



CAPTAINS CLUB NEWS
JULY 2024

Quote of the month –

Boris Becker: "I love the winning, I can take the losing, but most of all I love to play."

Hello All,

It has been a busy July with a number of exciting activities and events for the club – below are some club highlights.

ST MICHAELS OPEN

The 5th of July saw the start of our Open tournament week, which was enjoyed by members, players and visiting supporters. Thank you to all our sponsors for their generosity in supporting this event – Keanes, SuperValue, St Michael's Credit Union, Denny's, Recharge Cartridges, John Lucey, Tim Sullivan Auctioneers Ltd, Nat Ross, Cortado Coffee, Blackrock Castle Café

We have received many compliments on the very successful smooth running of the event, the warm welcome and friendliness of our members and the generous and high standard food offerings. Throughout that week I received positive feedback on many occasions from our visiting players and supporters which was lovely to hear and is a result of all of your hard work and efforts. Thank you to all our members who gave their time in preparation for and during the event.

A special mention goes to the following -

Síle Ní Dhonaile and Avril Dowling for their kitchen and food organisation and to all the members who gave their time baking, providing food and volunteering on kitchen duty – the food this year each day of the competition was outstanding. Semi-Final BBQ night was a lively event with a record number of burgers and sausages consumed – always a good sign – lots of hungry supporters, players and members well fed.

Marc Power for organising the desk rota together with the volunteers who gave their time checking people in, keeping track of scores, allocating courts and being the happy faces to greet players on their arrival.

Pat Murphy for painting and sprucing up our club area in advance of the Open – thanks Pat for helping to keep our club looking its best.

Paul O Callaghan and Noel Fitton for acting as our tournament referees. Thank you also to Paul for ensuring our courts were in top shape and a high standard for the tournament and thank you also to Noel for double jobbing on BBQ night and acting as our chef extraordinaire.

Tríona Buckley – tournament director for her organisation, direction and keeping the show on the road during the week.

Well done to each of the St Michael's members who played in our home Open – it was great to have so many people to cheer for and support this year throughout the competition week. A special mention to those of you who not only made the final but came out on top on finals day.

- Michelle Johnson and Audrey Huggard – WD6 winners
- Tina Scully and Peter Pearson – XD5 winners
- Deirdre Dennehy and Hannah Dennehy – WD5 winners

Well done everyone on a great Open tournament!

SUMMER CUP

St Michaels have a very successful campaign underway this year with a record number of team entries from St Michaels for the Summer Cup season. We entered 7 teams this year. Summer Cup is always a tricky one with availability and holidays so thank you to the subs who have stepped up, some on short notice to play for their teams. Summer Cup is a knockout competition, and I am happy to report the following so far -

The WD6 team have now reached the QF stage due to take place on the 11th of August playing Causeway.

Both the WD4 and WD5 teams have continued their winning ways and have now reached the Semi-Final stages of the competition which will be held in mid-August. WD4 will be at home to Larkspur and WD5 will be away to Kilfeacle – we will confirm dates and times nearer the fixtures.

Our Novice team are in a round robin event with Ballinlough, Rushbrook, Kinsale, Bishopstown and are doing us proud with some great matches and fixtures so far.

Well done to the teams who have come to the end of their Summer Cup journey – thank you for the huge effort you all put in to some very, very tight fixtures – you all did us proud.

XD4 - knocked out by Nenagh after a great performance in marathon length tight tie break matches and a super doubles battle

MD2 – Had a fantastic result V Sundays Well with a heroic Super Doubles win. However round 2 saw Larkspur come out on top on the day in that encounter.

MD6 unfortunately had to retire due to injury during their Limerick match but did us proud on the day playing out the remaining matches where they could.

EXTERNAL OPEN TOURNAMENTS

There have been many St Michael's entries and successes throughout June and July in the external opens - a great sign of the increased interest in competition play within our club membership. A special mention for those of you who took the plunge and entered your first competition - well done!

UPGRADES

As a result of successes in competitions, we have had a number of Munster grade upgrades for members - so far over the summer the following have moved to new grades

G4 -Mary Attridge
G4 –Yvonne Mangan
G4- Oonagh Hurley
G4- Muireann Mangan
G5- Síle Ní Dhonaile
G2- John O Sullivan
G5- Deirdre Dennehy
G2- Mary Ryan Purcell
G5- Audrey Huggard
G5- Michelle Johnson
G4- Tina Scully

Fingers crossed for some more to come in the next few weeks with some tournaments yet to be held.

MINI CLINICS

A series of 3 Mini Clinic training sessions were offered to members Tuesdays in July in the following areas – Serving (direction speed spin), Net play (different types of volley, overhead, smash) serve and rally (movement for return). There was a great interest and sign up from members. Thank you to coach Jo-Anne Williamson for putting these very useful sessions together for our members and to those who helped Jo-Anne out on the days they were being run.

JUNIOR NEWS - SUMMER CAMP

Two successful weeks of camps were led by our coaches with nearly 90 children attending over the two weeks. A big thank you to our coach Ted Williamson and his coaching team for the energy and enthusiasm (and imagination on the rainy days!) they brought to the summer camp in both the morning and afternoon sessions. New skills were learnt, new friendships made and the smiling faces of the kids at pick up each day showed how much they enjoyed their sessions.

SOCIAL TENNIS

Club night is on a break for summer and will return in September. Keep an eye out for news on its return. Club night is great fun for members old and new of all standards and we look forward to seeing and welcoming some new faces once back up and running on Tuesday nights.

NEXT UP – COMING SOON

Tuesday Hitting Practice Sessions for grades 5/6 – email will be sent out shortly with details and signup information.

Keep an eye out for details of our **Club Internal Closed Competition** due to take place in September.

Keep an eye out for details on how to sign up to **Munster Winter League** – expression of interest forms coming soon via email to members.

Date for your diary – 17th to 24th August - St Michaels Junior Tennis Open – we encourage our members to come down and show your support during the week if you can. It is a great opportunity for our younger members to see some junior tennis match play in action.

It is lovely to see the courts being used during the summer days by members and families – we hope you are enjoying your summer tennis fun together. Till next update,

Happy tennis all,

Muireann