

Honorary Secretary's Report 2016/2017

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1. Overview by Jacqui Byrne

The Executive committee meets monthly under the chair of Tom Crotty

2016/17 Committee members are as follows:

 Tom Crotty	President
 Geraldine Colgan	Vice President
 Deirdre Hornshaw	Lady Captain
 Denise Cooney	Lady Vice Captain
 Greg Ryan	Men's Captain
 Claire Aherne	Junior Coordinator
 Jacqui Byrne	Honorary Secretary
 Liam Manahan	Honorary Treasury Secretary
 Mark Smyth	Gardens and maintenance
 Margaret Heagney/Breege Egan	Social secretaries
 Judy O'Shea	Club Administration

MLTC has continued to evolve and thrive during 2016/17.

The club continues to maintain a strong and active membership while catering for all levels of tennis from class 1 senior league to club nights, ladies /men's mornings, Sunday brunch and many more events.

The club prides itself on its inclusiveness where everyone can find their level of tennis and can participate in a highly active programme of events for all members at all levels.

Coaching headed by Stephen O'Shea continues to pay dividends from beginners to league players and not forgetting our growing number of successful junior members.

There is no doubt that MLTC in both junior and senior leagues continues to punch above our weight.

Most recently, the men and ladies senior league teams won their class final with both teams achieving promotion to class 1 and our club coach Stephen O'Shea regained his crown by becoming ,once again, men's club champion .Congratulations Stephen.

The highlights of the club programme are the handicaps and the championships in the summer months, which continue to attract high levels of member participation and enjoyment enhanced by the club environment, and the excellent catering organised throughout the events.

A club is only as good as the people involved and only then if members actively and positively participate. I think this is certainly true of MLTC.

Thanks to everyone for such positive support of the court on line booking system. There is no doubt this is a major initiative which the executive believe is the right decision for the future of the club .We do understand that change of this magnitude can take time for members to adjust .Thanks to everyone for their support, patience and positive attitude .

Membership Numbers	2016/17	2015/16
 Families	161	157
 Seniors	124	130
○ <i>Over 80's</i>	7	5
○ <i>Pavilion</i>	4	3
○ <i>L.O.A.</i>	11	6
 Juniors	59	64
 Students	9	7
 Overseas/country	3	3
 Life members	41	41

2. Lady Captains report by Deirdre Hornshaw

Thank you to Breege Clancy for giving me the opportunity of being Lady Captain in 2017. It has been good fun, a pleasure working with co-captain Greg as well as getting to know so many of the members.

League Competitions

Thanks to the Tennis Committee, made up of Adrienne, Breege, Denise and myself, who helped select teams and special thanks to all of the team captains. We enjoyed some super DLTC results this year:

-  **Winter League:** 7 teams entered and all stayed in their class, except the 1st team, which was relegated to class 2.
-  **Summer League:** 7 teams entered with 3 teams remaining in their class. Unfortunately, the 1st and 4th teams were relegated to class 2 and 5 respectively. However, we were delighted to have our 5th and 6th teams promoted to class 4 and 5 respectively.
-  **Senior League:** 6 teams entered, 4 of which made it to the Quarter Finals stage. The 1st team did the club proud – in their excellent campaign they only dropped 1 point over 8 matches and were worthy winners of the competition. They move up to class 1 next year. The 4th, 5th and 6th teams were promoted to class 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

🏠 **Floodlight League:** 4 teams entered a difficult competition not helped by the availability of players. Each team fought hard but did not make it to the play off stages.

Turkey Tournaments, Captains' Day, Brunch and Handicaps, Blue and Gold

All events were well supported by the members and reflected the friendly, social aspect of the club. The Handicaps Tournament ran scarcely without a hitch, apart from an unbelievable downpour of rain on the first night. There was a festive atmosphere on Finals Day, due to so many factors - support from club members, Dee Nolan's ice cream wafers, a terrific BBQ evening, all of which were captured on camera by our much appreciated club photographer Eric Cooney. Thanks to everyone involved.

Social events were so special due to the fantastic organisation, hard work and dedication of our Social Secretaries; Breege Egan and Margaret Heagney. I owe both of them a big thank you for making all the events such a success and for being so nice to work with during the year.

The Senior Championships

This event was our biggest and busiest of the year, with 17 competitions running concurrently in the 2nd week. Thank God for Greg ... "match scheduler extraordinaire"!

