



Annual Report
2023



Leadóige na Mumhan 2023 -2024



AGM 2024

&

Selected Annual Reports





ABOUT MUNSTER TENNIS

Leadóg na Mumhan

Munster Tennis is the administrative body for tennis in the province of Munster which works in tandem with Tennis Ireland (the National Governing Body for all of the island of Ireland) for the betterment of tennis in the province. Leading Munster Tennis the Munster Branch Council which is elected annually by the members of the individual Clubs in Munster oversees all the activities and programmes under its remit. Operating under the council are several Branch Council sub-committees where much of the work is carried out. The Branch Council and sub-committees are also supported by dedicated staff and other volunteers. The focus of Munster Tennis is in tennis activities and driving competitions in the Province. e.g (*The Munster adult Senior Winter League is the largest Tennis League in Ireland and the largest independent Tennis League in Europe*). Munster Tennis also strives to support clubs to be better tennis clubs by giving advice and direction on relevant Tennis Matters. Furthermore Munster tennis helps to organise, select and coordinate the various Inter-Provincial Teams each year from Junior under 14 all the way up to the various Masters Level Teams. Munster Tennis strives to field the most competitive Munster Interprovincial Teams for to represent Munster in the Tennis Ireland Interprovincial Championships (which are held each year) while also supporting the Irish Tennis circuit including the Munster based events.

Munster Tennis nominates one representative Director to the Board of Tennis Ireland and also members to relevant National Committees. Munster Tennis is also fully committed to the National Inter-Branch Forum with representatives attending up to 6 meeting a year.

Is é Leadóg na Mumhan an chomhairle riarthach le haghaidh na leadóige i gCúige Mumhan a oibríonn in éineacht le Leadóg na hÉireann (an Bord Stiúrtha Náisiúnta d'oileán na hÉireann ar fad) chun feabhas a chuir ar leadóg i gcúige Mumhan. Déanann Comhairle Chraobhacha na Mumhan, a stiúránn Leadóg na Mumhan agus a thoghtar go bliantúil ag baill na gClubanna aonair i gCúige Mumhan iad, maoirseacht ar na gníomhaíochtaí agus na cláir ar fad faoina sainchúram. Tá roinnt fo-choistí de chuid na Comhairle Craobhacha ag feidhmiú faoin gcomhairle ina ndéantar cuid mór den obair. Chomh maith, faigheann Comhairle an Bhrainse agus na fochoistí tacaíocht ó fhoireann thiomanta agus oibríthe deonacha eile. Is é príomhchúram Leadóg na Mumhan ná gníomhaíochtaí leadóige agus comórtais a chuir chun cinn sa Chúige. e.g. (Is é Sraithchomórtas Sinsir Cúige Mumhan an Gheimhridh an tSraith Leadóige is mó in Éirinn agus an tSraith Leadóige neamhspleách is mó san Eoraip). Dréimeann Leadóg na Mumhan le tacú le clubanna a bheith ina gclubanna leadóige níos fearr trí chomhairle agus treoir a thabhairt dóibh ar Chúrsaí Leadóige ábhartha. Ina theannta sin cabhraíonn Leadóg na Mumhan le Foirne Idir-Chúige ar fad ón roinn Sóisear faoi 14 go dtí Foirne na ranna Máistreacht éagsúla a eagrú, a roghnú agus a chomhordú gach bliain. Dréimeann Leadóg na Mumhan leis na Foirne Idirchúige Mumhan is iomaíche a cuir chun páirce le n-imirt ar son Cúige Mumhan i gCraobhchomórtas Idirchúige Leadóg na hÉireann (a réachtáiltear gach bliain) agus tacaíocht á tabhairt do camchuart Leadóige na hÉireann na himeachtaí atá bunaithe i gCúige Mumhan san áireamh.

Ainmníonn Leadóg na Mumhan Stiúrthóir ionadaíoch amháin go Bhord Leadóg na hÉireann anuas ar bhall coiste do Choistí Náisiúnta ábhartha. Tá Leadóg na Mumhan go hiomlán i bhfabhar an Fóram Náisiúnta Idirbhrainse; freastalaíonn ionadaithe ar oiread agus 6 chruinniú in aghaidh na bliana.

Tennis Ireland – Munster Branch, t/a Munster Tennis

The Munster Tennis Hub - Recreational Building - Fota Island Resort - County Cork - T45 A596
087 706 1230 admin@munstertennis.ie www.MunsterTennis.ie



AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Apologies
3. Munster Tennis President's Address
4. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting
5. Matters Arising
6. Correspondence
7. Tennis Ireland Report
8. Finance Report
9. Munster Tennis: The Year in Numbers
10. Annual Reports from Sub Committee Convenors
 - *Senior Competitions*
 - *Junior Development & Activities (Under 18)*
 - *Masters Development (over 30+)*
 - *Directory*
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13. Performance Development Officer's Report
14. Regional Development Officer's Report
15. Tennis Ireland President's Address
16. Tennis Ireland CEO's Address
17. Election of Members to Munster Tennis Council 2023/2024
18. Notices of Motion received –



Fota Island Resort continue to be superb partners with us running events at The Tennis Hub.



MUNSTER TENNIS PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President of Munster Tennis Karen Higgins will address the meeting.



The Munster Tennis Hub at Fota Island Resort is the venue for many events & activities.



TENNIS IRELAND

REPORT



Focus of the Branch has to be on development of the Game from the ground up.



I am honoured to act as the representative Director for Munster on the Tennis Ireland Board. 2023 has been an exceptionally busy year for TI as our new CEO, Kevin Quinn, settles in, together with the new Board Structure adopted at the last TI AGM. Kevin and his team have worked extremely hard to develop the new TI Strategy, which has been accepted by the Board. This will allow the organisation to develop and expand in a structured way, embracing change and improving access and participation throughout. Preliminary presentations have already been made and this will be rolled out more widely in the coming months.

The Interbranch Forum, established 2 years ago is a fantastic development providing much needed dialogue between Branches. The IBF meets at least 4 times per year rotating between provinces. It is currently working on a number of initiatives. The recent Galway meeting heard from the working group tasked with harmonisation of Branch V National Responsibilities and Branch Rules & Regulations. This important work will provide clarity on the responsibilities of Branch Councils and National Body and will ensure all Branches operate under the same rules. The upcoming Belfast IBF will focus on Financial Challenges across the Branches. All Branches provide three representatives to each IBF where possible.

Changes at Board Level have included a rationalisation of both Board and National Committees. The TI Governance Committee, which includes a representative of each branch, reviewed all committees, their function and effectiveness, and made a number of recommendations to the Board, the majority of which have been accepted. This improves efficiency freeing the Board to concentrate on strategy and funding. Essential Board committees such as Governance, Audit & Risk, Finance, Remuneration and Nominations have been retained. The former committee structure is being replaced with Executive led pillar advisory groups (PAG) that align to the TI strategy. Each PAG will include a board member. Importantly, recent KOSI reviews have given TI a clean bill of health.

There are many challenges in the development of a Performance Tennis Programme. The increased number of ITF and TE events offer opportunity for our players to gain international points at home. From a Munster point of view work is proceeding on a better alignment between regional and national programmes. There is also focus on infrastructure development both in Munster and across Ireland to better develop our facilities. Work is also continuing on improved coach and tournament official training.

I would like to congratulate the TI team on the fantastic Davis Cup Event. This year will see the return of the Irish Open and I encourage as many of you as possible to support it.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the TI Board for their enthusiasm, expertise and dedication. Finally I would like to thank both Munster Branch and Munster Clubs for allowing me to represent you on the Board. We look forward to a vibrant 2024, there are exciting times ahead.

Your in Tennis

Áine Dunne

Munster Tennis Representative Director Board of Tennis Ireland.





Munster Tennis

Finance

Report





Finance Committee Report 2023

(Summary only)

Work continued once again this year to ensure good financial control and prudent financial planning within the Branch Council while ensuring that Competition and Tournaments continue to be at the forefront of all our endeavours. We would also like to thank Valerie Noonan who, as previous Treasurer for most of the year put a lot of time and effort into her role. All final accounts are compiled by Tennis Ireland Head Office staff.

The Finances of Munster Tennis have been very stable the past financial year, has been in line with forecasts and all resources possible have been reinvested into Competitions and Munster Teams at all levels.

Turnover was up substantially in 2023 over 2022 and overall, we came out slightly ahead of budget predictions. We very much appreciate the additional support given by our clubs in contributing to this situation. Again, quarter 1 of 2024 is showing continued strong revenues and this bodes well for the future.

It is also very important to note that Munster Tennis accounts are only a part of the overall Tennis Ireland Company accounts. We attach an overview of the Branch's financial position at end of year along with finalised figures for 2022. Please note that the 2023 position is presented as draft as these will not be approved until the TI AGM as part of the overall 2023 Tennis Ireland Company Accounts. (See also the end of this document)

Looking at all the revenues generated in Munster as a Branch we contribute 45% of all revenues for the entire country in respect of player capitation fees to Head Office (this is related to all open tournaments). Only approximately 15% of this revenue is reflected in the Munster Tennis accounts as the rest is reflected in Head Office accounts. Tournament income was up very strongly in 2023 in general.

The committee have again planned carefully for the coming year and have once again budgeted for a surplus in 2024. It is essential as a Branch Council we support more sporting activities that help drive revenues and of course support the seeking of further commercial support in every way we can to continue to grow our sport and grow larger surpluses into the future.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh

Branch Council Munster Tennis : Comhairle Leadóige na Mumhan



MUNSTER BRANCH P & L FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/2023

	YR ENDED 31/12/2023	Budget 31/12/2023	YR ENDED 31/12/2022
Capitation Fees	94,693	81,897	76,622
Tournament Income	66,306	57,755	49,876
Sponsorship	0	5,000	0
Tournament Capitation	13,187	11,773	12,176
Coaching Income	3,707	17,353	11,812
Court Hire			1,850
Total Income	177,893	173,778	152,336
Salaries	-36,701	-38,700	-35,950
PRSI	-4,025	-4,276	-3,945
Workshop/Committees	-8,083	-2,186	-1,020
Travel	-1,101	-6,240	-3,742
P P & S	-33	-275	-10
Phone	-812	-812	-812
Audit	-9,105	-8,904	-7,010
Prof fee	-19,942	-23,862	-17,945
Bank Charges	-1,316	-744	-826
Sundry	-33	-1,000	-5,174
Insurances	-3,407	-2,924	-2,764
Computer	-1,923	-1,355	-2,185
Match Costs	-69,536	-42,744	-52,344
Development Costs	-19,571	-37,505	-26,007
Repairs	-92		
Tournament Software	-297	-348	-203
Depreciation	-66	0	-900
Total Expenses	-176,043	-171,875	-160,837
Net Income/(Expenses)	1,850	1,904	-8,501
Cash At Bank 31/12/2023	6,936		
Cash At Bank 31/12/2022	1,446		



Munster Tennis:

The Year in Numbers





Munster: The Province in Tennis 2023.

