

ACE!

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF MUNSTER TENNIS

Edition 2 - March 2021

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Cover Pic : Sinead Power of Rushbrooke. Winter League Finals.
Photo courtesy of Colm McDonagh.

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

As President of Munster Tennis I would like to welcome you all to the second edition of Ace.

Obviously, being in the middle of a Pandemic it has been a difficult 12 months. The different levels of restrictions based on the different levels of the NPHET COVID-19 response have been tough on all athletes in all sports.

The lack of play, lack of tournaments and the lack of income have been difficult for clubs but at long last there is light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully with the roll out of the vaccines and the continuing reduction in the numbers infected and in hospital, we will get back to play in April.

I would like to commend all the clubs, committees, players and volunteers for the huge effort made in to comply with the HSE recommendations.

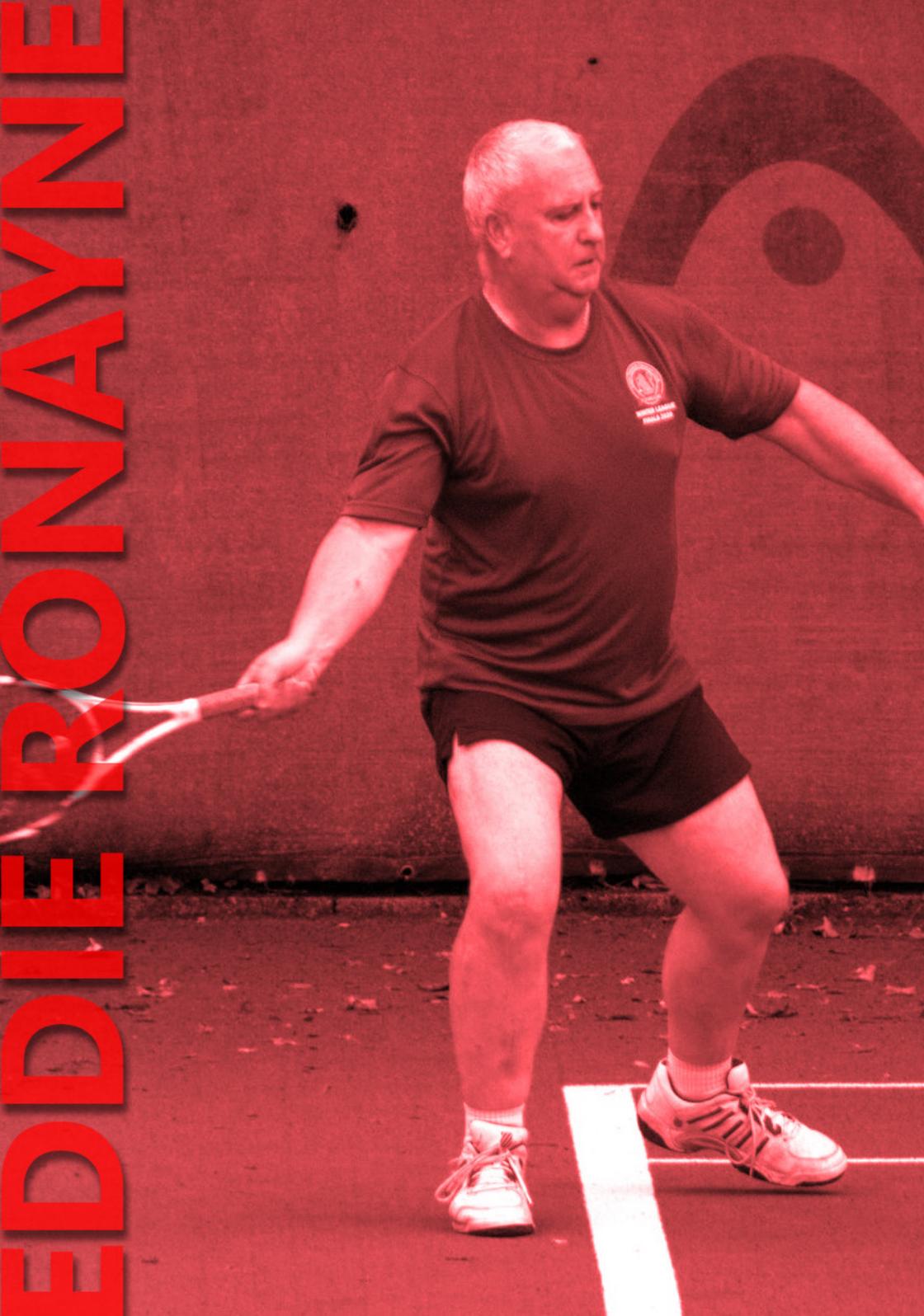
Also, I would like to acknowledge the extensive professional guidance issued by Tennis Ireland during the different levels of restriction, which were tailored for players, coaches and Clubs. Like all of you, I look forward to getting back on court and playing our beautiful game.

