

A Message from the Captain

Spring has got off to a pretty chilly start but now that the snow has melted and the nights are brighter, it's a good time to get some exercise - so roll on Sunday, 8th April when the tennis season commences with an American tournament and club play will get underway on Monday, 9th April. I am honored to be the Club Captain for 2018 and am delighted to have our club coach, Kenneth, as my Vice-Captain.

Some members have already taken advantage of the six weeks Winter Tennis Programme. This took place indoors in Comber Leisure Centre and was funded by NMDDC through the Sports Northern Ireland's Everybody Active 2020 Small Grants Programme. Feedback about this has been extremely positive.

Considering the club is a seasonal one due to the lack of winter play facilities, our players, both junior and senior, have been very successful in competitive tournaments.

Downpatrick Tennis Club is a friendly, supportive and inclusive club and I would like to welcome back our existing members and extend a very warm welcome to new members this year.

Please read on for lots more information!

Ann McLean, Club Captain

Prize & Quiz Night

Prize night took place alongside our annual quiz on Friday, 2nd February 2018. This was well supported and a very enjoyable evening. Thanks to our very own quiz-master, aka Paul McCartan, and to the staff of Denvir's for looking after us all.

Club Membership Fees

We are pleased to let you know that membership fees for 2018 are:

Adult	£50
Juniors (Year 8 – Year 14)	£20
Persons in full time education	£20
Juniors (P1 – P7)	£10

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. **Senior membership payments due by 1st April 2018; thank you.**

Opening American Tournament

Our opening tournament will be held on Sunday, 8th April 2018 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.

Weekly Club Play / Internal League Matches

Please see below for some changes this year:

Monday evenings

Club play as before starting at 6-30 pm each evening; players will be chosen at random by picking numbers and play will rotate on a half-hourly basis.

Tuesday evenings

Junior Coaching (Primary school children)

Wednesday / Thursday evenings

This year we are introducing Internal League matches consisting of men's and ladies' doubles and mixed doubles.

The format will be similar to that used for the Winter Tennis in Comber and confirmation of the weekly matches will be sent, by WhatsApp, each Tuesday for the order of play on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Men's and ladies' doubles will be played on Wednesday's and mixed doubles on Thursday's.

Please email your interest, what league you would like to play in and your weekly availability (Wednesday's for men's & ladies' doubles / Thursday's for mixed doubles) to the club email **by Tuesday, 10th April**.

Matches will commence during the week commencing **Monday, 16th April**.

Players will be given partners and the league will consist of a round robin tournament with matches of first to ten games being played (at 9 games each a tie-break to 7, with two clear points, to be played).

We would love to have as many members playing as possible in this league and would encourage everyone - aged 13 and over - of any ability, to sign up and get playing!

Friday evenings

May & June - B & D Evergreen matches

Saturday afternoons

Junior coaching (Secondary school children)

Sunday Tournaments

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 and is open to anyone aged 13 and over. 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 2018*.

A small donation of two pounds will be collected at registration; this will be donated to charity.

Please note that the arrangements for the B & D League matches i.e. Mixed and Summer are not yet available and there may be evenings when some / all of the courts will be needed. We will let you know in good time if the courts are unavailable for club or internal league matches.

On any other occasion when the courts are free, members may make arrangements to play amongst themselves. Keys can be collected from and must be returned to McCartan's Sports Shop.

Help with Club Opening and Events

Every offer of help with club opening and other events is very much appreciated. If you are able to assist in any way, please let us know (a rota will be available on Sunday, 8th April). Keys for the gates and pavilion may be collected from and returned to McCartan's Sports Shop. Very many thanks!

Adult Coaching

Arrangements for adult coaching will be advised in due course.

Club Competitions – Handicap, Open & Junior

All tournaments are being brought forward in the calendar and you must be available to play on the weekend of the start date of the competition and the weekend of the Finals - Saturday, 30th June. All first round matches are to be played on the weekend stated for the start of the competition. Subsequent matches to be organised between both parties and played as soon as possible. The winner of each match is to text the result to Kenneth Carson. It is important that all remaining rounds and matches up to at least semi-final stage should be played before Finals Day.

This year we will have a grand "Finals Day" on Saturday, 30th June; we also hope to celebrate this with a social event and BBQ for those playing and anyone else who would like to come along, watch, enjoy some tennis and have some craic.

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. Entry forms, with rules and regulations, will be sent out prior to each competition.

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 (2017) the club entered 9 teams in the B and D league; a Winter Flood-lit League team, three Ladies Evergreen teams, one Men's Evergreen team, one Mixed League team and three Summer League teams. We also entered a team in each of the Men's and Ladies Intermediate Knockout Cups.

Congratulations to the Men's Evergreen team for winning division 4, the Summer League team for winning Division 7 and the Ladies Intermediate Knockout team which finished the competition as runners-up to Windsor.

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.

