



Galway Lawn Tennis Club Newsletter February 2012



Opening and Closing Hours

Monday - Friday

Club Opens 10am - Closes at 10.30pm
Reception Hours 2pm - 10pm

Weekends

Club/Reception 10am - 8 pm

Bank Holidays

Club/Reception 12pm - 8pm

Contact Information

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Fax: 091 521962
Email: reception@gltc.ie
Website: www.gltc.ie



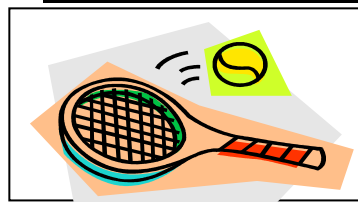
Tennis Court Rejuvenation

Tennis Courts 1 & 2 have undergone a rejuvenation process involving removal of sand and muck, accumulated and compacted over time. The cleaned courts were then re-sanded with new special grade sand. The improvement in the courts has been very good and the process has really rejuvenated them. Shortly more sand will be added and distributed, once the initial sand has settled with some play. Besides the playing surface playing like new, the drainage has been excellent on these courts, despite some heavy rain. Given the success of the process, the order has been placed for the rejuvenation of courts 3, 4, 7, 8 & 9. Courts 5 & 6, which were the most recently laid, will receive some maintenance to 'refresh' them.

Front Up Rise Up - Connacht Rugby

The GLTC is organising a group to go to the Connacht V Edinburgh Rugby match on Friday, 24th of Feb @7pm. Meeting point will be at the Huntsman from 5.30pm - heading to the match at 6.30pm. Tickets €20 each. To book your ticket, leave your name and payment at reception before Friday, 17th Feb.

TENNIS UPDATE



Calendar of Events (Tennis Section)

Weekly:

Tuesday Ladies Morning:

10.00 - 11.00 a.m. (no need to book)

Wednesday Night - Club Night:

(April - September)

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (new members and beginners)

Friday Night - Intermediate Night:

8.00 - 10.00 p.m. (intermediate players)

Monthly Tennis Events

American Tournament:

(last Sunday in the month) - 5.00 to 7.00 p.m.

Ladder Games for all levels.

1st April : Easter Bunny Tournament.

28th April : Spring Doubles Tournament

14th-26th May: Team Tournament

2nd-4th June: City of Galway Open

16th-23rd June: Club Championships:

16th-21st July: Connacht Junior Open.

7-8th September:

Junior Vet Interpros . 35-55 year old players.

10-22nd September: Team Tournament.

American Tournament

An American Tournament was held on Sunday 29th January. Great turn out again and this time a different format - "Compass" tennis. The day stayed dry and 24 players took part. Winners, were 1st Prize, Cathal McEvoy, 2nd Prize Declan O'Donoghue and 1st Lady Prize: Marion O'Brien. Next one Sunday, 26th February, make sure you sign up early as this is becoming a very popular event.

Quiz Night

Taking place on Thursday, 16th February commencing at 8.30 p.m being organised by the Tennis Club but open to all the Club members. We are hoping to get 20 tables. Please support this fundraising event. Cost is €30.00 per table (max 4) and this includes, sandwiches, snacks and Mulled Wine (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic.) Quizmaster the one and only Gerry Smyth. Raffle for Spot Prizes and prizes for Winners Table and Runners-Up.

Friday Night (Intermediate players)

Pat Folan runs this event and we have had a slow start for 2012. Great night for Mixed Doubles using "round robin" format and prizes for the Winners every week. Please make sure you put your name down at Reception before 7.30 p.m. on a Friday evening. This night is not for beginners.

Suggestions/Observations/Comments:

If there is anything that you would like to air to me regarding the tennis section of the Club please do not hesitate to email me at galwaylrc@gmail.com and I promise to follow up and respond to you.

Thank you

Kathleen Glynn -Tennis Captain

Junior Tennis News!

Four of our juniors qualified for the National Matchplays which were held at various centres around the country before Christmas. Only 16 of the best players from around the country qualify, and every one of our players equipped themselves well and did us proud!

Results as follows:

Boys U 12: Conal O' Caoimh finished 12th.