At an early stage during the Pandemic, Tennis was recognised as a safe sport, with social distancing in an outdoor setting and this led to increase in membership in some clubs.

Let us all make sure, when play resumes, that we promote our sport so that prospective new members realise what a great fun and healthy sport tennis is.

There is plenty of research reports completed which demonstrate the huge

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WE WILL BE BACK PLAYING SOON

health benefits of playing tennis and it is one of the few sports that all family members can play together.

I am sure we will be back playing social tennis soon, hopefully in April or May and who knows we may get to play competitive tennis in the 3rd or 4th quarter of this year, with a possibility of still playing the 2020 Summer Cup Finals!

As my term as President of Munster Tennis comes to an end in March, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Munster Branch Executive and the employees of Munster Tennis.

The members of the branch are all volunteers and give of their time to ensure the continued growth of our sport and the employees of the branch continue to work in a professional manner to promote tennis in Munster.

I would like to thank Fota Island Resort our partners in the Tennis Hub in Fota and all our partners, sponsors, coaches, etc. Also, I would like to thank all the clubs, players and volunteers throughout the Country that have provided support to both myself and the branch.

I look forward to seeing you on court soon and hopefully playing with you in the near future.

Eddie Ronayne

President

Tennis Ireland - Munster Branch

president@munstertennis.ie

ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

As President of Tennis Ireland I am delighted to have the chance to contribute to this edition of ACE magazine.

Everyone in all aspects of life have been affected some way or another by the Covid 19 pandemic, and the tennis community is no different.

Tennis Ireland have been in daily contact with government at every stage to try and get clubs reopened at some level to allow play to resume. Being an outdoor sport, that can be enjoyed whilst adhering to the social distance guidelines, we hope that in the near future we can enjoy the sport we all love.

I would like say a huge thank you to Eddie Ronayne and all the Munster branch staff and council members for all their hard work over the past 12 month for the way they have dealt with this pandemic.

Also, I would like to thank all the clubs and coaches for keeping members engaged on all the various social media platforms. There has been some great content posted to help keep players active with online drills and tips.

The Enjoy Tennis programme has also been keeping their groups across the country busy with a brilliant Saturday session that I have had the pleasure of attending on a few occasions.

I would hope that soon we can get back to some normality and see some much needed activity and competitions being held again. As President of Tennis Ireland, I look forward to once again being able to visit your clubs and enjoy the interaction and fun that these events bring.

So, until we meet again, please stay safe.

**Shane Cooke - President
Tennis Ireland**



FAREWELL TO A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER!

Due to Covid 19, the Open Tournament season was minimal and disruption was caused to the Winter League finals which were due to be held in March, two weeks after the first lockdown.

Thankfully, we were in a position to hold same on the 18th and 19th July in Rushbrooke. The weekend was gloriously sunny which was at odds with "Winter League" Finals!

The Summer Cup was rolled out in August, however, yet again Covid thwarted our finals day which was due to be held in October in Catholic Institute. We will do everything to ensure that the finalist teams get their day out, which is always a great final!

The Tennis Ireland Ranking System, which was introduced in 2020 was, again thanks to Covid, not given a chance. We will continue to operate our Player's Directory whilst the new Ranking System gets an opportunity to run throughout the coming 2021 season. To confirm, all points gained by players through the last year will be held until the end of this coming season.

2020 also saw no Interprovincial Championships or any National Championships, which of course was disappointing for everyone. Hopefully this year we can all get back to playing and competing in the sport we love and obsess about!

Triona Buckley - Administration Manager

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FANTASTIC WORKSHOPS

Based on the results of a survey sent to clubs before Christmas, the Development Team have been putting together a schedule of workshops.

