



Leinster Cricket Club

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Issue No 57

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016



Nearly Winter Solstice Sunrise at Leinster Cricket Club December 7th 2016 0800 hours

LADIES' CRICKET

Last season turned out to be very successful with all three teams in cup finals and the Ladies 2nds doing the double winning both the Junior Cup and the league. The 1sts were hampered with injuries at the beginning of the

season so didn't have the best of starts but turned things around mid-season by beating Pembroke in a thrilling match and finished 3rd in the league. We had a 3rds team this year as our development team and gave our youth players a chance to play alongside more experienced

players at senior level. This worked very well with them reaching the Cup final and 2nd in their league and definitely will be continued next season.

Our Leinster Ladies were well represented at the end of season Cricket Leinster Awards. Ellen Ridgeway and Vanessa Kelada winning the Wicketkeeper award and Bowling award in division 2. Our two youth players did us very proud in the division 3 awards with Isabel Saeed Maguire and Ava Canning picking up the wicketkeeper award and the bowling award.

We were all thrilled for Rob O'Connor who won Coach of the Year from Cricket Leinster and from Cricket Ireland. We are even more delighted that he is coaching us again next season, in fact he has already started with 4 winter training sessions underway on Sunday nights in Beaufort Hall. We hope to do a trip away at the start of the season similar to last year's trip up north.

Cricket Leinster are introducing 50 over matches to the division 1 league next season. We are waiting on confirmation of the actual structure of the new league but this will mean that the ladies will be playing matches on Saturday or Sunday.

The new committee have already met and we are already making plans. Our Table quiz will be on the 23rd February in The Dropping Well. This was very well supported last year and we are hoping that it will be even more successful this year. We hope to have just one other fund raiser but details will follow.

Just a word of thanks to all those that supported Helping Homeless Shoebox Appeal. It was really great to see all sections of the club donating boxes. We collected over 40 boxes. We really appreciated the support.

Finally, Happy Christmas to everyone and hope 2017 will be a good year for all of us.

Mary MacMahon

TABLE TENNIS

Leinster Table Tennis Section 2016-17

Open Invitation:

All members are welcome to join us on a Thursday night between 7.30pm and 10.30pm for a fun friendly game of table tennis, we have bats to borrow so just bring runners! Two ladies have joined the club, Sheila and Valda, which is our first lady members in many years, so any ladies out there please do not be shy about calling in and giving table tennis a try.

Year Overview:

We continue to have three teams playing league and they are doing well in competition. Overall membership has stayed constant although a few members left and new members joined. Regarding membership, at €250 per annum for a sport like table tennis, this is getting on the expensive side for the sport and any membership price increases will result in a relative decline in membership and a net decline in revenue. You can play table tennis in Dundrum for €5 for an hour and this is between two people!

Main hall floor damage:

Finally, we lost the main hall due to a water leak which damaged the floor and this is our main table tennis facility. We would like to thank the indoor bowls club for making the bowlers pavilion available to us and Gill for her hard work in this regard.

Aengus Benson

Table Tennis Secretary

SQUASH

The squash league season is now well under way and several of our teams have made a fine start. Three of our teams are top of the table – Premier, Veterans and Saturday B – and our Division 2 team is lying second. Michael Conroy's first team has benefited hugely from the return of Brian Byrne for occasional appearances, and from newcomers Keith Moran and Neal Murphy. Frank O'Reilly's second team is benefiting from another newcomer, Lucas Rosa, as well as yet another Conroy, David at No. 2. Gerry Hand is putting out a strong Veterans team every week, and with a brand-new team this year Alessandro Parrini's boys have been getting some great results in the Saturday League. At the time of writing we are now about to launch ourselves into the Christmas break with a team tournament.

Another piece of remarkable news is of our dual-province Masters champion – Seamus Daly, winner of both Leinster and Munster Over-65's.

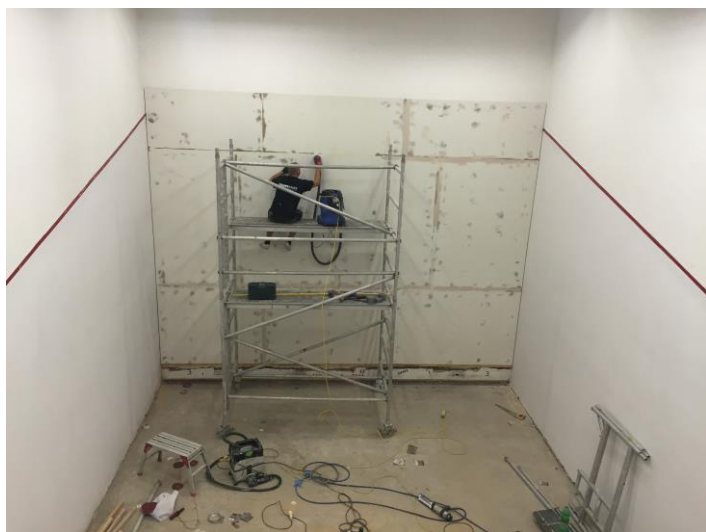
However, the major news of the year (if not the decade) has to be the refurbishment of the courts. After 20 years, we finally managed to replace the floors and the front walls, re-skim the side and back walls and replace the old doors with glass ones. The result is excellent and we have received many compliments from visiting teams (which makes a nice change from the insults we were getting last year). The only remaining failing was the lights, which had got old and dim (just like some of the members) and even fitting new bulbs was not working. So, we are delighted to say that after intense negotiations with the Executive, it was agreed that they should be replaced with the latest in