(Note: For Reference the Population of Munster is 17.9% of the Island of Ireland -1.36 million)

No of Affiliated Clubs: 50

(27% of the total on the island of Ireland)

Club Affiliation Fees: €16,393

(12% increase over 2022) (The **full amount** went directly to Head Office)

(23% of the total received on the island of Ireland in 2023)

Tournament Income: €66,306

(32% increase over 2022)

(31% of the total received on the island of Ireland -Branches & Head Office combined in 2023)

Tournament Permit Fees: €12,306

(9% increase over 2022) (The **full amount** went directly to Head Office)

(30% of the total on the island of Ireland -Branches & Head Office combined in 2023)

Player Capitation: €189,386

(23.5% increase over 2022) (€94,693 or 50% of this total went directly to Head Office)

(24% of the total on the island of Ireland)

Tournament Capitation: €78,187

(8.5% increase over 2022) (circa. €65,000 of this total went directly to Head Office)

(45% of the total on the island of Ireland -Branches & Head Office combined in 2023)

Open Tournaments: 70

(9.5% increase over 2022)

(41% of total tournaments for Island of Ireland in 2023)

Tournament Entries 14,667

(12.5% increase over 2022)

(44% of total entries for Island of Ireland in 2023)



Per Capita Comparison:

Average Player Capitation received per capita Ulster, Connacht & Leinster **€0.58**

Average Player Capitation received per capita Munster **€0.70 (18% above average for rest of island of Ireland)**

Average Tournament Entries received per capita Ulster, Connacht & Leinster **0.003**

Average Tournament Entries received per capita Munster **0.10 (300% above average for rest of island of Ireland)****

Average no. of Affiliated Clubs per 100,000 people Ulster, Connacht & Leinster **2.2**

Average no. of Affiliated Clubs per 100,000 people Munster **3.67 (40% above average for rest of island of Ireland)**

Munster Tennis Leagues & Cups (Team Events) 2023

Munster Tennis Adult Winter League Teams : 513

(33.5% increase over 2022)

Background:

The Munster Tennis Winter League is the Largest Tennis League Competition in Ireland by a wide margin.

The Munster Tennis Winter League is also the Largest Independent Tennis League Competition in Europe.

Munster Tennis Adult Regional League Teams : 32

(Similar entries to 2022)

Munster Tennis Adult Summer Cup Teams : 163

(10.5% decrease over 2022)

Munster Tennis Junior Primary Schools Competition Teams: 48

(Similar entries to 2022)

Munster Tennis Junior Secondary Schools Competition Teams: 84

(46.5% increase over 2022)

Munster Junior Cup Teams: 40

(9% decrease over 2022)

Total number of Teams entered in Munster Tennis Team Competitions in 2023: 880



Senior Competitions

2023 -2024





The Munster Senior Competitions scene continues to go from strength to strength with large numbers of players playing in all the Open Tournaments within Munster and increased participation year on year in the leagues run by Munster Branch. Great credit needs to be given to all the clubs and their committees for running these open tournaments. There is a tournament somewhere in Munster almost every week from April to September and most of these opens are at capacity. This is testament to the strength of senior tennis participation in Munster.

Munster Branch continues to organise and run Winter Leagues, Summer Cups and other Regional Leagues and would like to sincerely thank all the Munster clubs who support these events. A special thank you to all those clubs who gave their facilities and time to hosting the finals throughout the year. Without you, we would not be able to continue to grow these leagues and your enthusiasm and generosity is never taken for granted. Our interim administrator, Maggie O Toole, does an enormous amount of work behind the scenes dealing with entries, draws and results as well as in the organising and running of finals days. Thank you, Maggie and thanks also to the Competitions Committee for their input.

We kicked off the year with finishing out Phase 1 of the Winter League and the finals were held in Sundays Well in January. Phase II of the Winter League kicked off shortly after and the finals were held in Catholic Institute in May. Catholic Institute were great hosts and some fabulous tennis was played over the two days.

We also held a fantastic Munster Connacht Winter League finals which is the first of its kind in Ireland. Nenagh kindly hosted this event on the 10th and 11th May with finals being played across all Grades over two days with great tennis on show from the two provinces.

The regional Leagues ran once again and we would like to thank Douglas LTC for hosting the Cork Regional League finals and to Limerick Lawn and Pamela Scott for hosting and running the Northwest Regional finals. The Southeast League was not run.

We then moved on to our Summer cups for all grades – 1 to 6. Once again these attracted a huge entry. The finals took place in Rushbrooke over two days with finals on both Saturday and Sunday. Again, Rushbrooke were great hosts and there were some nail biting matches on show.

No sooner were the Summer Cup finals finished when we moved into Phase 1 of the Winter leagues. There was again great support from the clubs. Thank you once again to St Annes for hosting the finals in February.

Phase II of the Winter leagues started in February 2024 and the finals will be held in Sundays Well on the 11th and 12th of May.

We really appreciate the time and effort all our host club committees put in to facilitate Munster Branch finals days.

The Senior Interprovincial Competition were hosted by Naas Lawn Tennis Club. It was a great weekend of tennis with Leinster and Munster sharing the title. Well done to the Munster team for representing their province and playing such great tennis to secure the draw.

A special mention has to be made for Paul O Callaghan who stepped down from the Branch this year. His enthusiasm and dedication will be missed particularly in the area of Competitions. He was a fixture at most of the Munster run finals days and embraced the role of Tournament referee with gusto. We would like to thank him for all he has given to the Branch over his tenure and we hope to see him again on court.

Déanfaimid ár ndícheall le cheile.

Committee: Pamela Scott, Yuan Yuan Lu Flannagan, Karen Higgins, Richie Sewell





Junior Development & Activities



1. Illustration: Rushbrooke U16 Sunshine Cup Winners 2023



2. Illustration: Tramore U12 Maher Cup Winners



(Summary only)

Busy Year:

The last year has been a very busy year when it came to Junior Activities. There were targets to grow the number of entries in Junior Competitions and to expand the number of junior competitions organised by Munster Tennis and that has been achieved with entries in some events up by up to 46% in comparison to 2022.

Munster Tennis 2023 Junior Cups

The first events in 2023 that were fully run in the current Branch term were the Munster Tennis 2023 Junior Cups. All fixtures and draws were online on the Munster Tennis Tournament Software page. We are also moving towards fully online entries only and this year was the first step toward that goal with this competition. Thanks very much to the large amount of work carried out by our Administration Manager Maggie O'Toole in upgrading this competition online for now and for future years.

Great to see so many teams from across the Province in this competition especially with teams from some very small clubs competing for the first time.

However there is plenty of scope to grow these competitions into the future as just under half of Munster Clubs have entered teams in recent years. That leaves 25+ clubs who don't enter. Better connections between the Branch and Club Junior representatives and coaches in future and having entries open for much longer and online will help to increase entries. Setting the Calendar dates for next year the year before will also help.

But the biggest change required to really take it to a new level is that the Branch have a dedicated Competitions manager in place who can help support the Clubs in supporting the competition going forward. A further help in longer term would be an increase in the number of Development Officers from 1 to 3 so there is one based on each region.

Munster Tennis Junior Leagues and Munster Tennis Junior Premier Leagues NEW!

After many many months of work and planning the **Munster Tennis Junior Leagues** and **Munster Tennis Junior Premier Leagues** were launched in January 2024 and published on Tournament Software. The focus is on Doubles and Mixed and takes ability into account not just by age. The events are regionalised where possible also to reduce travel times. Green Ball events are included for players who have not transitioned to normal balls. The target is to have an increase the numbers playing competitions and grow the sport in the province.



The main point with the initiative of new Junior Leagues is that we start to put in place competitions just like we do for Adults currently. We have a long term plan to have 500 Junior Teams in a calendar year in 5 years. (In 2023 we reached over 500 adult teams). We are delighted with the entries for the first incarnation of the Competition and the spread of the entries in terms of clubs and regions. As it is the first running of the event we will be taking feedback and learnings for next year. There have been many calls for more tournaments and we are constantly being told in recent years that Munster Tennis doesn't do enough for Juniors. With additional competitions we give people choice. They will enter the events that suit them best just like adults get to do.

Munster Tennis PRIMARY & SECONDARY Schools Tennis Championships 2024 .

We had a record entry for the competitions especially at Secondary School level. This was facilitated by some strategic changes to the rules and timing of the event.

These changes have been made to encourage more entries and expand the competition further. The main highlights are as follows:

1. Schools may amalgamate to enter teams where necessary. However there must be at least 2 players from one School and this School will be deemed the home venue. All Schools must agree to this amalgamation. This is allowed to encourage more schools to enter, to allow mixed teams from and expand the reach of the Event. It has also been introduced to allow all boys and all girls schools to enter mixed teams.

Note: It is important to understand that while this rule is there to facilitate smaller schools who haven't enough players to participate and it has also been introduced to allow all boys and all girls schools to enter mixed teams. It is not intended that large schools would "load teams" with the best players from 2 schools etc. It is only to be used if a school has no other players available.

2. Competitions are adjusted to reduce the number of courts required for a tie from 3 to 2 for some events and thus the boys and girls events will be doubles only. The Mixed competitions will still retain singles to ensure there is still plenty of choice for players and these events will still require 3 courts.

3. The Primary Schools Competition has an additional "GREEN BALL" event to cater for Children who are not as experienced who have not transitioned to yellow ball and will get more enjoyment from this event.

4. The events started earlier this year and will finish in the first half of May following feedback received in recent years.

Convenor: Robert M Cummins (RC)

Committee: Ron O'Mahony (ROM) Helena O'Brien (HOB)



3. Illustration: *Nenagh Green U12 Plate Winners 2023*



4. Illustration: Whitechurch U14 Cup Winners 2023



5. Illustration: Sundays Well U14 Plate Winners 2023



Masters Development & Activities

Munster's ITF World Tennis Masters Players

30, 35, 40, 45, 50 World Team Championships 2023

Ali Bey Club, Manavgat, Turkiye

<p>Anne Marie Darcy Ireland - Ladies 30</p>   	<p>Tara Higgins Ireland - Ladies 30</p>   	<p>Lena O'Connor Ireland - Ladies 35</p>   	<p>Deirdre Swinburne Ireland - Ladies 45</p>   	<p>Yuan Yuan Lu Flanagan Ireland - Ladies 45</p>   
<p>Deirdre McSherry Ireland - Ladies 30</p>   	<p>Karen Higgins Ireland - Ladies 50</p>   	<p>Toni O'Keeffe Ireland - Ladies 30</p>   	<p>Paul Fitzgerald Ireland - Mens 30</p>   	<p>Frank O'Keeffe Ireland - Mens 40</p>   
<p>Mike Warren Ireland - Mens 40</p>   	<p>Aidan McNamara Ireland - Mens 45</p>   	<p>John Ahern Ireland - Mens 45</p>   	<p>John Reidy Ireland - Mens 45</p>   	<p>Robert Cummins Ireland - Mens 50</p>   



Munster Branch Masters Committee would like to thank all the Players and Tournament Directors who organised and supported all the various Masters Events in 2023. Tournaments continued to be very well supported and we thank everyone in the Munster Branch all the various clubs and players who continue to support Masters Tennis making it such a vibrant and popular section of Tennis in Ireland.

