



Leinster Cricket Club

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NEWSLETTER

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Leinster Lions - Our U9's enjoying a cricket blitz in August



Girls U19 League Winners

SQUASH



Sean Conroy and Brian Byrne at the recent Exhibition and Coaching Clinic in LCC

Firstly, welcome to our 30 new members who have joined the squash section since the end of last season - be sure to check out the squash club calendar on the noticeboard and get involved! With the squash season now in full swing, here's a roundup of events so far this season

Season Opening

The season kicked off in mid-September with 2 events - a Friday night squash Blitz and an Exhibition match between 2 of Ireland's top players. The season opener Blitz was the first in a new series of monthly Friday night team events planned throughout the season. It should prove a welcome addition to our regular Friday club night with 16 players battling it out over a great night of squash. The following week, LCC members and Irish internationals Sean Conroy and Brian Byrne provided an excellent coaching clinic and exhibition evening to help prepare our players for the season ahead. Best of luck to both players who will be representing Ireland in the 2017 World Team Squash Championships in Marseille.

Player Development

A program of group coaching was introduced in Sept/Oct and coaching sessions were held for our Men's and Ladies League teams. We also introduced coaching for players new to squash and hope to continue with more of these in the New Year. Thanks to our coaches Michael Conroy and Theo Anderson for organising these.

League

This season the club have Men's teams competing in the Leinster League at Premier, Division 4, Division 5, Division 6. And thanks to great work from our ladies team captains Valmai Gee and Veronica Brogan, we are actively growing our ladies section and now have 2 ladies teams competing this year (both in Division 1) for the first time in a number of years. We also have 2 teams in the Saturday League and a further team competing in the Masters League. See latest league tables at sportyhq.com/league/view/269



Team captains Valmai Gee and Veronica Brogan after the LCC Ladies A and B teams clashed in Leinster League Div1

Our seasonal box leagues run throughout the year and the winter box league is currently in progress. Congratulations to the winners of our Autumn 2017 box leagues - Kevin Voelkin, Jorge Del Rio and new members Peter Mulvihill, Alan Horan, and Dmitri Griffin.

Next up in December is our annual Christmas tournament before League and cup competitions resume in earnest in the new year. Finally, a date for your diary - our annual table quiz will be held in the LCC Bar on 23rd February.

Paul Conroy
Squash Secretary

BRIDGE

The Bridge Club continues in the Clubhouse on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm and new members are always welcome.

We held our AGM in May of this year and the new committee is Diarmuid O'Sullivan(Chairperson), Brenda Collins(Secretary), Carol Daultrey (Treasurer), Mary Rigney(Competition Secretary), Catherine Clarke, Claire Russell and Mary White (Ordinary Members).

The committee organises a number of Club competitions during the year. We had an Open Draw on 11th October, the Pairs tournament was held on the 22nd and 29th of November and the MK trophy will be held on the 7th and 14th March 2018. This season, we are also going to take part in the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland simultaneous pairs competition on the 7th February 2018. We have also entered teams in the A and B competitions of the Fanagan league which involves home and away competitions with other clubs in South Dublin.

Our Christmas party is on the 13th of December with spot prizes, food, drink and prize giving!

Please come along any Wednesday if you'd like to play. We run a "Joker" system so we'll always find you a partner!

More info at <http://lccsports.net/bridge/> or <http://www.bridgewebs.com/leinster/>

Brenda Collins
Secretary

TAVERNERS

To those of you not opposed to the Royal Family you will be aware of the phrase "Annus Horribilis". This might be a good description of the Taverners 2017 season.

Thanks to our mentor (the great Hugh Elliott) and our semi-permanent Captain (Brian Godfrey) - I still have designs on opening the batting, sometime, we embarked on the season with 20

good fixtures. However, nine of the fixtures were not played whether through weather, or no shows on part of the opposition (and occasionally ourselves).

