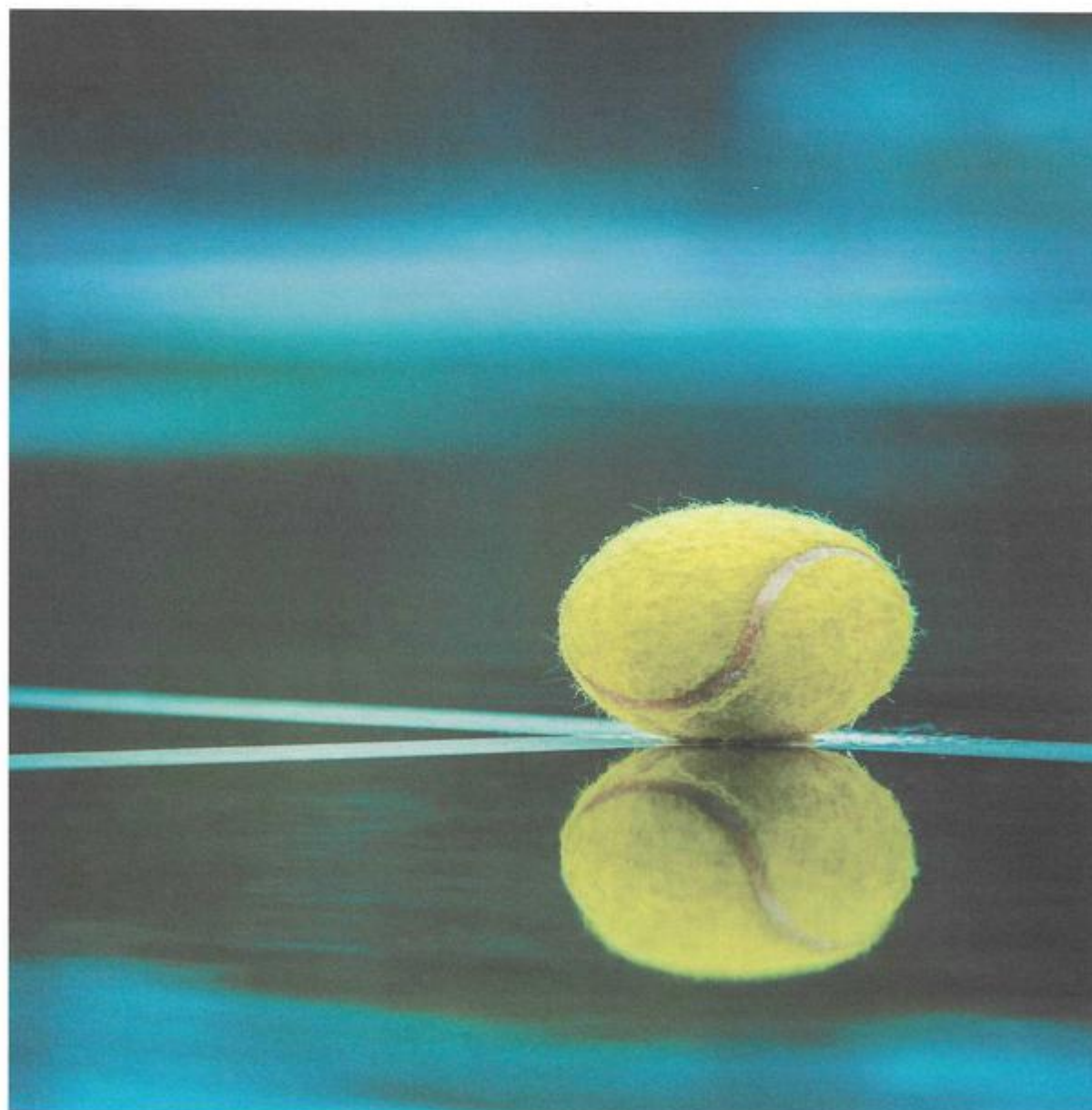




# MUNSTER BRANCH TENNIS IRELAND ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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Dia daoibh a chairde.

As the president of Munster Tennis I would like to thank all the Clubs of Munster for their continued support throughout what was a very difficult year for everyone in Tennis.

I would like to thank our Munster Tennis staff, Tennis Ireland staff, my fellow Branch Council Officers and all the Branch council members for their efforts during the year again in what was a stressful environment much of the time. I would like to thank my fellow Munster Tennis Representative Tennis Ireland Board Director Clifford Carroll and our two Alternates Eddie Ronayne & Áine Dunne who again had to operate in challenging times. I would also like to thank the previous Tennis Ireland President Shane Cook who was in office in 2021 for his work in supporting the entire organisation throughout the year. I would also like to thank our previous CEO Richard Fahy who contributed significantly to tennis in his time with Tennis Ireland. Lastly I would like to thank all our volunteers who contribute in so many ways to our sport be it on Sub-committees or helping run events.

I was honoured to have the opportunity to attend many of the finals of several of the Munster Competitions in 2021. They were very good days.

Well done to all the players & teams who competed during the year, there was some great tennis. There were great examples on show of the quality of the Tennis in Munster and the sportsmanship of the players and of the popularity of the Munster League Team Competitions in particular.

A huge effort went in over the last year by Munster Branch to run events if possible. It wasn't easy but it was worth the effort to support our sport, clubs and players. We ran 4 national events in the second half of the year.

The idea is to provide as many options as we can to both clubs and players to allow as many teams and players to compete. We were delighted to see teams entered from some of the newly affiliated clubs. There was a strong entry overall in both the Summer Cups and the Winter Leagues. We took the decision to reform both competitions where we moved from 12 to 18 Sections in the Summer Cup and we also radically changed the format of the Winter League to break it into two phases run over a more compact period of time. Again we added in more sections bringing it up to 18 Competitions over 6 rating (Grading) levels. This resulted in the number of entries for the Winter League increasing from approximately 220 Teams in 2019 to 350 Teams in Winter 2021/2022. This means that the Munster Tennis Winter League is the largest Tennis League in Europe.

For many years Munster Tennis has run a regional league in the Cork region. I am pleased to announce that we are going to expand this to both the North West region and the South East region and details and entries for these events will go live in the morning.