Topics covered include 'Accessing Funding' and 'Returning to Court', with 'Teenage Tennis' addressed in workshops held previously back in September and October.

Accessing funding (applying for grants) - covered by CEO Richard Fahey in a workshop and Q&A follow-up, focusing on the Sports Capital Grant.

In relation to other sources of funding, the Local Sport Partnerships and County / City Councils often have funding opportunities - I do try to keep up to speed with these opportunities and send details to clubs, but it is always worthwhile keeping an eye on their websites and following them on social media so you get the information as soon as it is released.

In February, we delivered a workshop on 'Returning to court', with breakout rooms focusing on - 1) attracting new members,

2) integrating new members and 3) retaining members - this gave clubs attending an opportunity to discuss what they felt worked well previously, when getting back to play after a lockdown, with some really good ideas being put forward on the night.

The workshop was oversubscribed, so apologies to those who didn't get in, but it was recorded and all the feedback compiled, so if any club didn't get the follow-up information, please get in touch and I can forward it on.

The next workshop will look at 'Schools, Parks and Outreach Development', with others planned on Inclusion, Safeguarding, and Providing Competitive Opportunities.

Details will be sent to clubs as dates are decided, so please make sure to register early if you are interested in the topic.

Liz Clifford
Regional Development Officer
liz.rdo@tennisireland.ie
087 758 1214

WORTH THE WAIT!

We had hoped to start the roll out of ClubSpark during the second half of February. This will now happen over the next couple of weeks. Apologies for this delay, but we can promise it will be worth the wait!

ClubSpark will help clubs manage all areas of operation, including:

- An Online Court Booking/Contact Tracing system
- Allowing clubs to easily manage membership packages and renewals – including setting up Direct Debit payments for their members
- Communicating with members
- Building a brand new integrated mobile-friendly website quickly and easily at no extra cost
- Managing all bookings and payments for a club coaching programme, holiday camps and events online
- Enabling club coaches to take bookings, payments and manage their squads/lessons online
- Plus in time we will be able to offer Gate and Light Access / Control*

The ClubSpark offering will be given free of charge to clubs in year one and annual costs will be around €250 per annum from year two onwards.

We will be in touch directly with clubs who have expressed an interest to but if you want to find out more about ClubSpark for your club, please contact :

Liz Clifford - liz.rdo@tennisireland.ie / 087 758 1214

(*installed by ClubSpark partner at extra cost to club)



GOLD FOR CARRIGALINE

Carrigaline TC achieved the Gold Clubmark accreditation last year, and were presented the plaque in September.

It is a massive achievement for the club, a lot of work was done by a number of people to achieve the accreditation, so our congratulations to Carrigaline Tennis Club and all involved throughout the process.

Many thanks to Tennis Ireland President, Shane Cooke and Munster Tennis President, Eddie Ronayne for presenting the plaque.

Below is a testimonial from Eddie Pierce, Chair of Carrigaline :

The Gold Clubmark Status demonstrates that Carrigaline Tennis Club have a commitment to the development of tennis which encourages people of all ages to take-up sport, improve their skills and initiate and maintain life-long participation in sport.

The programme encourages clubs to think of their weaknesses and build on its strengths and tackle aspects that they may not have otherwise paid attention to.

The Clubmark process plays an active role in driving the clubs' on-going development and sustainability, as well as supporting an excellent membership experience within our club.



STRIVING FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE

Clubmark is Tennis Ireland's club accreditation programme open to all affiliated clubs in Ireland.

It is essentially the quality assured mark of Tennis Ireland, showing that a club has reached a certain level in 8 critical elements of club development.

These 8 areas cover the basis of a club development strategy or plan so once achieved a club will demonstrate they operate at a certain standard.

There are 3 levels - Gold, Silver and Bronze - that a club can choose to work towards.

The Clubmark accreditation lasts for three years, with re-accreditation required after. It is the responsibility of the club to declare if anything within the club changes, meaning they are no longer compliant with all elements. It is crucial for clubs to maintain the standard achieved going forward.

If any clubs are interested in achieving the Clubmark accreditation for their club, please contact email liz.rdo@tennisireland.ie and Liz can give you details of the application process and arrange a meeting to discuss.