The Irish National Close ITF 200 Masters (30 to 50) and the Masters (55 to 80) were held at St Annes' and Sundays Well respectively over two weekends in August and September. Both events were organised by the Munster Branch and a thank you to all who took part. A huge thank you goes to St Annes in Waterford for hosting the first event where despite some extremely challenging storm conditions, the event was very well supported and completed in the allocated weekend. Also, a big thank you to Sundays Well for hosting the second event which again was well supported. Facilities at both clubs were excellent. Munster Branch were very proud to be the first Branch in the Country to host a Masters ITF in Ireland. Thanks to the success of this event, both other Masters Nationals in Ulster and Leinster have been granted ITF 200 status for 2024. I would like to thank the team who planned and ran the National Closed especially with the more rigorous rules around the ITF designation. Both events were very well supported with Players from all 4 provinces and abroad playing in what were both fantastic Championships.

Irish Teams travelled once again travelled internationally in 2023 and Munster was very well represented in all age Groups both at the World Championships and the 4 Nations.

I would like to thank the Committee Members throughout the year for their hard work and diligence: Pamela Scott, Yuan Yuan Lu Flanagan, Valerie Noonan, Shane Cooke and Dick McCarthy. Also, a thank you to our Munster representatives on the National Masters Committee during 2023: Karen Higgins and Dick McCarthy.

Finally, I would like to thank the Munster Tennis Interim Administrator Maggie O Tooley for all her assistance with Masters Tennis throughout 2023.

We look forward to 2024 with increased Masters Events and Tournaments on the Calendar.

Karen Higgins
Convenor
Masters Sub Committee

Committee: Dick McCarthy, Shane Cooke, Pamela Scott, Yuan Yuan Lu Flannagan, Valerie Noonan





Directory Report

2023





A Chairde,

I would once again like to thank the subcommittee for giving of their time and expertise throughout the year particularly Richie Sewell who was Convenor for most of the year. I would also like to thank the other Sub Committee members, namely Dick McCarthy, Ron O Mahony and Mary Power. A special thanks to Maggie for all her assistance in the background to this Committee.

Updating the directory remains a manual exercise and it is thanks to Maggie O'Toole, our Interim Administrator that all new additions and changes are kept up to date. The on line Grading form has been in place now for almost a year and has streamlined the process to add new players to the Directory. In 2024, we will be embarking on a project to examine all available IT solutions to move away from manual maintenance of this Directory. We would welcome any assistance from members with an IT background to assist us in this endeavour.

We continue to review the advice document and any updates will be circulated to all Clubs. The most recent update was in respect of Winter League format and points.

Munster Tennis will continue to operate our Player's Directory until the WTN Rating system gets a proper run through and we are confident that it is a true and accurate reflection of players abilities. Please continue to refer to our Directory with regard to grading of players for your open weeks.

Attached are some statistics which you may find interesting.

Karen Higgins
Interim Convenor
Directory Committee

Committee: Ron O'Mahony (ROM) Dick McCarthy (DC) Richie Sewell (RS)

Year Review and Analysis

Yearly Grade/Gender Trend

	Dec - 20		Dec-21		Dec-22		Dec-23	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Premier	31	0.49%	31	0.49%	31	0.42%	31	0.37%
Grade 1	162	2.55%	150	2.55%	172	2.32%	185	2.22%
Grade 2	467	7.34%	503	7.34%	592	7.98%	638	7.64%
Grade 3	823	12.94%	836	12.94%	998	13.46%	1048	12.56%
Grade 4	1201	18.89%	1269	18.89%	1442	19.45%	1517	18.17%
Grade 5	1603	25.21%	1674	25.21%	1966	26.52%	2082	24.94%
Grade 6	2058	32.37%	2222	32.37%	2202	29.70%	2826	33.86%
No Grade	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	0.15%	10	0.12%
Total	6358		6705		7413		8347	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	51.74%	48.25%	51.26%	48.74%	51.54%	48.46%	50.94%	49.06%
	0.49%	-0.50%	-0.48%	0.49%	0.28%	-0.28%	-0.6%	0.6%



Infrastructure Development Report



(Summary only)

There has been continued work ongoing in the background on strategic development in the province notwithstanding somewhat delayed timelines mainly related to the Pandemic.. and the War in Ukraine.

The most important news is that the **Strategic Thurles Project** to provide North Munster/South Midlands 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)**, **Thurles Tennis Club Ltd** and **Tennis Ireland/Munster Tennis** which were awarded additional grant funding under the **Government's Strategic Sports Infrastructure Fund** for funding to cover the Consultants fees up to and including Tender Action. This has now advanced to where the design progress is completed. A planning application for the development was submitted in Summer 2023 and planning was granted in Autumn 2023. An Munster Tennis as agreed by the Branch Council in 2018 will be contributing to this project financially to secure usage rights.

The above will then be followed up by an application for capital funding to build the facility will be made once the new round of the Large Sports Infrastructure Programme is announced shortly. (Stream 2), **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**.

There was also further great news in 2023 with the announcement that **University of Limerick** are also planning a similar 6 court indoor claycourt facility for their campus in Limerick. Tennis Ireland through our CEO Kevin Quinn have been working closely with them and draft plans have been presented and it looks fantastic. UL showed this year that they can host a top level Tennis event with the fantastic David Cup home tie. It shows what can be done..

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. Tennis Ireland have reignited the contact 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 there are newly refurbished courts in Meelick Park in Cork City and now available for use. We hope to be able to finally make announcements over the next few months in relation to Cork City.



As a Branch/Organisation and in conjunction with Tennis Ireland 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 is so much potential. If province was in the Netherlands based on population we would have 100 courts in Munster.

New Indoor Courts on Stream:

There are 2 new high grade indoor Courts nearing completion that will opened this month in Killaloe, Co. Clare 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** together with space for viewing and install slower Artificial or Clay courts where possible or at least plan for them within their masterplan.

New or resurfaced Courts:

Our strong recommendation is that any new courts that are installed should be slow and rated by the ITF at 1 or 2. One of the reasons Ireland has not progressed internationally as we should over the last couple of decades and the speed of our courts is a distinct disadvantage. We need to remember that according to the ITF 87.9% of all players who reached the ATP top 10 learned to play tennis on clay courts.

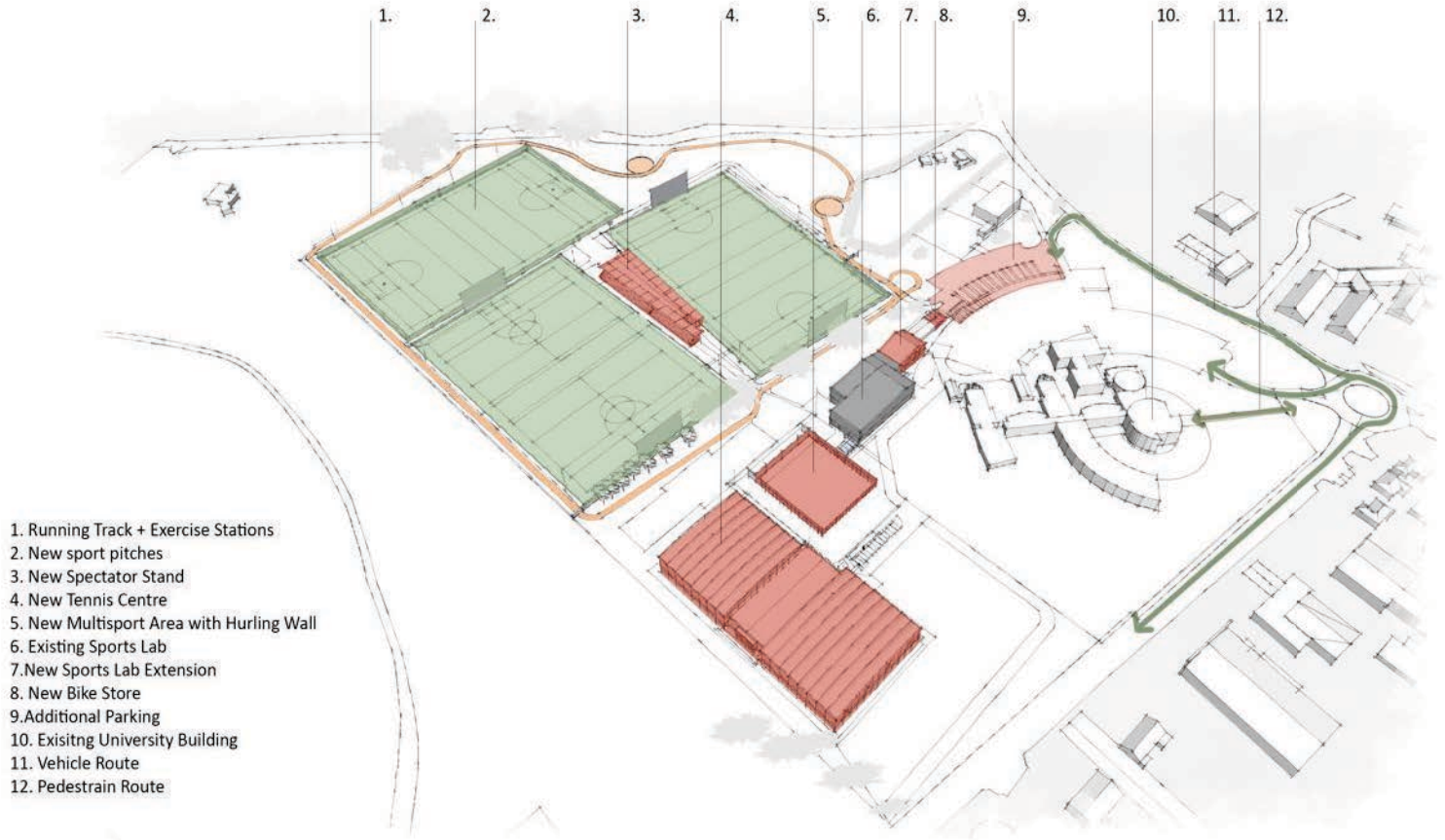
Robert M. Cummins (Convenor)

Committee: Clifford Carroll, Shane Cook.