We hope to have an announcement of other Munster Tennis Tournaments / initiatives too in the near future.

We also hope to move the next Munster Winter League over to using the WTN (World Tennis Number) in the autumn. This will allow for a much better system to track people's performance and will allow people to move up and down grades depending on their performance. There is too much on this topic to go into here but there is good information provided by Tennis Ireland online and also by the ITF. <https://www.worldtennisnumber.com>

We have had a great success with the Munster Schools Cups this spring, which are currently ongoing with 100 Teams despite some uncertainty early in the year due to the Covid Pandemic and we will endeavor to grow these competitions further into the future.

Furthermore we also intend to directly run more Junior Competitions such as Tour 100 or Tour 250 events and to help clubs to host them and to expand the opportunities for more juniors throughout the year. If there is a gap we will try to fill it. Expressions of interest for positions of Tournament Directors for these events are currently live.

The Munster Commercial Tennis Camps at Fota Island Resort commenced at the beginning of July last year, once things were opening up, and they went well. The focus is on fun and recreation but still with great instruction by Munster Tennis Coach Paul Fitzgerald and assistants. The Camps have been coordinated by our Commercial Manager Kevin Mullen and supported by our Administrator Triona Buckley.

The courts at Fota are very busy with both Tennis Hub Members and Fota Hotel guests booking courts from early to late. It is very important to our partners at Fota Island Resort to see all this activity and have the tennis activities organised and directed in a professional manner for their patrons.

Soon Tennis Ireland will be launching some very important initiatives and one of them is Clubspark. This should be a game changer particularly for smaller clubs. This is where Tennis Ireland will use the leverage of a large number of our clubs to attain a very competitive deal to help clubs promote and administer themselves with things like a website and booking systems included as standard. I have only touched on this subject here but expect to hear of significant further announcements in the coming months. We will be reaching out again to the smaller clubs in particular in relation to this. We already had a webinar with clubs interested in affiliating.

Munster Tennis continues to foster cooperation within the tennis world and also new relationships and we are making a big push to get the remaining clubs that are not affiliated to affiliate. To emphasise: *The most important consideration is that working together as a team we are stronger. It is important that all Tennis Clubs in Munster affiliate and contribute in their own small way to supporting our sport. Furthermore the more Clubs we represent the more supports we can get for those clubs – either ourselves and Tennis Ireland or through Government Agencies.*

To this end we will be making further contact with many more clubs over the summer.

The Tennis Ireland Development Team have been hard at work over the past few months. This team includes our Development officer Liz Clifford. They have been working on many important initiatives including a new Schools link program which links Clubs with Schools. It is an area that we as a tennis community don't have a strong record on with the exception of a few schools over the years. The Munster Branch Council have unanimously supported this programme. If anyone has an interest in this area please contact Liz.

In terms of Junior tennis and player development we have had much discussion over the year and we have decided to make some radical changes that we feel will make all the difference over the coming years.

The focus of the Branch has to be on development of the Game from the ground up and getting the numbers of juniors up in all areas. This will then feed into the Performance area in time.

We have to have more events and competitions for juniors of all abilities. We need more focus on Doubles / Mixed and also on social tennis for Teenagers.

From a structural point of view we have refocussed the existing Junior sub-committee away from performance and more towards tournaments. It is renamed the "Junior Development Committee (Activities)". Separate to this we are creating a new sub-Committee that will be called the Player Development Committee, which will include at least one coach from each of the 3 regions of Munster. Coaches have not always been valued enough or been part of the decision making in our organisation and the new group will help address that fact. Both of these groups will be full Sub-Committees in Munster Tennis and will report to the Branch Council

These groupings will work in tandem our Performance Development Officer Cian Blake who leads the Emerging Talent Programme in the Province. He also leads Provincial Performance Structural Development. During 2021 Cian was honored with being appointed as Co-Captain of the Irish Davis Cup Team (with Carlos Miranda) where Ireland excelled and were ultimately promoted to World Group II. Well done again to Cian and Carlos.

The Terms of Reference for these two Branch Council sub-committees will be published shortly on our Website and it will give people a clear idea of what is involved. In the next few days we will be taking expressions of interest from people wanting to be part of these committees.

We as a result expect to have several new announcements in the area over the coming weeks.

Munster Tennis have made significant progress with developing Terms of Reference for all our main sub-committees in 2020 and 2021 and will be further clarifying roles within the Branch in 2022. These will all be published on our website in due course. It is mandatory to be Garda Vetted to be a member of Munster Branch Council and everyone has to sign up to the Confidentiality Policy and to the rules and requirements of the Tennis Ireland Volunteer hand book.

*It would be remiss of me not to mention the significant difficulties within Tennis Ireland at Board level in 2021. Progress on addressing some of those difficulties has been slow but with the help of Sport Ireland and our Interim CEO I am confident that significant progress can be made in the coming weeks and months. Significant reform is required as has been detailed on the two external reports that have been produced, but this reform if implemented in line with Sport Ireland advice will put the entire organisation on a firmer footing, one which will allow us confidently to develop our sport together, and within all 32 counties of this Island.*

I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate all the players on the Munster Tennis Inter-Provincial Teams over 30 to over 45 who won the Inter-Provincial Championships in 2021. This was a significant achievement and there were great team and individual performances. I look forward to more success on the court for Munster Tennis players in 2022.

I would also like to congratulate all the Munster players who won national titles during the year and were selected for Irish Teams. I wish them all the best.

Lastly I will again thank all our clubs, without whose support we could not hope to develop tennis in the way we have and will do into the future. We have a strong plan for the year ahead; it is activity and development based and is fully budgeted for. We have planned and budgeted for a surplus in 2022, which will be reinvested into the sport.

*If we don't continuously promote our sport and get the message out about it and our tournaments we will fall behind other sports and activities.*

The Tennis community is a great community with a great social scene. Long may it continue.

Déanfaimid ár ndícheall.

Is mise le meas



**Robert M. Cummins**

**Uachtarán Leadóige na Mumhan**



**MUNSTER BRANCH**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Via ZOOM**  
**ON 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 AT 8.00PM**

Meeting opened by Eddie Ronayne at 8.10pm to allow for attendees to log in and for roll call to take place. Eddie asked that those clubs who had not nominated a voting representative to do so via text/email immediately to Triona.