Committee 2018

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

Club Prize Winners 2017

HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

Men's Doubles

Winners:

Sam Murdock & Mark McNally

Runners-Up:

Marty Trainor & Andy Redmond

Ladies Doubles

Winners:

Dympna Morrison & Catherine Curran

Runners-Up:

Nikki Cleland & Ciara Lynn

Mixed Doubles

Winners:

Marty Trainor & Angela Trimby

Runners-Up:

Sam Murdock & Jayne Bassett

OPEN COMPETITION - PLATE COMPETITION

Men's Singles (Bassett Browne Plate)

Winner:

Ben Forde

Runner-Up:

Aidan Murdock

Ladies Singles (M B McGrady)

Winner:

Georgie Greer

Runner-Up:

Alice Browne

Ladies Doubles (Morrison Salver)

Winners:

Anna McCartan & Sara McMillen

Runners-Up:

Ann McLean & Angela Trimby

Mixed Doubles

Winners:

Brian Mooney & Evelyn Mooney

Runners-Up:

Allan Liddell & Catherin Curran

OPEN COMPETITION

Mixed Doubles (McCartan Sports Cup)

Winners:

Sarah Doherty & Kenneth Carson

Runners-Up:

Olivia Mooney & Ben Forde

Men's Doubles (Michael McClaren Cup)

Winners:

Kenneth Carson & Paul McCartan

Runners-Up:

John Neill & Dan Browne

Ladies Doubles (Bready Salver)

Winners:

Dympna Morrison & Catherine Curran

Runners-Up:

Evelyn Mooney & Olivia Mooney

Men's Singles (Brian & Evelyn Mooney Cup)

Winner:

Kenneth Carson

Runner-Up:

John Neill

Ladies Singles

Winner:

Olivia Mooney

Runner-Up:

Jayne Bassett

Junior Member of the Year (Wilson Cup)

Ciara Lynn

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 & orders of play), social events & reminders about any changes to club play evenings.

JUNIOR CLUB NEWS

We look forward to seeing all our younger members again for the 2018 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

We are delighted to welcome club member, Kenneth Carson, to the coaching team and he will be joined this year by Sumeet Kapur.

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

Primary School Children (P1 – P7)	£10
Secondary School Children (Year 8 – Year 14)	£20
Higher Education / University Students	£20

Coaching Rates

Primary School Children (P1 – P7)	£20
Secondary School Children (Year 8 – Year 14)	£20
Higher Education / University Students	£20

Coaching Dates

Primary School Children

Tuesdays (1 hour sessions) 6-30 pm – 7-30 pm & 7-30 pm – 8-30 pm
Starting Tuesday, 17th April – Tuesday, 19th June 2018 10 weeks
Coach Kenneth Carson

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) 1-30 pm – 3-00 pm & 3-00 pm – 4-30 pm
Starting Saturday, 21st April – Saturday, 23rd June 2017 10 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. Congratulations to the Girls U18 team which won division 2 and the Boys U18 team which finished runners-up to Banbridge in their division. The U18 Girls also reached the Challenge Trophy Final following a very close semi-final match against Newcastle. We look forward to another successful season.

Opening American Tournament

On Sunday 08th 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. All members, aged 13 years and over, are permitted to play in all the American tournaments, club championships and handicap tournaments. Any member over 13 years and taking coaching lessons is permitted to play at senior club play on Monday evenings. 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: Dan Browne

Runner-Up: William Brown

BOYS DOUBLES CUP (Coffey Cup) – Dan & Ross –v- Nicholas & William

Winners:

Runners-Up:

GIRL'S SINGLES

Winner: Olivia Mooney

Runner-Up: Tori Ferris

GIRLS DOUBLES (Devlin Jackson Cup)

Winners: Alice Browne & Ciara Lynn

Runners-Up: Tori Ferris & Clara Cleland

Junior Member of the Year (Wilson Cup)

Ciara Lynn

Junior Calendar of Events 2018

In the event of any changes we will email you directly

Tuesdays	17th April – 19th June 2018	Primary School Coaching
	2 x 1 hour sessions 10 weeks	6-30 pm – 7-30 pm (Age 5 – 8) 7-30 pm – 8-30 pm (Age 9 – 11) (depending upon numbers, age range may change)
Saturdays	21st April - 23rd June 2018	Secondary School Coaching
	2 x 1 1/2 hour sessions 10 weeks	1-30 pm – 3-00 pm 3-00 pm – 4-30 pm
Thursdays	TBC	Junior Club Play (Secondary school children)
Summer Camp	Monday, 2nd July – Thursday, 5th July 2018	10-00 am – 12-00 noon: 5 – 10 years of age
	Coach: Kenneth Carson	12-00 noon – 2-00 pm: 11 years of age & over
Summer Camp	Monday, 23rd – Wednesday, 25th July 2018	10-00 am – 12-00 noon: 5 – 10 years of age
	Coach: Sumeet Kapur	12-00 noon – 2-00 pm: 11 years of age & over
Summer Camp	Monday, 6th – Thursday, 9th August	10-00 am – 12-00 noon: 5 – 10 years of age
	Coach: Kenneth Carson	12-00 noon – 2-00 pm 11 years of age & over

Junior Club Championships

These will commence at the same time as the Club Open Championships i.e. over the weekend of 19th & 20th May 2018. All subsequent matches, up to semi-final stage to be played prior to Saturday, 30th June when the final matches will take place.