1. 8 no. 20m high Floodlights surrounding pitch
2. 1.2m high spectator fence surrounding perimeter of pitch
3. 30m Wide x 15m High Ball Stop Fence
3. 3m High Sports Meash Privacy fence
5. Sand Carpet Pitch
6. Excercise Stations
7. 21m Wide x 15m High Ball Stop Fence
8. 4G Pitch
9. Spectator Stand
10. Sand Carpet Pitch
11. Running Track Lenth -
12. Access Gate
13. Secure 2.4m High Boundary Fence

14. Main access to spectator stand
15. Tennis Courts (Subject of a separate application)
16. Tennis Centre
17. Multi Sports Area
with Astro Pitch & Training Wall
18. Existing Sports Lab
19. add pink Proposed Sports Lab
20. Bike Store, ESB, and Grounds Keepers.
21. Additional Parking
22. Enterprise centre
23. Existing parking
24. Secure Bike parking
25. Existing TUS Building





BIRDS EYE VIEW OF SITE
NOT TO SCALE, SHOWING KEY AREAS



SPORTS CAMPUS
3D IMAGES

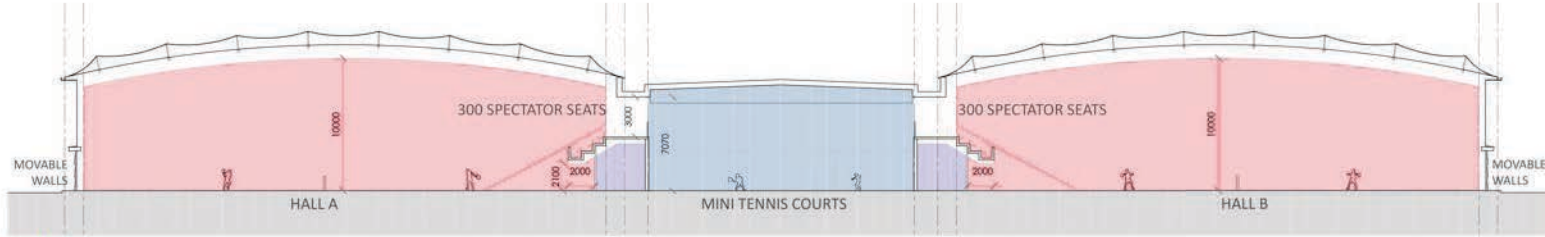




3D VIEW
VIEW FROM MAIN CAMPUS



BIRDSEYE VIEW
LOOKING NORTH WEST



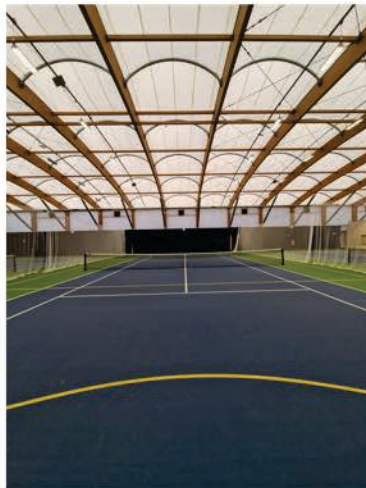
SECTION
TYPICAL CROSS SECTION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



PRECEDENT IMAGE
SIMILAR ROOF COVERING SYSTEM



3D VIEW
VIEW FROM NENAGH ROAD



Performance Development Officer's Report





It has been a busy time for Irish performance tennis over the last 12 months. From pro to junior tennis we have witnessed many great achievements, new projects and programmes. Below is a brief summary of the last year:

National Performance Development Programme – Last September saw the commencement of the NPDP, which brings together Irelands top junior players. The players train on a weekly basis in the national tennis centre. The programme itself is highly individualised with a major focus on the physical development of the players. The physical programme is led by world leading S&C trainer Matt Little. Matt has been the physical trainer of Andy Murray for the last 15 years, as well as the GB Davis Cup team for the last 13 years. Matts international experience at the highest level of the sport has been an invaluable asset to the programme to date.

The programme is led by the Tennis Ireland performance coaching team with support from top level national and international hitting partners. Players have also had access to an anti-doping workshop as well as tours to Liverpool and Glasgow. Plans, including nutrition and sports psychology sessions will be implemented in the coming months to further support the players. Patrick Breen is Munsters representative in this programme at the moment.

National Camps – The National Camps run in conjunction with the NPDP, where the top under 10, 11, 12 and 14 players come together on a monthly basis to train in the national tennis centre. The goal of the national camps is to get our strongest national players training together in a team environment in collaboration with their existing programmes and individual coaches. The camps consist of physical testing, tactical training and match play and are led by the national performance coaching team. There have been many Munster players involved in the camps in 2024 and many more that will be involved in the coming weeks. These players are: Zoe Hanrahan, Aoibhinn Ryan, Ethan O Driscoll, Hannah Foley, Maria Frawley, Aidan Garcia Seeber and Alex Halley.

TI Junior Kids – TI Junior Kids aim is to develop more players from grassroots with good fundamentals by creating coach education support and to develop smart competitors by having appropriate competition for all.

The TI Junior Kids programme provides a framework both for competitions, through our regional and national tours, and coach education, through our online content and coaches workshops.



The TI Junior Kids Tour is split between the regional and national tour. The regional tour is designed to provide kids with their first experience of tournament tennis in a fun and friendly environment. There are multiple regional tour events in each province every month. In 2024, up until the end of April, we will have had 16 events in Munster, with over 200 players competing. Massive thanks must go to the clubs, Ballinlough, Bishopstown, Carrigaline, Larkspur, Monkstown, Mitchelstown, Nenagh and Sundays Well, who have hosted these events to date. We are always looking for more clubs to get involved. If you are interested please contact the incoming Munster performance director.

In early April we hosted our latest national tour events in the national tennis centre in Dublin. The week consisted of orange and green ball events as well as a red ball open day. Well done to all players for partaking which included a healthy amount of Munster players as well. International Competition and Representation – Working closely with the competitions team, we have made a big effort in the past 12 months to bring as many international competitions to Ireland as possible. We have had 8 tennis Europe events in the last 14 months between the under 14 and under 12 groups, as well as that we have 8 ITF events in that time. That has given Irish players a platform to perform and gain world ranking points on home soil.

One of the juniors that has availed of those opportunities is **Munster's Patrick Breen**. Patrick has collected 9 singles and doubles titles on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour with his standout result coming in the Super Category event in Stockholm in February, where he lifted the doubles title, following in the footsteps of Jack Draper, Alexei Popyrin, Mirra Andreeva and the Fruhvirtova sisters amongst others. Patrick's ranking high of number 15 in Europe is the highest ranking of any Irish junior player ever and we are excited to see what the rest of the year and future holds for Patrick.

Along with the international events we also have had Munster representation on Irish international teams in the last 12 months. This has come in the form of **Sinead Lohan** at the Billie Jean King Cup and **Patrick Breen** at Four Nations. With a busy summer ahead I hope to see more Munster players representing Ireland in the months to come.

Davis Cup – In February of this year Davis Cup returned to Munster for the first time in 25 years. The tie versus Austria was held in UL Sport Arena. The Austrians turned up with a star studded team led by former US Open champion Dominic Thiem, which ultimately proved too strong for us over the weekend. However, the level of performance from the Irish team was extremely encouraging and that form has continued after the event with Michael Agwi improving his ranking by almost 400 places in the space of 2 months. Our next tie will be away to Tunisia in September.



Finally, I apologise for my absence tonight but the AGM this year clashed with one of the biggest Tennis Europe events of the year here in Maia, Portugal. This will be my last AGM as Munster Performance Director as I move into the national role. It has been a fantastic couple of years for Munster Tennis with our best ever run at interprovincial level as well as producing players that compete on the international stage but most importantly creating a competitive structure for our next generation to prosper through our TI Junior Kids programme. I must thank the Munster performance coaching team who made all of this possible. I'd also like to thank all those who have supported me in the role from players to parents to clubs. I look forward to working with you all again at a national level and hope to see many Munster players compete at national and international level in the future.

Yours in Tennis

Cian Blake,

Munster Performance Development Officer

Interim National Performance Coordinator

performance@tennisireland.ie



1. Illustration: TI Junior Kids Programme National Tennis Center



2. Illustration: TI Junior Kids Programme National Tennis Center





3. Illustration: Patrick Breen Victorious in Stockholm





Regional Development Officer's Report



As always, It is important I have the best club contact email address to ensure I can get information to you, so please let me know if there is a change of personnel at any stage, especially following AGMs. I have a club email list that I send on any grant/fundings I come across, safeguarding information and training dates, details of upcoming workshops etc. you will not be inundated with emails, so I would really appreciate if you could ensure I have the most up to date email address to contact your club.

Club visits/engagement

Once again, I'd like to express my gratitude to the Branch, Triona, Maggie, Cian, and Kevin for their continued support over the past year. They were consistently available, whether on the phone or in person, whenever required.

More importantly, I want to thank you, the clubs, for your ongoing engagement and active participation in the initiatives introduced by the Development Team throughout the year. Your collaboration and level of support for our workshops and presentations has been invaluable, and I hope you feel you have benefited from getting involved.

Over the last year, I have managed a visit in person to 17 clubs and 2 non-affiliated clubs on topics such as Safeguarding, schools tennis, junior development, Clubmark and Enjoy Tennis among others. I had a further 11 online meetings with individual clubs, while the Development Team hosted several online workshops. Munster clubs showed great support in attending our workshops and webinars on safeguarding, infrastructures, sustainability, Sports Capital grant and Club Competition Organiser training. Hopefully these different workshops have provided support, ideas and solutions to clubs in your overall development. Recordings of webinars are available through the Tennis Ireland website, and are a great resource for clubs who didn't get to attend workshops on the night, or as a reference to look back on after.

I delivered one Leader Course to 13 participants in Nenagh. The Leaders Course is an on-court training designed to give volunteers support and ideas to run internal social events, matchplay or fun days for juniors within their club. The 13 participants (7 adults and 6 over 16s) got fully involved on the day and experienced playing with red, orange and green balls and courts, being introduced to timed round robins and some games to run with the juniors. Thanks to Nenagh for their hospitality and inviting me to run the session. These trainings are available to all clubs interested in getting some junior activity running in their clubs, outside of the coaching, and facilitated by vetted and safeguarding trained volunteers. If anyone is interested in setting up a Leaders course or run through a Competition Organiser training, please don't hesitate to get involved.

Inter-club Forum

A new initiative piloted by the Tennis Ireland Development Team earlier this year was the Inter-club Forum. This came about as an innovative way for Irish tennis clubs to establish connections, share insights and learn from best practice. The idea for the inter-club forum arose during the development phase of the strategic plan in 2022. Representatives from a number of tennis clubs from around the country were invited to meetings to discuss a variety of topics and all of the participants found value in the sharing of insights and local practices. One of the participants in a session suggested the idea of the Inter-club Forum to Tennis Ireland.

