



Celbridge LTC
Celebrating 100 Years
1923-2023



CELBRIDGE & DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS CLUB
**COMMEMORATING THE CLUB'S
CENTENARY YEAR**



1923 - 2023



It gives me great pleasure to introduce this chronicle of Celbridge & District LTC's history, in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the club.

These 100 years have been an extraordinary journey for the Club, from its establishment in turbulent Civil War years, through the Second World War, the recession hit 1970's and through the recent Covid pandemic to today, 2023. In the words of John F Kennedy " A journey of a thousand miles begins with the taking of a single step" and we are forever grateful to our founding members.

I hope this booklet will serve as a useful history of our past - but above all, I hope this book will inspire the next generation of Celbridge & District LTC's family, so that 100 years from now, our successors can look back on the same club with the same DNA and be just as proud as we are today.

Margo Delaney – Chairperson Celbridge & District Lawn Tennis Club



1920s

“IT ALL STARTED HERE”

In 1923 Celbridge & District Lawn Tennis came into existence here where the ESB power houses are located on Primrose Hill.



OUR FORMIDABLE FOUNDERS

It was founded by Rev E.L.B Barker, Captain E. J.C. Maunsell, Major E. Conolly and Fr. Joseph Furlong. Those in the photograph were the inspiration to start a tennis club in Celbridge. It was because of their drive and that of so many other volunteers over the past 100 years that we are here today celebrating our centenary.



Group of officials connected with Celbridge Tennis Club -
Rev. E.L.B. Barker, Capt. R.J.C. Maunsell,
Mrs Barker and Major E. Connolly (President of club), Father Joseph Furlong

PROFILES OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS



Richard John Caswell Maunsell

Richard was born on the 2nd of May 1878 in Limerick city. He and his family lived in Oakley Park in Celbridge, which is now owned by St.

Raphael's, St. John of Gods. Richard's ancestors first settled in Limerick in the mid-17th century as bankers, politicians and army officers. From there the family moved to Oakley Park in Celbridge in 1813. The Maunsells trained in law and worked as solicitors and also served as High Sheriff or ruler in Kildare at the time in upholding all matters related to the court and maintaining law and order.

Major E. Conolly

Major Edward Michael Conolly was born on 20th February 1874. He fought in the Boer War (1899-1901) and World War 1. After fighting in the Boer War he gained the rank of Captain in the Royal Artillery and after World War 1 he gained the rank of Major in the Royal Artillery.

He was the son of Thomas Conolly and Sarah Elizabeth Shaw. Major E. Conolly inherited Castletown House after his father and older brother died. Castletown House is Ireland's largest 18th century house. His older brother, who was a Captain in the British army, died in the Boer War in 1900. Major E. Conolly didn't settle down in Castletown House until after World War 1. Under his ownership, Castletown House was a major source of employment locally. The esteem the local workmen held for their landlord was confirmed at Major Conolly's funeral when the catholic workmen carried his coffin into the protestant church despite the local priest objecting. As one of the workmen later pointed out "sure wasn't he the only one who was willing to give us a day's work".

Major E Conolly was first President of the club.

Rev. Barker

Rev. Barker (Ernest Lindsay Bucknan Barker) was born in Belfast in c. 1886. Rev Barker served as a Chaplain in World War 1 and later as a Rector of Celbridge until 1931. During his time in Celbridge Rev. Barker helped with Dublin University missions to Fukien and Chota Nagpur. Rev Barker took up a new position as Rector of Holy Trinity, Killiney in 1931, and later in 1954 a senior role as Precentor of Christ Church Cathedral. Rev Barker died in 1970, and was residing in Bray, Co. Wicklow, at the time of his death.



Fr Joseph Furlong

There is little information on the early life of Fr. Furlong, though it is known that he served as a priest at St. Patrick's Church in Celbridge from 1906 – 1908. He also

served as a catholic chaplain in the Royal Air Force in France during World War 1, where he developed his interest in flying. Fr. Furlong retained strong connections with Celbridge and the tennis club. In November 1924, as a committee member of the tennis club he helped organise a 'pretty dance' in the Town Hall, Celbridge, in aid of funds for the club. The dance was attended by over 100 couples. He was a senior priest in Finglas, from 1932, and had been elevated to Canon when he was posted in Kilcullen. He died in 1971 and was remembered as having left a legacy of a spirit of self-help.



The profiles of the founding members were researched and compiled by Ailbhe Moloney

Extract from the Kildare Leader –
illustrating events in Kildare around the
time of the founding of the club

NOW FOR THE TENNIS
– our first champions

1921 Celbridge bridge badly damaged during War of Independence (Jan 8)

1921 Celbridge resident Art O'Connor TD becomes Minister for Agriculture in the second Dáil (Aug 16)

1921 Celbridge barracks, on site of Workhouse/Hospital, later the paint factory, is reputedly first in which uniform of the new Free State army is worn when occupied by an officer and 40 men (Mar 24).

1921 Gunfight ensues when volunteers attempting to mine the railway bridge at Stacumny are surprised by Black and Tan patrol (July 5).

1922 Free State Soldiers travel from Celbridge to take possession of Beggar's Bush Barracks in Dublin (Jan 31).

1922 Anti-treaty forces attack but fail to capture Free State's barracks in Celbridge workhouse, one of first engagements of civil war (April 17).

1923 Celbridge born Anthony O'Reilly executed following his capture after battle of Pike's Bridge (January 8).

1923 Celbridge Union abolished by Minister of Local Government leading to closure of hospital (May)

1923 Celbridge tennis club founded

c1923 The 67 bus service commences linking Celbridge to Dublin city centre.

1928 Celbridge Rugby club founded by Fr Joseph Furlong, active 1928-29.

1931 Weston Aerodrome established by Darby Kennedy

1933 Union paint factory opens on site of Celbridge workhouse

1934 Celbridge Mills reopened by Leinster Hand Weaving Company (Oct 2)

1939 Workman, trained by Jack Ruttle at Hazlehatch, wins Aintree



Mr. G. T. Cobb, winner of Men's Handicap.

"Racquet Sir?"

Mr G.T Cobb winner of the Men's Handicap 1923



Miss Kingston (Lucan), winner of Ladies' Handicap at Celbridge Tennis Tournament

"What a smash Miss K!"
Miss Kingston (Lucan),
winner of the Ladies
Handicap 1923

In 1920's the club held annual club championships and many a social dance.

DANCING FOR FUN(DS)

Dances were a big fundraiser for the club as well as loads of fun. Below is an original account of dances held in the club. These dances were advertised in the local paper Kildare Observer and in shops of nearby villages and towns (Palmerstown, Naas, Newbridge, Lucan, Leixlip).

22nd October, 1924. (a)

CELBRIDGE TENNIS CLUB.

—A—

PRETTY DANCE

IN AID OF ABOVE.

Town Hall, Celbridge

Saturday, NOVEMBER 1, 1924

MANAHAN'S BAND (personally conducted).

Tickets ... 15/- each.

EVENING DRESS (a)

Celbridge Tennis Club Dance

The Celbridge Tennis Club may well congratulate themselves on the brilliant success of their pretty dance, which was held in the Town Hall, Celbridge, on Saturday night last. The dance was organised in aid of the funds for the Club, and the committee in charge of the arrangements, under the able guidance of Rev. Father Furlong, C.C., worked exceptionally hard and spared no effort to achieve their object. The ballroom presented a picturesque appearance, being very neatly decorated with chrysanthemums and other seasonable flowers. The music was supplied by Mr. W. A. Manahan's famous band, which in itself was sufficient guarantee to ensure success, and the catering in the hands of Mr. Mills left nothing to be desired. There were, it is estimated, over 100 couples present, which not only included many prominent lovers of dancing in Co. Kildare, but also from the metropolis and adjoining counties. The ballroom was somewhat small for such a large crowd, but the merry throng enjoyed themselves to the fullest and highly appreciated the following well adapted programme put forward by Mr. Manahan, who was called upon to give several "encores" to each item:—

1. Extra Fox Trot, "Hu-La-Lou";
 2. Fox Trot, "Mona Vanna";
 3. One-step, "Charleston Cabin";
 4. Fox Trot, "Mandalay";
 5. Fox Trot, "Love is just a gamble";
 6. Valse, "What'll I do";
 7. Fox Trot, "Burning Kisses";
 8. Fox Trot, "Worried";
 9. One-Step, "Scotch Medley";
 10. Fox Trot, "What do you do, Sunday, Mary";
- (Supper Extras)
11. Fox Trot, "Naughty Baby";
 12. Fox Trot, "Somebody Loves Me";
 13. Valse, "Dreamy Melody";
 14. Fox Trot, "It Had to be You";
 15. Fox Trot, "It Ain't Gonna Rain No Mo'";
 16. One-Step, "American Melody";
 17. Fox Trot, "After the Storm";
 18. Fox Trot, "Shanghai Lullaby";
 19. Valse, "Millions di Harlequin";
 20. Medley, "Irish Medley."