ER asked for a moments silence to acknowledge those of the tennis community who had passed during the last twelve months.

ER then welcomed Shane Cooke, President Tennis Ireland, Richard Fahey, CEO Tennis Ireland and Paul O'Sullivan, Commercial and Partnership Manager.

**Apologies:** None.

**MBTI President's Address:**

Eddie Ronayne (ER) welcomed all the attendees and thanked the clubs and their members for their work in complying with Covid restrictions and acknowledged the increase in membership in most clubs.

ER thanked the officers of the Branch for their work as volunteers, Cian Blake as Performance Director and Liz Clifford as Regional Development Officer. ER thanked Triona Buckley as Administrator for her availability and support to all clubs. ER thanked Kevin Mullins Commercial Consultant.

ER thanked the coaches, sponsors, Colm McDonagh for his work on Facebook, and Fota Resort as the hub of Munster Tennis.

ER discussed the quiet year for tennis activity and acknowledged the administrative work that goes on in the background.

ER discussed the Winter League finals which were held in July last year and the determination to complete the Summer Cup finals once permitted.

As Eddie Ronayne is stepping down as MBTI President, he thanked his partner Emer for her support and patience for the hours he has put in, the Branch for their voluntary work, Richard Fahey and TI for their support and wished the incoming President all his best for the coming year.

**Tennis Ireland President's Address:**

ER introduced Shane Cooke as President of Tennis Ireland.

Shane thanked ER for inviting him to the AGM and the Branch for their work during the year. Shane thanked the staff, coaches and the Tennis Ireland staff for their work and support.

ER discussed the success of the Winter League finals over 2 days due to the Covid pandemic and the individual prize giving for each event which were appreciated by the teams and the positives that were taken from running the finals over 2 days.

**Minutes of Last AGM**

Minutes proposed by Karen Higgins and seconded by Robert Cummins.

## **Matters Arising**

None

## **Correspondence**

None

## **Tennis Ireland Report**

ER introduced Richard Fahey, CEO of Tennis Ireland.

Richard thanked the Branch for the invitation to attend the AGM and discussed the current Covid pandemic and the restrictions imposed on club and members. He discussed the ongoing engagement with the Government regarding the re-opening of our sport.

Richard acknowledged the financial impact on clubs and Branches and the Resilience funding that is available to all clubs. Currently over €500,000 has been allocated to 40 clubs including 14 clubs in Munster.

Richard discussed the Sports Capital Programme and the Club Spark initiative.

Richard thanked the Munster Branch staff, volunteers and all clubs.

He thanked Eddie Ronayne as President and friend and acknowledged the commitment he brought to Munster Tennis. Richard also thanked Cian Blake, Liz Clifford and Triona Buckley.

## **Honorary Treasurer's Report**

ER introduced Honorary Treasurer, Ron O'Mahoney who thanked all attendees.

Ron advised that the 2020 financials are in draft format and have been completed by Tennis Ireland in conjunction with Grant Thornton. The completed financials are due for sign off in July.

Ron discussed the challenging year for clubs and Branches and the impact of the reduced income.

Ron then advised the following:-

Members' Funds/Equity standing at €19,885

Cash in Bank including current account and Paypal at €28,656

Ron then thanked Triona Buckley, Administrator, for her support and administrative duties and Tennis Ireland for their assistance in the preparation of accounts.

## **Annual Reports from Sub Committee Convenors**

All annual reports from the Convenors of the Sub Committees were available to all attendees at the meeting.

*Honorary Secretary Aine Dunne*, gave a brief summary of her report and discussed the Winter League finals which was a learning process in these Covid times and the success of same. Aine thanked Eddie Ronayne and the Branch and Triona Buckley for support.

*Competitions Frank O'Keeffe*, discussed the lack of MBTI competition over the year and that the Summer Cup finals will be completed as soon as is permitted. Frank discussed the new Winter League format in 2 phases.



Frank then thanked Ron O'Mahoney, previous Convenor, for his assistance over the year and Triona Buckley, Administrator, for her work on MBTI competitions and support to the clubs and players.

*Directory Karen Higgins*, thanked her sub committee and Triona Buckley, Administrator, and confirmed that all pre-Covid points remain in situ until the end of this season.

*Seniors Convenor Karen Higgins*, discussed the fact that again these tournaments were Covid impacted and thanked Ann Naughton, Robert Cummins and her sub committee.

*Tournaments Eddie Ronayne*, acknowledged the difficult year for tournaments and commended those that did take place. Eddie commended the National Competitions Committee for their work over the year.

*Sponsorship and Development Robert Cummins* summarised the Thurles Project and their indoor facility together with other projects in the Cork region.

Robert then introduced Paul O'Sullivan, Commercial and Partnership Manager Tennis Ireland. Paul discussed the partnership with MTU (formerly CIT) in Cork and the benefits of this partnership with indoor courts and a centre of excellence. Paul gave thanks to Cian Blake for his work and liaison with MBTI and MTU and his assistance on same to Paul.

Paul then introduced Ed Coughlan of MTU. Ed thanked Paul and MBTI and discussed the opportunity for MTU to work with Munster Branch and to connect beyond the Province. Unfortunately Ed's signal dropped and was not recoverable.

Eddie Ronayne thanked Paul O'Sullivan, Cian Blake, Robert Cummins and Ed Coughlan for their work on this venture.

### **Performance Director's Report**

Cian Blake, Performance Director, summarised his report which was circulated to attendees and clubs and discussed the TI Performance Strategy, National Squads and Tour Weekends. Cian mentioned the importance of the club visits and is looking forward to doing more once permitted.

Cian acknowledged and congratulated Olwyn Ryan Bovey and Breda Brennan on their US Scholarships.

Cian concluded by thanking the Clubs hosting provincial squad training, the Branch for their support and Triona Buckley, Administrator for her assistance.

Eddie Ronayne thanked Cian for his presentation. Eddie then acknowledged the unwavering support and work done over the years by Robyn Murphy and Paul O'Callaghan.