During the championships, we had a lovely celebration to mark the 140-year anniversary of MLTC. Breege and Mick Clancy hosted a charity dinner in aid of CRY, which has become an extremely popular, annual event during the club championships.

The event suitably ended with the presentation of prizes at our "At Home" in Killiney Golf Club, where we enjoyed good food, nice music and great company.

Ladies' Morning Tennis

The ladies morning committee, Sarah Jane Kerr, Aislinn Cullen, Anne Considine and Helen Bunbury, have had a very busy programme of events. They entered teams in several inter-club competitions, with impressive results: MLTC won the 5 Mile League and the Monday Charity League, and reached the Semi-final in the Tuesday Charity League.

Coaching

Many thanks to Stephen and his coaching team, Adrienne, Michael and Karen, who provided quality coaching to both league and non-league players. We owe them a great deal for the success and enjoyment of tennis in the club.

And finally...

Thank you to all members of the Executive Committee, namely Tom, Geraldine, Greg, Denise, Niall, Claire, Jacqui, Liam, Mark, Breege, Margaret and Judy, who helped, advised and supported me during my captaincy.

3. Men's Captains report by Greg Ryan

Having been a member of Monkstown as a junior in the 80s and 90s, I never imagined that I would be asked to be Men's Captain when I rejoined the club many years later, a club where I have so many wonderful childhood memories. I was honored when I was asked to take up the roll and it has been even more enjoyable that I could have imagined, ably partnered by Lady Captain Deirdre Hornshaw.

Any challenges we faced were made all the easier by a wonderful support team of Judy, Vice Captains Niall and Denise, the executive committee, former captains sharing their guidance, experience and knowledge throughout the year and, of course, the wonderful social committee who do such great work which often gets taken for granted.

As for the tennis, many thanks to all the club coaches and a special thanks to Stephen who advised on team selections and assisted in league coaching and thanks to both Niall O'Carroll and John Coburn for assisting me in team selection.

2017 was a great year for MLTC. To all our team captains, players and of course the many subs – thank you so much for your commitment to competitive tennis and to being part of the excellent Men's DLTC results achieved this year.

The highlight of the year was the Men's 1st team winning the Senior League Over 35's Class 2 and they were also runners up in the Summer League, promotion gained in both cases.

Our Over 55s team lead by Declan McAteer were pipped in the final but also gained promotion. Ciaran Bolger's summer league team just lost out on promotion but showed great depth in quality, which we can look forward to next year.

The tennis and social calendar offers a comprehensive programme of events throughout the year; Turkey Tournaments, Spring and Autumn Brunch, Captains Day, Parent & Child, Senior Handicaps, Senior Championships, Blue and Gold tournament and the very popular annual Kennelly tournament.. We cannot forget to mention the annual MLTC golf day in Woodbrook.

Our juniors achieved many great performances during the various club competitions as well as interclub tournaments and success nationally and internationally.

I would like to thank you for all the support given to Deirdre and myself and of course, the support given to our entire club teams throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to give special thanks to our Lady Captain Deirdre for whom this year of my captaincy was made so easy and most enjoyable.

4. Junior report by Claire Aherne

Our junior members have had a very busy year competing in many Open tournaments around the country as well as participating in the Match play series, Leinster Tennis and the DLTC leagues.

Summer

- Once again a big big thank you to Adrienne and Karen for managing over 50 children every day. Junior members enjoyed a great summer of various activities such as fun days, Pizza tournaments and of course the junior handicaps and championships.
- The Junior Championships was on from July 3rd -July 8th. Junior Girl of the year was Anna Schwer and Junior Boy of the year was David Keane, and The Harry Crowe trophy went to Lizzie Woodcock.
- The Junior Handicaps ran from 17th July – July 21st –a great week was had by all the juniors and some amazing tennis was played.
- A total of 14 boys and girls represented Monkstown in the National Championships in Fitzwilliam - Charlie McMorrow won the the U12 doubles & Conor Gannon was pipped in his U16 singles final.
- There were summer camps for all age groups throughout the summer thanks to Stephen and Adrienne.
- Congratulations to all our juniors who represented Monkstown extremely well in various Opens over the summer. It was great to see so many achieving great results.