ACCOUNT OF THE 1926 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lawn Tennis.

Celbridge Club "At Home."

Favoured with beautiful weather, the Celbridge Tennis Club held their annual "At Home" on Saturday last. A large number of friends and patrons of the Club were present. Amongst the distinguished guests were the popular President of the Club, Major F. M. Conolly, Lady Dease, Lady Carew, Mrs. Arthur Dease, and Mr. L. Fitzpatrick. The guests were treated to an admirable display of tennis, especially in the Men's singles final, which went to three sets, and was won in convincing form by R. J. Kelly, after which he was also successful in the Championship contest with T. Shortt. In the Women's final a very good match was also witnessed between Miss G. Shepherd and Mrs. R. Shepherd. Losing the first set, Miss Shepherd emerged victorious after a long struggle, which lasted two hours and a half.

Mr. Clarke Barry's orchestra contributed splendid music during the afternoon. Tea was served in sumptuous manner by the ladies' committee for which all were loud in their praises. At the conclusion of the proceedings prizes were distributed by Lady Dease.

Father Furlong, in introducing Lady Dease referred to her as the "oldest inhabitant" in Celbridge, and her name was so long associated with every good work that it was a household word. Her Ladyship had always been a great friend of the Club, and on many occasions had presented prizes. Father Furlong called for three loud cheers for Lady Dease, and in like manner referred to the distinguished President, Major Conolly (Castletown), who was always a staunch friend of the Club, and had backed it up from its very beginning.

Three rousing cheers were given for him, his sister, Lady Carew, and Mr. Arthur Dease.

Major Conolly suitably replied and called for three cheers for Father Furlong.

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

Mrs. Shepherd beat Miss Warrell, 6-1, 6-1.

WOMEN'S HANDBICAP SINGLES.

Miss G. Shepherd (by 30) beat Mrs. R. Shepherd 1 - 15, 7, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3.

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

R. J. Kelly beat T. Shortt, 6-4, 6-2.

MEN'S HANDBICAP SINGLES.

R. J. Kelly (by 130) beat J. H. W. Mallon 1 - 15, 7, 6-6, 6-1, 7-5.

An enjoyable dance was held in the Town Hall that night, at which all the friends of the Club from Dublin and Naas turned up in strong force, and brought the season 1926 to a triumphant close.

Lawn Tennis

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Results follow in the original article

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1930s

When the land of the original site was sold in around 1930 the club moved to the corner of Hazelhatch/Simmonstown road /Green Lane.

AERIAL PICTURE OF THE SECOND LOCATION OF THE TENNIS CLUB –



The curse of whiskey

Extract from the minutes:

“The committee at the time, strongly condemned the use of a bottle of whiskey as the prize in Gentlemen’s Singles Championship.

The gentleman winner and friend left the grounds, only to return later and unruly behaviour ensued, causing a “hinderance to the entertainment”.

The committee proposed that from now on cigarettes and chocolates would be given as prizes.

Summers were better in the 1930's – Pimms Please



The above photo shows tennis club members sitting on the veranda of the pavilion and on one of the tennis courts (July 1934), where the pavilion can be seen in the background.

The 1930's was an active period with lots of members and play during the season.

Four courts and a charming looking clubhouse with a veranda



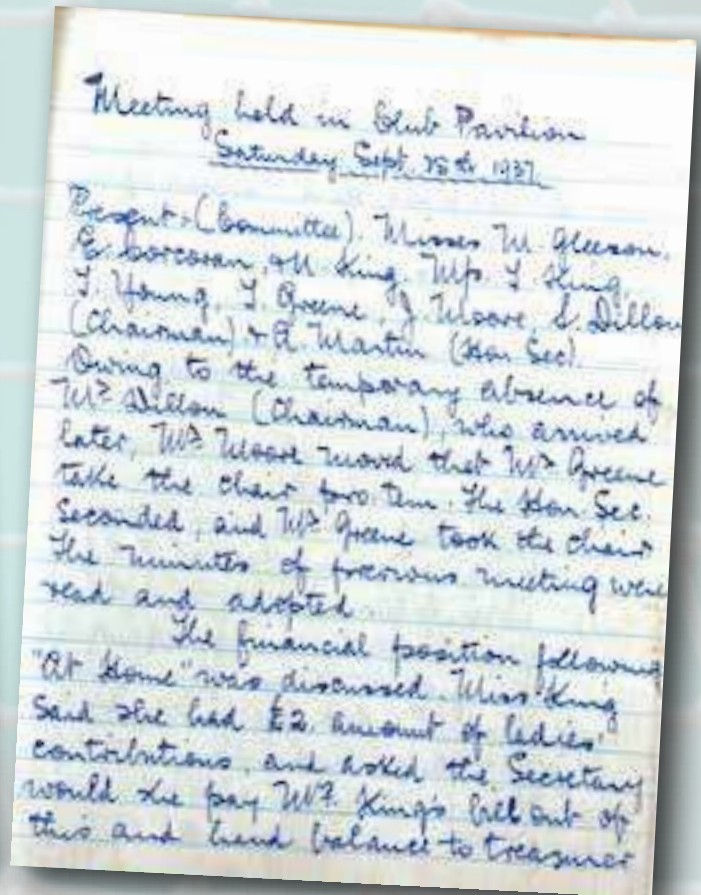
**Does anyone play in this club
or just lounge?**



**Players relaxing after some long
exhausting games or just having a picnic**



First available minute book 1937



Opening for 1937 Season

Celbridge Lawn Tennis Club

April, 1937.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

The Committee of the above Club have pleasure in announcing that all arrangements are now complete for opening of the Tennis Season 1937.

All Members and intending Members will be at liberty to play on the courts on and from 25th inst., and it is the earnest desire of the Committee that all will display an active enthusiasm, thus ensuring a record 1937 Season.

The Committee have decided to reduce the Membership Fee to 10/- per person in order to attract an increase of Membership. The previous Juvenile and Family rates of subscriptions will therefore cease.

The Club has expended a considerable amount of its funds towards the improvement of the grounds, and all members are assured of the maximum of comfort and enjoyment.

The Official Opening of the Club will take place on Sunday, 25th April, followed by an open American Tournament. Teas will also be served.

The Committee request that the Subscriptions be paid on usage being made of the Club grounds.

Finally, you are personally requested to use every endeavour in making the Club a success, and on behalf of the Committee I feel confident your help will be forthcoming.

Yours faithfully,
 A. P. Martin,
 Hon. Secretary

Decisions on supper

Below is an excerpt from the minutes of committee meeting 1937. Everyone pitches in to get the necessary food for the dance.

After considerable discussion it was agreed that supper consist of Tea, Ham & tomato sandwiches, cake (assorted) and trifle, and Miss King was directed to secure goods as follows: to cater for approximately 100 people. 2 lbs tea & 1 lb sugar (Mrs. O'Connell) Ham (about 16 lbs) & 2 slab cakes fruit. 1 slab cake (madeira) (Mrs. King) 18 sliced or unsliced pan loaves & 1 lb butter (Mrs. Roe) 2 doz pats jelly (assorted) & 6 large tins fruit salad (Mrs. Gleeson). 2 doz bananas & 1 lb tomatoes (Miss Gleeson). 1 Gal paraffin oil, 1/2 lb table mustard, salt (Mrs. King). Half bag coal (P. Mahon)

**Our very own founder Fr. Joseph
and his flying companion Bruno
fly in to present prizes**



**EI-ABN AERONCA C3 A.609
16.07.1937 G-AEFU Rev. J. Furlong**

The Rev. Furlong was responsible for setting up the Tramway Aero Club and EI-ABN was the first aircraft to fly on behalf of the club. The aircraft was based at Kildonan Airfield, Dublin. On the outbreak of World War 2, the aircraft was dismantled and taken to Weston Aerodrome until the cessation of hostilities in 1945. Cancelled from the register 22/11/1955 when scrapped at Weston.

Extract from '70 Years of the Irish Civil Aircraft Register'

Flying nun – Sr Catherine Butler achieved her pilot's licence around this time at Kildonan. Sr Catherine then entered the convent after getting her wings and was grounded thereafter.



Above is a picture of a plane similar to the one used by Fr Furlong.

Fr Furlong presenting prizes at club championships 1930's

Fr Joseph Furlong was instrumental in setting up Kildonan Flying Club when he was a priest in Finglas. He brought the plane in from England.



1940s

We are on the move again.

This lovely pavilion was sadly burned down in 1940. No cause was ever identified for the blaze. Major Dease who owned the land did not grant permission for the club house to be rebuilt. After this the club moved to its present site on the Hazelhatch road on land leased from the O'Connor family.



“Ok – let’s move up the road”. Picture of the second site with our current site just “Up the Road”. It’s (not) a long, long way from there to here.



Tennis photos circa 1940s



In 1941 the club purchased a Nissen hut to act as its clubhouse.