### **Regional Development Officer's Report**

Liz Clifford presented her report and asked that if there are any club contact changes this year following AGMs that they advise her of same.

Liz thanked clubs for their engagement and discussed the workshops, Clubmark, Safeguarding, Local Sports Partnerships and Enjoy Tennis.

Liz then thanked the Branch and Triona Buckley for their support.



### **Election of Members to Munster Tennis 2020/2020**

Eddie Ronayne read out the Nominations for 2021 and all were deemed elected to the Branch:-

#### **SOUTH EAST REGION (5 PLACES)**

Robert Cummins - Ex Officio

Shane Cooke	Castleview
Dick McCarthy	St. Anne's
Enda Dowling	St. Anne's
Andrea Jones Halley	Tramore

#### **SOUTH WEST REGION (10 PLACES)**

Eddie Ronayne	Ex Officio	Karen Higgins	Lower Aghada
Richard Sewell	Rushbrooke	Ron O'Mahoney	Sunday's Well
Helena O'Brien	Mitchelstown	Emma Crowley	Sunday's Well
Aine Dunne	Lower Aghada	Cliff Carroll	Ballinlough
Sinead Hennessy	Bishopstown	Sam West	Bishopstown

#### **NORTH WEST REGION (5 PLACES)**

Frank O'Keeffe	Nenagh
Marcella Kelly	Co. Tipperary
Sean Looby	New Inn
Eamonn Dalton	Kilfeacle
Cathal Sherlock	CIAC

Eddie Ronayne then mentioned that 5 current members that were not re-elected:- Pamela Scott and Yuan Yuan Lu Flanagan from Limerick Lawn and who will serve on the Communications Sub Committee, Mary Power from St. Anne's to remain on the Seniors Sub Committee, Robyn Murphy of Castleview and Paul O'Callaghan of Sunday's Well. Eddie gave his personal thanks to these members and expressed his hope that they would all stay involved as they had vast knowledge and experience in Munster Tennis.

#### **NOTICE OF MOTION received from Carrigaline Tennis Club**

Eddie Ronayne directed the attendees regarding the procedure on voting, one club, one vote and requested that the vote be sent via private message to Aine Dunne at which stage Aine and Triona will corroborate the results.

Eddie then asked Alan Kelly of Carrigaline Tennis Club to read their motion. Alan proceeded to explain the reasoning behind same. Eddie requested Karen Higgins to comment on same. Karen advised that the Committee had no objection to the motion. ER advised that once the National Ranking and WT Number is up and running this would not be an issue. Eddie asked for any objections and Ron O'Mahoney read out Sunday's Well objection to the motion on their behalf.

Eddie Ronayne called for a vote on the matter and the notice of motion was carried 16 for and 4 against.

## **AOB**

Eddie Ronayne called for any other business.

Emma Crowley of Sunday's Well requested that the tournament player capitation fee be reduced this year so that clubs can retain a greater portion of the entries. Emma requested same as a benefit to all clubs.

Richard Fahey replied that a lot of consideration has been given to clubs and they are assisting clubs with Resilience Funding and that Player affiliation fees are remaining the same as last year in spite of increased membership.

Eddie Ronayne confirmed that the increased affiliation fees have been deferred to 2022.

Cathal Sherlock of CIAC queried Richard Fahey on the WTN and when same will be released and can it be used in tournaments. RF confirmed that it is a phased roll out.

Eddie Ronayne then thanked all for attending, Cian Blake, Liz Clifford, Triona Buckley, Kevin Mullen and all Branch Members.

Robert Cummins thanked Eddie and congratulated him on his work as President over the last 2 ½ years.

As there was no further business Eddie Ronayne thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 9.55pm

(Minutes taken by Triona Buckley)

## COMPETITIONS CONVENOR REPORT 2021

The Competitions Convenor is instrumental in the set up, management and running of the following Munster Competitions:-

Winter League

Cork Regional League

Summer Cup

Junior Cups

Schools Championships

### INTRODUCTION

The first three months of 2021 meant that no competitions were able to take place due to Covid19 with restrictive tennis activity both at a club level & Munster Branch competitions level.

We managed to complete 2 finals this year; the 2020 and 2021 Summer Cups.

I would like to thank both Catholic Institute Tennis Club and Rushbrooke Tennis club for hosting both finals over two days

Phase 1 of Winter League 2021 began in October and due to the huge entry both semi and finals day were held in January 2022. As was discussed last year the Winter League is split into two events which caters for both singles and doubles in Phase 1 and doubles in Phase 2.

Munster Tennis have a Competitions Committee in place that oversees the operation and co-ordination of all Munster Tennis competitions. With the appointment of the full time Administrator, Triona Buckley, in November 2018, Triona completes the administration functions critical in the smooth operation, maintenance and compliance of all related information associated with all competitions and the communication between Munster Tennis and affiliated clubs.

Since Triona's appointment she has greatly improved the compliance process, updating the Players Directory and daily management of all Munster Tennis Competitions and is a tangible communication channel between Munster Tennis and all affiliated clubs.

Munster Tennis has been proactive in managing events that are within their control that impact directly in concluding group play to knockout stages and eventual finals day with the least disruption to continuous play and applying the rules equitably to all clubs with the health and safety of all players paramount.

Munster Tennis is proactive in developing governing rules for all Munster Tennis competitions that represent balance, equity and transparency for all affiliated clubs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all clubs for your continuous support of Munster Tennis Competitions during 2021. With mutual future and continuous co-operation we both will continue to grow tennis in the Munster region for the benefit of all affiliated clubs and players.

I wish also to acknowledge the support of the Competitions Committee members , the main Committee members and Administrator Triona, in assisting me in my role as Convenor of the Competitions Committee.

Frank O' Keeffe

Convenor

Competitions Committee Munster Tennis





## DIRECTORY SUB COMMITTEE END OF YEAR REPORT

I would like to thank the subcommittee for giving of their time and expertise throughout the year. At present the subcommittee consists of Shane Cooke, Mary Power, Dick McCarthy, Catriona O' Sullivan, Frank O'Keeffe, Eddie Ronayne and Triona Buckley. If you are interested in getting involved in the Directory Sub Committee, then please get in touch.

