

Connacht Squash Provincial Annual Report

2002/2003 Season

LEAGUE

The CBE Four Counties League was run very successfully this season by Galway Lawn Tennis Club with Jim Hynes looking after the smooth running of the competition.

A junior section introduced to the league two seasons ago has proven very successful and was continued this season, with Junior Division 1 and Division 2 teams taking part. This gives young players an opportunity to represent their club as well as gaining much needed match practise.

The finals were played in Galway Lawn Tennis Club on Sunday 4th May – many thanks to Jim Hynes for his hard work over the season.

Results

Division	Winners	Runners Up
Mens A League	Galway L.T.C	Ballina Squash Club
Mens B League	Galway L.T.C	Claremorris Squash Club
Junior Division 1	Sligo Tennis Club	Claremorris Squash Club
Junior Division 2	Claremorris	Sligo Tennis Club

The continued sponsorship by CBE of this league is invaluable and all involved appreciate the ongoing support.

COMPETITION

The 2002/2003 Season was very active competition wise.

The Connacht Junior Open hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club over the weekend of 27th/29th September 2002.

Tournament Director: Matthew O'Connor

Tournament Referee: Mike Flattery

Sponsor: Connacht Tribune

Division	Winner	Runner Up
U-19 Boys	Dermot McNamara (Munster)	Arthur Gaskin (Leinster)
U-17 Boys	Sam Owill (Leinster)	Niall Caheny (Connacht)
U-15 Boys	Ben Ramassubbu (Ulster)	Johnny Roberts (Ulster)
U-13 Boys	Brian Parker (Leinster)	Michael Kilduff (Leinster)
U-19 Girls	Claire O'Brien (Leinster)	Katie Wilson (Ulster)
U-17 Girls	Ciara Moloney (Leinster)	Niamh Maher (Leinster)

U-15 Girls **Roisin Brennan (Leinster)** Patricia Burns (Munster)
U-13 Girls **Margaret Mary McGrath (Munster)** Isabelle Mortimer (Connacht)

Connacht Junior Mini Tournament December 2002 held in Galway Lawn Tennis Club

Division	Winner	Runner Up	Third
U-11 Boys	Ross Dempsey (Galway)	Jonathan Rayher (Galway)	Rory O'Connor (Sligo)
U-13 Boys	Eoin Duffy (Galway)	Enna Barry (Galway)	Paul Howley (Sligo)
U-15 Boys	Sean Caheny (Sligo)	Colm Doyle (Galway)	Owen O'Brien (Galway)

Sligo Junior Open hosted by Sligo Tennis Club over weekend of 1st/3rd November 2002

Tournament Director: Pdraig Hackett

Sponsor: Barton Smith Sports

Division	Winner	Runner Up
U-11 Boys	Jonathan Rayher (Connacht)	Ross Dempsey (Connacht)
U-13 Boys	Neil Martin (Ulster)	Paul Howley (Connacht)
U-15 Boys	Conor O'Hare (Ulster)	Sean Caheny (Connacht)
U-13 Girls	Isabelle Mortimer (Connacht)	Sarah Howley (Connacht)
U-15 Girls	Aishling O'Connor (Connacht)	Caroline Kenna (Connacht)

Connacht Vets Open hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club over weekend of 30th November/1st December 2002.

Sponsor: Tim Bohan

Tournament Director: Michael Hynes

Tournament Referee: Shane Cannon

Results: *See Veteran's Report Below*

Connacht Senior Open hosted by Sligo Tennis Club weekend of 24th/26th January 2003 (Irish Squash Tour Tournament).

Tournament Director: John KIELTY

Sponsors: SL Controls, Brooks Hanley, Ulster Bank & Irish Squash

Results Mens A Winner Liam Kenny (Australia/Ireland)

Runner Up Andrew Browne (Ulster)

3rd place Dara O'Flynn (Leinster)

Connacht Senior Closed hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club weekend of 7th/9th February 2003

Sponsor: Bank of Ireland

Tournament Director: Gerry Fahy

Tournament Referee: Pat Hanley

Results: Men Winner Niall Rooney (Galway)

Runner Up Aidan Sharkey (Galway)

Women Winner Sarah Thornton (Galway)

Runner Up Aoife Kerrin (Sligo)

Connacht Junior Closed hosted by Sligo Tennis Club weekend of 14th/16th February 2003.