It took some time to come up with the format and how it would develop, but on 28th February we hosted the pilot session, with selected clubs from across the island invited to take part. The topic

was 'Infrastructure', specifically court surfaces. 2 Munster clubs, Carrigaline and Ennis, were approached to attend and gave a brief outline on their current club set-up, court surfaces, if they had plans for court development and explaining any issues they may be currently having with their surface. There was a common theme coming through all the discussions, that clubs were having issues with moss/dirt on the surfaces and maintenance, so clubs were sent into breakout rooms, giving an opportunity to get into detail on their efforts to work around the issues. Once finished in the breakout room, they fed back to all their comments and the next step was for the Development Team to get as much information as possible for clubs on the maintenance, how to manage moss/dirt issues etc and get all the resources out to clubs in the hopes that it will help maintenance of courts going forward. If anyone didn't get the follow-up resources from me, please let me know and I can pass on immediately.

Due to the success of the pilot, we have agreed to continue to Interclub Forum in the same format, with the next topic of Junior Programmes discussed on 10th April, with further topics to come. Due to the format of the forum, with only 2 Munster clubs being invited for each session, I am hoping to be able to facilitate similar discussions for all Munster clubs, if there is interest, and I would love if clubs who attended a Forum meeting would lead the topic- happy to discuss with any clubs on ideas.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is an area that must continue to be a priority within all clubs. Since last year, I hosted a Munster safeguarding session online, and the Development Team ran a National safeguarding session, with 37 Munster clubs attending across the 2 meetings, while I had individual meetings with an number of other clubs. I have also engaged with every club following the completion of the self-assessment over the last couple of years. I also take this opportunity to remind you of the need to have a Risk Assessment and Safeguarding Statement in place, and available to view in a prominent place on the club website, or noticeboard if you don't have a website. This, as you should know by now, is a legal requirement, with templates available in appendix 2 of the Tennis Ireland safeguarding manual (also available on the Tennis Ireland website). It is possible your Safeguarding Statement may be due for review, as a lot of clubs completed theirs around this time of year, so please ensure to check and review and update as necessary.

You should all also have received an email from me stating I will be hosting an online Safeguarding in Tennis Clubs meeting on 25th April and am available to set up in-person meetings, either individually, or is a club would like to host an evening and we can invite local clubs along, to offer an opportunity to chat and learn from each other. Anyone interested in hosting, please let me know and we can work to set up a date.

Clubmark

The Clubmark accreditation remains valid for a duration of three years. At the end of this period, I conduct meetings with the clubs to ensure that all requirements are still met. If any adjustments are needed to regain accreditation, I provide support to the clubs. Once everything is confirmed to be in order, we proceed with arranging a presentation for the new plaque. In the year since last AGM 3 clubs have achieved re-accreditation, 2 of those clubs for the second time, showing a sustained level of governance and compliance within the clubs. Congratulations to Ballinlough, Carrigaline and Sunday's Well for all achieving re-accreditation at Gold level.

There are also a number of clubs putting in incredible work towards achieving the accreditation for the first time, hopefully this time next year I'll be telling you of their achievement. If there are any



clubs interested in looking into Clubmark, please get in touch liz.rdo@tennisireland.ie and we can arrange a meeting to go through the requirements. There are a number of videos and resources available on the Tennis Ireland website that will give more information on Clubmark and the process involved.

Coach education

We provided 14 people the opportunity to get on the coaching ladder in Munster last summer, with a level 1 course tutored by Conor O'Callaghan. A massive thank you to Rushbrooke for providing access to 2 courts, over 2 weekends to allow this happen. I visited the group on one of the weekends to introduce myself, help with a short Blind/VI demonstration, and also let them know the areas I can help them (helping them access Enjoy Tennis hours for logbooks, supporting them getting safeguarding training, and letting them know of opportunities for coaching in schools/Enjoy Tennis etc once they are qualified and licensed).

A lack of an indoor facility continues to prove a challenge for running courses in Munster, as we need access to a hall as backup incase of poor weather, if any club with access to a local hall (either on the premises or closeby) is interested in hosting a level 1 course, please get in touch with either myself or Lisa Murphy, and we'll see if it is a possibility. There have also been a number of CPD opportunities offered, with a wheelchair tennis workshop and an intellectual disability workshop being planned. I am also working with the new schools co-ordinator, Ali Herlihy, to hopefully bring a schools tennis workshop to Munster.

Grants/funding opportunities

Any opportunities of grants or funding I come across, I pass around to clubs, such as small club grants from the Local Sports Partnerships, Age and Opportunity or anything else that might appear. There were also various national, larger scale grants available- namely the Sports Energy Support Scheme (which we are told will provide a further opportunity this year) and the Sports Capital and Equipment grant (which hopefully a number of you will benefit from as the announcements are made). As I get word on any additional grants, I will continue to share with clubs. As mentioned above, it is important I have the best club contact email address to ensure I can get the information to you, so please let me know if there is a change of personnel at any stage.

Outreach

Cork Sports Partnership have been a massive support in setting up and financially supporting, along with our Women in Tennis, and Inclusion and Diversity co-ordinator, a large number of Try Tennis programmes. In 2023, 14 programmes enabled 158 participants to get on court, either for the first time or as a returning player after a number of years out, in Ballycannon, Whitechurch, Dromahane, Fountainstown and Ballydehob. There have been a further 18 programmes for 140 players in 2024. The support of Cork Sports Partnership is greatly appreciated in getting these initiatives off the ground.



Enjoy Tennis

The last year has been action packed for Enjoy Tennis clubs in Munster. December 2022 the government announced the allocations for the Sport for All funding, with €58000 being allocated to 22 clubs. Unfortunately, for differing reasons, 3 clubs were unable to spend their allocation, with other clubs unable to spend the full amount, but there were fantastic opportunities provided for people with a disability all across Munster as a result of this funding. 7 clubs started their Enjoy Tennis journey, while another 12 clubs enhanced their current programmes, adding new groups, purchasing equipment for the groups, supplying membership for the Enjoy Tennis players, providing club gear, among other brilliant initiatives. There is a similar fund available for clubs to apply for again this year, but we are currently working towards streamlining the application process, so the drawdown will be easier for clubs at the end. I look forward to working with even more clubs to provide opportunities for even more Enjoy Tennis players to get active on court and develop a love for our sport.

Your in Tennis.

Liz Clifford

Munster Tennis Development Officer

Munster Tennis Enjoy Tennis Development Officer

087 7581214

Liz.rdo@tennisireland.ie



4. Illustration: Ballinlough Gold re-accreditation



5. Illustration: Carrigaline Gold re-accreditation



6. Illustration: Nenagh Leaders Course



7. Illustration: Tennis Ireland Davis Cup Team



8. Illustration: Sundays Well re-accreditation





TENNIS IRELAND PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President of Tennis Ireland Letty Lucas will address the meeting.





TENNIS IRELAND CEO'S ADDRESS

The CEO of Tennis Ireland Kevin Quinn will address the meeting.





Munster Tennis

Draft Accounts

2023

Munster Branch Tennis Ireland

Accounts

Year Ended 31st December 2023

DRAFT

Munster Branch Tennis Ireland

Year Ended 31st December 2023

Contents

Description	Page
Income and expenditure account	3
Statement of financial position	4
Statement of cash flows	5
Notes to the accounts	6
Detailed supplementary information	8

DRAFT

Munster Branch Tennis Ireland
Year Ended 31st December 2023
Income and Expenditure Account

	2023	2022
	€	€
Income	177,893	152,336
Administration expenses	(176,043)	(160,837)
Operating surplus / (deficit)	1,850	(8,501)
Tax on surplus / (deficit)	-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for the financial year	1,850	(8,501)

The notes on page 6 form part of these accounts.

Detailed supplementary information to the accounts can be found on page 8.

Munster Branch Tennis Ireland

As At 31st December 2023

Statement of Financial Position

		2023	2022
	Note	€	€
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets		789	-
		<u>789</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets			
Stock		-	-
Debtors: falling due within one year	1	(570)	4,658
Cash at bank and in hand		6,936	1,446
		<u>6,366</u>	<u>6,104</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2	(34,151)	(34,950)
		<u>(27,785)</u>	<u>(28,846)</u>
Net assets		<u>(26,996)</u>	<u>(28,846)</u>
Reserves			
Members' funds brought forward		(28,846)	(20,435)
Opening reserves adjustment		-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		1,850	(8,501)
Members' funds		<u>(26,996)</u>	<u>(28,846)</u>

Munster Branch Tennis Ireland
Year Ended 31st December 2023
Statement of Cash Flows

	2023	2022
	€	€
Cash from operating activities		
Net surplus / (deficit)	1,850	(8,501)
<i><u>Adjustments for:</u></i>		
Depreciation charge	66	900
Write off legacy balances	-	4,770
Decrease in trade debtors	395	794
Decrease in stock	-	350
Decrease / (increase) in prepayments	4,833	(3,157)
(Decrease) in trade creditors	(4,239)	(6,589)
(Decrease) in deferred income	(1,940)	(4,665)
(Decrease) in accruals	(175)	(3,528)
(Decrease) in other creditors	(2,856)	(2,856)
Increase in amounts owed to Head Office	8,411	9,254
Net cash from operating activities	6,345	(13,228)
Cash from investing activities		
(Acquisition) of fixed assets	(855)	-
Net cash from investing activities	(855)	-
Net movement in cash	5,490	(13,228)
Opening bank and cash at hand	1,446	14,674
Closing bank and cash at hand	6,936	1,446

Munster Branch Tennis Ireland

Year Ended 31st December 2023

Notes to the Accounts

1. Debtors

	2023	2022
	€	€
Trade debtors	(784)	(389)
Prepayments	214	5,047
	(570)	4,658

2. Creditors

	2023	2022
	€	€
Trade creditors	67	4,306
Amounts owed to Tennis Ireland	20,006	11,595
Accrued expenses	75	250
Deferred income	2,215	4,155
Other creditors	11,788	14,644
	34,151	34,950

Munster Branch Tennis Ireland

Supplementary Information to Accounts

Year Ended 31st December 2023

DRAFT

Munster Branch Tennis Ireland

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

Year Ended 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
	€	€
Income		
Player capitation fees	94,693	76,622
Tournament income	66,306	49,876
Sponsorship	-	-
Tournament capitation fees	13,187	12,176
Coaching income	3,707	11,812
Court hire income	-	1,850
	<u>177,893</u>	<u>152,336</u>
Expenditure		
Wages and salaries	36,701	35,950
Employer's PRSI	4,025	3,945
Travel and subsistence	1,101	3,742
Branch committee meetings and expenses	8,083	1,020
Printing, postage, and stationery	33	10
Telephone	812	812
Audit, bookkeeping, and accountancy	9,105	7,010
Legal, consultancy, and professional	19,942	17,945
Bank interest and charges	1,316	826
Sundry expenses	33	5,174
Rent and rates	-	-
Insurances	3,407	2,764
Computer costs	1,923	2,185
Match costs	69,536	52,344
Marketing and promotion	-	-
Development costs	19,571	26,007
Repairs and maintenance	92	-
Tournament software costs	297	203
Depreciation	66	900
	<u>176,043</u>	<u>160,837</u>

