



Downpatrick Tennis Club

Newsletter 2011



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Rosemary Porter	Dympna Morrison	Brenda Arthurs	
Club Coaches			
Ronnie Ballantine		Michael McLaren	

1 A Message from the Captain

Welcome to 2011 at Downpatrick Tennis Club. It's hard to believe that it's the time of year again when we can shake off the winter's doom and gloom and look forward to a new season of tennis and fun.

The 2011 calendar begins for Juniors in early May and Seniors on Sunday 10th April with our first American tournament. Most of the Sunday tournaments are American Handicapped tournaments which involve all abilities playing together, so don't be shy! Please come along and play for fun in these and all of our other tournaments in what is a truly short season.

As a growing club we will continue to submit teams (this year more than ever) in Belfast and District Leagues. These games are played primarily for fun and provide opportunities to meet with other clubs and abilities, and believe me – we do not shame ourselves!! We do throw in some competitive exertion for good measure now and again, and it pays off.

I wish that you all achieve what you plan to achieve in these coming months and most importantly, that you enjoy your tennis in the good company of Downpatrick Tennis Club members.

Clare Magilton (Captain)



2 Club website and email communication

All of the information in this newsletter is now available online at our new website.

Please visit... www.downpatricktennisclub.co.uk

You will find information on all the Club's policies, activities, coaching, tournaments and more. If you have any ideas to improve the site or for new sections or pages then please use the e-Mail link on the "Contact Us" page and we will respond.

This year the Club, in line with most organisations, will adopt a 'paper-free' approach to communications. Other than the initial posting of this newsletter all of our communication will be by email. Please state your most frequently-used email address on the application form. Circular emails will include information on the following:-

- Tournaments – entrance forms, dates and orders of play
- Social events
- Reminders about any changes to Club play evenings



HOME	MEMBERSHIP	CLUB PLAY	LEAGUES	COACHING	TOURNAMENTS
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Related information

- Contact us
- Finding us
- Committee Members
- Child protection
- Club Policies

WELCOME TO DOWNPATRICK TENNIS CLUB

Downpatrick tennis club welcomes members of all ages and abilities and from all walks of life. Inclusivity is a strong theme throughout the club, and new members will be offered the support of a dedicated buddy for the first few weeks. This experienced member will guide them through club procedures and ensure they have an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Coaching is available to members at all levels of their development from our professional accredited coaches. New players can compete in friendly matches and informal play on club nights and as they gain confidence they will have the opportunity to compete in the Belfast and District Leagues.





3 Club Fees

Membership fees for 2011 are as follows, these remain as for 2010:

Membership type		Fee
Adult		£50
Juveniles (13 – 18 years)		£20
Persons in full time education		£20
Juniors		£10
Coaching (Juniors & Juveniles)	First Child	£45
	Each subsequent child	£35

All members must send in an application form with payment, receipt of fees will be acknowledged by email.

4 Coaching

Many adult members took part in coaching last year and availability of this will be increased this year. Michael McLaren will coordinate Beginner and Intermediate coaching sessions on Sunday mornings.

Intermediate Coaching will begin at the start of April so we would ask all members to let us know as soon as possible if they are interested in this. The coaching will be delivered in packages of four one-hour slots, with a maximum of eight adults in each session. Lessons will run on concurrent weeks unless a session has had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

The cost of coaching will be £24 for each set of four lessons, to be paid in advance.

There will be no refund for lessons missed.

Beginner Coaching will be set-up on Sunday mornings as soon as interest has been established. These will be run as a set of four one-hour lessons. For anyone new to the Club in 2011 there will be no charge.

Detailed information on **Junior Coaching** and our new **Junior Club Play** will be contained within the Junior Newsletter. Places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.



5 Volunteers for the Senior Club and Parental Volunteers

We welcome all offers of help with the running of the Club. If you are prepared to coordinate Club play for one or two weeks, be present at Junior Club or contribute in any other way it will be very much appreciated.

If your child is taking part in Junior Coaching we would ask you to volunteer a small amount of time to the Junior Club. Please contact Anna McCartan, the Junior Secretary, about this.

Additionally, this year the Committee asks that parents of younger Juniors remain at courtside during their coaching sessions to supervise and attend to toileting requests.

6 Club Play and American Tournaments

Club play will be as last year, Monday and Wednesday, but starting at the earlier time of 6.30pm. On Mondays, players will be selected at random and on Wednesdays selection will be determined using the 'White Board' method.

Our American Tournaments have been very well attended in recent years so this year we have scheduled more than ever. A small donation of two pounds will be collected at registration and this will be donated to charity. Registration is at 1.15pm prompt for a 1.30pm start to ensure that the tournament starts on time and finishes at a reasonable hour. The format is mixed doubles, with a draw for partners and it's a "smashing" way to get to know your fellow members.

We are also running two Round Robin tournaments - one for ladies and one for men. These are great fun, please come along and if possible let us know in advance if you intend to play – this will make the organisation of play much easier on the day.

Some members enjoy the challenge of a full tennis match with friends. Courts may be available on, for example, a Friday evening outside B and D leagues. We ask members to coordinate and organize these sessions themselves. Unfortunately the use of courts for these ad hoc sessions can only really work on a 'first-come first-served' basis and we



hope players hoping for a last minute game won't be disappointed if the courts are all being used.

For details of dates and times of all Club-run events please see the *Calendar of Events 2011*.

7 Belfast and District Leagues (B&D)

The Belfast and District League body organizes competition at various levels and offers challenging tennis to players of all abilities. The Club believes that league tennis makes a unique contribution, both at team and individual level. Not only do we enjoy the camaraderie of team play, but participants also testify to the learning experience that takes place during these competitive matches – all of which are played in great spirit and sportsmanship.

Last season (2010) the Club entered 5 teams in the B and D league with our most successful season ever. The Ladies' Evergreen team won its division, and has moved up to Division 2. The Mixed, Summer League, Men's Evergreen and Ladies' Evergreen 'B' teams played extremely well and stayed in their respective divisions

At Downpatrick Tennis Club we strongly believe in being inclusive whenever possible. Before Christmas, we invited all 2010 adult members to let us know of their interest in playing in B and D league teams. Those people who expressed an interest will be invited to take part in one or more of our teams this coming season. If you are interested in being a 'sub' on any of the teams please contact the Committee.

8 Family Quiz and Social Evening, Denvir's March 12th 2011

Last year's quiz night was very successful and raised funds for the Club. Most importantly it acted as a super opportunity for junior and senior members to get together and renew acquaintances before the season began. This year we will have the event in Denvir's Hotel.