



# Connacht Squash Provincial Annual Report 2004 - 2005 Season.

This years Connacht Squash Council consisted of: -

Michael Munnely (*President*), Sean Kenna (*Vice President*), Bernadette Parker (*Secretary & Junior Admin.*), Norrie O'Grady (*Treasurer*), Michael Hynes (*Recording Secretary*), Jim Hynes (*Vet's Secretary*), Helen Reapy (*P.R.O.*), Bernadette Parker & Anita Mylotte (*Provincial Reps to Irish Squash*), Kevin Rooney (*Child Protection Officer*), Joe Murray, Noel Lynn & Mary Murray (*General Committee*)

## **FOUR COUNTIES LEAGUE: -**

The annual four counties league was not held this year due to insufficient interest from a lot of the clubs. But weekly ladders are being held in Galway and Sligo that attract a large number of players.

## **COMPETITION:**

The 2004/2005 Season was very active competition wise beginning with:

**The Connacht Junior Open** hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club over the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

**Tournament Director: Peter Allen Tournament Referee: Donal Geraghty**

**Sponsor: A.I.B. Bank**

### **Results:**

**U-19 Boys** Winner Mark Gilland (Ulster); Runner Up Adam Hennessy (Leinster)

**U-17 Boys** Winner Chris O'Kane (Ulster); Runner Up Conor O'Hare (Ulster)

**U-15 Boys** Winner Ben Craig (Ulster); Runner Up Neil Martin (Ulster)

**U-13 Boys** Winner Eoin Dolan (Leinster); Runner Up **Jonathan Rayher (Connacht)**

**U-19 Girls** Winner Rachel McLeod (Ulster); Runner Up Ciara Maloney (Leinster)

**U-17 Girls** Winner **Aishling O'Connor (Connacht)**; Runner Up **Róisín Brennan (Leinster)**

**U-15 Girls** Winner Kirsten McAllister (Ulster); Runner Up Clare Henry (Ulster)

**U-13 Girls** Winner **Gráinne Murphy (Leinster)**; Runner Up Aoife Jordan (Leinster)

**Connacht Junior Mini Tournament: -**

December 2004 held in Galway Lawn Tennis Club.

**Tournament Directors: Edwin Brennan & Fiona Parker.**

**Results:**

**U-11 Boys** **Winner** Ciaran Maher (Thurles); **Runner-Up** Stephen Quigley (Sligo); 3<sup>rd</sup> Eoin Nicholson (Sligo)

**U-13 Boys** **Winner** Alan Quigley (Sligo); **Runner-Up** Paul Geraghty (Galway); 3<sup>rd</sup> Conor O'Shea (Galway)

**U-15/U-17 Boys** **Winner** Barry Collins (Galway); **Runner-Up** Edwin Brennan (Galway); 3<sup>rd</sup> Darragh Walsh (Nenagh)

**U-11 Girls** **Winner** Gabrielle Gallagher (Sligo); **Runner-Up** Gráinne Mulkerrin (Galway)

**U-13/U-15 Girls** **Winner** Aisling Power (Sligo); **Runner-Up** Nicola Hehir (Galway)

**Sligo Junior Open** hosted by Sligo Tennis Club over weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> of January.

Sponsor: **Permanent TSB**      Tournament Director: **Áine Hackett**

Twenty-eight players participated from Thurles, Galway & Sligo

**U-11 Girls** **Winner** Gabrielle Gallagher (Connacht)

**U-11 Boys** **Winner** Ciaran Maher (Munster)

**U-11 Boys** **Runner Up** Eoin Nicholson (Connacht)

**U-13 Girls** **Winner** Niamh O'Regan (Munster)

**U-13 Girls** **Runner Up** Rachel Power (Munster)

**Mixed U-13/U-15 Boys**

**Winner** Michael Ely (Munster)

**Runner Up** Conor Caheny (Connacht)

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Alan Quigley (Connacht)

**Plate Winner** Eoin Feeney (Connacht)

**Plate Runner Up** John Murray (Connacht)

**U-17 Girls Winner** Sarah Howley (Connacht)

**U-17 Girls Runner Up** Louise Concannon (Connacht)

**U-17 Boys Winner** Sean Caheny (Connacht)

**U-17 Boys Runner Up** Kevin Davey (Connacht)

**U-17 Boys Plate Winner** Jonathan Rayher (Connacht)

**Connacht Vets Open** hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club over weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> of November. **Sponsor: Anonymous** (*By Request*)