**Leadóige na Mumhan
Top Ranked
Singles Players
Year End
2023**

TOP RANKED MUNSTER PLAYERS SINGLES YEAR END 2023

Singles Category	Player	Club	Irish No. 1
Tennis Ireland Senior			
Men	Mark Griffin	Lower Aghada LTC	
Women	Sinead Lohan	Tramore LTC	
Tennis Ireland Junior			
U 12 Boys	Aidan Garcia Seeber	Larkspur TC	
U 12 Girls	Ellen McNicholas	Nenagh LTC	
U 14 Boys	Patrick Breen	St Annes TC Waterford	1
U 14 Girls	Alex Halley	Tramore LTC	
U 16 Boys	Johnny FitzGerald	Sunday's Well B&T Club	
U 16 Girls	Jessica Carley	Rushbrooke LTC	
U 18 Boys	James O'Sullivan	St Annes	
U 18 Girls	Rebecca O'Mahony	Sunday's Well B&T Club	
Tennis Ireland Masters			
MS30	Chris Dennehy	St. Michaels LTC	
WS30	Tara Higgins	Sunday's Well B&T Club	
MS35	Ben-Piet O'Callaghan	St Annes TC Waterford	
WS35	Sabrina Fleming	St Annes TC Waterford	
MS40	Kevin Rea	Limerick LTC	1
WS40	Claudia Nencini	St Annes TC Waterford	1
MS45	John Reidy	Limerick LTC	
WS45	Mary Claire McCarthy	Sunday's Well B&T Club	
MS50	Robert M Cummins	Kilfeacle TC	1
WS50	DEIRDRE MC SHERRY	Nenagh LTC	
MS55	Philip O'Sullivan	St Annes TC Waterford	
WS55	Olivia Howe	Argideen Vale	

MS60	Joe Donovan	Lakewood LTC	
WS60	Niamh Kennedy	St Annes TC Waterford	1
MS65	Pat Smith	Lakewood LTC	
WS65	Eileen Daly	Sunday's Well B&T Club	1
MS70	Dick McCarthy	St Annes TC Waterford	
WS70	Mary Breen	Sunday's Well B&T Club	
MS75	Dick McCarthy	St Annes TC Waterford	1



Munster Tennis

Other Documents



JUNIOR REGIONAL LEAGUES

JUNIOR REGIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES

Attention: Munster Affiliated Clubs, Registered Coaches, Parents/Guardians

A Chairde,

Significant new competitions for Juniors were announced by Munster Tennis in November/December last year. The competitions remain open online for entries but the closing dates for all are fast approaching. Please go to the Munster Tennis page on Tournament Software to enter and for more details including all rules. There is also further info on the Munster Tennis Juniors Page.

The new Munster Tennis Junior competitions will cover all parts of the Province and are regionalised.

They include events tailored towards a “Tennis for Life” Stream which are the **Munster Tennis Regional Junior Leagues** and others more towards a “Competitive” stream which are the **Munster Tennis Regional Junior Premier Leagues**.

As previously advised the **Munster Tennis Regional Junior Premier Leagues** are open to all players who wish to play in them.

The **Munster Tennis Regional Junior Leagues** are open to all players outside the top 150 in the Tennis Ireland Junior Rankings. We have WTN in as a guide for this year, WTN will be monitored however to ensure that there are no obviously very strong players playing outside the Junior Premier Leagues.

In the Under 12 events there is an additional “Green Ball” event that is aimed more at beginners or players who haven't transitioned to Yellow Ball in clubs. It is important that coaches in particular give guidance on which under 12 events are suitable for specific players. There will be a review after the finals of the Leagues which will help us formulate any adjustments for future events. The Junior Leagues like the Adult Leagues will be run every year.

The events are regionalised to reduce the travel required up until the Semifinals and Finals stage.

The winner of each regional league will qualify for the semi finals and then finals will be played to see who are the Munster Champions. If there are smaller numbers of teams in an age group in a particular region teams may play home and away to ensure that the minimum participation for a player would be 4 individual ties and 8 matches.

Tennis Ireland – Munster Branch, t/a Munster Tennis

“Again the overall idea is one of inclusion and the Junior Leagues are intended as additional events and are not designed to replace any existing events in the province. In years to come we hope to have junior leagues in the province as large, as successful and as strong as the Munster Tennis Senior Adult Leagues.

To achieve this and grow our sport it will take cooperation between Munster Tennis, affiliated Clubs, registered Coaches and Parents from all 3 regions in the Province.

Together we are stronger.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Munster Tennis office.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Cummins", is centered on the page.

Robert M Cummins,

Convenor,
Junior Selection Sub Committee
Munster Tennis

Roibeard O’Coimin

Tionólaí,
Fohoiste Roghnúcháin Sóisearach
Leadóige na Mumhan

15 Eanair 2024



MUNSTER TENNIS JUNIOR LEAGUE & JUNIOR PREMIER LEAGUES FAQ 2024

Brief Munster Tennis Junior Leagues FAQ:

What about players moving up an age group who had a higher ranking last year?

Players who are ranked in the Top 150 of the Tennis Ireland Rankings in their own age group are excluded from playing outside of the Premier Leagues. This is based on the Tennis Ireland Ranking in January 2024.

Why is there a third completion for Under 12?

There is an additional "Green Ball Event" for under 12's to allow beginners and players who haven't transitioned to yellow ball to enter an appropriate competition. Club coaches guidance should be sought before making an entry. It is important that coaches in particular give guidance on which under 12 events are suitable for specific players.

What about WTN?

We have WTN in as a guide for this year, WTN will be monitored however to ensure that there are no obviously very strong players playing outside the Junior Premier Leagues. WTN will become more useful in future once more players have more results. But this year Ranking is the metric we use to exclude top players from the normal Leagues.

Why can players from different clubs form a team?

For the League's to allow as many clubs and players to enter as possible it is possible to join clubs together to form a team in a particular age group. The only stipulation is that at least 2 players have to be from one club and this club will have to provide the home venue for matches. This rule is there to maximise the potential and inclusivity of the Leagues.

What happens when your team wins your region?

The winner of each regional league will qualify for the semi finals and then finals will be played to see who are the Munster Champions. If there are smaller numbers of teams in an age group in a particular region teams may play home and away to ensure that the minimum participation for a player would be 4 individual ties and 8 matches.

Branch Council Munster Tennis : Comhairle Leadóige na Mumhan

Munster Tennis, Munster Tennis Hub, Fota Island Resort, Co. Cork
Email: admin@munstertennis.ie
Phone: 087-7061230 (Office Hours Only)



MUNSTER SCHOOLS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS **FAQ 2024**

1. What is the Munster Tennis Schools Competition?

- a) It is a Tennis Team competitions for Primary & Secondary Schools in Munster run by Munster Tennis annually. There are events for Boys Teams, Girls Teams and also Mixed Teams.
- b) It is a doubles competition for Boys & Girls Teams and a Singles, Mixed and Doubles Competitions for the Mixed Teams.

2. What is the objective of the Competition?

The objective is to encourage more children to compete in a team sport in general and to represent their school in the province in sport. It is there to help keep Children in Sport.

3. Can any Primary or Secondary School enter?

Yes as long as the school has access to tennis courts somewhere that can be a home venue then any school can enter.

4. Can Schools amalgamate to create a Team?

- a) Yes once a school has at least 2 players they can fill a team using players from another school once both schools agree.
- b) *However it is important to understand that this rule is there to facilitate smaller schools who haven't enough players to participate and it is not intended that large schools would "load teams" with the best players from 2 schools etc. It is only to be used if a school has no other players available. This will be monitored by Munster Tennis.*
- c) This rule has also been introduced to allow all boys and all girls schools to enter mixed teams.

5. Do the matches take place within school hours ?

Yes in general matches take place during school hours or in some cases directly afterwards. Each tie is played with the agreement of both schools.



6. How far are School Teams expected to travel?

The earlier rounds are regionalised as much as possible once enough entries are received in a particular region. The later knockout rounds will likely require travel outside a region and finals will be held in one of the Munster Regions at the end of the competition.

The 3 regions in Munster are broadly: Northwest (Clare, Limerick & North Tipperary) South East (Waterford & South Tipperary) and South West (Cork & Kerry)

7. We do not have school tennis courts so would we be allowed to use our local club courts?

In general most schools do not have tennis courts. However schools can seek permission to play in local Tennis Club courts or in Council facilities. Most Munster affiliated Tennis clubs will accommodate schools as play is during the day on Weekdays when club courts are quiet.

8. How many rounds are there/about how many matches would we play?

The round robin or preliminary stage will mean maybe 2, 3 or 4 ties. There will then be usually be semi finals and finals if a team gets that far.

You can view the competition online at

9. Does the competition run over a number of weeks?

It runs generally over a 2 month period (March & April) with finals in May. In future years we hope to allocate more time for the Competition.

10. When does it start and finish?

It usually starts in early March and finishes with finals in May.

Branch Council Munster Tennis : Comhairle Leadóige na Mumhan



Munster Tennis

Junior Interprovincial Team Selection System

2024

FAQ

What does Munster Tennis wish to achieve? What is our Goal?

Munster Tennis strives to field the most competitive Munster Junior Interprovincial Teams for to represent Munster in the Tennis Ireland Interprovincial Championships (which are held each year) while also supporting the Irish Junior Tennis circuit including the Munster based events. There are two age groups: under 14 and under 18.

What is the Purpose of a Selection Process?

The objective is to select players based on results that have excelled the most in official junior open competitions over the past year or so. There is significant competition for places on Munster interprovincial Teams and a clear and transparent system is in place for selection of the Teams. Performance in all sports is measured by what players achieve in official ranking events.

Why use the Tennis Ireland Junior Rankings for the Selection Process?

Rankings have been used by the ITF (The International Tennis Federation) for over 50 years. Over that time they have developed and progressed to a point where all facets of International Tennis use rankings as a fair and transparent metric of the performance of elite players. Munster Tennis strives to follow the example set and the advice of the ITF and to use the Tennis Ireland Junior Rankings as the basis of the selection process. The ranking system affords all players an opportunity to demonstrate their competitiveness locally and, on the ITF Junior, Tennis Europe and World Tour tournaments should they be eligible.

What about eligible Junior Players playing abroad?

Any players who have declared for and qualify to play for Munster and who are playing or practicing abroad need to send their results in ITF Junior, Tennis Europe and World Tour tournaments to Tennis Ireland as per the information at the end of this document and also as on the Tennis Ireland Website so that those results are included in the Tennis Ireland Junior Rankings.

How many events do Junior players need to play in over a 12 month period?