A Nissen hut is a prefabricated steel structure that looks like a barn. This clubhouse lasted till 1982.

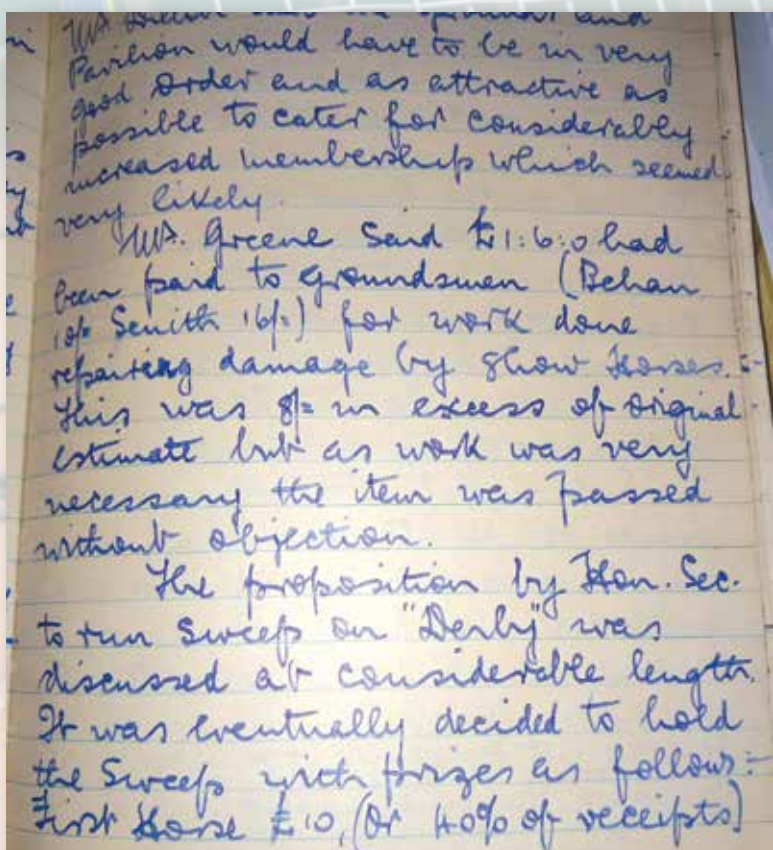


Ria Young – in the centre of the picture below, won the club championship 5 times in 1940's. She was given the trophy to keep after the 5th win.



Mick Murphy, who lived on the Main Street, was one of the early committee members who helped to develop the club.

"A man out standing in the "Field" aka the tennis court



Fencing was not a big priority and several invasions of wild animals occurred – rabbits!

Cows and at one time a more select group "Show Horses" caused major chaos to the grass courts. Owners always denied responsibility. See extract from the minutes.

Memories



Memories from Billy Birnie – who will be 90 next year

“I was here in 1947-1948. I joined the club because my sister Helen played the piano in the Nissen Hut for the Sunday Night dances.

On Sundays they played friendlies with clubs around the country with Naas and North Kildare and then have a bit of tea and a dance in the Nissen Hut afterwards. I came up most nights, 3 or 4 times a week and there would be no-one here, so I would cut the grass and mark the courts.

There was no groundsman. There was an outside tap for mixing the lime and water for marking the courts. The back courts were very bad, full of moss, the ball didn't hop, the first two were better.

It was like every other club 2 or 3 people did all the work. They would come up here and get the place ready before it officially opened.

The only thing you had was the holes for the post and you would have to mark it all out again.

The mower was in the hut – unlocked – nothing was ever stolen back then!

It was a hand mower I used. You got very good Summers back then.

1950s

Memories



Memories from Jim Cushen - Age 82

“There wasn’t a big membership, the old Nissen Hut was here and there was a little pathway that we came in across on our bikes- no one had cars then.

I probably spent more time cutting grass. We had this big wide lawn mower in the hut. I can’t remember how we got it out, there were

steps up to the hut.

Depending on the weather you were lucky to get one or two courts cut and it could be a week before you get back again and then the machine might break down.

While I can remember cutting the grass, I can’t remember anyone helping me. I remember the American Open Tournaments, they were great fun, always a good crowd up and a great way of getting to know different players.

I remember playing some inter club competitions. I was a pretty active member. When you had visiting clubs you had to have a salad made.

I remember we had this big long trestle table across the Nissen Hut and this long white linen table cloth.”

Jim was on the committee from 1965 and was Honorary Secretary in 1970

“ I do recall I was going around hustling people to try and boost membership. In the 1970’s it was always a struggle”



(L – R) Billy Birnie, Brendan Doyle and Jim Cushen – reminiscing at the club in January 2023

HOW FEES HAVE CHANGED

YEAR	ADULT	FAMILY	VETERAN
1938	15 shillings		
1974	£2.50	£4	
1978	£6	£10	
2000	£130	£220	£80

THE EURO ARRIVES...

YEAR	ADULT	FAMILY	VETERAN
2002	€180	€300	€110
2008	€240	€400	€160
2022	€310	€500	€200

1960s

The minute books prior to 1965 are lost.
 The 1963/1964 season had good membership.
 Fees were £3 10 shillings in 1969 for a family

MICHAEL "MICK" MURPHY

As always fundraising was necessary to keep the club going – it was a bit different in those days- fundraising was out on the streets with stickers!

Pitch & Putt anyone? - There was a proposal for a Pitch and Putt course put to the land owner by Mick Murphy. This was rejected.



Michael "Mick" Murphy 1967

FLAG DAYS!

CELBRIDGE AND DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS CLUB

STREET AND HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION ACT 1962
 COLLECTOR'S AUTHORIZATION

..... of

aged ye ars is hereby authorised to act as a Collector in a collection in Streets and Public Places generally in the locality of Celbridge, Maynooth, Clane Ballins and Newcastle. on 3rd, 4th and 5th June 1977 for the benefit of Celbridge Tennis Club, under a Collection Permit granted by Chief Superintendent James Murphy, of Naas.

Signed *[Signature]*
 Holder of Permit.

SUPPORT CELBRIDGE LAWN TENNIS CLUB	SUPPORT CELBRIDGE LAWN TENNIS CLUB	SUPPORT CELBRIDGE LAWN TENNIS CLUB	SUPPORT CELBRIDGE LAWN TENNIS CLUB	SU CE LAW
UPPORT ELBRIDGE VN TENNIS CLUB	SUPPORT CELBRIDGE LAWN TENNIS CLUB	SUPPORT CELBRIDGE LAWN TENNIS CLUB	SUPPORT CELBRIDGE LAWN TENNIS CLUB	SU CE LAW
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1970s

At the AGM in 1970 only two non committee members were in attendance and were immediately co-opted on to the committee. 1973 was the Golden Jubilee year.

Extract from the minutes - Golden Jubilee year

Gelbridge and District Lawn Tennis Club.

This club, one of the oldest in the area, celebrates its Golden Jubilee this year, having been formed in 1923. None of the founder members are now in the club, but Mr. J. Young, (Chairman) and Mr. A. Martin (Treasurer), the two longest serving members, still take an active part.

Last season the clubhouse underwent complete redecoration and water was laid on (a valuable asset to the amenities) - all due to the voluntary labour of the members. Last season also saw an increased membership, especially among the juveniles. The 1973 season commenced on Saturday, 26th May, and it is hoped to welcome further new members, including adults.

On June 9th and 10th the club will be holding its annual Flag Days and hopes the residents of the area will support and contribute to the collections. A much desired and long hoped for amenity to the club would be the provision of modern toilet facilities - what an accomplishment this would be in the club's 50th year, so may we appeal to your generosity on June 9th and 10th.