Getting to the point - of the 11 executed fixtures we won three great fixtures v Rathgar Slammers, St Mary PPU and Terenure Walnuts. On the other hand, of the six losses, two were only by less than 10 runs. Two particular clubs hosted us with more than usual generosity – Phoenix included us in their dinner in the pavilion for their golf outing. Terenure Walnuts reversed the fixture to their ground at short notice and did so with all the trappings of hosts – meaning they bought us drink and gave us sandwiches.

Glancing through the scorebook it's not too easy to pick the "big" hitters – Bob Cramp, Steve Attard, Fergus Ringrose, Declan O'Brien, Mick Smith, Tom Dillon and Hugh Palmer. However outstanding for LCC was Paul Richardson with one, of many 20's, twenty-five! (How did he do this with a retirement figure of twenty?) LCC Tav bowlers do not go for wickets – they prefer to wear the opposition batters out by tempting them to 20 runs and then they're out! Hats off to all the bowlers who trundle the two overs each all at a fair standard – not many sides can make this boast.

Much debate has been carried out since the close of season as to how we might improve things for 2018. Many ideas abound, but, my two favourites – banish from our fixture list teams who consistently do not turn up and teams who consistently beat us! One idea that has gained universal approval has been the details for the Xmas Lunch. It is Mario's, Ranelagh, Friday 15th December at 2pm!

Some good news to end – one of our most illustrious taverners, Brian Godfrey, has been voted President of the Cricket Section 2018 and 2019. Many congratulations to you Brian!

Pat Banahan
Taverners

YOUTH CRICKET

Following a flying start in May/June, the Sunday morning sessions for girls and boys under 9s continued to be very well supported throughout the season. The boys and girls had a great time learning the basics and taking part in blitzes, the last of which saw over 70 children (including 4 LCC teams) compete down the lane. A big thanks to Stephen Kenealy and his many adult and youth helpers whose enthusiasm never flagged.

The Academy is in the second of its three year project and a strategic review of its role and functions will take place over the winter months.



U11G's Coaching Session

Girls Cricket

There was a great energy in the Girl's cricket section this year, due both to the increase in numbers (up by 50% across all age groups with the Under 9s and Under 13s doubling in size and the Under 11s numbers tripling) and to the appointment of Vanessa Kelada as head girl's coach. Vanessa introduced more dynamic training sessions both on Sunday mornings and in Academy. Vanessa was ably assisted by Valmai Gee and Una Raymond Hoey and a host of enthusiastic youth members. Harry Bhoja managed the Under 11s in some style introducing a weekly newsletter and inter squad matches with prosecco for the parents. We intend to enter two Under 11 teams into the league next season to give everyone more game time.

Highlights on the pitch were the U19s winning their league, the Womens 3rds (which is made up of mostly youth players) winning the Div 3 minor cup and a number of players achieving national and provincial representative honours in Malvern, Northern Ireland and South Africa:

Leinster 13A - Ava Canning(capt), Joanna Loughran, Sophia Nulty

Leinster U13B - Amy McCracken

Ireland U15 - Maria Kerrison, Isabel Saeed-Maguire

Leinster U15 & U17 - Jenny Sparrow (capt U15), Beth Dimond

Leinster U17 - Mary Kate McLoughlin, Ruby Shirt

Ireland U17 & U19 - Ellen Ridgeway

Ireland U19 - Anna Kerrison

Ireland U17 & U19 and Ireland Women's Senior Squad - Rebecca Stokell

Ellen also won the Women's Div 2 cup for wicket-keeping while Ava won the Div 3 batting cup and Joanna shared the Div 3 wicketkeeping award.



Sophia Nulty, Joanna Loughran, Ava Canning and Eve Bailey

Give It a Blast

To build on the success of last season, we are planning our second "Give It A Blast" day next April with taster sessions to be held in local primary schools in the lead up.

Boys Cricket

The Boy's section continues to thrive. There were some new coaching personnel but as before Brian Butler and Ray Sloan were the lynchpins of the U11 section and continued to bring through a new crop of boys and won the U11B cup.