**Tournament Director: Jim Hynes Tournament Referee: Shane Cannon**

**Results: *See Attached Veteran's Report***

**Connacht Senior Open**

Hosted by Sligo Tennis Club weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> January 2005 (Irish Squash Tour Tournament)

**Tournament Director: John KIELTY Sponsors: SL Controls, Brooks Hanley, Ulster Bank & Irish Squash**

**Results Men's A Winner** Derek Ryan (Leinster); **Runner Up** Arthur Gaskin (Leinster); 3<sup>rd</sup> place **Keith Moran (Connacht)**

**Connacht Senior Closed**

Hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club weekend of 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> February 2005. **Sponsor: The Galway City Tribune.**

**Tournament Director: Gerry Fahy Tournament Referee: Matt O'Connor**

**Results:**

**Men's A Winner:** Keith Moran (Sligo); **Runner-Up:** Ross Lillis (Galway)

**Connacht Junior Closed**

Hosted by Sligo Tennis Club weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> February 2005.

**Tournament Director: Áine Hackett      Sponsor: Standard Life**

**Results:**

**U-11 Boys** Winner Gearoid McDiad (Sligo); Runner-Up Eoin Nicholson (Sligo); 3<sup>rd</sup> place Stephen Quigley (Sligo)

**U-13 Boys** Winner Conor Caheny (Sligo); Runner Up Alan Quigley (Sligo); 3<sup>rd</sup> place Callum Lee (Galway)

**U-15 Boys** Winner Rory O'Connor (Sligo); Runner Up Jonathan Rayher (Galway); 3<sup>rd</sup> place Derek Roache (Killala)

**U-17 Boys** Winner Sean Caheny (Sligo); Runner-Up Kevin Davey (Sligo); 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Barry Collins (Galway)

**U-13 Girls** Winner Aisling Power (Sligo); Runner Up Gabrielle Gallagher (Sligo) 3<sup>rd</sup> place Gemma Cunningham (Sligo)

**U-17 Girls** Winner Sarah Howley (Sligo); Runner Up Louise Concannon (Kilconly); 3<sup>rd</sup> place Patrice Gallagher (Sligo)

**West of Ireland Open**

Hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club over Easter weekend 25<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> March 2005 (Irish Squash Tour Tournament)

**Sponsor: Garavans & Irish Squash**

**Tournament Director: Matt O'Connor      Tournament Referee: Pat Hanley**

**Results:**

**Men's A Winner Niall Rooney (Connacht);** Runner Up John Abrahamse (S.Africa/Leinster); 3<sup>rd</sup> place Arthur Gaskin (Leinster)

**Men's B Winner Fergus McLysaght (Munster)**

Runner-Up Ray Crowley (Munster)

**U-13 & U-15 Home Internationals** hosted by Sligo Tennis Club 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April 2005

**See attached Report**

**Senior Interprovincial Championships**

Hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club over the weekend 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2005.

**Tournament Directors: - Colin Whitney & Edwin Brennan**

**Tournament Referee: Jim Hynes**

**Sponsored By: - The Connacht Tribune**

**Connacht Teams: -**

**Men's A-** Niall Rooney, Keith Moran, Ross Lillis, David Noone, Rory Gilligan

**Men's B-** Cian Blake, Conor Flanagan, Ronan Tully, John Kielty, John McGrannahan

**Ladies-** Aisling Blake, Laura Mylotte, Fiona Parker, Aoife Kerrin, Norrie O'Grady, Aishling O'Connor.

**Results:**

**Men's A: - 1<sup>st</sup> Leinster 2<sup>nd</sup> Connacht 3<sup>rd</sup> Ulster 4<sup>th</sup> Munster**

**Men's B: - 1<sup>st</sup> Ulster 2<sup>nd</sup> Leinster 3<sup>rd</sup> Connacht 4<sup>th</sup> Munster**

**Ladies: - 1<sup>st</sup> Connacht 2<sup>nd</sup> Ulster 3<sup>rd</sup> Leinster**

### **All Ireland Club Championships**

Hosted by Sligo Tennis Club on the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of May 2005.

**Tournament Director: - John Kielty** Sponsors: SL Controls, Brooks Hanley,

Ulster Bank & Flanagan Ford.

