

Gerry Galvin update on Connacht Squash Clubs

GLTC

Update from Galway Squash Club is that David Noone is growing the junior players in the club and coaching adult players. There are plans to upgrade the 6 squash courts in the club with some courts getting new front wall plaster, floors, tins and lighting. Also plans to put glass back to court 5 and 6 and glass doors on court 3 and 4. The courts are rented to NUIG student squash club one night in the week as NUIG have only 1 squash court. We have a regular ladder where members play in different section league every Tues evening. We have 3 teams participating in the Connacht league.

Ballina Squash club

Currently enrolling 2017 members, expecting somewhere in the region of 120-130 members with around 20 of these being new comers to the club and the sport.

Junior enrolment complete, we have 25 juniors enlisted for coaching in 2017. This is our first year with official junior coaching taking place.

Connaught league- B team competing and doing well.

Events- the club hope to host the Connaught league finals day (25th Feb?)

New spring league expected to start 06th Feb, we estimate at least 96 players again.

Introducing new ladder system, outside of internal leagues, open to all members. Hoping to introduce a further competitive edge to the club.

Currently examining our court improvement plan with several projects lined up already for the summer.

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Westport Squash club

50+ playing in Round Robin league

Including senior and junior .

2 juniors competing in open events nationally.

Better energy application made for new LED lights on courts .

Decision in 2 Weeks time .

Application for CSG in progress, money to cover glass back courts .

Junior and Senior sponsored event starting.

Currently 2 club teams competing in C B E Connaught league.

Ballinrobe Squash club .

Hi gerry coaching flying in ballinrobe again 30 odd each

Wednesday a lot of young recruits and some older ones not back.

Thanks gerry

Sligo Squash Club

No report received

Kilala Squash club.

We held our AGM on 6/1/2017. After a lot of prior work, drafts and edits our new constitution was adopted on the night. If any other club need a template, let us know, we think ours covers everything now. Another highlight, Joe Murray stepped down as chairman to concentrate on coordinating the senior league and coaching. The new constitution promotes the idea of x-members getting involved as Honorary Members to help out with the running of the club, Michael McAndrew was proposed and seconded as our first honorary member and is now our new chairman.

2.) Marcella Holmes (our Treasurer & Child Welfare Officer) and some of our junior parents brought a bus full of our juniors (29 in total) to Galway for the Connacht Junior Closed on 7th of January. This is now a tradition as it's our second year participating! Although we had no category winners, we were well improved from last year and very happy with our progress. We were well represented in nearly all age groups in both boys and girls.

3.) Our 'Joe Gavin' spring senior league started this week. There are 8 teams of 10 (80 members) participating and the league will be played over 8 weeks. Our Junior league also kicked off with 8 teams of 5 (40 members participating) which will also run over 8 weeks. Both leagues are mixed male and female This gives a total of 60 competitive matches to played weekly on our single court!

4.) Weekly junior training is also back after the xmas break, 26 on Wednesday evenings over 2 hours with Joe Murray and 20 newly started last September on Saturday mornings over 2.5 hours with John Gorman. It's a struggle as I'm the only coach with any qualifications and only to foundation level, Joe has yet to finish his, we need to start thinking of how we can get more coaches trained.

5.) 'Mayo Now' magazine came to visit us last Sunday. They took some photos and did some interviews for an article in their next release. We're eagerly awaiting what they'll say, and we'll share it with you.

6.) The Sports Capital Grant 2017 is now open and we'll be putting in an application in conjunction with the Killala Community Council. Unfortunately we can only apply as tenants of our community centre and since we were awarded €12.5K in 2014 we can only apply now for a maximum of €12.5K for our entire multi sports centre. We hope to get a new 'sprung' floor for our squash court (the management team is hoping to retrofit the floors in the main sports hall and handball alley as well and we're the bottom priority as our floor isn't too bad in comparison). As the average age of our seniors is probably well over 30 we've had our share of nasty injuries and we hope this will help reduce the number of injuries in the future. Unfortunately though, no sign of how we are going to get a second badly needed squash court in the short term.