Diarmuid Lynch took over as coach for the U13A boys and the team produced some strong performances. They narrowly lost the U13 final to Rush, but worked hard and recorded a superb win against Rush in the last match of the season to finish as runners up in the league. Due to the numbers of U13's, a decision was made to enter an U13 team in each B league to guarantee more games for the boys as the C league in 2016 was badly supported by other clubs. Under the watchful eye of Joe Keogh, this worked well, and both the LCC North and South teams met in the semi-final of the Claremont cup. The B team progressed to the final where they defeated YMCA with Jake Dimond as Captain.



U13B's with Joe Keogh and their families

Nicky Kenny joined Kevin O'Herlihy for the U15 boys. They reached the final of both the T20 and the U15 cup but lost both ultimately to a very strong YMCA side. With a large group of boys moving from U13 to U15 this year, a proposal is being considered to enter a team in both the B, North and South leagues.

At U17 and U19 level, there was increased interest. This represented a big change from previous years when it was very difficult to field teams. A change in the formats was a factor, but many clubs do not participate in these leagues which is unfortunate. Gareth Delany became the main coach on duty and the U17 team recorded

superb wins over YMCA and Merrion and were unlucky not to make the play offs. It was a sweet victory as it was the first time that U17 group had defeated YMCA at any age level and augurs well for the future.

Some of our cricketers went on to make representative honours:

Leinster U15 - Matthew Lynch

Munster U15 - Craig MacKay

Leinster U13 and Ireland squad U13 - Andrew Tonge, Mark Tonge, Joe O'Sullivan

Leinster U13 - Nathan O'Reilly

We are also delighted to see Gareth Delany play for Leinster Lightning.

Lastly, we were thrilled to welcome Carlos Brathwaite back to our awards' night in September to present the prizes and take part in a very enlightening Q & A session.



U11b's with Brian Butler and Carlos Brathwaite



Carlos Brathwaite with some of the U19 Girls League winners

Alison Crawford
Youth Committee

LADIES CRICKET

While we look back on the 2017 summer season there are so many great achievements to recognise.



Ladies 3rd XI Minor Cup winning Team

Results

Our **Ladies 3rd XI** were victorious in the Minor Cup and reached the semi-final of the newly formed league structure.

Our **Ladies 2nd XI** reached the semi-final in both the Junior Cup and the newly formed league structure

Our **Ladies 1st XI** finished 3rd in the league which combined both T20 and 50 overs. Winning all bar one of our 50 over games which was reinstated this season.

Representative Honours

Ireland - Laura Delany, Amy Kenealy with both Sophie MacMahon and Rebecca Stokell making their senior international debut.

Super 3's - Laura Delany, Vanessa Kelada, Amy Kenealy, Anna Kerrison, Maria Kerrison, Sophie MacMahon, Ellen Ridgeway, Rebecca Rolfe and Rebecca Stokell.

There is great depth in the section with so many players representing both Ireland and Leinster Provincial at underage level.

Cricket Leinster Awards

Division 2 Wicketkeeping - Ellen Ridgeway

Division 3 Batting - Ava Canning

Division 3 Wicketkeeping - Joanna Loughran

Cricket Ireland Awards

Super 3s Player of the Year - Laura Delany

While the season produced many competitive games we also found time for a mother-daughter match in June and a father-daughter match in August. We look forward to seeing some of the mums at training in 2018!

We welcomed new members, some joining after the very successful Give it a Blast day run by the youth section.



Father-daughter match

Our winter season kicked off at the driving range at the Spawell. We all enjoyed a fun filled session of power hitting at the driving range. It was a fantastic initiative by Rob O'Connor and well supported on the night with guest international player George Dockrell. Our fundraisers are set for 2018 and our tablequiz on Friday 2nd March kicks them off. This will be held downstairs in The Dropping Well at 7.30pm.