Stars and Stripes Spring

- ***The U12s played in the plate against Leopardstown but unfortunately lost.***
- ***The U14s Stars and Stripes played for 3rd/4th play-off and unfortunately lost to Blackrock.***

Stars and Stripes Autumn

- The U12 Stars & Stripes Shield final was won by Monkstown.
- The U14 Stars and Stripes competition is ongoing now.
-

Leinster Leagues

- Under 18 Boys played but did not make it to the playoffs.
- Under 14 girls played very well but unfortunately didn't get to the playoffs.

Giant Midterm tournament, Easter, Halloween, and Annual Parent and Child Tournaments

- Giant Midterm tournament: This tournament was very successful with over 50 children taking part. There was a cake sale, which raised over €140 .
- The Easter Tournament went very well and all the juniors thoroughly enjoyed themselves.
- The Parent and child tournament was a great success with a turnout of more than 60 families.
- The Halloween tournament went very well and all the juniors who participated enjoyed an array of fruit and pizza after.

The Junior Committee meets once a month and is chaired by Stephen. They work all year round to ensure that all juniors are involved in the club. Thanks to the committee for all their hard work throughout the year.

I would like to congratulate Stephen on a successful year working with the juniors. Thanks to all the team for their support throughout the year.

5. Other club information

Grounds and Clubhouse update by Mark Smyth

- The never-ending work of maintaining our boundary environment continues, along with the work of keeping the courts debris free and safe to play on.
- Some good news in that regard, the trees at the side of court 4 are due to be cut down in November.
- The Griselinia hedges on the Glandore Park side of our new fence are growing steadily and in time will give greater cover from noise and traffic coming from the road.
- The court maintenance report we receive as part of each court maintenance procedure, confirms the condition of the courts to be excellent. This routine upkeep of our courts will extend their life for several more years.
- We are also looking at ways to provide wheelchair access to the courts and clubhouse
- A Safety Statement is now available to the club to guide us in matters of health and safety. A copy of the document is available in Judy's office for reference.
- We are currently assessing the feasibility of upgrading our floodlighting infrastructure, to one using LED lanterns. This upgrade would mean lower running costs, longer replacement intervals and no delays in starting up.
- As in previous years, the grounds and buildings are well maintained by the hard work and effort of Arik, our groundskeeper. Our gardening committee also work very hard to provide the colour and flowers throughout the year.
- A big thank you to the club gardening committee of Trish Manahan, Joan Quelly, Suzie Kennelly and Marie Dee who work so hard providing colour and flowers throughout the year .

Treasurer's update by Liam Manahan

- The Club has had another solid year on the financial front.
- The accounts for the year ended September 30th 2017 have been completed and are awaiting sign off. These will be available to all members on the night of the A G M.
- Once again, we have added €20,000 to our development fund while ensuring our Clubhouse and grounds retain their good look and feel.
- No significant financial outlay was required during the year.
- The new accounting system is up and running as promised at last years A G M.
- I would like to acknowledge the great level of support that Judy and I received from Ian Dillon throughout the instillation. We might never have made it without his help !!!!
- The club has also upgraded the court booking system, which will ultimately make for an easier and fairer offering to our members.
- Finally, I do not feel the need to request an increase in membership charges this year.

Social secretaries update by Margaret Heagney & Breege Egan

The first hospitality events were the Turkey Tournaments. On the morning of Sunday the 4th December, 24 men enjoyed mulled wine, mince pies and a selection of cakes. In the afternoon, 28 Ladies enjoyed mulled wine and savouries. They had such a good time they came back again on the 11th December for the Mixed Tournament. The mulled wine kept everyone warm as Deirdre and Greg got 58 entrants on and off the courts with precision.

Spring Brunch took place on 12th, 19th and 26th March. 24 entrants enjoyed a healthy meal of orange juice, fresh fruit with natural Greek yogurt, warm croissants with ham and cheese, brown bread and scones every Sunday. Thank you to the guys who insisted on cleaning/washing up on the 26th as it was Mother's Day.

On Saturday 22nd April, Captains' Day, afternoon tea was served to 48 entrants. Those attending very generously provided sandwiches, wraps, cocktail sausages, fruit and cakes. Later that night all enjoyed a prosecco reception and three-course dinner.