LED fittings. This has now been done and the result is literally brilliant.



Of course, there is a price to pay. The Executive have agreed to fund half the cost of €2,100 (an excellent price, thanks to Lorcan Finn) which leaves us with €1,050 to find.

We are running a raffle to fund this. We ask for support from Squash members in particular, but support from other sections, which has been so generous in the past, will be very welcome again. And there are prizes to be won! First prize €250, second prize €100, third prize €50, ticket price €10. Available from the bar, from the office or any committee member. Draw date **Friday 20th January 2017. Please support!**



MEN'S CRICKET

It has been an interesting but challenging year both on and off the pitch.

The success of the Men's 1st XI in gaining promotion (well done team) and in reaching two finals - one which resulted in success - was a great achievement. Well done to JP and the lads. It was widely recognised in Leinster Cricket that in Bilal, Tim, George, Gareth and Joe we had the best bowling attack in both divisions.

Gareth had a great season with both bat and ball and this was recognised in his call up to the Lightning Squad - well done Gareth.

A word of thanks to the dedication of coach Ray Daly and the support of Hugh Mullen to the team. The success of the 1st XI is what a club of our size and history should strive for each season. Division 1 cricket is a must and a lot of planning and resources will be needed to move on next year. It's a fact of life that the firsts need to pay players if we are to be competitive in the short term - all clubs do it. We will need to do it again next year and I am calling on the club as a whole to work together to make this reality feasible.

The 2nds, ably captained by Malcolm Rule, had a mixed season but avoided the dreaded drop. The 3rds led by Chris Small finished mid-table and I would like to thank Malcolm and Chris for their hard work and dedication this year.

The 4ths under Mick Scully did well finishing 3rd in the League. It was a noticeable feature of Mick's team that as the season progressed some promising young players such as Euan McKay, Paddy Lynch, Fionn O'Sullivan and Daragh Nulty played prominent roles.

The 5ths under Soma, the 6ths under Declan O'Brien and the 7ths under Trevor Dunne all finished last in their respective leagues. This was very disappointing and in no way, reflects their efforts. The performance was unsurprising as they were playing in leagues that did not match the current playing strength of the club. League tables don't lie. I would like to thank all three captains for their dedication in what must have been a very trying season.

As well as the people, I have thanked above I would also like to thank the following for their support and advice during the season:

Guy Satchwell, JP O'Dwyer, Declan O'Brien, Paul Delany - whose role is invaluable to the club, Brian Godfrey and my fellow committee members, Rob Kenealy, Mary MacMahon and the irrepressible Paul Reynolds.

Stephen Tonge

RITA KENNY R.I.P.



Cricketers from throughout the Province and further afield gathered in late August for Mass to celebrate the life of Rita Kenny who passed away in her 93rd year at the nursing home in Enniskerry where she lived for the past few years.

Rita was the wife of Club Past President J.M. (Jim) Kenny and mother of Pat, Frank, Jim and Mary, all of whom played cricket for LCC with distinction. In a highly appropriate and entertaining eulogy Frank recounted how he had wooed her from Phoenix CC where she was famous for her spam-and-onion sandwiches - crusts attached- and carried her off to Rathmines on the handlebar of his new Raleigh bicycle with promises of a life of romance and good fortune.

A lifelong member, Rita gave unstinting service to LCC for decades, providing teas and lunches at club and representative matches with a wonderful group of volunteers including the late Kay Duff, Joy Cunningham, Kay McDonnell, Ann O'Carroll, Yvonne and Collette Colleran, and others who were pillars of the club hugely responsible for its wonderful hospitality.

When Jim died in 1978 at the early age of 62, Rita took on a new life. She travelled abroad widely, particularly to Australia where son Pat and daughter Mary now live. She took an active part in the revival of Ladies cricket with her great friends Marie Coffey and Clarissa Pilkington, and as President of the Irish Ladies Cricket union led a touring party to Australia. The late LCC Captain and Irish International Joe Caprani was coach to that side.

