apparently the rain would be heading towards Denmark at that time.....it didn't..... but it did let up just enough for us to get going.



22 boys and 14 girls started and finished their round robin matches. Goodie bags were supplied for all competitors and by the time everyone had gone home happy, the

meteorologists could relax!

Some parents braved the weather on the viewing balcony, urging their talent on through the wet and cold. We admire them for sticking out the inclement weather!

**Enormous thanks must go to all the umpires, everyone who helped in the kitchen, all the kids who got jobs to do, Mark as tournament referee, Ruth, Laura and IT wizard Jean without whom the compass system would still be gobble-de-gook! THANKS EVERYONE!**



# More Junior News

## IS THIS THE FUTURE?



Rathgar had a terrific result with our U8's at the Carrickmines Junior Open on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Having qualified on Saturday to go through to the round robin Sunday finals - Rathgar had a 1, 2, 3 with Ellie O'Reilly-O'Kane winning the girls U8's, Cameron Baird was runner up in the boys U8's and Ali McClean was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the girls U8 event. Fantastic play by our 3 to watch.....keep up the good work

## SUMMER TENNIS CAMPS

For those *teens* who have not yet registered.....don't forget that teen tennis camp starts this Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June from 11 - 1 with Mark. Ring Dympna for further information and to register on 087 9368853

Also, a reminder there are still some places available on the three summer tennis camps for 7 years plus commencing on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Mark O'Neill is running weeks 1 and 2 and Morgan Dunne is running week 3. Application forms are on the junior notice board in the club house or call Dympna for further details.

## SUMMER SUPERVISED TENNIS

The junior committee are delighted to be able to tell you that Supervised Tennis will be running from 10 - Monday to Friday from July 26<sup>th</sup> until August 27<sup>th</sup> and the cost will be €5 per child, per morning. Dara McLoughlin who some of you will already know from coaching will be the supervisor.

This is the perfect opportunity to keep up all the tennis drills and skills you've learnt throughout the coaching year as well as have some fun on court. So, organise to meet your buddies at supervised and keep your tennis up for the club championships.

## JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Entry forms for the junior club championships will be available in the club house from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. Our championships will run from Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Events will be for singles, doubles and mixed doubles events in U8, U10, U12, U14 and U17 age groups. Closing date for entries is August 24<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm. So, you have lots of time to improve your game, pick a doubles partner and practice, practice, practice, now that you have 5 weeks of supervised tennis to avail of.....Have fun this summer now that the holidays are nearly here!

# A news miscellany

## Summer League reaches boiling point...

Where to begin? Well, not for the first time the Ladies have seized the limelight and put in an incredibly strong performance in the Summer League - the league that best fits the purists image of the game. Warm, sun-dappled courts, bright sunshine, crisp whites, the smell of freshly cut astro-turf. You get the idea.

So, there were five ladies teams in action and four of them made the playoffs. Of the four, RTC5 playing in Class 7 got to the QF and were promoted. RTC4 playing in Class 6 got to the QF where they lost to Templeogue but were promoted based on DLTC rules. Then on to RTC2 who narrowly lost out in a pulsating home Quarterfinal on Saturday 19th to Glenageary. Sadly this meant they didn't get promoted but it was still a fantastic performance. Keeping the best wine till last RTC1 won their QF on Saturday last and go into the Semifinals on Tuesday 22 June against Mount Pleasant. This is a home game at 7.30 so please come down and get behind your friends and fellow members - who are incidentally promoted into Class 2 next year. So what a fantastic series of results - three teams promoted - and it just shows the healthy state of ladies tennis in Rathgar.

Well it's very hard to compete with that, but on the mens' side we do still have one team plugging away. Our 3rd team playing in Class 6 are promoted already into Class 5. Despite losing half our playing population due to some weird thing called 'The Gaeltacht' we have drafted in some more (ahem) mature players and the team plays a home semi-final in the Stadium of Light (RTC) on this Wednesday June 23rd at 7.30pm. So once again, feel free to come down and support but no vuvuzelas please. Also we are now aware of the perils of playing teenage academy prodigies in the event but it's hard to argue with the results!

Last but by no means least our men's 1st and second teams held on to their hard-earned status in Class 2 and 4 respectively and the fourth team had a shot at making the playoffs but just missed out. But overall what a great performance by all teams - four out of nine promoted!

**So remember -**

**Ladies Home semi Tuesday June 22 7.30pm in RTC**

**Mens home semi Wednesday June 23 7.30pm in RTC. See you there!**

## Mixed League and Senior O-35 Leagues

Please note that lists for both the above leagues are up in the club. Please put your name on the list if you are interested in playing. Mixed League games start July 2 and are on **Friday Nights**. The Senior league games are on **Sundays** and start on August 29th - men play in the mornings and ladies in the afternoons. If you cannot commit to 3 matches please put sub beside name and please dont put your name down if you cant play at the times indicated - It just confuses us totally. Thanks in advance.

## Mixed Singles Ladder

Just joined the Club and struggling to find a practice partner? or you want to get fit and play more singles?

Why not put your name down on our singles ladder and guarantee yourself a game each week.

A great way to meet new people and improve your game.

Matches will be first to 9 games or best of 3 sets.

Put your name down on the sheet on the club notice board and start challenging.

Standard: All social players, charity league and league players up to class 7 level.

## Monday Night tennis.....

**On The Social Tennis front the Monday night American tournament for the Brendan Glacken**

**Trophy is up and running. We have already had lots of new members coming**

**which is great for getting them to meet up with the regulars. Just turn up**

**by 7 o'clock, have a good evening's tennis and some socialising upstairs**

**afterwards. The finals will be on 26th July with a Bar-B-Q and prize giving.**

**Open Weeks - currently they are everywhere and we put the entry forms in the club as they arrive. Get out there and play and sharpen up your Latent killer instinct as you surf the clubhouses of Dublin.**

**Finally - Summer is HERE - GET OUT AND PLAY!**