

Downpatrick Tennis Club

2017

www.downpatricktennisclub.co.uk

We are all looking forward to the start of the tennis season and it's not too far away now with our opening tournament scheduled for Sunday, 09th April.

I am delighted to let you know that Allan Liddell is Captain for the incoming year and Ann McLean is Vice-Captain.

We have decided to bring the club tournaments forward this year and will get underway with the handicap competition on Saturday, 22nd April. The open tournament will follow in June.

Please read on for lots more information!

A Message from the Captain

The evenings have started to brighten, daffodils are in bloom and as I write this the sun has even put in an appearance – sure signs that Spring is here and time to turn our thoughts to tennis. So welcome back to all existing Downpatrick Tennis Club members and a very warm welcome to new members for the 2017 season. The spirit of our club embodies friendliness, encouragement and helpfulness. We therefore look forward to the usual mixture of fun and competition over the forthcoming season. As you can see in this newsletter we have a full range of activities including a quiz night, club play, coaching and league tennis.

Events kick off with an American tournament on Sunday, 9th April. This format ensures an opportunity for players of all abilities to enjoy a fun day of tennis so let's have a big turnout to get our season off to a great start. This will be followed by club play from Monday, 10th April onwards and our handicap competitions commencing on Saturday, 22nd April.

As a club we also have an active junior section and as ever we encourage junior members from as young as five years old. At the other end of the spectrum, as one of the older members of our club, I can personally testify as to the benefits of tennis a sport for all ages. Whatever your age, I look forward to seeing you all in April for another successful season of tennis in Downpatrick.

Allan Liddell (Captain)

Quiz Night

We are holding our annual Quiz on Friday, 31st March 2017 in Denvir's Hotel – this is a great evening's craic and we do hope you will come along. Questions are set by our very own quiz-master (aka Paul McCartan); entrance on the night is £5 per adult, children are free and ideally tables will be limited to six. Hope to see you on the 31st!

Club Membership Fees

We are pleased to let you know that membership fees for 2017 are:

Adult	£50
Juveniles (13 – 18)	£20
Persons in full time education	£20

All members must send in an application form with their payment. Please keep us up-to-date with your current telephone, mobile and email address. Receipt of fees will be acknowledged by email. **We would be most grateful if membership could be paid by / on Sunday, 9th April; thank you.**

Opening American Tournament

Our opening tournament will be held on Sunday, 9th April 2017 at 1-30 pm. Registration will take place from 1-15 pm and the tournament is open to anyone over 13 years of age. This is a great opportunity to get together and we look forward to seeing you then.

Adult Coaching

Adult coaching with Sumeet Kapur will take place on Thursday evenings (dates and time to be confirmed) and will begin with a set of four lessons. Numbers will be limited to eight and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. As far as possible, lessons will run on concurrent weeks unless a session has to be cancelled due to bad weather. The cost for the four weeks will be £25 per person. We would hope to hold further coaching sessions during the season.

Help with Club Opening and Events

We need your help!

All amateur sports clubs are dependent on help from volunteers and our tennis club is no exception. The committee appreciate that not everyone is able to offer help on a regular or long-term basis and many people already give a lot of time towards other organisations. Every offer of help (however small) is very much appreciated. Members already give great support to social events, food for tournaments etc and we hope this will continue.

Could we ask all adult members to volunteer and assist with club play opening & closing on Monday and Wednesday evenings? It's very straightforward and a good way to get to know other members. You can email us to let us know your preferred week or sign the rota which will be available at courtside. Keys may be collected at McCartan's Sports, Market Street, Downpatrick.

Very many thanks!

Club Play

Monday and Wednesday sessions

- starting at 6.30pm
- changeover every 30 minutes
- on Mondays, players selected at random
- on Wednesdays a player picks another 3 to play with changeover every 30 minutes

Friday sessions

- members to collect and return keys to McCartan's Sports

- this is open club play for members to arrange themselves when courts are not being used for B & D practice and matches
- priority is given to adult members, over 13's may only play as a guest of adults

Sunday Tournaments

These are always really popular club events. A small donation of two pounds will be collected at registration; this will be donated to charity. Registration is at 1.15pm prompt for a 1.30pm start to ensure that the tournament starts on time and finishes at a reasonable hour. The format is mixed doubles, with a draw for partners; it's a great way to get to know fellow club members. If we run a Round Robin Tournament as opposed to an American Tournament, we will ask participants to register in advance to allow the competition to be organised efficiently. For details of dates and times of all club run events please see the *Calendar of Events 2017*.