Currently the directory has in excess of 7,000 entries. Updating the directory remains a manual exercise and it is thanks to Triona that all new additions and changes are kept up to date.

The Directory Rules were recently reviewed and circulated to all Clubs. The most recent update was in respect of new Winter League format and points. The rules for 2022 can be viewed on the Munster Tennis Website.

Munster Tennis continues to operate our Player's Directory whilst the new Tennis Ireland Ranking system hopefully gets a proper run through this coming season. Please continue to refer to same with regard to grading of players for your open weeks.

Attached are some statistics which you may find interesting.

Sean Looby  
Convenor  
Directory Committee



## Year Review and Analysis

### Yearly Grade/Gender Trend

	Dec-19		Dec-20		Dec-21	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Premier	31	0.49%	31	0.46%	31	0.43%
Grade 1	162	2.55%	150	2.24%	158	2.22%
Grade 2	467	7.34%	503	7.50%	548	7.70%
Grade 3	823	12.94%	836	12.47%	901	12.67%
Grade 4	1201	18.89%	1269	18.93%	1330	18.70%
Grade 5	1603	25.21%	1674	24.97%	1761	24.75%
Grade 6	2058	32.37%	2222	33.14%	2385	33.53%
No Grade	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	6358		6705		7114	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
	51.74%	48.25%	51.26%	48.74%	51.79%	48.21%
	0.49%	-0.50%	-0.48%	0.49%	0.53%	-0.53%



### **PDO Report Munster Branch AGM 2022**

Over the past 12 months there have been major developments in the performance area of our sport in Ireland. Performance tennis has now been re-named as performance development by Sport Ireland which is what the new national strategy is all about, developing performance structures in all corners of Ireland so we can one day have a sustainable high performance structure in this country.

The first major change came by putting competition back at the centre of the sport. Since last September there has been very few weekends where there hasn't been a competitive opportunity for Irish players. This has been a massive transformation from the previously dated model that had the summer months saturated with competition but very little outside of that. Up until last year the stereotypical description of an Irish junior player was that 'they look great but don't know how to play a match'. We feel strongly that one of the reasons for this was due to the tournament calendar and that's why we have worked very hard with the competitions team to improve it.

The international calendar is another area that we looked at over the last year. Previously the most international events we had in Ireland was 5. Our team, along with the competitions team made a big effort to try increase this number and in our efforts we secured 11 international events for Ireland in 2022. These events will be spread across the country with 3 taking place in Munster. In July we will host a Tennis Europe under 12 event in St. Annes, a ITF under 18 event in Rushbrooke as well as a under 14 Tennis Europe event in Carrigaline. Along with being the most international events Ireland has ever hosted this will also be the most international events we have had in Munster. The benefits of bringing these tournaments to Ireland are endless. Tennis is an expensive sport, especially at international level, players will now be able to gain international ranking points on home soil that will enable them to enter higher level tournaments when travelling abroad. Standard recognition is also a big plus when it comes to international competition. The majority of our coaches don't travel to international competitions abroad, by bringing the competition here, it gives the coaches the opportunity to recognise the standard and learn about the international level of players. As well as this, our Irish juniors that are competing in these events can act as role models for up and coming younger players in the clubs, this can have a very positive affect.

We have also looked at the opposite side of the performance development ladder, the tennis 10s. Our Next Gen events have been running throughout the province since late last year. These events are designed so that under 8, 9 and 10 players get an opportunity to compete



in a fun environment under the watchful eye of the club coach. These events are pivotal in the development of young players and have been a huge success since their inception.

Our squad system has developed hugely over the last 12 months. The new centralised model enables us to hold national camps, international friendlies and offer other supports for our top players. Being a small tennis nation it is very important that all provinces pull together to improve standards nationwide. When this is done our top players receive all the above and more free of charge which wouldn't be possible with the old model.

Munster has had various national successes and international representation since last year. Hugh O Sullivan was crowned National champion in the under 18 boys event last August at Fitzwilliam LTC before going on to represent Ireland at the Four Nations Championships in England. The whole Irish team performed fantastically well over the course of the weekend only to lose out to England by 1 point. Kate Gardiner won the National Indoor Ladies Championships in David Lloyd, Riverview, over the Christmas period. Also, just as recently as a fortnight ago, two of our up and coming stars, Beth Barry and Patrick Breen, were selected to represent Ireland in an international friendly versus Poland. I, myself was fortunate to co-captain the Irish Davis Cup team to promotion in Cyprus last summer. It was a fantastic honour for myself to be involved at the highest level of the sport in Ireland and I would like to express my thanks to everyone for the well wishes and congratulatory messages.

Our international representation in 3<sup>rd</sup> level education has never been as strong as it is. We currently have Breda Brennan, Olwyn Ryan Bovey, Charlie Barry and Mark Griffin based in the US on tennis scholarships. Along with this we have Cian Maguire and Kate Gardiner competing at college level in the UK. In September, Hugh O Sullivan will also leave for the states on a tennis scholarship. This all bodes well for the future of tennis in Munster.

My club visits have taken me to all corners of the province in recent times. These visits are vital to link in all the different moving parts in this sector of the sport, to inform coaches, committees, parents and players of upcoming events and to familiarise myself with up and coming players. If I have not visited your club to date please don't hesitate to get in contact with me at [performance@munstertennis.ie](mailto:performance@munstertennis.ie)

Finally, I would like to thank all the committees, coaches, players and parents that have welcomed me into their clubs this year. I'd also like to thank the Munster Branch for their continued support and I look forward to the next 12 months.

Cian Blake

Munster Performance Development Officer.



## **Regional Development Officer Report March 2021-March 2022**

### **Club visits/engagements**

Another challenging year, with mostly working from home and minimal opportunities to get out to visit clubs, but I want to start by saying thank you to the Branch, Triona, Cian and Kevin for all the help and support during the year, but mostly a huge thanks to all the clubs for continuing to engage with me, and get things done under somewhat challenging circumstances – every club engaged with me in some form or other, whether by attending online Zoom sessions, by phone or email and a small number, through in-person visits to clubs. I am hoping to be able to get out to the vast majority of you in person over the next year, if you would like to arrange a visit (to discuss any of the topics in this report, or for any other reason) please get in touch and I would be delighted to arrange a visit.