Boys U 14: Robert Hennessy, 13th.

Boys U 16: Michael Clarkson, 9th.

Girls U 16: Kate Hennessy, 14th.

Many thanks to Frank Henry of Frank Communications for sponsoring our Galway Regional Squads tracksuits!

In April, 14 of our Players will be travelling over to the Juan Carlos Tennis Academy during the Easter Break for 4 days of training and tennis playing.

Tales from the Tennis Court – Feb 2012

I suppose I better start with the Australian Open. No wonder it's the players favourite event kicking off the new season in brilliant sunshine and producing blistering matches. As predicted the Ladies Event was as unpredictable as ever! It is great to see that the winner Victoria Azarenka is also the new No.1 because it is important that the No.1 is a grand slam winner. The more I saw her in this tournament the more I liked her chances. Whereas Clyjsters would have been a popular winner I felt that the Belarusian's time had come. She blitzed Sharapova in the final and I love her aggressive style. She will win many more slams. The top four continue to dominate the Men's game and the quality of the semis and final was something else. Federer cruised effortlessly to his date with Nadal who looked progressively impressive especially in despatching Berdych in the quarters. It's now 18-9 in this epic rivalry. Whilst Murray had a peach of a draw before locking horns with Djockovic. You have to hand it to the Serbinator with back to back 5 set wins in two intriguing encounters. Murray showed great fighting spirit but Djocko is so solid and well what can you say about the final? Swings and roundabouts, ebbing and flowing tides. It was one of the few matches that I have watched that I really couldn't call til the very end. As a Nadal fan I'm disappointed that having broken for 4-2 in the fifth he immediately dropped serve and I'm sure we'll both have nightmares about that shot down the line at 30-15! It was fitting that this encounter should take place in front

of Rod Laver (50 years since his first Grand Slam) as he and all the great Aussie Champions down the years like Rosewall, Emerson and Hoad (R.I.P.) would appreciate that these two warriors literally gave their all. I couldn't believe that the sponsor went on and on when they just wanted to collapse and you had to laugh at the sight of the two great rivals sitting drinking water at the net, every muscle in their bodies aching, just wanting to finally get off the court. A fitting final to an ace tournament. Let's do it again at Roland Garros!

As well as following the matches I must say that I really enjoyed the highlights programme Game Set and Mats with a certain Swedish Champion who won 3 Australian Opens, 3 French titles and the U.S. Open along with former Wimbledon Junior Champion Annabel Croft not forgetting the zany Babsy! Wilander is an interesting analyst who predicted that Fed would beat Nadal and then that Nadal would beat Djocko. Also he coined a new phrase... 'That was a good miss!' Well I reckon all misses are bad Mats but you always give us something to stew over. There were a couple of great interviews and I was particularly interested to hear Azarenka recall hitting a thousand balls against a wall for a bar of chocolate and that her grandmother was her inspiration. She wondered why Azarenka thought life was tough on tour when she had to get up at 5 a.m. to do two jobs! Also when asked how hard he worked to maintain his fitness levels Djocko answered that he spent three hours on court each day and another two hours on fitness training. That's the type of dedication it takes to get to the top and as we saw in this tournament...to stay there!

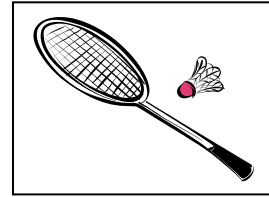
Meanwhile back at the courts I just played the Sunday Monthly Mixed Event and it was very enjoyable. It's not often I get to have 5 different partners in the one event! I suppose it's like speed-dating for tennis players! I would like to thank Maria, Serena, Kathleen, Stefanie and Jennifer and to apologise for not winning more matches. Next time ladies! The Tuesday Night Doubles will seem so different after this...only kidding lads ye know how fond of ye I am. I look forward to lots more tournaments this year and if all the courts turn out as well as Court 1&2 it will be brilliant. At present there is a lower bounce on the ball but the courts look great. Now if only the lighting matched them. They should all be completed over the next few weeks and then we can expect some terrific tennis as it was tricky going from the lush grass of 1&2 to the slippery surface on 3 and pond-like back of 4. 5&6 aren't too bad but Norma O Connell and Olwyn Raftery were wondering was Court 9 in the process of being converted into a swimming pool! There will be no excuse for less than championship tennis when all 9 courts are done. I'll be keeping an eye on your progress!