There is a general consensus within the ITF and with most of the National Federations that Junior players who strive to be reach the upper levels of their sport need to play at least 60 competitive matches per year. However the Tennis Ireland Junior Rankings are only based on your Top 6 events in the previous 12 months. Please see detailed note at the end of this document in relation to rankings.

What happens if a player is injured?

It is proposed that one (1) ranking wildcard is available for singles but can only be used where a player that has ranked in a top 3 position at the March ranking cut-off but is outside the top 5 in August due to injury and not being able to compete between the March and August timeframes. Such a wildcard would only be considered for use in exceptional circumstances and require medical certification and would be utilised at the agreement of the NPC and Junior Committee. If applied, the player would replace the 5th ranked singles player on the Final Combined Ranking in August.

Is there a minimum eligibility for Players?

To be eligible for selection players must be active players competing and ideally have played at least 2 junior events in Munster in the 12 months prior to the 1st of August 2024. For 2025 it is envisaged that the requirement to play 2 events in Munster would become mandatory to support tennis in the province and allow local players a chance to play some of the top players.

What about Players changing Age Group on January 1st 2024?

Each Interprovincial Team covers several age groups. The primary ranking for selection for the Under 14 Team is the under 14 Tennis Ireland Ranking. The primary ranking for selection for the Under 18 Team is the under 18 Tennis Ireland Ranking. It is not possible to manually combine rankings from different age groups fairly and a decision had to be made as to what ranking would be the priority in each case. There is no easy way to design a system to give an advantage to one group of players in one age group over another coming up. If rules were set to “help” players changing age groups then conversely it would disadvantage those players in their second or third year under 18 etc. There may be developments with this in future years as there will be a review in September 2024.

The Tennis Ireland Junior Rankings

-The Basics- How does it work?:

Rankings are processed on a weekly basis.

All Open Junior tournaments that have finished by Sunday are included in the following Tuesday ranking update.

- Players must win one match to receive any ranking points.
- Only points accumulated in the most recent 12 months (52 weeks) count towards a player's ranking. After this period the points drop off.
- The rankings take Irish & International Junior events into account.
- Players must notify Tennis Ireland of any international tournament they may have entered by sending an email to npd@tennisireland.ie, including name and link to the relevant draws.
- Only the highest points received from all the tournaments played count towards a player's ranking. **The number of highest points that will count is a maximum of only 6 for Junior players over a 12 month period. (A players best 6 results in one year)**
- Points are awarded according to the round the player reaches and the Category allocated to the event. Examples:
 - A player that wins in the final gets more points than a player that reaches quarterfinals and loses or gives a walk-over in the next match.
 - A player that wins a Category 1000 (1000) event gets more points than a player that wins a Category 200 (200) event.
- TI Ranking Tables provide information about how many points a player will get for reaching a given round in an Open Tournament for each Category. You can access the Junior table through the following link:

<https://www.tennisireland.ie/2023-junior-tour-ranking-points-table>

For further detailed information see the following link:

<https://www.tennisireland.ie/competitions/world-tennis-number-and-rankings/rankings-how-do-they-work>



Under 14 & Under 18

Non Playing Captains Report

2024





In mid January, Willie Reynolds and myself Jo-Anne Williamson, were appointed non playing Captains of the two junior Interprovincial teams.

Following this appointment we (Willie and Jo-Anne) spoke regularly in relation to the process ahead and how to implement our vision.

In late February this year, we met with Junior Activities Convener Robert M. Cummins and Munster Branch President Karen Higgins to present our suggestions and ideas on how to build a panel of players that would embrace the privilege and honor of representing their province in the Interprovincial series.

Our plan is to develop a panel of players to meet monthly in various venues around Munster so as many clubs as possible can be included in the development pathway for the performance players in Munster and to see a structure that's set out for upcoming players so that they may aspire to play on the team.

The panel is set out with eight players male/ female based on their rankings taken in March before the first tournament so that players from the previous year who may have gone into a new age group, may have an opportunity to train with players who may have played on the team the previous year.

The selection is based on rankings and for it to continuously evolve in a number of different ways. Doubles rankings are included and 2 invites extended to each panel. These invites are given either to players who perhaps have dropped down the rankings due to injury, have not been in a position to play tournaments or are in the age group below, so that they have an opportunity to embrace the interprovincial experience.

One of our objectives is to bring more emphasis to the importance of doubles pairings and partnerships. All matches in interprovincials carry the same point value and along with International team representation and college leagues , doubles is a huge factor and so we must focus on a solid doubles pairing as well as our singles players.

Selecting fluid/evolving panels on a monthly basis takes more thought/planning and resource from a time perspective but is beneficial as the players can see where they need to be in order to make the panel.

Over the next three years developing a transparent selection process and building a team that trains together and growing unity and friendships ,is hugely important and to nurture the young emerging talent

A lot of these players would not have the opportunity to train on the same squads together and a high percentage of them train outside of our Province.

The first panel training session in both age groups, took place indoors in Dublin so that it would not be weather affected and also to give them the chance to travel as a group. In order to be cost effective, for this time we asked parents to carpool.



There were 16 players , Willie, myself and with a special guest of former Irish International, Davis Cup Star and Grand Slam player Conor Niland at the 14s session. These panels trained for three hours and left the players buzzing.

At both panels, the players were asked to write down what playing for Munster meant to them and to put it into two words.

Honor, privilege, pride, teamwork, friendship, fun, competition...

These are some of the words we received.

It shows great promise to see the children holding a provincial cap in such high esteem.

To develop the passion and programme further , our panels are designed to incorporate and build team spirit and friendships amongst the players.

It is our belief and a proven performance factor, that a team that trains together, forms strong bonds and hence plays better in a team environment under pressure

Inviting players from other age groups introduces an opportunity to compete with different players and having past interprovincial players attend it gives the present panel an idea of what to expect and helps to inspire them further.

These are building blocks to start our junior pathway ,with our emphasis on teamwork and to help encompass a goal of provincial selection. With the criteria clearly set out and a panel training session monthly , we hope that our three year timeline will see players vying for panel places in both singles and doubles and competing and training more to obtain their spot.

Along with the above , our aim is to strive to unify coaches around the province under the same umbrella and to bring and help develop, all the players together.

Our next panel for under 18's is April 21st and for the under 14's, May 19th .

For both these sessions , players are coming from outside Ireland to attend.

We feel this is exactly what we are trying to achieve! A desire and want to be considered for a panel place and a dedication to train together so as to be considered for the honour and privilege that it is to represent your province.

Many thanks

Jo-Anne Williamson and Willie Reynolds

Under 14 & Under 18 Munster Interprovincial Teams Non Playing Captains 2024.



14. Illustration: Conor Niland giving very valuable advice to the Munster Tennis under 14 Squad



15. Illustration: Conor Niland giving very valuable advice to the Munster Tennis under 14 Squad



16. Illustration: Picture taken at the Under 18 Interprovincial Squad training in Westwood Dublin in March.

Coaching in Tennis

Attention all Presidents. Chairpersons, Secretaries, Safeguarding Officers, DLP's and Coaches

Safeguarding your club against possible litigation

We have had a considerable number of concerns recently, in relation to coaches being used in programmes where their coaching qualification doesn't match up with the level of players they have been tasked to work with.

The Pathway for coaches and the levels involved are explained below.

Level 1 – Play Tennis Course

The goal of the Tennis Ireland Level 1 course (PT Course) is to help participants understand how to introduce tennis to ***beginner players*** of all ages and organise and deliver tennis sessions in a fun and effective learning environment in Schools, Parks, Clubs and anywhere a tennis court or micro/mini courts can be set up.

Level 2 – Coaching Beginner to Intermediate Players Course

The goal of the Tennis Ireland Level 2 course (CBI Course) is to provide the participants with the skills required to promote tennis at a grass-roots level, introduce participants to tennis through the modified courts, to coaching players up to junior and senior internal club competition level.

Level 3 – Coaching Advanced Players Course

The goal of the Tennis Ireland Level 3 Course (CAP Course) is to provide participants with the competencies to teach tennis to intermediate and advanced players involved in open regional competition and leagues.

Level 4 – High Performance Course

The goal of the Tennis Ireland Level 4 Course (HP Course) is to prepare coaches to work with advanced players and those striving to become professional players involved in National & International competition.

Licensed Coaches and Continuous Professional Development - CPD

The objective of our Licensing Program is to ensure our coaches are up to speed with all the statutory requirements around safeguarding, they keep themselves up to date in CPD, have registered with Tennis Ireland and are working at the appropriate Level.

When Coaches register with Tennis Ireland for their License, they receive free annual membership to the ITF Academy.

The Academy is an online learning platform with a host of Educational Resources which facilitates with ease our coaches to amass their annual CPD points.

Guided Learning

The ITF Academy has a Guided Learning Service for coaches involving surveys coaches can select and take based on the level of tennis they wish to focus their learning.

The surveys ask a series of questions and following the coaches' responses, the system determines a list of recommended courses through advanced machine learning.

Deploying Coaches

It is important that all individuals or organizations who employ or contract coaches, (e.g., clubs, schools, parks, parents, and players), use the services of licensed coaches only.

We'd like to remind readers that Licensing is one of our safeguarding requirements under "recruitment" and coaches who are licensed are also vetted and have safeguarding training completed.

(See note below regarding expiry dates).

The licensing scheme runs on an annual basis from January 1st to December 31st of the year in question and clubs and other stakeholders deploying coaches, should ensure they conduct checks on the expiry dates of the verification documents produced for safeguarding training, vetting, and provide evidence that they have achieved the necessary CPD points.

We would also like to remind our members that, our safeguarding policies and procedures highlight the importance of using appropriately qualified coaches for the job at hand.

Clubs wishing to know the Level of a particular coach and if he or she is licensed, can check the Tennis Ireland website.

[Tennis-Ireland-2023-Licensed-Coaches.pdf \(tennisireland.ie\)](#)

Tennis Coach Ireland

Tennis Coach Ireland is our Irish coaches association, and its main function is to inform and represent the Irish coaches on all matters related to teaching and developing the game.

Over three hundred coaches consistently registered with TCI each year and its membership of Male to Female members is currently approximately 2-1. So, 67% to 33% respectively.

Tennis Ireland and Tennis Coach Ireland work closely together in areas like our licensing scheme where TCI manage the CPD part of the scheme and the NGB provide support to the association through an annual grant towards their operations and further support through the provision of free membership to the ITF Academy for all Licensed Coaches.

Clubs & Coaches

It's crucial that clubs work closely with their coaches and involve them in the clubs plans and provide more security for the profession by having written terms and conditions agreed between both parties.

Club committees where possible, should encourage their coaches to further develop their skills by advancing to a higher level and consider supporting them by allowing time away from the court and financial assistance towards the course fees.

Under Qualified Coaches

Using under qualified coaches for certain tasks or indeed levels of players beyond what the coaches have been trained to deliver, could have implications around safeguarding or insurance.