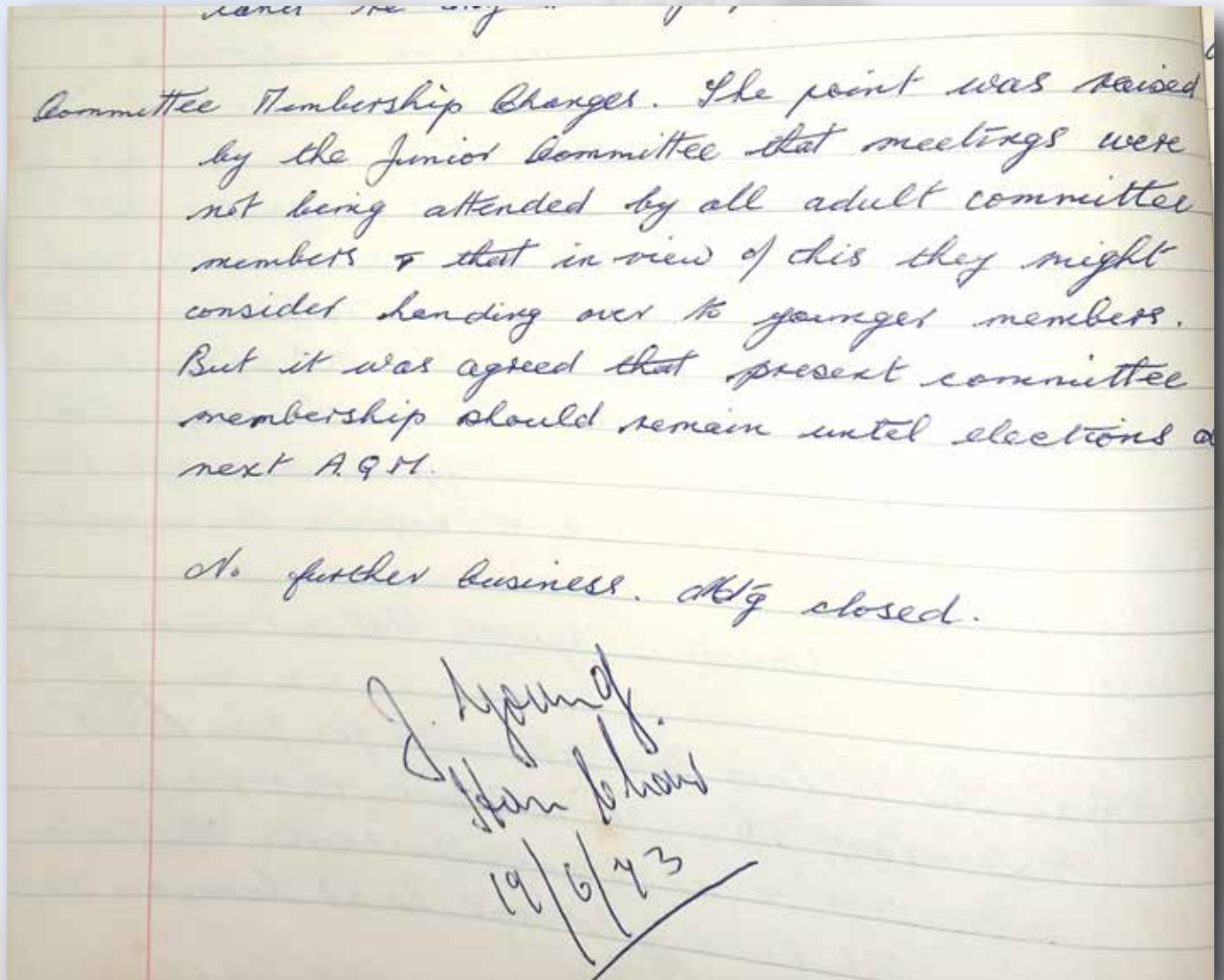
Applications for membership would be welcomed by the Secretary, Mrs. M. Duff.

Stealing our Members - Drifting off to Canoe Club - extract from minutes

Future of Club. There was no apparent club attitude with no volunteers to do necessary work to courts etc. It was felt that Canoe Club was claiming & drawing away members. Also unfortunate that one loyal worker, John Gallagher, had been ill. Result club not kept ready for use & therefore little used. Treasurer regretted his absence in Canada had also meant no coaching of juniors. Query raised were subs too high - but members of committee felt that in past subs had not been progressive enough.

THERE WAS A HINT OF REVOLUTION IN THE AIR DURING THE GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR.

Seeds of revolution were sown by the junior committee members.



Attempted Coup by the junior committee members foiled

ANOTHER CLOSE CALL FOR THE CLUB

Treasurer's Report: Finances good with present figure of £70.93p in bank, due largely to success of Play days. Had found it a thankless job collecting fees at functions. After 36 years a member had never until last 2 years met with such indignities & abuse. He had meant to come to this AGM to tender his resignation ~~and~~ and to ~~advise~~ ^{advise} members of committee ~~to call on~~ & Trustees to resign en bloc due to the adverse reports & to dispose of club assets. However prepared to reconsider this decision in order to save club.

Photo of minutes showing "treasurer's displeasure."

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ABOUT GOLDEN JUBILEE

A golden year for club in Celbridge

THE FUTURE lies with the young, and judging by the attendance at the golden jubilee dinner-dance of Celbridge and District Lawn Tennis Club on Friday night at Osberstown House Hotel, Naas, it is in safe keeping.

Not that this enduring organisation is devoid of older and wiser heads. The advice of veterans is there for the asking, but it is the constant influx of youngsters allied to this which has ensured longevity.

Club Chairman Mr. Joe Young said proudly that the Club was the oldest in the Celbridge area. It was begun by a former C.C., the late Canon Furlong, later P.P., Kilcullen.

"It was previously situated where the powerhouse is now. In 1939 we had about 100 members and a good social atmosphere. Then catastrophe struck when our beautiful pavilion was burned down, and we lost everything we possessed. That was at the outbreak of the last world war.

"We had a good committee and we decided to seek money from the people to start off again. We had good support but unfortunately our landlord of that time said he would not give us the ground back.

"We owe a great debt of gratitude to the late Judge O'Connor who provided our present ground at a very reasonable rent. The O'Connor generations have continued to do so. Our thanks to them too for their interest and support."

Mr. Young said he would have to relinquish his post as Chairman this year, due to the fact that he had not as much time available as he would wish, but as one who had a great affection for the Club he would never lose interest in its affairs.

He paid a warm tribute to Fergus and Mrs. Duff for their unstinted service to the Club, and the couple were given a standing ovation, leaving no-one in any doubt as to their popularity.

Mr. Young said he hoped that in the future it would be possible to do more to provide better amenities as an adjunct to the Club.

Very Rev. E. Crosbie P.P., Celbridge Club, President, said it was remarkable that the Club had not merely survived, but actually flourished over the span of 50 years. No other organisation could compete with that record.

He warned of the danger amongst young people of becoming mere spectators instead of players, whatever the game or pastime. This was particularly true with tennis which he described as ideally a player's game. They should not lose sight, too, of the social side, by improving the amenities available. He congratulated all those who helped to preserve the Club over such a long period.

Veteran member, Mr. Andy Martin paid a tribute to the young people, saying the Club could not have survived without them. He asked them to stick with the Club and make it even better, socially and otherwise, in the future. Fr. Crosbie presented prizes to tournament winners, announced by Mrs. Duff.

CRISIS



CRISIS POINT

In 1976 the courts were declared unplayable for the months of May/ June of the season, which normally ran May to September.

“Hordes of Youths invade Castletown”

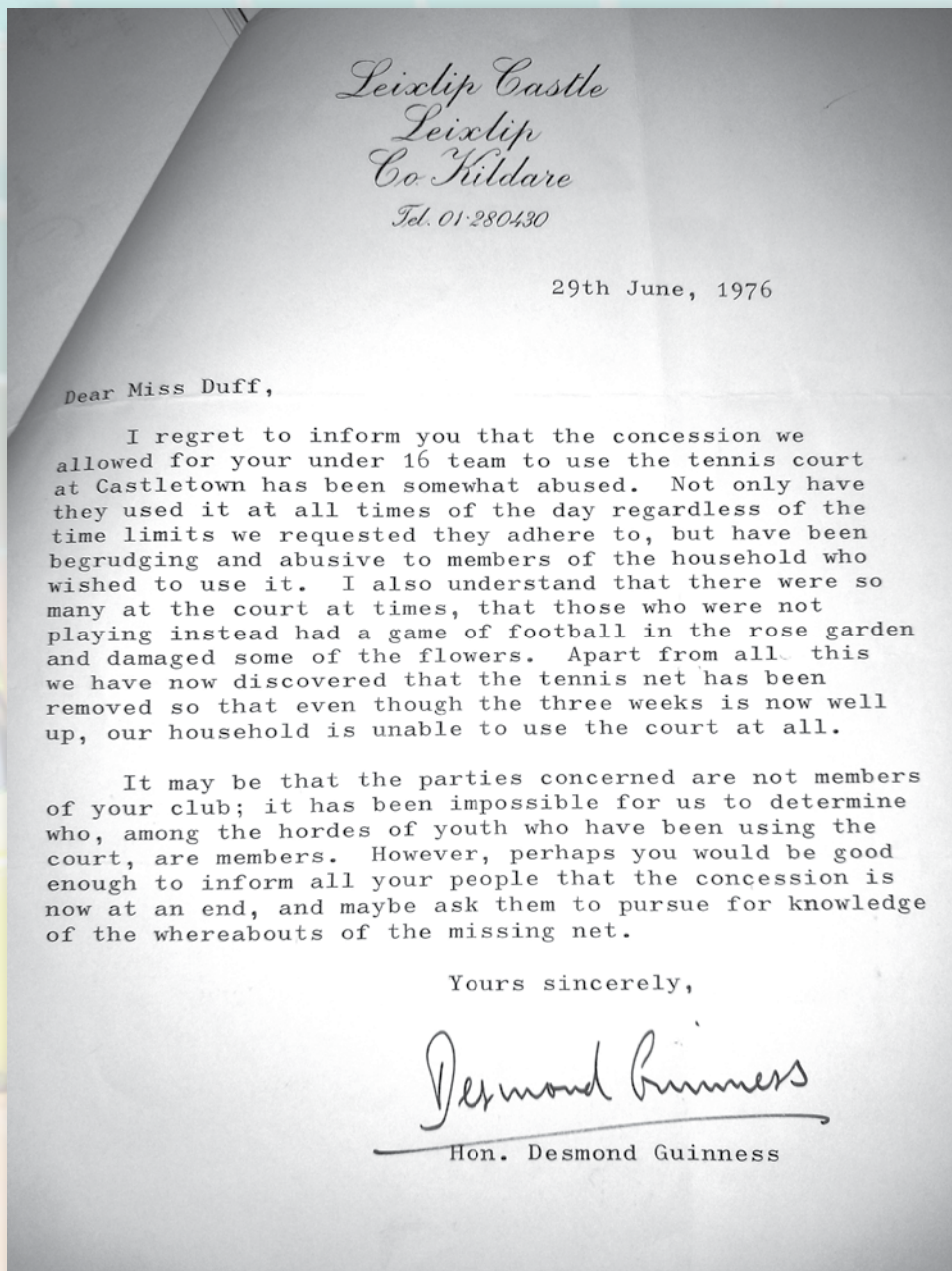
What a lack of tennis courts can cause!!”