Mike Geraghty (mgwords.com)

Ps. In our prediction competition: Dermot Flatley predicted the winner and r-up of the Aussie Open in the

Men's so he has 15 points, I had them in reverse order, whilst Mark Smyth had Djocko so 10 points for the former Tennis Captain. The Ladies threw us all but the Badminton Captain did predict a runner-up finish for Azarenka. Back to the drawing board guys.

BADMINTON UPDATE



Men's & Ladies Mixed Doubles Championships

The Men's & Ladies Mixed Doubles Championships for Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 have been taking place in the Galway Lawn Tennis Club (GLTC) throughout the month of January. There was a huge response from GLTC members and many other participants from clubs around the county. Finals are on Sun the 4th of March at the club. Finalists so far are Dermot, Bridie, Jack Davies & Emily Darby.

Connaught Closed Grade B

The 2012 Connaught Closed Grade B is taking place next weekend on Sat 4th Feb at the GLTC. This a Singles, Doubles & Mixed Doubles competition open to grades 6- 9. Entry forms have been emailed out to club reps, hard copies will be available at all the Mixed Doubles championships at GLTC throughout January.

Men's & Ladies Singles Championships

The singles championships will follow in February. Here are some dates to put in your diary.

Grade 5 & 7: Wednesday 8th February, 7:30pm

Grade 9: Thursday 9th February, 7.30pm

Grade 6 & 8: Wednesday 22nd February, 7.30pm

Grade 10: Thursday 23th February, 7:30pm

Sign up @ reception!

Galway County Team

SQUASH NEWS

The Galway County Team training for this years All Ireland Intercounties continues every Sunday from 6-8 pm at the GLTC. Galway won Class 4 All Ireland in 2010 and in 2011 progressed and won Class 3 for the first time in 30 years. It will be a big challenge in 2012 to maintain the upward curve especially as this year Galway will compete at Class 2 level for the first time in many years as well as also entering teams at Class 3 & Class 4 Level. The County Team from Class 2 to Class 4 will mainly involve players graded at the new Grade 4 & Grade 5 levels but no ambitious improving Grade 6 and above player will be turned away.

Galway Development Squad

A Galway Development Squad for players from Grade 6, Grade 7 and Grade 8 will start 10th of Feb in the GLTC at 8pm. The idea of this is to develop, improve and strengthen Galway players for the future. This squad is limited to 20 players (10 men and 10 ladies) with Tommy Hehir providing coaching on the night. It will run for 8 weeks straight at a cost of €40 each. To confirm your place you need to register with the County Secretary (Sarah Caulfield). Places will only be confirmed once payment is collected. The GCBA are hoping to further this idea and perhaps introduce similar for interested players of Grade 9 and Grade 10 standard for next season.

Other news

- A Badminton singles ladder has been compiled and posted on Badminton news board. Anybody interested in getting some singles practice put your name down.
 - Don't forget Badminton club nights are on Mondays from 8- 10 pm. All Welcome!!!
 - Many thanks to Joe Butler for painting the windows in the big hall.
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- Congrats to all the Prize winners at the recent Connacht Junior Closed in Sligo!
- Congrats to Norrie O'Grady who won the Munster Masters Tournament in Cork recently.
- Junior Club Night: Every Thursday night from 6.30pm - 8pm.
- Adult Club Night: Every Thursday night from 8pm - 10pm.
- Donnelly's Blitz Tuesday 28th of Feb
- Irish Squash Fundraising Draw. Prizes include: **1st prize**- Tickets, Flights & Accommodation for Two to Wimbledon 2012. **2nd prize** - Tickets for two to a live Dublin entertainment show plus B&B in the 5* four seasons hotel, **3rd prize** - tickets, flights & accommodation for two to British open squash final 2012, **4th prize** - Carlton Hotel Group: Weekend away for two plus B&B in any of the 10 Carlton hotels in Ireland. Plus other prizes....Tickets €5 available at reception