

# Connacht Squash

## Annual Report

### 2003/2004 Season

#### COMPETITION

**Galway Lawn Tennis Club** hosted the **Connacht Junior Open**, over the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> September 2003. Sponsored by **O'Donnellan & Joyce Auctioneers** the tournament saw some eighty-eight players taking part in age groups from U-13 up to U-19 level.

**Tournament Director:** Eugene Trainor **Tournament Referee** Matt O'Connor

#### Results:-

#### Winner Runner Up Plate Winner

U-13 Boys Rohan Rammasubbu (U) Eoin Dolan (L) Rory O'Connor (Con.)  
U-13 Girls Sarah Howley (Con.) Aoife Clancy (Con.) Patrice Gallagher (Con.)  
U-15 Boys Brian Parker (L) Gordon Harpur (U) Stephen Cahill (L)  
U15 Boys "B" Karl Jess (L) Edwin Brennan (Con) Mark Brennan (Con.)  
U-15 Girls Aishling O'Connor (Con) Roisin Brennan (L) Margaret M McGrath (M)  
U-17 Boys Adam Hennessy (L) Rory Byrne (L) Eugene Devereux (L)  
U-17 Girls Ciara Moloney (L) Niamh Brennan (L) Sarah McCracken (U)  
U-19 Boys Ross Lillis (Con.) Sam Olwill (L) Kevin Kilduff (L)

**Sligo Tennis Club** hosted the **Sligo Junior Open** over the weekend of 31<sup>st</sup> Oct/2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2003

Sponsored by: **permanent tsb** (*Small entry so sections run on ability rather than age*)

#### Tournament Directors: Áine & Pdraig Hackett Results:-

A Section Winner Sean Caheny  
A Section Runner Up Kevin Davey  
A Section 3<sup>rd</sup> place Aishling O'Connor  
B Section Winner Rory O'Connor  
B Section Runner Up Mark Brennan

C Section Winner Patrice Gallagher  
C Section Runner Up Paul Carr  
Novice Section Winner Sinead Carr  
Novice Section Runner Up Laura Scanlon

**Galway Lawn Tennis Club** hosted the **Connacht Vets Open** over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> November 2003. Sponsor: Anonymous (by request)

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

**Results:-**

| <b>Division</b> | <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Runner Up</b>  |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Ladies Over 40  | Norrie O'Grady  | Len Redmond       |
| Mens Over 45 A  | Alf Kavanagh    | Steve Ewer        |
| Mens Over 45 B  | Jim Hynes       | Joseph O'Flaherty |
| Mens Over 50    | Geoff Irwin     | John O'Connor     |
| Mens Over 55A   | Brendan Barry   | Tom Cantwell      |
| Mens Over 60    | Eamonn O'Reilly | John O'Brien      |

**Sligo Tennis Club** were hosts of the **Connacht Open** over the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> January 2004

Main Sponsor **SL Controls**, also supported by **Brooks Hanley, Ulster Bank, Connolly's Bar & Irish Squash.**

**Tournament Director:** John Kielty

**Results:-**

**Ladies A**

**Winner** Aisling Blake (Connacht)

**Runner Up** Nikki Anne McDowell (Ulster)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** Eleanor Laphorne (Munster)

**Mens A**

**Winner** Liam Kenny (Australia)

**Runner Up** Graeme Stewart (Ulster)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** John Hurley (Munster)

**Mens B**

**Winner** Shane Shevlin (Leinster)

**Runner Up** Fergal Field (Leinster)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** Paul Morriarty (Munster)

**Galway L.T.C** hosted **Connacht Closed** 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> February 2004

Sponsor: **Bank of Ireland**

**Tournament Director:** Gerry Fahy **Tournament Referee:** Pat Hanley

**Results:-** Mens A Winner : **Ross Lillis** R.Up **Niall Caheny**

**Sligo Tennis Club** were hosts to the **Connacht Junior Closed** 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> February 2004