This led to “hordes of youths” invading Castletown to use the tarmacadam courts”.

A letter from Leixlip Castle soon put a stop these rampaging youths.

“Letter from Leixlip Castle” - Wonder where the net finished up ?

By July the courts were declared playable & Phew! a great sigh of relief was heard around the area.



A NEW ERA DAWNED IN THE LATE 1970s

In the late 1970s a vibrancy was felt as new members joined. There was a lot of fundraising afoot, with Cheese and Wine Evenings, Flag Days, Raffles, Sponsored Walks etc. Another important development was the proposal of a Constitution for the club.

DINNER MENUS AT THE DANCES

Menu (A) £4.15. + V.A.T. @ 10% Extra.

Fruit Cocktail.

Oxtail Soup.

Fish Bonne Femme.

Roast Turkey,
Limerick Ham,
Seasoning, Bread Sauce.

Vegetables in season.
Creamed potatoes.

Trifle.
Liquer Jelly.

Coffee.

Menu (B) £3.35. + V.A.T. @ 10% Extra.

Fruit Cocktail.

Oxtail Soup.

Roast Turkey,
Limerick Ham,
Seasoning, Bread Sauce.

Vegetables in season.
Creamed potatoes.

Trifle.
Liquer Jelly.

Coffee.

Menu (C) £3.10. + V.A.T @ 10% Extra.

Oxtail Soup.

Roast Turkey,
Limerick Ham,
Seasoning, Bread Sauce.

Vegetables in season.
Creamed potatoes

Trifle.
Liquer Jelly.

Coffee.

Celbridge & District Lawn Tennis Club

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

in OSBERSTOWN HOUSE

on FRI. 19TH. OCTOBER 1979

STARTING 8.30p.m. SHARP

Music by SEAN KEOGH BAND

TICKETS — — — £5

Celbridge Lawn Tennis Club

CHEESE & WINE PARTY

in

Abbey Hall, Celbridge at 9p.m.

on Friday June 30th 1978

Admission £1 - 50

In 1973 the Adult fee was £2.10

In 1974 the family fee was £4

Celbridge and District Lawn Tennis Club

*Copy of article - May 74
issue of Celbridge Charter.*

In view of the exceptionally good weather of late, members had been hoping for an early start to the 1974 season; however, as there is a considerable amount of preparatory work yet to be done to the grounds before play could start, the opening date has been fixed for the last Sunday in May, that is May 26th.

All are looking forward to another ~~to another~~ good year of club play, competitions and matches. New members will be most welcome and those wishing to join should contact any of the under-mentioned committee members. Due to increased cost of materials, work, etc., very reluctantly, the fees have had to be increased and are now as follows:

Juniors : 0.75p Students : £1.25p Adults : £2.50p
Family Membership : £4.00

Committee: Mr. Joe Young (Chairman), Mr. Fergus Duff (V/Chairman),
Mrs. Muriel Duff (Secretary), Mr. Andy Martin (Treasurer),
Mr. Frank Casey, Mr. David Vandome, Mr. Anthony Walsh,
Miss Mary O'Connor, Miss Shiohhan O'Donohue.

Fees extract from minutes

1980s



Despite the recession in the country during the 1980's Celbridge & District Lawn Tennis club went from strength to strength during the decade.

The club purchased the land from Nuala O' Connor. Interest free loans from members funded 4 hard courts at a cost of £11,000.

There were two grass courts also being prepared for use.

These two grass courts were invaded by cattle so a decision to go to six hard courts was made.

Bonds, life membership, poker classics, race nights, treasure hunts were among the many ways funds were amassed.'



Membership was capped at 120 in 1980 and a waiting list was introduced.!!!



On the 25th July 1981 the official opening of the hard courts took place and floodlights followed soon after.

In 1982, the Nissen Hut was dismantled and removed. Two portacabins were bought from a Rosmini school in Dublin. They were transported to site and erected by members as the clubhouse. Electricity and water were connected and showers installed.

Husband and wife tournaments attracted over 20 couples for several years.

The marking and fencing of all courts was undertaken by members.

Plans for a permanent clubhouse were set in motion

PHOTO OF RACE NIGHT BOOK

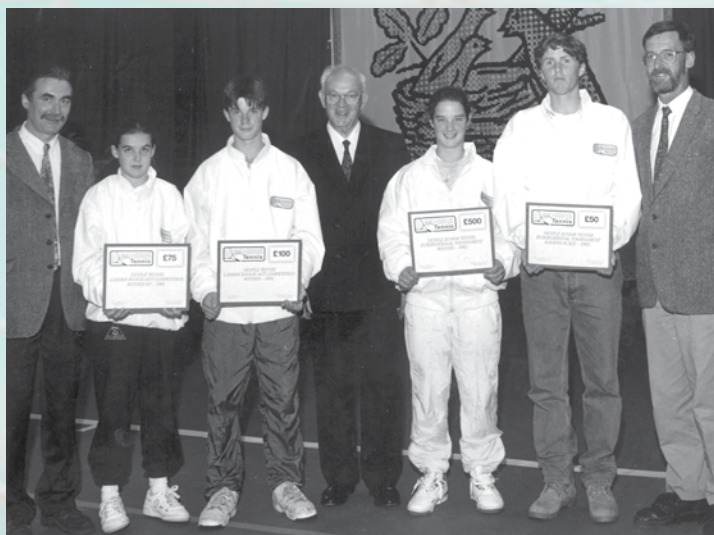


Fashion shows were also used to raise funds – where the “Ramp” was constructed by the members with the liberal use of nails. Club members were models for various local boutiques.

CHARLES J BRENNAN – LEINSTER TENNIS



Charlie (CJ) Brennan played tennis at Celbridge in his early days. He was also a member of Elm Park, Fitzwilliam and Sutton. His outstanding contribution to the sport was as an administrator at Dublin Leagues as well as Leinster and Irish council levels. He was the former president of the Irish Lawn Tennis Association (1964). (now Tennis Ireland). He was also secretary of the association from 1970 - 1982 and was an active delegate to a number of international tennis bodies.



Left: Charlie Brennan organized International Tennis Competitions for Juniors



Right: Committee group from the 1980s

In 1983 the club had its first DLTC League win

L – R (Back row) Brian Nolan, Tom O' Connor, Johnny Brennan

L – R (Front row) Tony Brennan, Eamonn Kelly , Ger Morris



1990s

Plans were submitted for a new clubhouse. Interest free Bonds were offered to members to help fund the clubhouse. Over £60,000 worth of bonds was purchased by members – a magnificent response. Work began on the foundations for the current club house in 1992.

Celbridge gets new clubhouse

By EIMEAR VIZE

A new clubhouse for Celbridge Tennis Club, one of the oldest tennis clubs in County Kildare, will be officially opened by Social Welfare Minister Charlie McCreevy on 2 May.

The new two-story building replaces a long-standing prefabricated building and facilities include a reception area and office, ladies and men's changing rooms and toilets on ground level and a spacious function room and kitchen upstairs.

The club has grown from strength to strength since its foundation in 1923 and now has a total of 160 family members and 60 single adult members.

"Membership has leaped steadily every year but up to a month ago this never presented a problem; now we have a growing waiting list of people wishing to join," the Chairman, Mr. William Free, said.

Facilities at the club have been improving on a continuous basis since 1979 when the four grass courts were replaced by six hard courts, three of which are floodlit.

"Preparations for replacing the old clubhouse with a modern

building were started by the then committee members in 1989 and the venture was financed with the help of running functions organised by members," said Mr. Free.