A GREAT PROGRAMME GETS BIGGER & BETTER!

Enjoy Tennis is a Tennis Ireland programme that introduces players with a disability to tennis through a 10 week funded coaching programme.

It has been a challenging year for the programme, as with all of tennis, due to the lockdowns, but we have continued to work with clubs, coaches and service providers to prepare for re-opening and be in a position to start new groups when we get the go-ahead to get back on court.

We have started a new venture in recent times, opening up the programme to Special Schools, where the coach can either go into the school for sessions or the school comes to the club.

Hopefully, we will have a number of Special Schools actively involved in Munster once they re-open and we are allowed back on court. We also have a number of new service provider groups ready to start in clubs once they re-open.

Additionally, we are looking at the potential of bringing Enjoy Tennis online, so providing training for coaches in how to coach online, and will hopefully get some sessions up and running over the next while.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the Enjoy Tennis programme, are very welcome to contact Liz Clifford by email : liz.rdo@tennisireland.ie.

NEW TENNIS IRELAND STRATEGY LAUNCHED

The major off court development in recent times has been the announcement of the new Tennis Ireland Performance Strategy.

The new strategy will focus on decentralising the national program to all four provinces of Ireland. There will be a major focus on creating as many competitive opportunities as possible for players.

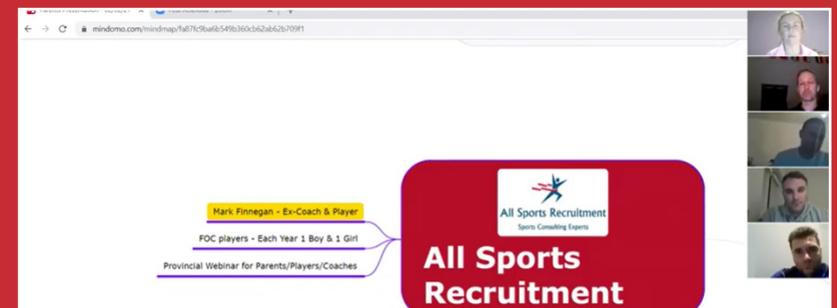
Already, we have established many exciting partnerships with the likes of the Rafa Nadal academy, All Sports Recruitment, Performance Plus and Tennis Locker.

These partnerships are sure to benefit the players hugely in the future. We have also partnered with leading professionals in the fields of nutrition, physiotherapy and sports psychology.

All of these experts, along with Mark Finnegan from All Sports Recruitment, have given detailed presentations to parents and players in recent weeks via zoom.

If you would like to learn more about the strategy, please click on the link below, which is a recording of a recent performance strategy webinar.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nKmG9WSRZU





PLENTY OF GOOD IN A MAD YEAR!

The last 12 months have been extremely challenging for everybody and that has been no different for tennis in Munster. With that said, I would like to acknowledge all the clubs that have provided competitive opportunities for our junior players over the past year.

Special mention to Tramore, St.Anne’s, Carrigaline, Rushbrooke and Larkspur who all held junior opens last summer. Having been present at the majority of these events I witnessed at first hand the professionalism, dedication and commitment from these clubs which was a joy to behold.

Huge thanks must go to these clubs, as without these events some of our junior players may have gone a full year without competition.

CHALLENGES MET!

Over the last month we have had the players competing against each other through challenges set out by the National Performance Coaching Team.

Whilst it was more about the players enjoying themselves and keeping active, am glad to say that Munster came out on top of the leaderboard at the end of the series!



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SADLY, ONLY ABLE TO MAKE TWO GREAT VISITS

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, I did not get to visit as many clubs as I would have liked over the last few months. However, within the restrictions, I did get to visit Lower Aghada and Rushbrooke.

I held on court sessions in both clubs whilst also using the opportunity to chat with both head coaches. The standard of player in both clubs was extremely high which only bodes well for the future of both clubs. Huge thanks to club coaches Sinead Dunne and Colin Laffan for welcoming me.

When allowed to do so, I look forward to working with both clubs in the future and taking part in many more visits to clubs across Munster. If you would like to arrange a visit to your own club, please feel most welcome to contact me.



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AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

Over the past few months, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Rushbrooke Head Coach, Colin Laffan, regarding integrating the Club's player development pathway into the national pathway.