Sponsor: **Connacht Gold**

**Tournament Directors:** Áine & Padraig Hackett

**Results:-**

**Winner Runner Up 3<sup>rd</sup> place**

U-13 Boys Rory O'Connor Jonathan Rayher Jack Larkin

U-15 Boys Sean Caheny Brian Brennan Tony McDaid

U-15 Girls Sarah Howley Louise Concannon Patrice Gallagher

**Junior Interprovincials** were hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club 19<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> March 2004

Sponsor: **Connacht Tribune**

**Tournament Director:** Peter Allen **Tournament Referee:** Aidan O'Colmain

**Results:- Winners Runners Up**

U-13 Boys Ulster Connacht

U-13 Girls Leinster Munster

U-15 Boys Leinster Connacht

U-15 Girls Ulster Connacht

U-17 Girls Ulster Leinster

U-17 Boys Ulster Leinster

U-19 Boys Connacht Munster

**West of Ireland Open** was held in **Galway Lawn Tennis Club** over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

Sponsor: **Charlie Garavan**

**Tournament Director:** Mike Flattery **Tournament Referee:** Gerry Fahy

**Results:-**

**Mens A Winner Runner Up**

**Mens B** Liam Kenny John Rooney

Daniel Long Cian Blake

## **COACHING**

Four-day squash camp run for juniors in Galway L.T.C in early August 2003 small attendance, thought perhaps too early as a lot still away on holiday.

A week long squash camp run in Sligo Tennis Club, last week of August, for juniors. Good attendance, players from Galway, Claremorris, Kilconly & Kiltimagh, as well as Sligo, in attendance. Twenty players took part in the five-day event.

Thanks to financial help from Irish Squash two squad weekends were held in Galway Lawn Tennis Club for Connacht players. Over the first weekend players were taken in groups of eight (based on ability rather than age or gender) for three-hour sessions, two coaches working with each group of eight. Four of these groups took part over the weekend, which proved very successful.

A second weekend took place and based on feed back from one of the coaches the groups were broken down into four per group and taken for an hour and a half as opposed to three hours, again with two coaches per group. This resulted in poor attendance from those who had to travel from Sligo as they felt it too far (two hour drive each way) for an hour and a half of coaching.

This was taken on board and should we be in a position to run these weekends next season we will hold sessions in both Galway and Sligo.

Fiona Parker coaches in Galway Lawn Tennis Club on a weekly basis (taking groups of young juniors.) Some individual sessions also being giving by Ross Lillis and Dave Noone as well as Fiona Parker.

Niall Caheny has been taking groups of beginners on a weekly basis in Sligo Tennis Club.

## **INTERVARSITIES**

NUI Galway hosted the Intervarsities 20<sup>th</sup>/22nd February 2004

### **Results:-**

Ladies A Winners NUI Galway

Mens A Winners Trinity College, Dublin

Mens B Winners NUI Galway

## **SCHOOLS**

Thanks to financial support from Irish Squash some schools in Killala, Co. Mayo have been introduced to squash. Fiona Parker visited the local squash court and held a coaching session. This has resulted in much interest in squash in the Killala area. Several boys travelled to Sligo to compete in The Connacht Junior Closed. These players have also visited Sligo to play a Killala v Sligo match. We are encouraging these players to enter the Provincial Opens next season, and also plan to get a coach down to Killala again shortly.

An "Introduction to Squash" morning was held in Sligo Tennis Club in early January for a class from Rathcormack National School. This has resulted in several new junior members in the club some of whom are showing much potential on the squash courts.

The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class from Menlo National School attended an "Introduction to Squash Morning"

in Galway Lawn Tennis Club during early February 2004 this resulted in several new juniors joining G.L.T.C to play squash.