**Men's Winners: - Celtic Squash Club, Waterford**

**Ladies Winners: - *Not played yet as the two teams that entered had some players on International duty.***

## **CONNACHT SQUASH VETERAN'S REPORT 2004 – 2005**

### **Connacht Veterans Squash Open**

The 2004 **CONNACHT VETERANS SQUASH OPEN** tournament was held in Galway Lawn Tennis Club from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November to Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2004. The tournament was sponsored as usual by an anonymous donor. Following the resignation of

Michael Hynes after having completed six years as Connacht Vets secretary, Jim Hynes took over the running of the tournament ably assisted by Shane Cannon (tournament referee), Michael Hynes, Gerry Fahy and other members of the squash committee of Galway Lawn Tennis Club.

**Tournament Organiser/Director:** Jim Hynes

**Tournament Referee:** Shane Cannon

Total entries of 44 included six overseas players. The ladies O-40 only attracted four entries and this was a disappointment. As usual, the entry included many of the top-ranked Irish players. The overall standard of play was excellent with some wonderful closely fought matches. This was so even in the first round and highlights the quality of the entry.

The draw for the O-45 had to be remade shortly before the start of the tournament. As he was arriving in the club, Niall O'Sullivan was informed that his brother had passed away and he immediately returned to Cork. On behalf of both Connacht Squash and the players, we extend our deepest sympathy to him on his great loss. A Dublin based player did not inform either the club or the Tournament director that he was withdrawing. This is quite unacceptable and unfair to the Tournament directors.

With the return of Martin McDonnell, the final of the Men's O-45 division once again pitched Martin against Alf Kavanagh, the Coventry based Connacht player. Martin won the final 3-0.

Local players won two sections. Norrie O'Grady can usually be relied on to win a title and once again she did not disappoint as she overcame Cork based Claire Jones in the final to come away with the ladies O-40 title. Tim Bohan, the number two seed, defeated the number one seed, Dave Lalor, to come away with the Men's O-45B trophy. T. J. Mullins had an excellent tournament and finished up in third place in the Men's O-50.

There were some wonderful matches in the Men's O-50 division. A full gallery watched the first round match between T.J. Mullins and John O'Connor and all wondered how soon the ball would burst! In an excellent and closely fought final, Geoff Irwin defeated UK based Steve Ewer 3-2.

Terry Norman has moved to the O-55 division this year and defeated Brendan Barry in the final. Noel Murphy regained the O-60 title after a lapse of some years by defeating Brian Williams 3-2 in the final. Brian had an excellent tournament.

Following the premature death of Michael Devaney earlier this year after a short illness, Galway Lawn Tennis Club commissioned Richard Quinn to produce the Michael Devaney Perpetual Cup. The beautiful cup will be awarded each year to the winner of the Connacht Vets Open O-45A division. At the tournament dinner, Michael Hynes highlighted the many contributions made by Michael to squash in Galway and Connacht and spoke of his great sportsmanship and commitment to the game of squash. He then invited Michael's wife Margaret to present the trophy to Martin McDonnell.

Results are as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Entries</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>
Ladies O-40	4	Norrie O'Grady	Claire Jones
Men's O-45A	8	Martin McDonnell	Alf Kavanagh
Men's O-45B	4	Tim Bohan	Dave Lalor
Men's O-50	8	Geoff Irwin	Steve Ewer
Men's O-55A	8	Terry Norman	Brendan Barry
Men's O-60	8	Noel Murphy	Brian Williams

The tournament was followed by dinner in the Galway Lawn Tennis Club on Saturday evening.

### **The Veteran And Vintage Interpros, Cork 2005.**

The 2005 Veteran and Vintage Interpros were held on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of March and were hosted by Munster. Matches were played in Sunday's Well and Highfield.

The Connacht Teams were as follows:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Men's Veteran</b>	<b>Men's Vintage</b>
1	Alf Kavanagh (Coventry)	John Kielty (Sligo)
2	T.J. Mullins (Galway)	Tom Cantwell (Westwood)
3	Dave Lalor (Galway)	Tommy Knight (Ballina)
4	Jim Hynes (Galway)	Tom Murray (Kilkenny)
5	Kul Singh (Galway)	Frank Fahey (Ballina)

Neither of the Connacht teams fared too well in their respective groups.