Culminating in a very successful webinar a few weeks back, where national performance co-ordinator, Garrett Barry, Colin and myself presented the plan to the parents, it was fantastic to have open discussions and dialogue proceed positively across all interested parties.

The feedback from parents was extremely encouraging, particularly as they see that this is a player focus centred approach. I wish to commend Colin on his open mindset to this project and thank him sincerely for his invaluable input.

A collaborative approach is the only way forward for tennis in Ireland, in my opinion, and I would be delighted to meet with your club coach to replicate this model if possible. To arrange a meeting in person or online, you are welcome to contact me at performance@munstertennis.ie

TENNIS IRELAND TOUR

Once we are all allowed back on court, we shall be striving to create as many competitive opportunities as possible. If your club are interested in holding an event, we would appreciate the chance to work with you!

We can create events to suit the specific needs of your club, so please feel very welcome to share your ideas and suggestions.

Cian Blake

Performance Director

performance@munstertennis.ie

087 976 2105



NATIONAL TEAMS SELECTION CRITERIA

Following extensive dialogue, Tennis Ireland have now aligned the selection criteria for the Irish National Teams. To download the full document, please visit our website : www.munstertennis.ie/seniorsnationalselection

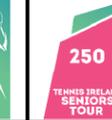
Within the Seniors section of the site, you can also browse all current criteria for Seniors Tennis, including Provincial Team selection too.

Additionally, a National Seniors Ranking System was introduced in 2020. The below table outlines the points system that is now in place. Further information can be found at :

www.tennisireland.ie/competitions/tennis-ireland-seniors-ranking

If you have any queries regarding Seniors Tennis, please feel welcome to send me an email. Thank you.

Karen Higgins - Seniors Co-Convener - seniors@munstertennis.ie

Tennis Ireland Tour Seniors Ranking Table							
							
Maindraw	W	1500	1000	500	250	100	
	F	900	600	300	150	75	
	SF	450	360	180	90	55	
	QF	250	180	90	45	30	
	R16	125	90	45	20	15	
	R32	60	45	20	10	6	
	R64	30	20	10	4	4	
	R128	7	5	4	2		
R256	4	3	2	1			
Consolation	W		40	25	15	10	
	F		25	15	10	4	
	SF		15	10	4	2	
	QF		10	4	2	1	
	R16		4	2	1		

JOHN McNALLY



JOHN McNALLY

We have recently received the very sad news that John McNally, who has been such a driving force for Tennis in Thurles & Co. Tipperary and instrumental in the fact that the Thurles Tennis Performance Centre Project at LIT Tipperary is in the pipeline, had passed away.

John was also a well respected tennis coach and often played on the Seniors circuit in Ireland. John was always a positive person and had great vision.

He will be very sorely missed by all his Family (Wife Mary Rose, sons Cillian & Emmet and daughter Emma), by his numerous friends and of course from the vibrant Tennis scene in Munster and beyond.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.





MICHAEL McCARTHY

The tennis community, and particularly the members past and present of Ballinlough Tennis Club, were shocked and saddened at the untimely passing of Michael McCarthy earlier this year.

The number of wonderful, heartfelt messages from the members of Ballinlough, the club's neighbours, friends and from many other clubs in Munster since his untimely passing bares testament to his popularity.

Michael for many was the first person a new member would meet and he ensured each new member had the perfect introduction to the club. His years of being in the club became an enduring source of knowledge and assistance to incoming committees. He created a role that made Ballinlough the envy of many other clubs, and it is hard to convey his worth to all.

His quiet, gentle and calming nature was a soothing balm to what could sometimes be a very fraught situation, refereeing tournaments, running internal social nights and lending a helpful hand at many other events.

Michael also had a huge interest in nature, music and reading, and was a fountain of knowledge in all, being a keen electric guitar-playing band member in his early days though he kept that quiet. Which was his way, unassuming, gentle and humble.

He was Ballinlough Tennis Club.





NINE TOP CLASS COURTS AT LIMERICK

Gerry Clancy, President of Limerick Lawn Tennis Club, is delighted to offer an update of their latest courts development :

We at Limerick Lawn were acutely aware of the poor state of 9 of our courts in the Summer of 2019, and the heavy rain of the following autumn made it clear that urgent action was needed.