The last Saturday in July was Handicap finals day. The spectators and players enjoyed afternoon tea. Sandwiches that were left over were greatly received by a local hostel in Dun Laoghaire. Many thanks to Dee Nolan and family who arrived with ice cream, to keep us cool as we watched the tennis. 87 people attended the annual barbeque that evening. After the prosecco reception, our long time Chef Colin Byrne and his team served delicious steaks, salads and potatoes, followed by fresh fruit meringues. Thank you to Rachael and Cormac for providing us with some light music.

With the Club being 140 years old this year (1877-2017), we decided the occasion ought to be marked. Monkstown LTC 140 Celebration took place on Friday 18th August on the first week of the Championships. Those present celebrated with savories, sandwiches, and cakes and prosecco. A Gateau Diane cake decorated with "Monkstown LTC 140 years – Friendship and Tennis" took centre stage.

Championship finals were held on Saturday 26th August. Afternoon tea was served and Dee kindly provided us with ice cream wafers again. Killiney Golf Club was the venue for the "At Home." All enjoyed dinner and dancing.

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who made sandwiches and cakes for the different events, to those who helped at the afternoon teas and brunches and to those who volunteered to do the catering at night during the Handicaps and Championships. Finally, we extend our appreciation and gratitude to Judy who was always available to assist and guide us.

Child protection

The child protection officers for the tennis club are John Claffey and Roisin Schwer

The club is fully committed to safeguard the wellbeing of all its Junior members.

The club abides by the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's sport published by the Sports Council of Ireland and monitored by Tennis Ireland.

6.Club Handicaps and championships

As is tradition, the club handicaps are played in July. A very enjoyable BBQ and prize giving followed finals day. The weather was once again very kind and both the event and the BBQ were very well supported.

The championships in August every year is the flagship event within the club.

The introduction of the bowl and plate categories have opened up the championships to a broader level of participants and has proved to be very popular with the members, an event not to be missed.

Well done to Deirdre and Greg for scheduling so many matches in a very tight timeframe.

The winners were:

 <i>Men's singles</i>	<i>Stephen O'Shea</i>
 <i>Ladies singles</i>	<i>Julie Byrne</i>
 <i>Men's Doubles</i>	<i>Scott Baron/Johnny O'Shea</i>
 <i>Mixed doubles</i>	<i>Robin Craig/Gina Niland</i>
 <i>Ladies Doubles</i>	<i>Julie Byrne/Anna Gunning</i>
 <i>Girls U21 singles</i>	<i>Rachel Hartnett</i>
 <i>Boys U21 singles</i>	<i>Harry Crossan</i>

Much appreciation to all members who volunteered to help with sign- in duty, catering and umpiring. Also thanks to our talented club photographer Eric Cooney for all the wonderful memorable photographs.

And finally

Thank you to all the men who undertake the locking- up task every night - it is a commitment for one week a year. Judy badly needs more men in her life - to volunteer for lock up – so please get in touch with her in the office.

We have three members on scholarships in the US; Julie Byrne in Chicago, David Cullen in Boston and Fergus O'Ruairc in South Carolina. Reports suggests all three have settled in well and we look forward to seeing them over Christmas.

Our thanks to Fintan Buckley who oversees the club IT system and to Louise Gunning for her IT support.

With great sadness we lost three members during the year; Marie Broughan, Veronica Cullen and Evelyn Corrigan. Our deepest sympathy to their families, may they rest in peace. and to anyone coping with illness, our thoughts are with you.

A major thank you to Judy O Shea, our Club Administrator, the indispensable backbone of the club and a font of knowledge on so many things with regard to MLTC. She provides great support to the Captains, all the club committees and all members and her infamous 'snippets' continue to entertain as well as inform the members. Also our thanks to Richard Keevey who puts the "snippets" up on the club website every week and who also posts the links to all events.

I would also like to thank the individuals who make up the current committee, Tom Crotty, Greg Ryan, , Deirdre Hornshaw, Denise Cooney, Niall O'Carroll, Mark Smyth, Claire Ahearne, Liam Manahan, Geraldine Colgan, Margaret Heagney and Breege Egan all of whom have given their personal time and commitment to all the Club matters and events which arose throughout the year. They have been a lovely committee to work with .

Finally on a personal note I would like to thank all the coaches, captains, committees and members for making MLTC such a friendly and inclusive club with regard to both tennis and social events.

Here's to a successful 2018!

Jacqui Byrne

Honorary Secretary, November 2017

 *With thanks to the many committee members for their individual contributions to this report*