I only managed to visit 9 clubs in between lockdowns/ high covid numbers, thanks to Crosshaven, Lower Aghada, Ballinlough, Larkspur, Tralee, Hillview, Sundays Well, Mitchelstown and Bandon for the various meetings and discussions, but hopefully we are beyond restrictions and lockdowns now, so as I said, I'd love to be able to get to more of you so please get in touch and we can set something up. I had various online meetings with clubs, both group calls and individual covering topics like Clubmark, safeguarding, teen tennis, Local Sport Partnership engagement, non-affiliated clubs etc, with all clubs engaging in some way, so again, thanks to you all for getting involved.

### **Safeguarding**

The long-awaited Sport Ireland Self-Assessment finally came online in April 2021 with Tennis Ireland allocating a 6 week block until mid June for completion. Clubs could continue to access their completed self-assessment forms to update until 31<sup>st</sup> March when the assessment was being closed by Sport Ireland. Prior to the self-assessment opening, the Development Team hosted a couple of Zoom meetings to inform clubs of the process, with 31 clubs attending from Munster. All Munster clubs have now completed, which gives me (and Tennis Ireland) an idea of where clubs stand with safeguarding and allows us to support all clubs in becoming fully compliant. All clubs will ultimately need to be compliant with the 10 requirements (listed at the bottom of the report), with the emphasis initially being on the legal requirements of having a safeguarding statement and having vetting in place for anyone working with children and vulnerable adults on a regular basis. I hope to continue engaging with all clubs regarding their self-assessment returns- I am continuing to work my way through the returns, checking to see how clubs are getting on, what actions they have to take, particularly regarding vetting and the Safeguarding Statement, and am very happy to assist, but if any clubs have queries at any stage before I get to your club, please get in touch.

### **Courses/training**

Olwyn O'Toole, the Connacht Development Officer and Schools Co-ordinator and I delivered an online version of the Leaders course to 30 transition year students on the VIP (Voluntary Inspired Participation) programme through Limerick Sports Partnership. I also delivered, in-person to 8 participants in Bandon Tennis Club in November, where we bring the participants through running mini-events for the junior players in their clubs, showing them how to set up the red and orange courts, how to run timed matches, round robins etc, in the hope that they will be able to run events in the club.

I am currently in the process of putting together a Club Competition Organiser course, which will support people new to running events and give basic guidance on topics like rules, Tournament Software, conflict management, safeguarding considerations, scoring and formats etc. we hope to be



able to pilot this by the summer and believe it will assist clubs to get more internal, social competition running and give players of all ages and levels more competitive experience at their own level. If any clubs are interested in piloting the training, please get in touch.

#### Clubmark

Congratulations to Larkspur Park Tennis Club who achieved Gold level Clubmark status in August 2021. A massive amount of work went into achieving the accreditation by a solid team in Larkspur. Thanks to then Tennis Ireland President Shane Cooke for presenting the plaque.

Both Crosshaven and Ballinlough gained re-accreditation at Bronze and Gold level respectively, with a number of other clubs due for re-accreditation currently and over the coming months. If there are any other clubs interested in achieving the Clubmark accreditation, please contact me on [liz.rdo@tennisireland.ie](mailto:liz.rdo@tennisireland.ie) and I can give you details of the application process and arrange a meeting to discuss. Also, if you want to learn more about the accreditation, benefits and the different levels, I have a powerpoint I am happy to deliver to your committee.

#### Coach education

We have been successful in getting Level 1 coaching courses running in Munster for the first time in a number of years. 14 participants completed the Level 1 in Lakewood in July/August 2021, a further 15 in Hillview just completed in the last couple of weeks, with a third course planned for Lakewood over the summer. Massive thanks to Lakewood and Hillview for providing us with access to their facilities (courts and backup hall) and to Conor O'Callaghan and Pete Lowther for tutoring the courses- hopefully this will make a number of new, licensed coaches available to your clubs. Tennis Ireland is emphasising the importance of using qualified, licensed coaches only within your programmes. You can check the list of licensed coaches on the Tennis Ireland website under the 'Coaches' tab.

#### Enjoy Tennis

Covid had a huge impact on Enjoy Tennis, with a huge amount of services shutting down or going online, and slow to return after lockdowns, so Enjoy Tennis had to amend its approach. Last year, I spoke about how we went online, offering coaching online for players, which was a massive success and allowed players to continue 'playing' in some form, while we also offered upskill sessions online for coaches (Intellectual Disability, Blind/VI, wheelchair), but luckily we managed to get back on court during the year and start some exciting new programmes.

Blind/VI tennis made a very welcome to Cork, with JoAnne and Kerry Williamson as coaches, Ballinlough as the host club and an initial group of 4 players. We ran an initial 4 week pilot, with a break of a couple of weeks to re-assess, and the group is going from strength to strength with up to 8 players weekly and a host of volunteers on hand to help out. They are due to travel to Shankill for a Blind/VI tennis event on 10<sup>th</sup> April which will give them an opportunity to meet other players and hopefully watch and play some tennis. Blind/VI has started in Killaloe aswell, with Wes O'Brien coaching a senior and junior group in a local hall, with the plan to move to the club when then indoor courts are in action. Some of these players are due to travel to Shankill for the experience aswell.

Crosshaven have a very successful group running for children with autism, run by Siobhan Murray and a huge amount of volunteers. They ran an Inclusion Day and invited Micheal Martin to come and see the players in action and present their certificates of participation. A great day was had by all, and the group continues to enjoy their tennis with Siobhan.

Enjoy Tennis joined forces with IWA (Irish Wheelchair Association) to run a 'Come and Try' event in Lower Aghada in June last year, with 3 junior players attending and having a fantastic day with coaches Sinead Dunne and Paul Fitzgerald. The plan had been to start a coaching programme after the summer, but Covid had an impact again, with wheelchair sports very slow to get running again. I have just started discussions with IWA again, and we are working on a slightly different plan to try to get things up and running... watch this space, hopefully we will have more to report by September/October 2022.