We all wish Laura and the national squad all the best with their winter preparation ahead of their T20 qualifiers in 2018.

Sue O'Connor

Women's Committee

MENS CRICKET

The 2017 season was a mixed one characterised by the performances of the Men's 1st XI, 2nd XI and 6th XI in their respective leagues and the Men's 3rd XI and 4th XI in theirs.

First of all, I would like to thank all of the captains for taking on the onerous role of captaincy this year. They are the engine room of the Men's section and at times it is a thankless job.



Mens First XI

The Firsts season started slowly in the first round of League matches, with only a win over Cork County and North County to show for it. The Alan Murray was a welcome break and the teams' performances gave us cause for hope for the rest of the season. After losing to Merrion in the quarter-final of the Alan Murray their season took off, the only blemish being a defeat to the Hills in a tight game. The improvement in fielding, bowling and batting saw us claim the League Title. It was fitting that Captain, JP O'Dwyer, scored the winning runs on the day. One feature of the team's performance was the fact that so many players came good at different times. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Gareth Delany on his selection for the Leinster Lightning.

The Seconds had a good start and middle to the season. Ably led by Pete Johnston and Dave Lucas they picked up the Tillain Cup. However, the end of the season was disappointing and the team finished second to Pembroke XIs.

The Thirds had a season I think they would like to forget. They struggled all season and this in no way reflects the efforts of Chris and Will.

The Fourths captained by Mick Scully also struggled this year. Both teams finished last in their respective leagues.

The Fifts captained by Ciaran Casserly had a good season, finishing mid-table, but still in the promotion race until the last few matches of the Season. I would like to thank Ciaran both for his captaincy and his excellent work as fixtures secretary this year.

The Sixths led by Bob Cramp were right in the hunt for the title up until a final match defeat to champions Bagnelstown. I would like to thank Bob for taking on the task of captaining the 6ths.

In total, 106 players played for the six mens' teams, not including the Development Team, run by Guy Satchwell. Twenty-three were youth players (not including Finn Connaty) and two were lady members. However, only thirty-five players played 10 or more games and thirty-three played 5-10 games. Only 28 players averaged over 20 runs this season. Therein, lies a lot of the problems faced by the Men's 3rd XI and 4th XI.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few other people, Paul Delany, Michael O'Gorman, Declan O'Brien, Mary MacMahon, Rob Kenealy, Brian Godfrey, Guy Satchwell for all their hard work and support this season.

Stephen Tonge

Cricket Chair Report

The well attended Cricket Section AGM at the end of October provided a very positive end to another season. Looking forward to 2018, Allen Smith handed over the Presidency to Brian Godfrey. With Mary by Brian's side the section gets the benefit of two for the price of one.

On the individual sections we have some well managed changes to committees- Stephen Tonge remains as Men's Chair after the 1sts became Champions in 2017. Declan O'Brien remains as Youth Chair to bed in substantial growth in numbers and a wider age profile now covering 6-18 year olds. Margaret O'Donohue takes over the Ladies Chair following on from the popular Mary MacMahon, who has built the largest ladies club section in the country during her term of office.

All the committees have been refreshed with new talent and there is widespread agreement among all sections that working together on areas such as Coaching and Fundraising is the way forward.

We still have vacancies on the Main Committee which must be filled.

Finally, Marty Merriman's presence and support at the recent AGM was testimony to a life-long passion for Leinster Cricket Club. May he rest in peace.

Guy Satchwell

MARTIN MERRIMAN RIP



It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Martin Merriman, one of the pillars of Leinster Cricket Club and one of its truly great servants and members. He was a member for 76 years.

Marty was a fine cricketer and an outstanding fielder for many years before he devoted himself to the running of virtually all aspects of the Club. He served on the Club Executive for numerous years as Hon. Treasurer and, as an administrator, was involved in many major developments during the Club's important growth phase of the 50s and 60s. He gave tirelessly of his time to a wide range of duties, from whitewashing the walls around the ground and painting the benches, to his weekly stints running the famous Saturday night club dances with Gerry Duffy, his very close friend, and a merry band of volunteers, which included Frank O'Carroll, Hughie O'Dwyer, Dudley Weekes, Karl Keavney and others from the Tennis and Cricket sections. Their dedicated work kept the club solvent during those times.

