

City of Derry Tennis Club: NIC 108211

Trustees' report for the year ended March 2023

Aims and constitution:

As stated in our constitution document (2021), the club exists for the advancement of amateur tennis. Specifically, we aim to promote the sport of tennis in a manner that provides equal opportunities for all in the local community. The club rents court space at two venues: Foyle College, 67 Limavady Road and Waterside Shared Village, 61 Irish Street.

Public benefit

The club's main activities and achievements during the subscription year 2022/23 are discussed below. We hereby confirm that through those activities the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Notable activities

This year saw a number of initiatives designed to allow easier access to tennis. First, the membership fee structure was amended to include a sliding scale as the year progressed to ensure those joining later paid a fee proportionate to the playing time remaining. The club also provided a reduced rate of £5 per month for those unemployed and for refugees from Ukraine who had relocated to the area and had expressed an interest in playing tennis again.

For those players new to the club, or without regular playing partners, the club established 'green courts' - pot-luck slots where members can enter their name without the need for pre-arranging a playing partner. These slots proved popular and allowed new members to integrate into the wider club.

In order to further develop tennis in the community, the club ran adult coaching sessions from May until October 2022. Over 120 people of 7 different nationalities attended and developed their tennis skills. Many of these attendees then joined the club and became active playing members. The coaching sessions finished at Halloween with refreshments and cupcakes for all the participants and coaches.

The club also assisted St. Joseph's Secondary School, Creggan at their annual summer event and held a taster session encouraging the pupils to try out tennis as a new sport. Club members were interviewed by a local radio station on the day to help promote tennis and the local club.

The club organised several internal tournaments and fun events throughout the year to encourage participation and mixing within the club. These were mainly outdoor events, but included an indoor fun Christmas tournament. The club recognises that tennis is an important means for people to improve their fitness levels, but more importantly provides a social outlet which benefits mental as well as physical health.

Achievements

In the reporting year 2022-23, the club increased its membership by 70% finishing with around 120 members – adults and juniors. This is the largest the club has ever been and those members were drawn from over 15 different nationalities.

We recognise that developing juniors within the club is vital to its future success and viability. To this end, the club organised with Tennis Fundamentals (Lisburn) to provide a coaching course (Tennis Fundamentals Foundation Coaching Course) to 10 of our members, 8 of whom were juniors. All participants successfully completed the course and are now qualified coaches; and some have then used this qualification to help with coaching sessions within the club and as organised by the local council in community facilities and schools.

One of our members represented Ulster in junior provincial competitions and was supported by the club with a donation to contribute towards fuel costs and accommodation for the event. Other members were encouraged to develop their competitive tennis by taking part in tournaments organised by neighbouring clubs including at Letterkenny, Limavady and Omagh.

Financial position

The club remains in a strong financial position and closed the year to March 2023 with over £23k in the bank account after achieving a modest surplus for the reporting period. That bank balance, built up over numerous years, represents the club's only financial asset (small amounts of training equipment aside) and we continue to rent court space in the city. There were no outstanding creditors (or other deficits) unpaid at year end; affiliation fees payable to Tennis Ireland for calendar year 2023 were settled in April of that year after a query on the sums due was resolved.

Governance

The club's trustees during the reporting period were:

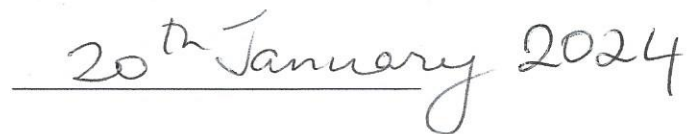
Kevin Cleary, Adrian Ford, Peter Fryer, Eugene Moore, Mark Moroney and Teresa Sweidan.

Eugene Moore has subsequently resigned from the club's governing committee; all other trustees remain in post.

The club's committee, appointed at Annual General Meeting, meets monthly to manage affairs; since the COVID pandemic those meetings have been conducted via video link.



Teresa Sweidan, Chair



Dated