Its only when an issue or an incident happens that these situations are put to the test. For example, if an incident was to happen in a club coaching programme, and solicitors were to get involved. For sure, questions would be asked around the qualification of the person leading the session!

To put all our minds at ease, we would urge our stakeholders employing or contracting coaches to follow the guidance above regarding, licensing, safeguarding training, vetting, and the deployment of coaches at the level they are trained to work at.

Yours sincerely

Roger Geraghty

Basic Club Affiliation Information 2024:

Tennis Ireland has a very clear process with regards to its affiliation process where clubs are required on an annual basis to remit a;

- 1.Court affiliation fee: this is based on the number of courts a club has.
- 2.Player capitation fee: this is a fee that is collected by clubs on behalf of Tennis Ireland and the Munster Branch from all playing members.

In the first year of affiliation for your club, the player capitation fee is waived for this first year only.

In the second year of affiliation, 50% of the player capitation fees is payable by the club. Then, in the third year and onwards, the full 100% of player capitation fees is payable.

The amount owed in terms of Player Capitation fees is a self-declaration which must be verified through the submission of a data return form and submission of the club accounts every year.

The funds to pay the Capitation Fee should not come from club funds

We would strongly recommend that your club clearly states on its website and membership forms that membership includes the payment of the Tennis Ireland Player Capitation fee and this fact should be itemised separately, and that the club should take this into account when considering the subscription fee charged. I.e. it should be in addition to current membership fees.

With effect from 1st January 2022, the capitation fees are as follows:

- €40 for family memberships,
- €20 for adult members, and,
- €10 for junior members.

This figure is subject to review on an annual basis and is presented to members at the Munster AGM for approval.

Court affiliation fees are payable in full every year from commencement of affiliation, and the fee is based on the type of courts at your facility;

- Artificial surfaces / hard courts €83 per court
- Seasonal (real) grass / clay €50 per court

The court affiliation fee invoice will be forwarded to you in this regard when you have completed and returned the attached club information form.

Some of the benefits of affiliation with Tennis Ireland include;

- Access to government grants
- Access to Regional Development staff who are happy to provide advice on a range of club development issues such as coaching programmes and safeguarding,
- Ability for clubs and their members to participate in Open tournaments or Provincial Leagues,
- The processing of garda vetting applications,
- Promotion of your club events and job vacancies on the Tennis Ireland social media channels,
- The ability to participate in Provincial Branch or Tennis Ireland workshops and training programs.



Munster Tennis

Pre-AGM

Letter to Clubs



Dear Clubs,

As our AGM is now less than 2 weeks away, the outgoing Branch wishes to reach out to all our Clubs firstly to thank them for their support and participation in 2023 and most importantly to encourage as many representatives as possible to attend the AGM.

Volunteers and volunteerism are central to achieving our shared ambitions of the continued expansion and improvement of this game we all love. Continuous Branch renewal and reinvigoration is vital to ensure that enthusiasm and commitment is harnessed and maintained and that the Branch continues to adapt to better serve the tennis community in Munster.

Munster Branch has always strived to offer the best opportunities for competition and development across all aspects of the game within the province, to liaise positively with Tennis Ireland initiatives and to give Munster players the best support we can. Sometimes we miss the mark however the intent has always been there, and the Branch always aims high. 2024 looks like an exciting year, with a new Tennis Ireland strategy, continued growth in club memberships and the potential for the return of squads to a provincial level, to name a few things.

In order to meet the challenges of improving competition and offering real opportunities to our junior players the Branch must continuously improve. It must embrace new ideas and new methods and to do this it must continually renew and refresh its pool of volunteers, sponsors and collaborators.

The AGM is a forum for you, our constituent clubs to engage with the Branch and to bring ideas and recommendations to the Branch for debate. The Branch wants to hear from you, and we would urge as many Clubs as possible to take this opportunity to be heard.

To this end, below are just a few suggestions/recommendations that the outgoing Branch is putting forward to consider and discuss at the AGM and for our incoming Committee to implement, if agreed. This is not an exhaustive list, and we would like to give you the opportunity to bring other ideas to the AGM.

- a) Anyone who has served on committees recognises the commitment involved. Recognising that people have busy lives and that can make commitment difficult, it is proposed to reduce Branch Committee meetings from 11 to 8 per year. Committee meetings are already on a set date every month to allow people to plan ahead, but the reduction in meetings will reduce the load.
- b) The Inter Branch Forum that was introduced formally at the last TI AGM is up and running for the last 2 years and is a fantastic forum for dialogue and development between the Branches. The IBF meets quarterly, alternating between provinces. It is proposed that the reduction in Branch Meetings would be planned so that there are no committee meetings in months when there is an Inter Branch Forum which would allow opportunity for people to go to the Inter Branch Forum. The IBF when set up was originally the 3 Branch Officers (Secretary, Treasurer and President) for each Branch, and was intended to coordinate and harmonise Branch matters at a national level. It has evolved since then and has a role in development of policy also. It is proposed that Branch representatives who the best experience or interest in the topic being discussed would attend, accompanied by 1 Branch officer. Therefore, for instance, when Junior matters are being discussed the junior committee could attend. The IBF offers an opportunity to network, meet members from other Branches who you wouldn't otherwise know, to share experience and learn from others.

- c) Set up a register of people who may not be in a position to commit to a full time Branch position but would be interested in assisting at specific events to increase the involvement and participation of our membership in Branch development. This would be ideal for members who are interested in getting court experience if pursuing refereeing or court supervision qualifications.
- c) Similarly, where individuals with specific skill sets are interested in assisting the Branch with short term projects or have a suggested project (Website Renewal, New Directory (see below), Communications projects etc.) it is proposed that a register of interests be developed to increase the involvement and participation of our membership in Branch development.
- d) Last year there was a very popular meeting to review competitions in Cork which offered an opportunity for clubs to express the issues collectively to representatives of the National Competition Committee. While not everything requested could be achieved the dialogue was useful and the enthusiasm fantastic. It is proposed that this forum become an annual event and be extended to the wider Munster area. Organising regional club meetings are also proposed to obtain feedback on specific topics in order that all Munster Clubs can benefit as much as possible from shared learning. Clubs should advise if there are specific topics they wish to include in the program.
- e) A reduction and streamlining of the number of committees in line with changes at national level. The suggested reduced committees and their roles are listed on the attached page.
- f) It is proposed to introduce the following to assist the Junior Committees in their roles:
 - (i) **Parents Sub-Committee** - *The importance of parental input into Junior Committees is recognised. It can however be very difficult to provide this input while also following a busy competition program at junior level. To alleviate this issue, it is proposed that Clubs nominate Parents Committees, made up on a regional basis in line with the Branch regional splits. The Chair of the Parents Committee could then feed into the Branch Junior Committees. This would allow Clubs and parents a greater opportunity to assist in the development of vibrant junior programmes both at the participation and performance level.*
 - (ii) **Coaching Representative** - *Similarly it is proposed that the Munster Coaches be asked to vote on a nominee as a representative to each of the Junior committees. This person would be representing all coaches rather than an individual club.*
- g) It is proposed to set up a specific Club Working Group to discuss how we can optimise availability and participation in Senior Opens in the Munster Area. It is possible that it may need to be two groups, Cork City & County and the rest of Munster or combined. This can be discussed. Clubs to nominate representatives to provide solutions to the issues facing most Opens on Cork and also now in the wider Munster area to be presented to National Competitions Manager. This would allow the Branch to better represent the concerns of clubs at a national level.



- h) It is proposed to restart the Regional Representative initiative that worked well in the past. Local representative and a Branch Officer attend committee meeting in clubs so that they can have a direct link to the Branch both to share concerns and successes and to understand the various services that the Branch can offer. If there is a sufficient level of interest, the Branch can organise smaller regional update meetings also.

- i) Restart the Branch Newsletter to be issued once a quarter to ensure our Clubs are kept up to date with all relevant issues.

The Branch would welcome discussion and comment on above at the AGM as well as any other positive ideas to ensure that Munster continues to be a vibrant, competitive and active tennis hub. Should your club wish to add any initiative for discussion at the AGM please contact the Branch at admin@munstertennis.ie before noon on Friday 12th April and it will be added to the agenda.

We understand that your time and commitment are valuable, but we assure you that the rewards of being part of the Munster Branch Council are immeasurable. Your participation will help create a thriving tennis community that brings joy and fulfilment to all involved. Together, let's serve up a bright future for tennis in Munster!

Munster Branch Committee 2023/2024



Proposed Munster Branch Sub Committees

- I. **Junior Development & Competitions** - responsible for all junior leagues and competitions including schools etc. Focus on participation and increased opportunity. Maybe also include ROGY events. - this should be the busiest committee
- II. **Junior Performance** - responsible for squads when they come back in Sept (assuming this happens), and selection for teams or representatives (Interpros and any other performance related competitions). This includes the development and timely publishing of selection criteria so that Juniors are clear on requirements in good time. The development of rules and codes of conduct in line with national policy. The selection of suitable non-playing captains. The co-ordination of any appropriate team training, including interprovincial training. Ensuring a link to national programs is essential. Also responsible for running Interpros when in Munster.
- III. **Masters Committee** – responsible for selection for teams or representatives (Interpros and any other appropriate competitions). This includes the development and timely publishing of selection criteria so that players are clear on requirements in good time. The development of rules and codes of conduct in line with national policy. The selection of suitable non-playing captains. The co-ordination of any appropriate team training, including interprovincial training. Also responsible for running Interpros when in Munster.
- IV. **Seniors Committee** - responsible for selection for teams or representatives (Interpros and any other appropriate competitions). This includes the development and timely publishing of selection criteria so that players are clear on requirements in good time. The development of rules and codes of conduct in line with national policy. The selection of suitable non-playing captains. The co-ordination of appropriate team training, including and interprovincial training. Also responsible for running Interpros when in Munster.
- V. **Commercial & Infrastructure** - return to a single committee but may have sub-committees to deal specifically with Projects. Otherwise, the main role of this committee is sponsorship of Munster Branch events and services and the identification and alignment of partnership arrangements. Any sponsorship agreements will be aligned to National Strategies where appropriate.
- VI. **Directory** – The maintenance of the Directory is highly manual and requires significant time for the Branch Administrator in addition to a full committee. There is also a significant administration cost due to the time demands. It is proposed to move to a Tournament Software and PINS system, and in future an alignment with WTN. This would reduce the committee load to review of requests for change only and the manual input to new entrants only. To this end we are asking any Club members with IT skills if they would be interested and willing to come on board as a sub- Committee to be nominated. The Munster Directory is a huge success and it deserves to be automated.



Leadóige na Mumhan 2023 -2024



Munster Tennis

Tennis Ireland - Munster Branch t/a Munster Tennis

The Munster Tennis Hub
Fota Island Resort
County Cork

087 706 1230
(office hours only)

admin@MunsterTennis.ie

Official Website

www.MunsterTennis.ie



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