

April 2024

Dear all,

It has been a great year of tennis, despite the weather, which continues to challenge...

Welcome to new (and returning) members of our committee – Edel Gallagher, Steen Larson and Leo Matteo. With thanks to those who are stepping down – Ivana Gorman, Alicia Rugg and Tomaz Raczynski. Ivana and Alicia have been on the committee through most of the evolution of the club over the last 5 years, from 3 tarmac courts and 40 members to the club today.

Memberships rose slightly with approx. 210 adults, but member bookings rose by 90 hours. Credit to our Captains and Director of Tennis who ran events and competition throughout the year to keep us active. This team also excelled in managing the highest number of entries into DLTC league, with the semi and finals reached, a first for the ladies.

Club coaching was well subscribed with Maria Petina offering beginners/improvers and cardio through the winter. A welcome return by Tanya Grazulis offers members intermediate level coaching on a Tuesday night. Although not the aim of club coaching, profit was made and reinvested in community and league doubles coaching.

Community coaching for Prosper and St Michael's House, ran through the winter thanks to North County Cricket Club allowing us access to their hall without charge. Groups have now reverted to the courts and plan to continue through to the end of June. This is a very popular thanks to the energy of Maria Petina and Emma Mullins.

Parks Tennis continues to offer coaching on our courts and a schedule through to September has been agreed. This excellent programme largely run by volunteers is funded by Fingal Council and Tennis Ireland and provides inexpensive junior tennis employing local coaches.

To date the club has only public liability insurance, providing no cover to our members. Thanks to all who completed the survey in January asking the question 'did members want individual accident and loss of earnings' cover. The result was 50/50, so the committee decided to source a group policy from Chubb which runs from 1st March 2024 and provides all members with medical expense cover for accidents incurred as a result of playing tennis at or for Balrothery Tennis Club. Hopefully no one will need it!

The club also invested in new foot scrappers, windbreaks, score boards, surrounding growth clearance, as well as ongoing repair and maintenance. A contractor has been secured (with Fingal's approval) to treat the moss on court, and they are awaiting a dry spell to do so. Fingal Council continue to provide monthly sweeping of the courts.

We ran a very successful open day last summer to announce the final plans for the club house, however progress has been slow since then and plans to do groundworks by spring have been delayed. In hindsight, weather would have paused it anyway, however Anthony Mills is working hard to keep the council and contractors focused.

Memberships are open – charges have not been increased and reduction on guest charge introduced during the winter will stay in place. Public access was opened and has been booked for 20 hours since January. Since it is limited to bookings before 3pm and 1 hour max, it should not impact members access, however this will be adjusted, if required.

Thanks to all who have renewed their membership for the coming year, and to those who have decided not to, we hope to see you again in the future.

Gate code will be changed in the coming weeks, you will be updated on whatsapp. You can also open the far gate with the QR code generated by your app ('open gate').

Enjoy your tennis!

Your committee :

Men's Captain - Jimmy Boylan

Women's Captain - Rosie Duffy

Membership Secretary - Fiona Farrell (membership@balrotherytennis.ie)

Coaching & PR – Edel Gallagher (coaching@balrotherytennis.ie)

Chair - Sheila Gallen

Director of Tennis - Noel Jordan

Secretary – Steen Larson (secretary@balrotherytennis.ie)

Treasurer – Leo Matteo (treasurer@balrotherytennis.ie)

Club Site Development - Anthony Mills