Club Tournaments – Handicap and Open

The format for these will be largely the same as in previous years with the exception that we are bringing the club tournaments forward in the calendar to April and June. The Handicap tournament will begin on Saturday, 22nd April 2017 and entries for this competition will need to be submitted by Easter. All members are encouraged to take part in these club competitions as they provide a great opportunity to meet and play with new and old friends in the club. We will have information on the entry forms about rules and regulations regarding availability to play, format of matches etc.

The Belfast & District Leagues

The Belfast & District League body organizes competition at various levels and offers challenging tennis to players of all abilities. The club believes that league tennis makes a unique contribution to the club, both at team and individual level.

Last season (2016) the club entered 8 teams in the B and D league; a Winter Flood-lit League team, three Ladies Evergreen teams, one Mixed League Team and three Summer League Teams.

The club recorded another successful season; the ladies evergreen A team narrowly defeating the B team to win Division 2 of the Ladies Evergreen League and we were successful in winning Divisions 6 and 9 of the Summer League series.

At Downpatrick Tennis Club we strongly believe in being inclusive whenever possible and all adult members are invited early in the New Year to let us know of their interest in playing B & D league tennis during the season. To date this year we have been able to enter teams in the following leagues:

- Mixed League – 1 team
- Ladies Evergreen – 3 teams
- Men's Evergreen – 1 team

Interest for the Summer League will be ascertained in due course but we would hope to be able to enter 3 teams.

Health & Safety

The safety of our members and visiting players is of great importance – before you play, please always ensure that the courts are safe to use.

Club Prize Winners 2016

HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

Men's Doubles

Winners: Marty Trainor & Aidan Murdock

Runners-Up: Ben Ford & Sam Murdock

Ladies Doubles

Winners: Dympna Morrison & Karen Turley

Runners-Up: Sarah Jackson & Genia Rea

Mixed Doubles

Winners: Catherine Curran & William Brown

Runners-Up: Roslyn Magee & Sam Murdock

OPEN COMPETITION - PLATE COMPETITION

Men's Singles (Bassett Browne Plate)

Winner: Dan Browne

Runner- Up: Alan Milligan

Ladies Singles (M B McGrady)

Winner: Anne Corbett

Runner-Up: Patricia McCormick

Ladies Doubles (Morrison Salver)

Winners: To be played

Runners-Up:

Mixed Doubles

Winners: Catherine Curran & Allan Liddell

Runners-Up: Angela Trimby & William Brown

OPEN COMPETITION

Mixed Doubles (McCartan Sports Cup)

Winners: Sarah Doherty & Kenneth Carson

Runners-Up: Dympna Morrison & Aidan Murdock

Men's Doubles (Michael McClaren Cup)

Winners: To be played

Runners-Up:

Ladies Doubles (Bready Salver)

Winners: Jayne Bassett & Clare Magilton

Runners-Up: Dympna Morrison & Twyla Gibson

Men's Singles (Brian & Evelyn Mooney Cup)

Winner: John Neill

Runner-Up: Ben Ford

Ladies Singles

Winner: Olivia Mooney

Runner-Up: Anna McCartan

Junior Member of the Year (Wilson Cup)

Dan Browne

Committee 2017

Honorary President:	Mrs Maud Perry	
Secretary:	Sara McMillen 028 4483 1134	ballydyan@btinternet.com
Chairperson:	Rosemary Porter	
Captain:	Allan Liddell	
Vice-Captain:	Ann McLean	
Treasurer:	Paul McCartan	tennistreasurer@gmail.com
Match Secretary:	Liz Jackson	
Junior Club Secretary:	TBC	
Committee:	Jayne Bassett, Catherine Curran, Genia Rea, Anna McCartan, Marty Trainor	
Children's Officers:	Dawn Stocking & Sam Murdock	

Website & Communication

The information in this newsletter is available online at our website

www.downpatricktennisclub.co.uk

There you will find information on all the Club's policies, activities, coaching, tournaments and more.