Over 300 invitations have been sent to members and founding members to attend the opening ceremony and guests include the Lord Mayor of Celbridge, Mr. Mick Dunphy.

The club has thirteen committee members including Ms. Helen Shackleton, Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Chris Porter, Treasurer; Ms. Marie Molloy, Secretary and PRO; Mr. Chris McCormack, Men's Captain, and Ms. Orla Barry, Ladies Captain.

A number of in-house championships are held each year and players also take part in the Dublin Summer-Winter Tennis Leagues.

Mr. Brendan Doyle is to begin coaching adult members after Easter, and junior coaching has started with Ms. Annette Smith and Ms. Aoife Wilson.

"Some of our members may not be outstanding tennis champions but we do have some excellent players and a good strong club atmosphere," said Mr. Free. That's game, set and match for Celbridge.



Celebrations at the turning of the sod.



The clubhouse was finished in 1992 and was officially opened by Charlie McCreevy



The turning of the sod.



Juniors 1992



Juniors 1992



In 1998 the Men's Team were winners of the Summer League Class 3, gaining promotion in the process.

L-R Kevin O'Connor, Brendan Doyle, Richard Doyle, Dara Keating, Colm Keating, Eamonn Kelly, Chris Mc Cormack



There was a full bar set up in the early days of the new clubhouse –a decision was made to close the bar after a few years, as cost of licence was prohibitive

The club logo was designed by Madeline Maguire.

The old clubhouse was removed and the remaining 3 courts were equipped with floodlights.

Synthetic grass courts were bought second hand from Lansdowne L.T.C and laid on courts 3,4,5 & 6. Courts 1 & 2 also laid with synthetic grass courts. All off- cuts and patched together!

Coaching of the both juniors and adult members was a welcome addition to the club's programme through the decade.

Member – Jennie Timoney represented Ireland as a junior nationally and internationally.

Member- Sean Cooper represented Ireland in the Davis Cup.

Constant participation by teams from the club in D.L.T.C leagues and Provincial Town Competitions.

Team Tennis under lights was a very popular competition during the decade.



Jennie Timoney

2000s

The new millennium got off to a very wet start for the tennis club. “The Great Flood” of 2000 was the catalyst to the O. P. W to do the remedial work on the Shinkeen River to prevent major floods. Several club members, in conjunction with other community groups, worked tirelessly to bring this remedial work about.



Water, water everywhere and not a shot was hit



Was this the inspiration for Padel Tennis?

The “real” synthetic courts were laid after the “Great Flood”.
Celbridge & District Lawn Tennis Club joined the World Wide Web in 2000.

IN 2004 THE CLUB WON THE EAGLE STAR CLUB AWARD FOR LEINSTER



The standard of tennis was continually improving all the time in the club resulting in League finalists and League winners. Pictures of League winners and runners up adorn the walls of the clubhouse.



Back L-R: Stephanie Timoney, Fionnuala O'Malley, Sheelagh Griffin and Mary Purcell
Front L-R: Claudia Kos, Trish Owens and Ann McKell
Team Subs: Catherine Doyle, Colette Adanan, Margo Delaney, Eileen Spratt

LEAGUE PARTICIPATION

Men playing Class 2 Winter & Summer League

Ladies playing Class 2 Winter League and Class 3 Summer League

Men 0- 35 in Class 1

Men 0- 45 in Class 1

Ladies 0 -35 in Class 1 & 2

Ladies 1st DLTC won Class 4 and were promoted to Class 3.



Back L-R: Stephanie Timoney, Fionnuala O'Malley, Sheelagh Griffin and Mary Purcell
Front L-R: Claudia Kos, Trish Owens and Ann McKell
Team Subs: Catherine Doyle, Colette Adanan, Margo Delaney, Eileen Spratt

2010s



There was great demand on courts, especially at night. Hopes to expand and get more land were being constantly explored.

The Code of Ethics and Good practice for children's sport in Ireland was inserted into the constitution.

The Club was awarded the Tennis Ireland Clubmark Accreditation at Silver Level



L-R Peter Farrell, Tim Crooks, Louise Ryan, Nickie Coffey, Brendan Doyle

American tournaments took place every week, along with Thursday morning ladies and mixed Friday night tournaments. All of which were very well attended.

The changing rooms were updated.

The carpark exhibition of potholes was replaced with a smooth surface.

The heating system in the clubhouse was upgraded.

General interest in the club was very good with attendance at AGM's being approximately 50 members.

Schools to be our neighbours! – there were plans to build two schools on the surrounding land. Planning permission was refused. The land is now owned by the Department of Education- but there are no immediate plans for its development.



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS -2013



Celebrations of 90 years of tennis at the club took place in 2013.

(L-R- Brendan, Catherine, Orla, Peter)

Mixed Doubles play was hugely popular and remains so to this day.
Great participation in external tournaments and in D.L.T.C Leagues.
Quiz nights brought a social atmosphere to the club along with Charity Tournaments, Turkey Tournament at Christmas and Spring Lamb Tournaments.

The Enjoy Tennis Programme with our friends from St. Raphael's, run by coach Padraic with the help of club volunteers has been running since 2017. This weekly session of tennis play and fun is held over 8 weeks twice a year.



JUNIOR COACHING



Junior Coaching started in the 1980's. Club members undertook the job of coaching juniors informally. This developed into a more structured coaching programme under the Provincial Towns Council. This organization ran leagues and tournaments.

Ed Zaborowski was appointed Coaching Administrator in 2010. A structured junior coaching programme was then developed in the club. Padraic Kilcoyne took over the role of the Junior Coaching Administrator in 2017 (when Ed retired from the position). The programme is very successful and now caters for 150 junior members. Our excellent club coaching team include Padraic, Ed, Ana Penado and Mick Donaghy. Both Ana and Mick have since moved on but we are delighted to welcome Lili Alinquant onto the junior coaching team.

Our juniors are now involved very successfully at national and international level.

The club is very appreciative of the talented coaches that have developed our junior programme over the years. Due to their involvement, the standard of junior tennis and the participation in tennis has been very successful. A big thank you also to the junior committee members over the years for overseeing this very welcome development.

The programme also emphasizes the fun aspect of tennis for all levels of players, with club events for juniors including Journey to the Stars, Davis Cup and for the very young beginner the Bounce Programme.



Ana Penado



Ed Zaborowski



Padraic Kilcoyne



Mick Donaghy



Lili Alinquant



**Boys U 18 Class 1 winners
2022**

*(L – R) Fionn Busto Gilligan,
Liam Hickey, Padraic Kilcoyne,
Dylan Kazlauskas, Jonas
Watkins*

*Subs on the team were Johnny
Griffin, Ryan Podder, Davin
Lane.*

In 2023 our centenary year – the juniors made it a hat trick win in the Summer Leinster League.

The U 18 Boys won Division 1 Leinster league, the U 18 Girls won Division 2 Leinster League and the U 12 Girls won Division 2 Leinster league. Congratulations to all involved – the club is so proud of your achievements.



**U18 Boys Winners of U18 Boys
Division 1 Leinster League 2023**

*(L –R Jonas Watkins, Dylan
Kazlauskas, Lorcan Binongo, Liam
Hickey)*

*Subs on the team were Fionn
Busto Gilligan, Davin Lane, Lucas
Dunne*

**U18 Girls Winners of U18 Girls
Division 2 Leinster League 2023**

*(L-R Grace Ryan, Lili Alinquant,
Ailbhe Moloney, Elianna Clancy)*

*Subs on the team were Olivia
Podder, Olga Pienkowska, Sophie
Gordon*



**U12 Girls Winners of U12 Girls Division
2 Leinster League 2023**

*(L-R Sadhbh Curran, Lily O’ Shea,
Miriam Gleeson, Sofia Kuzmina, Una Moloney, Hannah Byrne)
Subs on the team were Alison Dwyer and Edie Walshe-Rooney.*



Grace & Johnny



Lili & Fionn

In 2022 we appointed our first Junior Captains, Grace Ryan and Johnny Griffin and for 2023 the Junior Captains are Lili Alinquant and Fionn Busto Gilligan.

JUNIORS ACROSS THE YEARS



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CLUB NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

Ann Mac Kell's Story

“1992 was a special year for me. Having joined Celbridge and District Lawn Tennis Club that year and found it a very welcoming club, I was later selected by Tennis Ireland to represent Ireland on the Over 50's Team , to play in the Super Seniors Team Championships to be played in France. This is an annual world wide competition. It was the first of several journeys around Europe and farther afield in various age groups. In all I represented Ireland thirteen times at World Championships

I represented Leinster 20 times in all the Veterans Interprovincials in the various age groups. Most of the tournaments were played on clay courts, strange in the beginning, but I came to like them. The strangest courts (not the surface) were situated on the roof top of a four storey building in downtown San Francisco. Only one ball ended up on the street below during the whole week.

At this year's AGM I was delighted to hear how well our juniors and young adults are doing. Congratulations to all who represent the club.