**Michael J. Hynes.**

**May 2005.**

**Under 13/15 Home Internationals – Sligo – 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

**Sligo Tennis Club** was the proud host this year for the Under 13 and Under 15 Home International Competition.

The Home Countries teams of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Yorkshire were made up of four boys (one reserve) and three girls (one reserve) in each age group and accompanied by managers, coaches, parents and supporters.

The travelling teams were accommodated in the excellent **Sligo Park Hotel**, while the Irish teams were hosted and cared for by members of **Sligo Tennis Club**.

Round Robin matches were held in both age groups on Friday, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon, followed by a meal and table quiz. The event ran very smoothly thanks to all the work carried out at the planning stage and a professional touch was added on the day by Áine Hackett entering all scores on a computer for future records.

As Tournament Director I would like to thank Patrick Madigan Tournament Referee, and his team of referees for all their hard work, John Caheny and Patsy Gallagher who co-ordinated the transport, all the host families for their generosity and time, all the teams, managers and coaches for their co-operation and sportsmanship and last but by no means least a special thank you to Bernadette Parker, who first put the idea forward that Sligo should run this event. Bernadette did a tremendous amount of organising so that this tournament would be successful.

### **Under 15 Team**

No. 1 Boy Ben Craig

No. 2 Boy Rohan Ramasubbu

No. 3 Boy Colm Dolan

No. 1 Girl Sarah Murphy

No. 2 Girl Niamh O'Hare

Sub. Boy Neil Martin

Sub. Girl Patrice Gallagher

Manager Bernadette Parker

Coach Gerry Connaughton

**Padraig Hackett**

**Tournament Director.**



## **COACHING: -**

Fiona Parker carried out junior coaching in Connacht this year in both Sligo and Galway. There were approximately thirty juniors participating in the coaching programme in Galway, The format was one-hour group sessions.

In Sligo there were approximately twenty-five juniors participating in coaching, the format in Sligo was small group sessions or individual coaching.

An evening's junior squash coaching also took place in Killala, Co. Mayo, the format here was two to three juniors for half hour sessions with approximately sixteen juniors being catered for.

Adult coaching was carried out on request in Sligo and Galway on an individual basis.

Colin Whitney returned to Galway towards the end of the Season and took over the adult coaching there he also took some of the older juniors for coaching.

Fiona Parker has now started a new job and finished coaching; Colin has taken over all coaching responsibilities in Galway. He also travels to Kilconly on a regular basis to coach a number of players. Colin also plans to run some Summer Camps during the later part of the Summer, John Rooney will coach with Colin on these camps.

## **PLAYERS SELECTED TO REPRESENT IRELAND: -**

**Senior European Championships** Niall Rooney (Galway)

**Amsterdam, The Netherlands** Aisling Blake (Sligo)

Laura Mylotte (Galway)

**U-19 European Championships** Niall Caheny (Sligo)

**Malmo, Sweden**

**U-17 European Championships** Aishling O'Connor (Sligo)

**Boeblingen, Germany**

**U-15 European Championships** Sarah Howley (Sligo)

**Boeblingen, Germany** (Sarah selected as No.1 Girl unable to travel due to injury)

**U-15 Home Internationals** Patrice Gallagher (Sligo)

**Sligo.** Sarah Howley (Sligo) selected as No.1 Girl unable to play due to injury)

**U-13 Home Internationals** Rory O'Connor (Sligo)

**Sligo.** Conor Caheny (Sligo)

**Vet's/ Vintage Home Internationals:** - Ladies O-45: - Norrie O'Grady (Galway)

Men's O-40: - Brian Mahon (Sligo)

Men's O-45: - Alf Kavanagh (Coventry)

Men's O-50: - T.J. Mullins (Galway)

Men's O-55: - John Kielty (Sligo)

Men's O-60: - Tom Cantwell (Westwood)

**Senior Players selected: 3**

**Junior Players selected: 6**

**Vets Players selected: 6**

**Connacht Squash fundraising raffle: -**

1<sup>st</sup> prize: Squash Racquet: Cormac Mc Mahon (Galway)

2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Bottle of Whiskey: John Dolan (Sligo)

Connacht Squash wish to thank all those who supported the raffle, which helped raise much needed funds for the Province

*Bernadette Parker,*

Secretary – Connacht Squash.