## **All Ireland Schools Championships, Carlow - April 2004 - Winners**

**U-13 Girls Winners** - Rathcormack National School, Sligo

**Sarah Howley, Patrice Gallagher & Caitriona Conefrey**

**U-17 Boys Winners** - Summerhill College, Sligo

**Niall Caheny, Mark Cosgrove & Sean Caheny**

*(Query pending objection from Carlow C.B.S re team order)*

## **PLAYERS SELECTED TO REPRESENT IRELAND**

### **U-19 European Championships**

3<sup>rd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> April 2004

Herentals, Belgium **David Noone (Galway)**

**Niall Caheny (Sligo)**

### **U-13 & U-15 Home Internationals**

9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> April **U-13 Team Sarah Howley (Sligo)**

Cardiff, Wales **Patrice Gallagher (Sligo)**

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

**Caroline Kenna (Claremorris)**

**U-15 Boys Kevin Davey (Sligo)**

**Brian Brennan (Kiltimagh)**

### **Senior European Championships**

28<sup>th</sup> April/1<sup>st</sup> May 2004 **John Rooney (Galway)**

Rennes, France **Aisling Blake (Sligo)**

**Laura Mylotte (Galway)**

### **Over 35's Home Internationals**

28<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> April 2004

Cardiff, Wales **Helen Reapy (Claremorris)**

### **U-15 & U-17 Europens**

28<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> May 2004 **U-15 Mixed Team Aishling O'Connor (Sligo)**

Langnau, Switzerland **Kevin Davey (Sligo) Brian Brennan (Kiltimagh)**

**U-17 Mixed Team Áine Hackett (Sligo)**

### **U-19 Junior Men's World Championships**

July/August 2004

Islamabad, Pakistan **Niall Caheny (Sligo)**

**\*(Vets Internationals listed in attached Vets Report)**

### **Senior Interpros**

**Connacht Ladies A was the winning team in Cork over weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> May 2004**  
**Team: 1) Aisling Blake (Sligo)**

**2) Laura Mylotte (Galway)**

3) Anna McGeever (Sligo)

4) Sarah Thornton (Galway)

5) Norrie O'Grady (Galway)

*Bernadette Parker,*

Secretary – Connacht Squash.

## CONNACHT SQUASH 2003 - 2004

### VETERAN'S REPORT

The 2003 **CONNACHT VETERANS SQUASH OPEN** tournament was held in Galway Lawn Tennis Club from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2003. The tournament was sponsored by an anonymous donor and incurred no financial loss.

**Tournament Organiser/Director:** Michael Hynes

**Tournament Referee:** Shane Cannon

Total entries of 40 represented a decrease over last year. However, the entry included many of the top-ranked Irish players as well as some UK based 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.

Perhaps the most disappointing element was the low entry in the ladies division. This was due to a combination of circumstances. As in last year we had a full entry of eight in the O-60 category, this included most of the top Irish seeds. Arising from the absence of Martin McDonnell due to family circumstances, we had a new pairing in the Men's O-45A final with Alf Kavanagh (Connacht) regaining his crown after a lapse of two years by overcoming Steve Ewer.

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 a determined Len Redmond in the final to come away with the ladies O-40 title. Jim Hynes won the Mens O-45B. T. J. Mullins had an excellent tournament and finished up in third place in the Men's O-45A.

Results are as follows:

| Category    | Entries | Winner         | Runner-up         |
|-------------|---------|----------------|-------------------|
| Ladies O-40 | 4       | Norrie O'Grady | Len Redmond       |
| Mens O-45A  | 8       | Alf Kavanagh   | Steve Ewer        |
| Mens O-45B  | 4       | Jim Hynes      | Joseph O'Flaherty |

|            |   |                 |               |
|------------|---|-----------------|---------------|
| Mens O-50  | 8 | Geoff Irwin     | John O'Connor |
| Mens O-55A | 8 | Brendan Barry   | Tom Cantwell  |
| Mens O-60  | 8 | Eamonn O'Reilly | John O'Brien  |

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

### **Leinster Open (7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2003)**

The following Connacht players competed in this competition

Alf Kavanagh (Coventry), Tom Cantwell (Westwood)

### **Irish Senior National Championships (18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2003)**

The following Connacht players competed in this competition

Helen Reapy (Claremorris), John Kielty (Sligo), Tom Cantwell (Westwood).