We offer our sincere sympathies to the extended Kenny family at home and abroad on the sad passing of Rita, a truly lovely lady and a wonderful hostess and ambassador for LCC.

MMcD.

YOUTH CRICKET

The LCC Youth Section has been in hibernation for the last few months but following our Christmas night in LCC on Saturday 3rd December, we would like to thank Declan and Colette for their excellent mulled wine.

After a great year of cricket, we will include the last photos from the last youth match of the 2016 season, the LCC U13 boys winning the All Ireland in Eglinton last September. Thank you to all the supporters who made the journey that day. It was a wonderful occasion.





As for 2017, winter nets will start in Gonzaga in January and February on Tuesday and Thursday nights. The programme is being finalised at the moment and Tim will be in contact via Teamer to inform you all of dates and sessions.

Finally, we would also like to thank Joe Byrne for his contribution to Youth Committee over the past few years. Joe has resigned from Youth Committee but will still be involved in coaching next year. Our two new youth committee members for 2017 are Alison Crawford and Saibh Ni Loingsigh.

Wishing all members, a Merry Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Youth Committee.

IAN DUFF R.I.P.

The death of Ian Duff in late October after a short illness brought to a close a very significant family relationship with the Cricket, Bowling and Squash sections of the Club.

Ian, who was in his early 80s, played cricket in LCC from his schoolboy days in St Marys. For much of his Senior 1 career he opened the batting with Gerry Duffy and together they shared a record unbroken opening partnership of 225 against Railway Union in 1957.

The only child of George and Kay Duff, both prominent members of the Bowling Club, he played on the famous St Mary's Under 15 team when Gerry led them to victory over Blackrock College. He also featured on the 1958 and 1968 LCC cup winning sides of Gerry and Ned Nagle respectively.

Ian conceived the idea of the Squash Club in LCC and was instrumental in bringing the concept to fruition on September 1, 1969, with the opening of the Squash courts. He was the inaugural President of the section from 1969-71 and was a keen squash player until he took up golf in Grange GC where both his mother Kay and his wife Hilda were prominent members.

His sad passing marks the end of the Duff family's strong links with the Club. His father George, primarily a Bowling club member, was Club President in 1960-1 and was a member of the team which won the Irish Bowling Association Senior Cup championship in 1961, the first occasion a team from the South won this National trophy. Ian's mother was also a prominent member of the Bowling section and will be remembered fondly by cricketers from home and abroad for the wonderful meals which she, and a group of ladies, served throughout the season.

We offer our sincere sympathies to Ian's wife Hilda and to his extended family.

MMacD.

BOWLS

Indoor Bowling Evening League: - Leinster unbeaten for first half of the season. Top of Division 1.

Outdoor Bowling: - Paul Smyth won the Champ of Champs and Pat MacDonagh was runner up in the Champ of Champs.

Division 2 Ladies at the top of the division league and qualify for move to Division 1 next year. Leinster also won the Saturday League.

The Club Competitions were very successful with Thomas Smyth and Pat MacDonagh qualifying for next year's Champ off Champs.

Paul and Thomas Smyth won the BLI Pairs Champs and then went on to win the All Ireland pairs Championship and they now qualify for the British Isles Championship to be held in 2017.

Paul and Thomas Smyth with Noel Roche won the BLI trips championship and went on to the All-Ireland Championship and were knocked out in the semi-finals.

At the Annual Dinner on the 21st October, 2016 Carmel Hourihan was named Person of the Year for her outstanding work during the year and for organising the Sunday Bowling. Pat MacDonagh was named lady Bowler

of the Year and Anto Grey was named male Bowler of the Year.

Winter Season: - Half way through with approximately 40 new members from other clubs participating.



Thomas and Paul Smyth BLI Joint Bowlers of the Year



2015/16 Bowling Committee at the Annual Dinner 2016

BRIDGE

The Bridge Club continues on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm with up to 10 tables per night. Our annual pairs competition was held over two weeks in November.

Congratulations to the winners, Helen Lambkin and Meliosa O'Malley who were presented with their trophy at the Christmas party held on 14th December. In 2017, the MK Trophy will be held in March and our A and B teams will continue to represent the club in the Fanagan League in South Dublin. New members are always welcome!

Brenda Collins, Secretary



Bridge members Helen Lambkin, Meliosa O'Malley and Diarmuid O'Sullivan, Chairperson

ROBBIE DUFFY R.I.P

The death occurred in November of Robbie Duffy, elder brother of the late Gerry Duffy, at the age of 92. Robbie played on the first team for several years in the late 1940s and was on the side when Gerry made his debut for the club in 1948.

A fine cricket and rugby player, Robbie focussed his sporting talents on the oval game with his beloved Terenure College RFC.