Other groups have been starting up around Cork Tipperary and Waterford, massive thanks to the coaches and volunteers involved, and clubs for giving use of courts. If any clubs are interested in getting involved in the programme, please get in touch and we can have a chat and see how we can get something started.

Liz Clifford

Munster Tennis and Enjoy Tennis Development Officer

087 7581214

[Liz.rdo@tennisireland.ie](mailto:Liz.rdo@tennisireland.ie)

**Tennis Ireland 10 requirements- safeguarding**

1. Risk Assessment & Safeguarding Statement
2. Club Constitution amended to reflect Child Protection
3. Children's Officers
4. Designated Liaison Person
5. Club Committee and Monthly Agenda
6. Safeguarding Training
7. Recruitment
8. Codes of Behaviour
9. Complaints
10. Supervision

## SENIOR SELECTORS INTER PROVINCIAL REPORT

Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 Pandemic no Inter Provincial Championships were held in 2021. However during that difficult time I would like to thank my team for trying their hardest to make the competition happen.

Thankfully this year it looks like the Championships will happen and I look forward to the resumption of the Interprovincial Competition.

Clifford Carroll

Convenor Senior Selector





## SENIORS SUB-COMMITTEE OF MUNSTER BRANCH 2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Munster Branch Seniors Committee would like to thank all the players and organisers who organised and supported all the various Seniors events in 2021. Seniors Tournaments started again in July after covid-19 restrictions had eased. Tournaments continue to be very well supported and we thank everyone in the Munster Branch and Council Members and all the various clubs and players who continue to support Seniors Tennis and thereby making it such a vibrant and growing section of Tennis in Ireland.

2021 saw the start of the new format for Interprovincial Championships with three events taking place. Munster Branch were delighted to host two of the Interprovincial Championships in 2021. The Young Seniors Interprovincial Championships played the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November at St. Annes Waterford Tennis Club and Tramore Tennis Club. This was the first year of the new format of Young Seniors with events taking place this year starting at 30 – 45, which Munster I am delighted to say came out the Winners and we thank St. Annes Tennis Club and Tramore Tennis club for their support in kindly hosting the event.

The Seniors Interprovincial Championships were also played 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November at Catholic Institute Athletic Club Limerick and again in the new format for the 50 to 60 age groups and we thank Catholic Institute Athletic Club for their support in kindly hosting the event which was their first Interprovincial Championships at the Club.

Both events were played in glorious weather for November and it was especially rewarding to have both events played after not been held due to Covid-19 in 2020.

The Irish National Close Seniors and Super Seniors championships were held at Rushbrooke 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> September with the Irish National Close Young Seniors Championships held at Sunday's Well 15<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> October. Both events were organised by the Munster Branch and a thank you to all who took part and also a thank you to Rushbrooke and Sunday's Well for hosting these events and to all who organised both events. Both events were well supported with players from all 4 provinces playing which were both fantastic Championships.

No Irish Teams travelled internationally in 2021 and we look forward to 2022 when teams can travel internationally again.

I would like to thank Committee Members throughout the year our Munster Branch President Robert Cummins, Karen Higgins, Dick McCarthy, Mary Power and Ron O'Mahoney.

Also a thank you to all of our Munster representatives on the National Seniors Committee during 2021 Robert Cummins, Karen Higgins, Marcella Kelly and to Shane Cooke former Tennis Ireland President who Chaired the Committee during 2021.

Finally, I would like to thank the Munster Tennis Administrator Triona Buckley for all her assistance with Seniors Tennis throughout 2021.

We look forward to 2022 when a full Calendar of Events and Tournaments can be held again.

Marcella Kelly

Joint Convenor

Seniors Sub Committee



# MUNSTER BRANCH TENNIS IRELAND DRAFT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 31.12.21

MUNSTER TENNIS 31  
December 2021 Income  
Statement

	FS 31.12.2021 Balance	FS 31.12.2020 Balance	FS 31.12.2019 Balance	FS 31.12.2018 Balance
Club Affiliation Fees	-	-	-	-
Player Capitation Fees	35,559.00	36,605.00	33,287.00	32,194.00
Tournament Permit Fees	-	-	-	-
National Training Centre Fees	-	-	-	-
Tournament Income	37,320.00	18,031.00	57,105.00	45,889.00
Sponsorship	1,700.00	2,850.00	4,550.00	24,424.00
Tournament Capitation Fees	6,513.00	1,682.00	6,695.00	9,570.00
Development Income	-	-	-	-
Coaching Income	30,300.00	75,453.00	108,532.00	117,382.00
Court Hire	-	-	-	-
Garda Vetting	-	-	-	-
Sport Ireland Grant	-	-	-	-
Sport Northern Ireland Grant	-	-	-	-
Other Grant Income	-	14,620.00	-	-
Enjoy Tennis Turnover	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Turnover</b>	<b>111,392.00</b>	<b>149,241.00</b>	<b>210,169.00</b>	<b>229,459.00</b>
Insurance Claims Receivable	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Other Operating Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Directors PRSI	-	-	-	-
Directors Salaries	-	-	-	-
Directors Pension Costs	-	-	-	-
Salaries and other Payments	35,698.00	29,508.00	50,982.00	26,743.00
Staff PRSI	3,945.00	4,181.00	4,225.00	-
ER Pension Costs	-	-	-	-
Workshops/Committees	-	-	-	-
Travel and Subsistence	2,792.00	957.00	3,926.00	-
Board Costs	-	-	-	-
Printing, Postage and Stationery	115.00	336.00	1,919.00	3,087.00
Telephone	810.00	807.00	1,393.00	725.00
Legal Fees	-	-	-	-
Audit and Accountancy	293.00	299.00	261.00	-
HR Fees	-	-	-	-
Professional Fees	34,413.00	7,876.00	9,871.00	22,125.00
Bank Interest and Charges	1,272.00	1,385.00	1,920.00	456.00
Bad Debts	3,680.00	-	4,292.00	-
Sundry Expenses	16.00	-	11,273.00	-
Rent and Rates	-	-	-	14,145.00
Insurances	-	-	640.00	-
Computer Costs	1,943.00	3,847.00	10,731.00	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	678.00
Amortisation	-	-	-	-
Affiliation Fees	-	-	-	-
Board Expenses	-	2,753.00	4,789.00	3,199.00
Match Costs	47,891.00	2,100.00	50,234.00	48,313.00
Marketing and Promotional Costs	951.00	-	369.00	-
Development Costs	29,921.00	87,380.00	115,265.00	122,598.00
Performance Costs	-	-	-	-
Parks Tennis	-	-	-	-
Repairs and Maintenance	1,318.00	298.00	7,581.00	-
Tournament Software Costs	81.00	-	108.00	-
Enjoy Tennis Expenses	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Administration Expenses</b>	<b>165,139.00</b>	<b>141,727.00</b>	<b>279,779.00</b>	<b>242,069.00</b>
<b>Net Profit/(loss) for the year</b>	<b>53,747.00</b>	<b>7,514.00</b>	<b>69,610.00</b>	<b>12,610.00</b>