### **Munster Open (Cork, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2004)**

The following Connacht players competed in this competition:

Alf Kavanagh (Coventry), Dave Lalor (Galway), John Kielty (Sligo).

Alf Kavanagh finished third in the Men's O-45.

### **Irish Veterans Open (Fitzwilliam 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2004)**

The following Connacht players competed in this competition:

Norrie O'Grady (Galway), Anita Mylotte (Galway), Alf Kavanagh (Coventry), T.J. Mullins (Galway), John Kielty (Ssligo) and Tom Cantwell (Westwood).

Once again, Norrie O'Grady was overall winner of the Ladies O45 section while Anita Mylotte came away with the Ladies Vintage title. Well done to both of them.

## **Veteran and Vintage Interprovincial Championships**

The 2003 Veteran and Vintage Interprovincial Championships were hosted by Ulster Squash and were played at the Belfast Boat Club on 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2004.

The Connacht Teams were as follows and were managed by Michael Hynes

| <b>No.</b> | <b>Men's Veteran</b> | <b>Men's Vintage</b> |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|------------|----------------------|----------------------|



|   |                         |                          |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Alf Kavanagh (Coventry) | Tom Cantwell (Westwood)  |
| 2 | Jim Hynes (Galway)      | Donal Geraghtly (Galway) |
| 3 | Don Walsh (Galway)      | Joe Higgins (Galway)     |
| 4 | Dave Lalor (Galway)     | Tommy Knight (Ballina)   |
| 5 | Gerry Fahy (Galway)     | Frank Fahy (Ballina)     |
| 6 |                         | Michael Hynes (Galway)   |

Connacht did not field a ladies team. Some new faces this year, Don Walsh, Dave Lalor, Joe Higgins, Tommy Knight and Frank Fahy and we welcome them all and trust that they will continue to be available for selection. It was an enjoyable weekend with some great squash. The Vintage team performed well and won a number of matches and were unlucky in a number of closely fought matches.

### **Visit by Beaconsfield Squash Players**

The veterans of Galway Lawn Tennis Club hosted a visit by three squash players from Beaconsfield Squash Club in the UK. Two series of matches were played on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Highlight of the visit was a truly wonderful squash match between Norrie O'Grady and Joanne Smalley in which Norrie avenged her defeat by Joanne during last years visit.

### **Connacht Players on Irish Teams for Home Internationals**

Norrie O'Grady (#1 Ladies 0-45), Norrie O'Grady (#1 Ladies O-50), Anita Mylotte (#3 Ladies O-50).

Alf Kavanagh (#2 Men O-45), T.J. Mullins (#5 Men O-45), Tom Cantwell (#5 Men O-55), John Kielty (#6 Men O-55). Special congratulations to T. J. Mullins on the award of his first international cap and winning his first match as an Irish international.

### **Michael Devaney**

It is with great sadness that we report the recent passing of Michael Devaney. Michael represented Connacht at many levels in squash and was always available to travel. All those who played against him will remember his skill, his sportsmanship and his high levels of fitness. We take this opportunity to convey our condolences to his wife Margaret and family. Ar dheis lámh dé go raibh a anam.

### **Conclusion**

As Connacht Vets Secretary, I express my gratitude to all those who assisted me during the past and previous years. Special thanks as usual to Mike Flattery, Shane Cannon and Jim Hynes of Galway Lawn Tennis Club who always seem to be

available to help when required. Sincere thanks to our sponsors who made it possible to run the Connacht Vets Open and to send teams to the Interpros.

As this is my last year as Vets secretary, I rejoice in the many great friends I have made over the past number of years among the squash fraternity. Vets and vintage squash players are really quite an extraordinary bunch of people and I have many fond memories. I will not list names as I may omit someone, however they will know who they are.

Michael J. Hynes (Connacht Vets Secretary)