Finally I would like to thank the club and its members for their support over the years. I really appreciate it and hope I have repaid it somewhat over the years”



Ann MacKell – first on the right

ESSAY BY HARRY McDONNELL SUBMITTED TO KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2022 FOR “ A SENSE OF OUR PAST” SCHOOL HISTORY COMPETITION FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED A SPECIAL COMMENDATION.

CELBRIDGE & DISTRICT LAWN TENNIS CLUB -FOUNDED IN 1923



“I have played tennis since I was four years old (I started at the Bounce Academy on Saturdays). I love tennis and was delighted to see “Celbridge & District Lawn Tennis Club – founded 1923” in the list of potential ideas for “A Sense of Our Past” History Competition 2022.

I hadn't realized that my club opened in 1923 and that it is 99 years old. I'm excited to find out about the club and its history. I spoke to club members Fred Bradley and Brendan Doyle about the beginnings of the club. The club was founded just as the Civil War ended in Ireland.

There were three major historical events in the decade before the tennis club was founded. They were:

The Easter Rising 1916

The Treaty 1921

The Civil War – 1922 - 1923

The Rising was in 1916. One of the famous groups in the rising is the Maynooth 15. My great-great uncle Patrick Weafer was one of them. He wasn't originally meant to be part of it but someone dropped out last minute and people knew he had a gun so they asked him to join. Uncle Pa as he was known to his family fought on the roof top of what is now known as The Parliament Hotel on Dawson Street Dublin 1.

The Treaty 1921 – It took six weeks of talks between the Irish and British Government until an agreement was reached and the Treaty was signed.

The signing of the Treaty on the 6th December 1921 led to the Civil War.

The Civil War in Ireland took place between 1922 – 1923. War broke out in June 1922. It lasted 10 months, 3 weeks and 5 days.

More than a thousand Irish people died in the civil war including Michael Collins.

There was not much activity relating to the Civil War in Celbridge however it was noted in the History of Celbridge by Tony Doolin (page 130) that the Celbridge bridge was badly damaged by local republican forces in January 1921 during the war of independence.

It was against this backdrop that the Celbridge and District Lawn Tennis Club was founded in 1923. It was founded by Rev E.L.B Barker, Captain E. J.C. Maunsell, Major E. Conolly and Fr. Joseph Furlong.

A photo of the founding members was published on October 5th 1923 in the Irish Times when the first club championship was held. Also shown were pictures of the 1st winners of the men's and ladies competition. Photos are from the Irish Times Archives.



Mr. G. T. Cobb, winner of Men's Handicap.



Group of officials connected with Celbridge Tennis Club—Rev. E. L. B. Barker, Capt. R. J. C. Maunsell, Mrs. Barker, and Major E. Conolly (President of Club), Father Joseph Furlong.



Miss Kingston (Lucan), winner of Ladies' Handicap at Celbridge Tennis Tournament

Mr G.T Cobb was the winner of the of Men's Handicap 1923 and Miss Kingston (Lucan) winner of the Ladies Handicap 1923

Major E Conolly was the first President of the club.

Fr Joseph Furlong was also a founding member of Barnhall Rugby Club in Leixlip, Co Kildare.

Even though the country had been at war, people still needed to carry on with everyday life and activities. The founding of the tennis club was an important local event for Celbridge. The club was founded by volunteers. Over the years the club has been run by volunteers who have put a lot of time and effort into running the club and making improvements to the courts and club house.

The current location of the tennis club was not its original location. Its original site was what is now the ESB substation on the Hazelhatch road. The club rented this land at £10 per year on a temporary basis.

The surface of the first courts was grass. This meant that the tennis season was weather dependent and usually ran from May to September each year.

When this land was sold in 1920 the club moved to the corner of Hazelhatch road and Green Lane.

At this time the tennis club had four grass courts and

a wooden pavilion with a surrounding veranda. In the late 1930s when visiting teams came to the club there was a big tree with shade under it for people to watch the matches.

Minutes of meetings from the 1930s showed that the club ran many fundraisers, such as dances to raise funds to keep the club running.

The lovely pavilion was sadly burned down in 1940 there was no cause ever identified for the blaze.

Major Dease who owned the land did not grant permission for the club house to be rebuilt

After this the club moved to its present site on the Hazelhatch road when the O'Connor family leased it some land.

In 1941 the club purchased a Nissen hut to act as its clubhouse. A Nissen hut is a prefabricated steel structure that looks like a barn. This clubhouse lasted till 1982. It had no running water or electricity. Every week the grass had to be cut and the courts had to be relined every couple of weeks. All the maintenance of the courts was carried out by members. Every so often cattle would break through the fences and do a lot of damage to the grass courts.

In 1980 the tennis club got funding from the bank and did door to door fundraising for a monthly



draw, so they could buy more land. When the funds were in place the first hard courts were laid in 1981. These courts were lined and fenced by club members and were ready to play on in July 1981.

In 1982, two portacabins were bought from a Rosmini school in Dublin and were put up by members as the clubhouse.

A few months later two more hard courts were laid. The clubhouse was wired with electricity in 1983 and facilities were updated. The final transfer of the land took place in 1983.

Three courts were floodlit in 1986.

The turning of the sod for the current clubhouse took place in October 1991. Mayor Dunphy turned the sod and the clubhouse was built in 1992.

The three remaining courts were floodlit a few weeks after. The clubhouse was officially opened by Charlie McCreevy. (Former Minister of Finance for Ireland). In 1995 the first artificial grass courts (sand/carpet type) were laid. They were bought second hand from Lansdowne LTC and were laid over the existing hard courts at the time.

The current club house and courts have been subject to two major floods- one in September

2000 – when both the tennis and GAA grounds became a “lake”. See picture under “The 2000’s”

There was flooding again in 2014 and 2017.

In 2001 a set of six new artificial grass courts (sand/carpet type) were laid and were replaced again in

2012. The courts are all floodlit and playable all year round.

Thankfully cattle breaking in and trampling the grass is no longer an issue.

The clubhouse has been modernised over the last number of years, with the ladies and men’s changing rooms updated. There is a large clubroom overlooking the courts which can accommodate 50 people.

During covid the club closed. In order that the club could reopen in accordance with all covid restrictions a new court booking system was put in place.

To-day the club is still run by committed volunteers who all share a passion for tennis. There are over 500 members including many junior members like myself. I really enjoy attending the junior coaching programme run by Junior Head coach Padraic Kilcoyne, (who was seeded 4th in Senior Mens Irish Tennis in August 2016) assisted by Ed Zaborowski (former Head Coach) and Ana Penado.

The club is preparing to celebrate 100 years of existence in 2023. I am looking forward to being part of the celebrations.

Thank you to Fred Bradley, Brendan Doyle of Celbridge Lawn Tennis Club who provided me with information and photographs about Celbridge Lawn Tennis Club. Thanks to my mum for helping me put all the information together.

Harry McDonnell – 5th Class Scoil Mochua Celbridge Co Kildare.

2020s



Covid -19 reared its ugly head at the start of the decade and all play was suspended for many months. For the first time in its history the club was completely closed.

When play resumed we had social distancing, hand sanitiser, facilities closed and buffer times to allow one group of players to leave before another group arrived.

The Skedda booking system was introduced to avoid any congregation of members at the club and to help with contact tracing!

Leagues were suspended and only social play was allowed.

As restrictions eased, tennis clubs including ours got a big influx of new members as the only sports allowed for a long period of time were tennis and golf.

MORE ACCLAIM FOR THE CLUB WITH THESE VICTORIES:



Friendly League Leinster Winners 2023

(Eavan Clancy, Mary Griffin, Phyllis McGoldrick, Sandy Clarke, Norah O' Sullivan, Claire Farrell.)

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

We started our centenary celebrations with the painting of a mural in the car park.
The mural was done by Geoff Tracey with help from William Gleeson.



We all love the finished wall.

OUR CENTENARY YEAR CELEBRATIONS 2023:

March : Wooden Racquet – Doubles Play and Exhibition Match with refreshments served



The Ladies playing with the Wooden Rackets
(L – R Stephanie Timoney, Mary Purcell, Margo Delaney, Colette Adanan)



The Men (L –R Brendan Doyle, Gearoid Gleeson, Richard Marks, Henry Kinch)



Exhibition Match Players at the Wooden Racket & Exhibition Match Centenary Celebration March 2023

(L-R Ailbhe Moloney, Padraic Kilcoyne, Liam Hickey, Lili Alinquant)

APRIL: GALA BALL – IN THE SPRINGFIELD HOTEL LEIXLIP



21st April 2023




DINNER MENU




Fresh Cream of Vegetable Soup 7



*Roast Breast of Turkey
& Honey Baked Ham*
Chef's rich pan gravy, onion & herb stuffing 1,3,6,7

Darne of Irish Salmon
*Grilled & served with a creamy white
wine & wild mushroom sauce 4,7,12*



*All Served with Market
Fresh Vegetables & Potatoes 7*



Springfield Medley
*Chefs' choice of three seasonal
desserts 1,3,5,6,7 may contain 8*



Freshly Brewed Tea or Coffee



May : Open tournament and BBQ

July 2023

Thanks to Walshs Main Street Pharmacy for the wonderful window display celebrating the clubs 100 years.