To quote our Tennis Captain Barbara Hackett: "These courts had served us extremely well but they became so unplayable that we had to take them out of service". Our committee put a funding programme in place in December 2019 and €110,000 was raised to pay for the work.

"We now have nine top class courts and plans are in place to renew the carpet on the remaining three courts. This work enabled us to successfully stage our South of Ireland Open and maintain an unbroken series stretching back well over 100 years. We are very proud of this history and delighted to preserve the continuity of the tournament" Barbara said.

We have recently redeveloped our squash facilities and these are now state-of-the-art. We are well placed to make progress on all fronts post Covid

Gerry Clancy - President Limerick Lawn Tennis Club





TIGER TURF COURTS AT ST. ANNE'S WATERFORD

St. Anne's-Waterford Tennis Club now has nine Tiger Turf Pro courts, all of which are floodlit, and two mini courts. With a view of every court from the clubhouse viewing area, it is a superb setting for players and spectators for all events and occasions.

Courts 1 to 9 and mini courts were redeveloped in recent years to the latest Tiger Turf Pro surface and the club also installed new LED lights on all courts.

The redevelopment was funded by the Irish Government Capital Sports Programme.



OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH FOTA ISLAND RESORT

Last summer, Munster Tennis were delighted to extend their fabulous partnership with The Fota Collection, the prestigious hotel group that includes The Kingsley Hotel in Cork City and The Fota Island Resort.

Fota Island Resort will remain home to The Munster Tennis Hub, comprising of two tennis courts managed & operated by Munster Tennis as well as serving as the administration office for Munster Tennis. As before, The Tennis Hub will be utilised for official squads training as well as being offered for casual playing for individuals via a simple annual subscription. Please visit www.TennisHub.ie for all the latest packages on offer.

The partnership again allows us to offer preferential rates for tennis players across Ireland to avail of fabulous accommodation rates, including the spacious modern lodges at Fota Island Resort that are ideal for squads and teams with the courts adjacent for training sessions. Perfect for when we can enjoy playing and socialising again with a weekend away or two!

For reservations and details of all current rates, please call:

Fota Island Resort - 021 488 3700 // The Kingsley - 021 480 0500

Please mention Munster Tennis to avail of the rates, and kindly note all rates are subject to availability and change without notice.





ALL THE FUN IN THE SUN!

With our partnership continuing with Fota Island Resort, and with a brief loosening of restrictions allowing a return to court, we were blessed to run some ACE! Camps at The Munster Tennis Hub during the school summer holidays.

Our thanks to Paul "Fitzy" Fitzgerald for his usual passion and enthusiasm to ensure the next generation of players are inspired to love our sport, and to all the youngsters who took part in a superb few days on court.

Hopefully, we will be able to offer our ACE! Camps again this summer. Keep an eye out for details at www.TennisHub.ie



All photos courtesy of Colm McDonagh.



WINTER LEAGUE

All photos courtesy of Colm McDonagh.



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All photos courtesy of Colm McDonagh.



WINTER LEAGUE

All photos courtesy of Colm McDonagh.





2019/2020 WINTER LEAGUE - WINNERS & FINALISTS -

Grade 1 - Mixed Rushbrooke

Finalists - Sundays Well (Blue)

Grade 2 - Ladies Sundays Well (Red)

Finalists - Bishopstown

Grade 2 - Mens Rushbrooke

Finalists - Bishopstown

Grade 2 - Mixed Rushbrooke

Finalists - St Anne's Waterford

Grade 3 - Ladies Limerick Lawn

Finalists - Ballinlough

Grade 3 - Mens Ballinlough

Finalists - Nenagh (Navy)

Grade 3 - Mixed Dromahane

Finalists - Ballinlough

Grade 4 - Ladies Nenagh (Navy)

Finalists - Sundays Well (Red)

Grade 4 - Mens Catholic Institute

Finalists - Monkstown

Grade 4 - Mixed Tralee

Finalists - Garryduff

Grade 5 - Ladies Lakewood

Finalists - Killaloe/Ballina

Grade 5 - Mens Monkstown

Finalists - Nenagh

Grade 5 - Mixed Mallow (A)

Finalists - Carrigaline

Grade 6 - Ladies Tralee

Finalists - Limerick Lawn (Green)

Grade 6 - Mens Ennis

Finalists - Causeway

Grade 6 - Mixed Ennis

Finalists - Lower Aghada (1)

Our thanks to Rushbrooke Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club for kindly hosting the finals weekend, to all who generously volunteered their time to ensure a fabulous two days, and to all the clubs and their players for making it such a fantastic league.