In later life he was one of the great supporters of the Club's cricket teams and could rattle off the scores of virtually all the week's matches – mens, ladies, schoolboys and schoolgirls - and who had

scored what or taken how many wickets. He served, many times as Chairman, on the Match Committee as an astute selector who had a keen eye for spotting schoolboy talent and nurturing their skills.

Marty was a great ambassador for the Club and a welcoming host to so many visitors from clubs throughout the land. Because he was such a warm host "How is Marty?" was a very regular question from visitors if he was not to be seen on the boundary, keenly observing the progress of the match and the development of the players. His demise is a great loss to the Club and he will be sadly missed by cricketing friends everywhere

Marty lost his beloved wife, Kay, in March 2016 and is survived by his son, Vincent and his family, to whom we offer our sincerest sympathies.

We shall miss his gentle presence at the club.

JOHN BUCKLEY RIP



John was a member of LCC for almost 75 years. A skilful cricketer in his younger days, he is perhaps best known to members as an able and committed administrator who served on many Club committees. He served on the Executive Committee on a number of occasions and in various roles, only stepping down from his

position as Hon. Secretary of the Club just three years ago. Previously he had been Head of the Club's House and Grounds Committee and Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the Cricket Committee, where, amongst other administrative initiatives, he was the driving force behind the formation of Leinster's highly successful and thriving Junior Cricket Section. He also served on a number of committees with Leinster Cricket Union.

John joined Leinster as a schoolboy in the early 1940s and played cricket with many talented schoolboys, such as Gerry Duffy, Mick Hanby, Robbie Burke and Marty Merriman, all members of the dominant Leinster schoolboy teams of that period. Occasionally the boys were called up to play for one of the Men's teams (there were only four at the time), where John used his height and well-flighted leg breaks to break many a thriving batting partnership.

John paused his cricketing activities for a number of years while he progressed his studies and professional career as a lawyer, but returned to the game later and became Captain of the Fourths. An astute judge of the game, and a shrewd tactician, he was a formidable opponent. He always believed that to appreciate the finer points of cricket one had to learn it from an early age.

In 1962 he became Hon. Treasurer of the Club where he was succeeded in that role by Marty Merriman. Much later John's two sons, Neil and Aidan, became active schoolboy players, while Neil still makes the occasional guest appearance in Club friendlies.

John was a tower of strength and stability to LCC for the last 50 years, and we were fortunate to have benefited from his skills and experience as the Club developed over this period. His focus was always on the well-being and long term viability of the Club, for which we owe him our thanks.

We shall miss him greatly.

BOWLS

The Bowling Season started with the unfurling day on the 1st of April followed by a short, mixed rink competition. Open Day was held on the 8th of April, with a video demonstration on bowling, which, resulted in us generating the interest of a number of prospective new members.

Men's Section – Paul and Thomas Smyth represented Leinster in the BIBC Pairs and were beaten in the semi-finals. The Crumlin/Leinster tournament took place in August with Paul Smyth winning the singles. In the League the Men's Division 1 finished 8th, Division 4 have been relegated, Vets finished 6th.

Ladies Section – Pat MacDonagh and Mary Kenny won the ladies pairs at the Crumlin/Leinster Tournament. In the League the Ladies Division 1 finished 8th, Division 3 finished 5th, Division 4 finished 7th and the Saturday League took 3rd place.

LBI Junior 4 were beaten in the semi-finals, Trips lost the semi-finals, and the pairs also lost in the semi-finals. The over 55's won and went to Limavady to represent Leinster and were beaten in the final by 6 shots. The over 55's were Pat MacDonagh, Mary Kenny, Claire Johns and Alice McMullen.