CELBRIDGE TENNIS CLUB

Springfield Hotel, Leixlip - Friday, 21st April



Arthur and Michelle Walsh.



(l-r) Sean Busto with Shauna Gilligan and Henry Kinch.



Springfield's General Manager Padraig Kennedy (left) and Gerry Hanigan.



Eamon and Joan Kelly.



Kieran and Louise Ryan.



(l-r) Derek O'Donovan with Eoin Whelan, Kevin McKenna and Dave Lander.



Tamara and Kevin O'Connor.



ABOVE:
Mary Flannery (left) and Edel Kelly.



Martin and Nicola Leroux.



LEFT:
Julian and Sylvia Dorigo



RIGHT:
Slobhan and Garrett Hayes from Lucan.

CENTENARY ANNIVERSARY

Pics: Ian Scully



David McDonnell with his wife Deirdre Pierce-McDonnell.



(l-r) Joe Ryan with Tom Malone and Richard Marks.



Elle and Emmet O'Neill.



ABOVE: Sheelagh Forbes-Malone with Linda Ryan, Anne Marks and Siobhan Hayes.

LEFT: Brian Kelleher with Aishling Savage.

RIGHT: Annemarie and Tony Carroll arriving at the Springfield.



(l-r) Ceibridge Tennis Club's Margo Delaney, Mark Conway and Caoilfhionn Raleigh.



Anton and Stephanie Timoney.

June : Celebration for longstanding and former members.



Celbridge & District Lawn Tennis Club



YEAR	CHAIRPERSON	MEN'S CAPTAIN	LADIES CAPTAIN	YEAR	CHAIRPERSON	MEN'S CAPTAIN	LADIES CAPTAIN
1965	T SHORTT			2002	JOE MORAN	BRENDAN DOYLE	JOY MC CANN
1966	JOE YOUNG			2003	JOE MORAN	ALAN NOHILLY	JOY MC CANN
1971	JOE YOUNG			2004	JOE MORAN	ALAN NOHILLY	MARGO DELANEY
1972	JOE YOUNG			2005	FRED BRADLEY	ALAN NOHILLY	BRENDA MC NULTY
1973	JOE YOUNG			2006	FRED BRADLEY	ALAN NOHILLY	BRENDA MC NULTY
1974	JOE YOUNG			2007	FRED BRADLEY	ALAN NOHILLY	MÁIRE NÍ SCANAILL
1975	JOE YOUNG			2008	JOE MORAN	FRED BRADLEY	MÁIRE NÍ SCANAILL
1976	JOE YOUNG			2009	JOE MORAN	FRED BRADLEY	PATRICIA OWENS
1978	PETER BARRY			2010	JOE MORAN	BRUCE MATTISSON	PATRICIA OWENS
1979	PETER BARRY	GER MORRIS	MARIE MOLLOY	2011	EILEEN SPRATT	BRUCE MATTISSON	LOUISE OWENS
1980	PETER BARRY	GER MORRIS	MARIE MOLLOY	2012	EILEEN SPRATT	MICHAEL DONAGHY	LOUISE OWENS
1981	PETER BARRY	TOM O CONNOR	MARIE MOLLOY	2013	MÁIRE TOBIN	-	LYNNE SAVAGE JONES
1982	PETER BARRY	TOM O CONNOR	MARIE MOLLOY	2014	MÁIRE TOBIN	ALAN NOHILLY	LYNNE SAVAGE JONES
1983	PETER BARRY	BRIAN NOLAN	MARIE MOLLOY	2015	MÁIRE TOBIN	TIM CROOKS	LYNNE SAVAGE JONES
1984	MARIE MOLLOY	PETER BARRY	MAURA REIDY	2016	LOUISE RYAN	TIM CROOKS	MARY WALSH
1985	MARIE MOLLOY	PETER BARRY	RITA MAGUIDHIR	2017	LOUISE RYAN	TIM CROOKS	KAREN MARSHALL
1986	RICHIE MARKS	KEVIN O CONNOR	RITA MAGUIDHIR	2018	LOUISE RYAN	M CONWAY/J PIETERSE	KAREN MARSHALL
1987	BRENDAN MC CANN	TONY BRENNAN	EILEEN PENTZ	2019	TIM CROOKS	MARK CONWAY	SYLVIA DORIGO
1988	BRENDAN MC CANN	GER MORRIS	ORLA BARRY	2020	TIM CROOKS	MARK CONWAY	SYLVIA DORIGO
1989	BRENDAN MC CANN	RICHIE MARKS	ORLA BARRY	2021	TIM CROOKS	MARK CONWAY	SHEELAGH GRIFFIN
1990	BILLY FREE	BRENDAN MC CANN	ORLA BARRY	2022	MARGO DELANEY	MARK CONWAY	S GRIFFIN/M RALEIGH
1991	BILLY FREE	CHRIS MC CORMACK	ORLA BARRY	2023	MARGO DELANEY	MARK CONWAY	K MARSHALL/D BIRNIE/I CHRISTIE
1992	PETER BARRY	JIM MAC NAMARA	ORLA BARRY				
1993	JOE MORAN	NICK MC NULTY	ORLA BARRY				
1994	JOE MORAN	BRIAN NOLAN	ORLA BARRY				
1995	JOE MORAN	FRED BRADLEY	ANN MAC KELL				
1996	BRENDAN DOYLE	JOE MORAN	ANN MAC KELL				
1997	BRENDAN DOYLE	-	COLETTE ADANAN				
1998	BRENDAN DOYLE	PADDY WHELAN	COLETTE ADANAN				
1999	FRED BRADLEY	BRENDAN DOYLE	COLETTE ADANAN				
2000	FRED BRADLEY	BRENDAN DOYLE	COLETTE ADANAN				
2001	FRED BRADLEY	BRENDAN DOYLE	COLETTE ADANAN				

The club has in this centenary year erected a Chairpersons and Captains Honours Board. (Board designed and constructed by Martin Everard).

In addition the clubhouse has been upgraded – new windows and furniture!

The courts have been replaced and new LED lights installed.

SUPER ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE CLUB FOR THE CENTENARY YEAR

For the first time the men achieved promotion to DLTC Summer League Class 1 and the ladies achieved promotion to DLTC Summer League Class 2.



Finalists on the day

*(L –R Back row) Jonas Watkins, Padraic Kilcoyne, Johan Pieterse
(L – R Front row) Davin Lane, Lorcan Binongo, Liam Hickey, Rob Melvin*



Other team members that played during the league campaign

(L – R) Dylan Kazlauskas, Lorcan Binongo, Padraic Kilcoyne, Daniel Barker, Liam Hickey, Fionn Busto- Gilligan



(L –R Terri O' Brien, Viv Crooks, Fionnula O' Malley, Muireann Raleigh, Caoilfhionn Raleigh, Aine Slater, Trish Owens)



Club Trustees & Chairperson Margo Delaney
(L-R Brendan Doyle, Brendan McCann, Peter Barry, Chris Porter)

As the club moves to a Company Limited by Guarantee, we are indebted to our four loyal Trustees .

VOLUNTEERING SPIRIT

The club's past and continued success is due to the volunteering spirit of the club's members, who give of their time and skills to keep the club vibrant and progressive.

In particular, during the early years when the club was struggling to survive, we are indebted to the following committee members Andy Martin, Joe Young, and Muriel and Fergus Duff.

The Chairpersons and their extended committees and volunteers, past and present (you know who you are) are to be commended for their dedication to the club and this wonderful sport. Here's to the next 100 years!

A special mention to Denis Shattock and Mick Coyle for their dedication as caretakers in the club.



We would like to acknowledge and thank Marie Molloy for her many years service to the Club.

Marie is the longest serving committee member, having been on the Club's committee since 1977 to date. Marie is our current Club Secretary and has held numerous different roles over her many years of service. She continues to work quietly and tirelessly for us and the Club owes her a huge debt of gratitude for all her hard work.

MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS BOOK:

Past and present members Celbridge & District Lawn Tennis Club who contributed photos, articles and their time to get all the information together. (In particular Brendan Doyle, Marie Molloy, Gemma Nash, Chris Condell, Billy Birnie, Jim Cushen, Deirdre Pierce- McDonnell)

A special thank you to John Cotter, who digitally enhanced the old photographs and put together the slide show and to Emily Nash who got it onto the screen.



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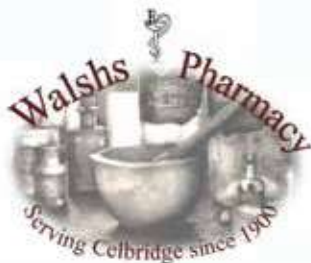
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