Sponsor: Connacht Gold

Tournament Director: Pdraig Hackett

Division	Winner	Runner Up	Third
U-13 Boys	Jonathan Rayher (Galway)	Conor Caheny (Sligo)	Rory O'Connor (Sligo)
U-15 Boys	Sean Caheny (Sligo)	Colm Doyle (Galway)	Kevin Davey (Sligo)
U-13 Girls	Isabelle Mortimer (Galway)	Aoife Clancy (Sligo)	Sarah Howley (Sligo)
U-17 Girls	Aine Hackett (Sligo)	Aishling O'Connor (Sligo)	Linda Kenna (Claremorris)

West of Ireland Open hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club over Easter weekend 18th/21st April 2003 (Irish Squash Tour Tournament)

Sponsor: Garavans & Irish Squash

Tournament Director: Mike Flattery

Tournament Referee: Shane Cannon

Results: Mens A Winner Liam Kenny (Australia/Ireland)

Runner Up John Abrahamse (S.Africa/Leinster)

3rd place Graham Stewart (Ulster)

Ladies A Winner Caroline Coyle (Ulster)

Runner Up Tanya Loughran (U.K)

3rd place Siobhán Parker (**Connacht**)

CONNACHT SQUASH 2002 - 2003

VETERAN'S REPORT

The 2002 **CONNACHT VETERANS SQUASH OPEN** tournament was held in Galway Lawn Tennis Club from Friday 30th November to Saturday 1st December 2001. The tournament was sponsored by Tim Bohan. The tournament incurred no financial loss.

Tournament organiser.Director: Michael Hynes

Tournament Referee: Shane Cannon

Total entries of 52 represented an increase of eight on last year and included many of the top-ranked Irish players as well as some UK based players. This year we had a full entry of eight in the O-60 category. The overall standard of play was excellent with some wonderful matches. The Men's O-45A final, a repeat of last years final, between Martin McDonnell and Alf Kavanagh was one of the best squash matches seen in Galway in recent years. Only two points separated the players in the fifth set.

Local players won three trophies. Norrie O'Grady can usually be relied on to win a title and this year she came away with the ladies' O-45 title. T. J. Mullins won the Men's O-45B while Rory Timlin making a welcome return to competitive squash won the Men's O-50B by overcoming Jim O'Callaghan of Munster in a very tight match.

Results are as follows:

Category	Entries	Winner	Runner-up
Ladies' O-40	8	Ann Gray	Ann Costello
Ladies' O-45	4	Norrie O'Grady	Anita Mylotte
Men's O-45A	8	Martin McDonnell	Alf Kavanagh
Men's O-45B	4	T. J. Mullins	Neil O'sullivan
Men's O-50	8	Kyran Hurley	Eugene O'Sullivan
Men's O-50B	4	Rory Timlin	Jim O'Callaghan
Men's O-55A	8	Billy Ryan	Tom Cantwell
Men's O-60	8	Noel Murphy	John O'Brien

An enjoyable social evening was held in the Galway Lawn Tennis Club.

Irish Veterans Open (Fitzwilliam, 14th – 16th Feb 2003)

The following Connacht players competed in this competition:

Alf Kavanagh (Coventry), and Tom Cantwell (Westwood)
Anita Mylotte (Galway), Norrie O'Grady (Galway) and Jenny Borroughs (Galway).

The Connacht players enjoyed good success and came away with two winners and two runner-ups.

Anita Mylotte won the Ladies' O-50 category.

Alf Kavanagh won the Men's O-45 category with an excellent win over Martin McDonnell.

Norrie O'Grady was runner up in the Ladies' O-45 while Tom Cantwell finished runner-up in the Men's O-55.

Veteran and Vintage Interprovincial Championships

The 2003 Veteran and Vintage Interprovincial Championships were hosted by Leinster on the weekend of Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd March 2003. Matches were played at Mount Pleasant and Riverview.

