

## Donaghadee Tennis Club – Ulster Tennis Club of the Year 2019-2020

Every year the Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland runs a competition to find the 'Club of the Year' within the Province and, despite the difficulties caused by recent closures of public sports facilities, Donaghadee Tennis Club was delighted to have been awarded the coveted title in June 2020.

The award's application process is an extremely detailed snapshot of many of the activities undertaken by clubs over the course of a year. Indeed, the preparation for the application process often takes longer as it covers nine areas, namely; Club Development, Club Leadership and Structure, Club Membership statistics, Club Coaching Programme, Coaches Qualifications, Social Events, Safeguarding, Club Communication and League team participation.

As one of the smallest clubs which has applied it was very satisfying to see the consistent high standards in club development and governance getting rewarded, and none of these areas happen without the hard work and dedication of many unpaid volunteers, the lifeblood of any sport club, to keep both it and the sport progressing and attracting new members and players.

Donaghadee Tennis Club can clearly look forward to a bright future as indicated by the awarding of the title, as membership of the club continues to increase, the Junior and Adult Coaching programme develops further and we continue to raise the profile of tennis within the local community. The Club works hard to promote and continue the development of tennis at The Commons, with the welcome support of Ards & North Down Borough Council.



*Pictured: Gordon Boal (Secretary Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland) and Stephen Garvin (Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland Club Development Officer) present Club Chair Alison Octave with a commemorative plaque in the presence of Councillors Gavin Walker (Alliance Party) Janice McArthur (DUP) & Mark Brookes (UUP) and a selection of club members.*

### New Club Shop launched

During the course of the last year the club linked up with Bangor based sportswear specialist 442teamwear.com to launch a new range of club kit and online shop. After careful consideration a wide range of clothing and accessories were selected and are available to view on the club's dedicated shop found at <https://www.442teamwear.com/donaghadee-tennis-club/>. Andy Neill, Managing Director of 442 Teamwear, visited the club recently and spoke of his company's desire to work and coordinate with local sports clubs across the borough, and said it was exiting for them to be part of the development plans at Donaghadee Tennis Club.



*Pictured l to r: Jonathan Rea (Club President), Livvy & Joel (Club members) and Andy Neill (442teamwear)*