



The October 07 Newsletter

We're back! After a Summer break (remember Summer - that day the sun shone?) followed by a brief hiatus caused by pouring all our energies into the 2007 Championships we're now back on track and looking forward optimistically to the upcoming last quarter of 2007. All the news updates are below, so enjoy the read.

The Championships - At last the full stop to end the Summer arrived - yes it could only be the 2007 Rathgar Tennis Club Championships... Forget Wimbledon - these really were THE championships. We had an excellent turnout, play started on September 19th and after a few days of high anxiety we managed to get the draw up onto the WEB! Yes, each morning it was possible to check out the drama of the previous night from the safety of one's own desk, and so the events unfolded over the ten days.

We saw the usual crop of excellent matches, the beauty of the open draw being that pairings are thrown up that don't normally appear on the courts. We also decided this year to have just ONE singles championships for both ladies and gents with a resulting plate competition for first round people that finished second (we're trying to avoid the 'L' word here). And on the whole it worked really well. We were absolutely blessed on two counts. First we had virtually no rain during the ten days of the tournament (we paid for it on the morning of Sept 30th while playing Senior league, but that's another story). Secondly the event was driven forward nightly by Alannah Gibney, whose firm but persuasive manner meant that events kept on schedule. So before announcing the big winners from this year's tournament, a few quick thank-you's. To the tennis committee for very accurate seeding, to Frank Gaynor for making lots of phone calls on the first few nights, to Oonagh and Bill Collins for organising the prizes, to Pauline Scannell, Veronica Donnelly and Ruth Moore for organising the food and snacks during the event and on finals night, to all the committee members that tended bar, and finally to everyone who played and kept to the timetable.

A good night was had by all on finals night as you can see from some of the pictures that follow, and there are lots more photos in the clubhouse of the event should you wish to peruse same... And finally - yes you guessed it - the names of all the Winners and runners up are below. Well done to all, and don't hesitate to pick up the phone and look for a return match against anyone that you played against (and have a burning desire for revenge.....)

Mens Singles

W: Kieran Galvin, R/Up Keith Lyons

Ladies Singles

W: Alison O'Riordan, R/Up Dympna Kyne

Mens A Doubles

Result to be announced, final deferred due to injury

Ladies A Doubles

W: Gillian Daly/Lucy Flynn, R/Up Dympna Kyne/Amanda Gibney

Mixed A Doubles

Result to be announced, final deferred due to injury

Mens B Doubles

W: David Walsh/Vincent O'Sullivan, R/Up Pat Caden/Matt Barnes

Ladies B Doubles

W: Orla Devane/Pauline Scannell, R/Up Sheila Walsh/Grace Wallace

Mixed B Doubles

W: Orla Devane/John Gleeson, R/Up Pauline Scannell/Sean Brennan

Husband and Wife

W: Claire & Michael Dempsey, R/Up Oonagh & Bill Collins

Mens Singles Plate

W: Michael Dempsey, R/Up Aidan Corcoran

Ladies Singles Plate

W: Fiona Shackleton, R/Up Ciara Flynn

TURKEY TIME

Although we simply can't bring ourselves to mention the C word, we can detect hints that the team tournament known tragically as 'the turkey' will soon be upon us. This should start on Monday Nov 5th and will run for 5 weeks with Finals night on Friday Dec 7th. For new members please note a) it's graded, so a level for everyone and b) it's very sociable and a good way to meet other members. With any luck we should be putting out further details shortly and the usual signup sheets on the boards (don't worry, we'll alert you)

SELECTED IMAGES FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIPS - ARE YOU FEATURED?





REMEMBER - MANY MORE PHOTOS IN THE CLUBHOUSE SO HAVE A LOOK AT THE NOTICEBOARDS NEXT TIME YOU'RE DOWN

Senior & Floodlit Leagues

Well as you probably know we put two ladies and two mens teams into the **Senior leagues** which started in early September. For one reason and another we received some tough draws in terms of the gradings that were applied to our over 35 and over 45 teams. The upshot of this was that it was an uphill struggle for some of the teams to garner points but in true RTC tradition we did our best in the face of overwhelming odds. There were some notable performances, and a few individuals had managed to achieve the magical age limit which definitely helped the effort.

Next up are the **FLOODLIT leagues** which take place for men on Monday nights and Ladies on Tuesdays. Play starts on October 8th, we have two teams each in mens and ladies and the format will be two singles and one doubles match per team, the lineup being drawn by lots on the night. So good luck to all, and obviously this will have some impact on court availability on Mon/Tue nights when the RTC teams are playing at home. So watch out for notices in this regard. We'll probably need lots of subs so prepare to volunteer!

Everything Else...

Looking back what seems a long time ago, the **Supervised Tennis** was a great success for the mornings in the club through July and August. A big thank you to all the teenagers who supervised and to the parents (typically) who brought down their kids and turned up on time to pick them up. On the development front the big project now is the **Practice Wall** and we're close to getting a planning permission lodged, there were a number of environmental surveys etc that we had to do first but that's close to an end now. So with any luck it'll soon become a reality. A quick plug for the 2007 **AGM** which will take place in late November and which will be publicised in more detail in the next issue. We have a few small things to do around the clubhouse and you will see these as they materialise. We will continue to look at other options to organise some specific **challenges** etc with other clubs between now and....year end (almost said C there) so watch the noticeboards and newflashes for details. And finally, as the evenings get a bit cooler, dont forget we have hundreds of fetching **sweatshirts** in the committee room including, we guarantee it, **YOUR** size. Look out for the next edition, and enjoy your tennis.

Lots of news about JUNIOR tennis...



Above: RTC Boys U17 team



Above: RTC Girls U17 team



Above - RTC boys U14 team

Well now that those back to school blues are finally shaken off - or maybe it's the prospect of a mid term break on the horizon, there is certainly plenty of junior activity in RTC these days. Pictured on the left are three out of our four currently competing junior league teams - you can follow their progress on the wonderful www.dltc.net website where we while away many happy hours...

Closer to home, we are gearing up for the Club Junior singles championships which run from 13-21 October, forms have now been e-mailed out to all and are available in reception also. After that round robin matches will begin Nov 5 and will run to early December. These were a big success last time around. We also have teen tennis for 13 years olds and up on Wednesdays from 9-10pm so be sure to drop down, there's usually lots of activity on view in the club at that time.

On Saturday evenings from 4 to 5.30 we have the popular junior american tournaments and these are streamed into 8-10 year olds, and older. A small fee applies to both the teen tennis and the American tournaments. The Junior committee are also looking to line up some one-off inter-club junior challenges, so we'll publicise those in due course. If you have 'connections' in another club that might be interested, please let either Siobhan on 086 8321737 or Ruth at 087 2931556 know. We will have our first junior challenge against Brookfield on Nov 11 so watch out for that.

Please note also that Club Coach Kieran Galvin has now restarted his classes and you can get full details on those from Kieran on 086-2100440. (He also caters for adults though our problems are typically harder to fix!)

Finally from the Junior world it was really great to see some of the older juniors take part in the Adult Championships - they certainly enriched the event with their presence so well done to all who competed...