The Connacht Teams were as follows:

No.	Men's Veteran	Ladies' Veteran	Men's Vintage
1	Alf Kavanagh (Coventry)	Norrie O'Grady (Galway)	Michael O'Connor (Galway)
2	Jim Hynes (Galway)	Anita Mylotte (Galway)	Michael Devaney (Galway)
3	Gerry Fahy (Galway)	Trudie O'Byrne	Donal Geraghty (Galway)
4	Shane Cannon (Galway)	Helen Reapy (Claremorris)	Michael Hynes (Galway)
5	Tom Cantwell (Westwood)	Jenny Borroughs (Galway)	

Due to some last minute withdrawals and the absence of a number of key players due to injuries and other reasons, Connacht were unable to field their strongest teams. Alf Kavanagh suffered an injury early on in the proceedings and played no further part in the competition. Warm tribute must be paid to the manner in which the players who travelled competed even though they were eventually beaten. The ladies were sorely disappointed in that they were rather surprisingly defeated by Munster in the first match. Munster went on to win the ladies veteran title.

Visit by Beaconsfield Squash Players

The Vets secretary organised a visit by six squash players (five men, one lady) from Beaconsfield Squash Club in the UK. They played two matches against a selection of Galway players (1st and 2nd May) and then went on to Sligo where they played a further two matches (3rd and 4th May). There was some excellent squash and the exercise provided a much needed opportunity for some of our veteran players and also a number of younger players to compete against opposition from outside the province and the country. The local players acquitted themselves well and were overall winners.

As vets secretary, I express my gratitude to Shane Cannon who acted as tournament referee also to Mike Flattery who also assisted greatly with the refereeing. As in previous years, the organisation of the refereeing in the Connacht Open was a model of how it should be done. Referees were immediately available once players were ready to play and this aspect of the tournament was very favourably commented on by the participants.

Connacht Players on Irish Teams for Home Internationals (May 2003)

Ladies O-45 Norrie O'Grady (#1).

Ladies O-45 Anita Mylotte (#4).

Men O-45 Alf Kavanagh (#2).

Men O-50 John Kielty (#6).

Men O-55 Tom Cantwell (#1).

Michael J. Hynes (Connacht Vets Secretary)

COACHING

Irish Squash this season kept the junior coaching within the Provinces, which proved very successful within Connacht. The distance to Dublin/Belfast makes squad weekends difficult for our players as well as all the tournament commitments juniors have to fulfil during the season.

Niall Rooney coached juniors selected by their tournament results in Galway Lawn Tennis Club. Cian Blake & Fiona Parker coached players in Sligo Tennis Club.

Fiona Parker was very active coaching juniors in Sligo over the season, also some of the players from the smaller clubs in Mayo who travelled to Sligo.

Siobhán Parker passed the Level 1 coaching course run by Irish Squash.

PLAYERS SELECTED TO REPRESENT IRELAND

Senior European Championships Nottingham, England - April/May 2003

John Rooney (Galway)

Aisling Blake (Sligo)

Anna McGeever (Sligo)

Junior Mens World Championships Chennai, India December 2002

Ross Lillis (Galway)

U-13 Home Internationals – Yorkshire January 2003

Stephen Trainor (Galway)

Isabelle Mortimer (Galway)

Aoife Clancy (Sligo)

U-15 Home Internationals – Yorkshire January 2003

Sean Caheny (Sligo)

Aishling O'Connor (Sligo)

U-15 Team Coach Fiona Parker (Sligo) Caroline Kenna (Claremorris)

U-15 & U-17 European Championships Antwerp, Belgium May 2003

(U-15) Aishling O'Connor (Sligo)

(U-17) Niall Caheny (Sligo)

Junior Womens World Championships Cairo, Egypt August 2003

Aoife Kerrin (Sligo)

Team Manager: Sarah Thornton (Galway)

Vets Home Internationals – May 2003

(O-45) Norrie O'Grady (Galway)

(O45) Anita Mylotte (Galway)

(O-45) Alf Kavanagh (U.K)

(O-50) John Kiely (Sligo)

(O-55) Tom Cantwell (Dublin)

Senior Players selected 3

Junior Players selected 9

Vets Players selected 5

All Ireland Schools Championship, Antrim May 2003

Winners

U-13 Girls Winners Rathcormack National School, Drumcliffe, Sligo.

Connacht Team: Aoife Clancy, Sarah Howley & Patrice Gallagher

U-17 Girls Winners Ursuline College, Sligo.

Connacht Team: Aoife Kerrin, Aine Hackett & Aishling O'Connor

U-17 Boys Winners Summerhill College, Sligo

Connacht Team: Niall Caheny, Mark Cosgrove & Sean Caheny

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