We offer our sincere sympathies to his son Robert and his family.

Murrough MacDevitt

TENNIS

The Tennis Section are delighted to announce the new Men's and Ladies' captains for 2016/2017, Graham Law and Anne Byrne respectively. Both captains are quickly making their marks by organizing strict training schedules provided by our super coach Dave O'Grady in preparation for the commencement of the League in the New Year.



The Halloween fancy dress tournament (in full costume) was a rip (no pun intended) roaring success and thanks go out to Dave and Pauline Kent who organized the tournament fantastically. The food was sensational from Grace's Fried Chicken, drinks were flowing thanks to our wonderful barman Ronnie, his excellent assistant and super Ladies' captain Anne Byrne, and the DJ rocked the clubhouse till the wee hours.

Dave is organizing another holiday treat this time after Christmas with an American Tournament scheduled for the 28th December and all are welcome.

Donnacha Kehoe Tennis Secretary

LCC mens' firsts reached the final of the floodlight league for the first time since 1991*. Niall Conroy, Joe Hackett, Eoin McCarthy, Charlie O'Brien (captain) and John O'Farrell made up the team and had to play 8 rounds to get to the final, where they lost to Brookfield 2-1. Given that Brookfield are local rivals, it is important to note that LCC had beaten them earlier in the group stages. So, it was really a draw.

* 1991 was a Class 1 final, whereas the 2016 version was Class 5. The LCC team was more or less the same in both.





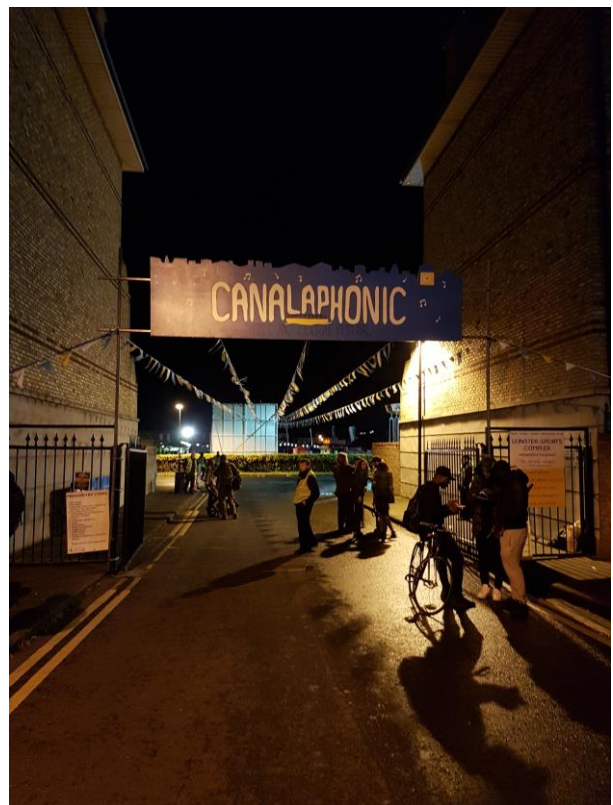
Jacqueline Duignan, Willie O'Brien and Dave O'Grady at Club Championships Dinner



Michele Lochrin surrounded by trophies having won both the Ladies Singles and Doubles Titles in the Club Championships.

CANALAPHONIC

Canalaphonic music festival took place in LCC on 23rd and 24th September. The weather was unsympathetic but the event was still very well supported. Our youth cricket members played a crucial role in keeping the grounds clean and appeared to have a lot of fun doing it.



NOTICEBOARD

As many of you will have noticed we have a new floor in the Function Room. Please take extra care when moving chairs and tables. Your floor will also be better preserved if the wearing of stiletto heels could be avoided.

Roof repairs also began this week so our new floor will be completely protected from the elements!

Christmas and New Year opening hours:

Day/Date	Bar	Building
Friday, 23 rd Dec 2016	Open	Open
Saturday, 24 th Dec 2016	Closed	Closed
Sunday, 25 th Dec 2016	Closed	Closed
Monday, 26 th Dec 2016	Closed	Closed
Tuesday, 27 th Dec 2016	Closed*	Open
Wednesday, 28 th Dec 2016	Open	Open
Thursday 29 th Dec 2016	Open	Open
Friday, 30 th Dec 2016	Open	Open
Saturday, 31 st Dec 2016	Closed	Closed
Sunday, 01 st Jan 2017	Closed	Closed
Monday, 02 nd Jan 2017	Open	Open
Tuesday, 03 rd Jan 2017	Open	Open

*The bar will be closed on the Tuesday, 27th December 2016 while the building is open

Please note that the Admin Office will be closed from Friday, 23rd December 2016 to Monday, 02nd January 2017

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2017 to all our members and their families.