We also have a club face book page so don't forget to check this for up-to-date information and we can be followed on Twitter.

If you have any ideas to improve the site or for new sections or pages then please use the e-Mail link on the "Contact Us" page and we will respond.

Our Club adopts a 'paper-free' approach to communications whenever possible.

This year we hope to be able to communicate with you entirely by email so please state

your most frequently-used email address on the application form.

Circular emails will include information on the following:-

Tournaments – entrance forms, dates and orders of play

Social events

Reminders about any changes to club play evenings

Junior Club News

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Anna McCartan who has resigned this year as Junior Club Secretary. Anna has been involved with the Junior club for many years and throughout this time has worked tirelessly in organizing all the junior coaching, coordinating the juvenile league teams and running summer camps.

We look forward to seeing all our younger members again for the 2017 season and extend a warm welcome to all our new members. Children from the age of 5 years old may join the club and we welcome children of all abilities. Membership is open to the whole community.

Club Coaches

This year we are again fortunate to have coaches Sumeet Kapur and Garry Dunne.

Club Fees

All children under the age of 13 years must participate in Junior Coaching sessions and we would ask that you arrive at least 5 minutes prior to the start of your allocated lesson start time

Membership Rates

5 years to 12 years	£10
13 years and over	£20
Higher Education / University Students	£20

Coaching Rates

Primary School Children	£20
Secondary School Children	£20
University/College Students	£20

Coaching Dates

Primary School Children

Tuesdays (1 hour sessions) 7-00 pm – 8-00 pm & 8-00 pm – 9-00 pm

Starting Tuesday, 25th April – Tuesday, 27th June 2017 10 weeks

Coach Garry Dunne

We would ask the parents of the younger children to stay at courtside to supervise and attend to toileting requests. The club may call on volunteers to help on a given evening. The time commitment will be no longer than 1 hour on a Tuesday and 1 ½ hours on a

Saturday. If you are interested in volunteering please let a member of the Committee know.

It is the responsibility of the junior member's parent/guardian to drop off and collect the junior member on time.

Secondary School Children

Saturdays (1 1/2 hour sessions) 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm & 4-00 pm - 5.30 pm

Starting Saturday, 6th May – Saturday, 24th June 2017 8 weeks

Coach Sumeet Kapur

Spaces are limited on Saturdays and will be filled on a first come first served basis.

Junior Club Play

On occasions there will be junior club play on Thursday evenings for secondary school children. This will consist of singles & doubles matches with players selected at random and with a change over every 30 minutes. Dates for this will be advised as and when applicable.

Belfast & District (B&D) Juvenile League

Last year the Club's Juvenile Teams played very well in all their matches. We look forward to another successful season.

Opening American Tournament

On Sunday 09th April the Club will run its first American Tournament of the season and all Juniors over 13 years are invited to enter. Turn up for registration at 1.15pm; there is a small entrance fee of £2 which is donated to charity.

Juniors who are 13 years and over are permitted to play in all the American tournaments, club championships and handicap tournaments. Any juvenile over 13 years and taking coaching lessons is permitted to play at Senior club play on Monday evenings and Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm. Details of the American Tournaments etc can be found on the Club website at www.Downpatricktennisclub.co.uk

JUVENILE OPEN

BOYS SINGLES (Downe Veterinary Clinic)

Winner:

Runner-Up:

BOYS DOUBLES CUP (Coffey Cup)

Winners:

Runners-Up:

GIRLS SINGLES – Did not play

GIRLS DOUBLES (Devlin Jackson Cup) – Did not play

Junior Member of the Year (Wilson Cup)

Dan Browne

Junior Calendar of Events 2017

in the event of any changes we will email you directly

Tuesdays 7 pm – 8pm & 8pm – 9pm	25 th April – 27 th June 2017	Primary School Children Coaching Session (1 Hourly)
Saturdays 2-30 - 4pm & 4 – 5.30pm	6 th May – 24 th June 2017	Secondary School Children Coaching Session (1.5 Hourly)
Thursdays	Dates to be confirmed	Junior Club Play (Secondary School Children)
w/c Mon	24 th July	Summer Camp
August	TBC	Summer Camp
August	TBC	Junior Club Championships