Robbie Meany and Mary Kenny ran the inter club competition very successfully. Thomas Smyth and Mary Kenny are club champions. This year we ran the trips competition in Jack McCarthy's honour and the winners were Mary Kenny, Eugene Fannon and Margaret Meehan.

Indoor Bowls – Leinster have won Division 1 for the last four years.

Winter League – is very well attended on both Wednesday and Fridays and great fun is had by all.

The season was marred by the passing of our esteemed colleagues; Ruby Dervan, Pat Burke, Jack McCarthy, Charlie Ryan, Christy Day and Alice McMullen.

Maura Donovan

TENNIS

The Tennis Section has been extremely active recently. At the start of November we had Dave Kent's Halloween Fancy Dress Tournament. This event had 28 players involved in the tennis and several more involved in the socializing element in the bar afterwards. The tournament, won by Jane Horan and Donnacha Kehoe, was a great success, as was the social aspect in the bar afterwards. Many thanks are in order again to Dave Kent for organizing the tournament and to Anne Byrne for organizing and cooking the food as well. Special thanks also must go to Ronnie, our faithful barman, who kept the drinks flowing to a very reasonable hour, until people started singing, and the sensible people knew it was time to leave. Cheers.

The tennis courts are also seeing a fair usage at the moment with regular games being played every day of the week. There are Round Robins on Mondays, as well as coaching by Dave O'Grady. There are box leagues in full swing. There is Team Tennis Thursdays leading up to a finals night where there will be mince pies and carols afterwards. There are juniors from St. Louis' Secondary School getting lessons now on Fridays from 3:30-4:30 with Dave O'Grady, and of course, the regular friendly/competitive matches arranged by long standing associations. There are also random games being played, thanks to Jonathan Duggan setting up a Hitting Group on WhatsApp, to allow anyone find a person or persons to play with. It is the intention of the Tennis Committee to maximise our wonderful courts and get every member playing in a system, match, training or event that suits their wants and needs. Special thanks also go out to our ex chairman Willie O'Brien who has taken over the role of organizing Social Tennis on Thursdays and will be launching this weekly event once the Team Tennis is over.

This year has been great for tennis in terms of a great Open Day, Open Week and Club Championship. Our thanks go out to all the organisers and committee members who volunteered their time to make these events possible. Special thanks goes to Dave O'Grady for running the Championship. The club is also meeting the demands of the information age and developing a new website for easier access to

calendars of events and court booking systems. Thanks also to Johnathan Duggan for all his hard work in these endeavours.

It has been a great year and we are truly delighted to see so many new faces around the club and look forward to playing tennis actively with our new members as soon as possible. The goal of the Tennis Committee for the coming year is to build on the success of the past year and develop all aspects of your Tennis Section. I would however be remiss, when talking about club members, if I did not mention the great loss of John McMorrin, who passed away so recently. John was a great man, husband, and an avid tennis player. The Tennis Club wishes to extend our deepest condolences to his wife Josie and his family. He will be truly missed. In John's honour, and with respect to his love for playing on court six, we are currently pursuing the purchase of a bench and a plaque to reside beside his favourite court. Thomas Hardy once wrote a poem called the The Garden Seat about an old seat that reminds of us the spirits of the past. It's about how an object, even something simple like a seat or a bench, can evoke great and powerful memories of affection for loved ones no longer with us, but through these inanimate objects they live forever in our minds. This poem is dedicated to John. R.I.P.

The Garden Seat

by Thomas Hardy

Its former green is blue and thin,
And its once firm legs sink in and in;
Soon it will break down unaware,
Soon it will break down unaware.

At night when reddest flowers are black
Those who once sat thereon come back;
Quite a row of them sitting there,
Quite a row of them sitting there.

With them the seat does not break down,
Nor winter freeze them, nor floods drown,
For they are as light as upper air,
They are as light as upper air!

Donnacha Kehoe