**MUNSTER TENNIS**  
**31 December 2021**  
**Balance Sheet**

	FS 31.12.2021 Balance	FS 31.12.2020 Balance	FS 31.12.2019 Balance	FS 31.12.2018 Balance
National Indoor Training Centre Cost	-	-	-	-
National Indoor Training Center Acc dep	-	-	-	-
Equipment, fixtures & Fittings Cost	16,105.00	15,205.00	15,205.00	15,205.00
Equipment, fixtures & Fittings acc dep	15,205.00	15,205.00	15,205.00	15,205.00
Listed Investments	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Noncurrent Assests</b>	<b>900.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Stocks	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
Trade Debtors	405.00	4,239.00	1,515.00	4,292.00
Other Debtors	4,770.00	6,609.00	6,609.00	-
Prepayments and Accrued Income	1,889.00	22.00	-	-
Cash	14,674.00	28,656.00	43,631.00	112,362.00
Interbranch Funds	2,370.00	14,564.00	38,237.00	35,021.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>19,718.00</b>	<b>25,312.00</b>	<b>13,868.00</b>	<b>81,983.00</b>
Government Grants Received	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Noncurrent Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Profit and Loss Account	33,371.00	12,373.00	81,983.00	94,593.00
Net Income/loss for the year	53,745.00	7,514.00	69,610.00	12,610.00
FX Reserve	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>20,374.00</b>	<b>19,887.00</b>	<b>12,373.00</b>	<b>81,983.00</b>



### *Commercial Activities*

*2021/2022 has been a very difficult year for normal commercial activities in Tennis.*

*(Summary only)*

In general the focus was very much the promotion of Tennis and the consolidation of the brand again in 2021. This is essential. We have to continue to get the word out to people outside our sport and to broaden our horizons.

Other than that the main focus was to keep in touch with our commercial partners during lockdowns etc with a strong plan to reengage and hit the ground running for the new tennis year after the AGM. The foundations are there and thanks must be extended to **Kevin Mullen** our Commercial Manager who has kept things ticking over where possible during incredibly challenging and unique circumstances.

We also had to put a lot of effort into getting the best value for the various services required to run many of the National events Munster Tennis ran in 2021 in what was very challenging times. This included acquiring the usual Munster Kit for all our Inter-Provincial teams including the Winning Young Seniors Team.

In early 2022 we reengaged with Fota Island Resort and they are committed to continue to work with us going forward and we would like to extend our sincere thanks for all their support.

Munster Tennis have continued to make use of the Tennis Courts at the **FOTA Island Resort** and several new initiatives will be launched in Summer 2022 in relation to the partnership with the Fota Collection.

We are actively looking at commercial partners for all our main competitions in 2022 and indeed all our Inter-Provincial Teams. If anyone is involved in a company or knows one that might be interested in a commercial opportunity in supporting Munster Tennis please don't hesitate to contact us

Onwards and Upwards.

## **Infrastructure & Development 2021/2022**

### **(Summary only)**

Even with the Covid Pandemic affecting much of last year there has still been work again ongoing in the background on strategic development notwithstanding the again delayed timelines.

The main news is that the **Strategic Thurles Project** to provide North Munster with a state of the art indoor Clay Tennis facility is another step further towards development.

**Tipperary Co Co** together with the support of **TUS (Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest)** and **Tennis Ireland** which was awarded grant funding under the **Government's Strategic Sports Infrastructure Fund** for funding to cover the Consultants fees up to and including Tender Action has now had the consultants appointed. This has now advanced to where there is design progress. It is likely that a planning application for the development will be made during the summer and the tenders will be sent out in early Autumn.

The above will then be followed up by an application later on for the Capital expenditure to construct the project. (Stream 2), Once approved for Phase 1 Tender Action (and once you complete it) you are almost guaranteed to received the Capital funding under Phase 2 provided you follow the correct steps. TUS & Tipperary Co. Co. have a good track record in this area. Munster Branch's continued support of this project is essential to ensure we have a World Class facility in the Province. It will also be the future home of Thurles Tennis Club.

**Tennis Ireland** put a lot of work in behind the scenes to help clubs with applications for **Sports Capital Funding** again early last year and Munster Tennis have supported TI in this regard. Munster Clubs have been quite successful and Tennis was again the 4th most successful sport in obtaining grant funding in early 2022 after GAA, Soccer and Rugby.

There are other opportunities then been looked at in Cork region in relation developing more courts and indoor facilities that the Branch would have input into that are not just clubs. We hope to continue to work with **MTU (Munster Technical University)** to hopefully progress a similar project for that campus. The Branch have been working closely with Cork City Council on a couple of initiatives and now with the Covid pandemic restrictions reduced and a full year ahead of us we hope to be able to make announcements over the next few months.

As a Branch/Organisation we need to continue to put pressure on the relevant stakeholders and to develop a strategic long term plan to develop tennis infrastructure throughout the province and to have continued contact with local Authorities etc.

There are indoor Courts under construction that will come on stream in the Province by the end of the year and there are others that are in planning so the future is looking brighter.

**Munster Branch** are always looking to encourage more Munster Clubs to develop **indoor facilities** or at least plan for them.