COUNTY CLARE

Ennis Lawn Tennis Club & Bowls Club

ennistennisclub@gmail.com

087 251 7885

www.ennistennis.com

Killaloe / Ballina Tennis Club

kbtsecretary@gmail.com

087 223 7447

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Ballinlough Tennis Club

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Bishopstown Lawn Tennis Club

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Crosshaven Tennis Club

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Douglas Lawn Tennis Club

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Dromahane Tennis Club

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Garryduff Tennis Club

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Lower Aghada Tennis & Sailing Club

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021 466 1200
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Mallow Tennis Club

mallowtennisclub@gmail.com
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www.mallowgolfclub.net/tennis

Mitchelstown Tennis Club

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COUNTY CORK

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www.monkstowntennisclub.com

Rushbrooke Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club

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St Mary's Tennis Club (Dunmanway)

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087 900 2142
Facebook : St Mary's Tennis Club, Dunmanway

St. Michael's Tennis Club

stmichaelsltc@gmail.com
085 617 6095
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Sunday's Well Boating & Tennis Club

info@sundayswell.ie
021 427 2733
www.sundayswell.ie

Whitechurch Tennis Club

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Youghal Lawn Tennis Club

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Castleview Lawn Tennis Club

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Thurles Tennis Club

Facebook : Thurles Tennis Club

County Tipperary Lawn Tennis Club

info@tltc.ie
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Hillview Sports Club Lawn Tennis Club

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Kilfeacle Community & Tennis Club

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087 966 1344
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Larkspur Park Tennis Club

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086 669 9335

Nenagh Tennis Club

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New Inn Tennis Club

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Puckane & District Tennis Club

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COUNTY WATERFORD

Causeway Tennis & Bowls Club

causewaytennisclub@gmail.com

058 42812

www.causewaytennisclub.ie

Dunmore East Tennis Club

051 383 200

Lismore Tennis Club

tennislismore@gmail.com

Facebook - Lismore Tennis Club

St Annes Waterford Lawn Tennis Club

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Tramore Tennis Club

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THE OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF TENNIS IRELAND - MUNSTER BRANCH

SOUTH WEST REGION

Eddie Ronayne (President) - Rushbrooke
Áine Dunne (Hon. Sec.) - Lower Aghada
Ron O'Mahony (Treasurer) - Sunday's Well
Sally Donegan - Rushbrooke
Clifford Carroll - Bandon
Paul O'Callaghan - Sunday's Well
Karen Higgins - Sunday's Well

SOUTH EAST REGION

Shane Cooke - Castlevue
Robyn Murphy - Castlevue
Dick McCarthy - St. Anne's
Mary Power - St. Anne's

NORTH WEST REGION

Robert Cummins (Vice President) - Kilfeacle
Frank O'Keeffe - Nenagh
Marcella Kelly - Co. Tipperary
Sean Looby - New Inn
Cathal Sherlock - Catholic Institute

Tennis Ireland - Munster Branch t/a Munster Tennis
The Munster Tennis Hub
Fota Island Resort
County Cork

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HOPEFULLY LOTS OF NEWS VERY SOON!

We hope you have enjoyed this latest issue of ACE, and thank you so much for taking the time to browse the news about tennis in Munster.

As we look ahead to the next issue, we hope that the various Covid phases will allow us to return to the courts and we can feature all the latest news from all our clubs across Munster.

If you have a story, event or occasion to promote about your club or anything about tennis in Munster, please let us know. You are very welcome to send details to the dedicated "news" email address : news@munstertennis.ie

Please include as much information as you can, and send any relevant photos, images, logos etc as you wish. The larger, the better, please.

We shall also look to include all your news across our other digital platforms too, including our website and facebook page. If you don't already "like" us on facebook, you can find us at :

www.facebook.com/munsterbranchtennis

Thanks again for your time. Please, stay safe and well, and enjoy the return to the courts when we are next able!



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