



## **Honorary Secretary's Report 2023**

Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland continues to strive to increase its membership by visiting existing and new Clubs, encouraging clubs to obtain Awards and Grants for club play and sessions for every level of player.

Last year's highlights included Junior Interprovincials Under 18 Interpros which were held in Ulster at CIYMS with Ulster runner up, and the Under 14s which were held in Castlebar with Ulster coming fourth. Senior Interpros were held in Naas with Ulster runner up. On the Masters side, Limerick was the venue for 30-45s Interpros, with Ulster coming runner-up, Glenageary and Sandycove hosted 50/55/60s with Ulster coming in third, whilst the 65+ held on to the trophy, this year on home turf at Belfast Boat Club, a fantastic result.

Ulster were competitive in all events and congratulations to everyone who represented the province.

Furthermore, a special shout out is due to the growing number of Ulster players who were selected to play for Ireland in the various age groups in Turkey, Lisbon and Mallorca.  
Over 30s: Nikki Hawkes, Donna McSorley, Karl Donaldson, Michael Blease, Ross McCarey, Gareth McGreavy, Elizabeth Cardy, Kerri Russell, Alexis Russell, Fiona Morrow, Julie McManus, Francis Venzon and Steven Leeman.  
Over 50s - Wendy Cree, Sophie Dobbs, Ruth Greenlees, Hans Enoksen, Mark Milligan  
Over 65s - Letty Lucas, Helen Pollock, Willie Noteman, David Cunningham, Neagle Cathcart, Willie Caldwell, Kathleen Maguire, Maggie McKenna, Liz Thompson, Paddy Brockerton, George Lucas, George Pollock.

Congratulations must go to Freddy Murray on his Irish selection for Davis Cup, helping to secure a 4-1 win for the team over El Salvador in September.

The Belfast 2023 Wheelchair Tennis Tournament took place in the Belfast Indoor Tennis Centre, with congratulations going to Spokes in Motion Tennis Club on another successful event. Ross Gourley was a worthy winner of the A Division Singles.

In Secondary Schools' Tennis, 27 schools in Ulster participated with a total of 152 teams from year 8 to Seniors taking part.

Ulster Tennis Development Officer, Stephen Garvin, ran two level 1 coaching courses during the year.

All Junior, Senior and Masters tournaments were well supported and contested. It is great to see the increasing number of volunteers, both players and supporters, who enjoy and take time to come out and help run these events at their Club. To all the Clubs who continue to organise Tournaments thank you and we would ask that you support these clubs and their sponsors.

Tennis Ireland Tournament Software continues to build a database of results to assist in the selection process throughout the year.

Heartfelt thanks must go to Anna McCartan who works tirelessly in the branch office, along with Will Boyd.

2023 saw the Belfast and District League, headed up by Eileen Carlin, run successful singles and doubles leagues. It was great to see B&D League results being incorporated into Tournament Software for the first time. The annual B&D dinner, held at Royal Belfast, Craigavad, saw Susan and Stephen Creber recognised for service on this Committee for 45 and 43 years respectively. The leagues are an integral part of the Ulster Tennis scene and thanks must go to the Committee for continuing to build in this area.

We would ask you to please support the Club committees throughout Ulster who give their time to organise tennis in your Clubs.

Wishing you all a very successful 2024 season and hope that you continue to get lots of enjoyment from the game that we love, no matter what level you play, It is this support and enthusiasm that will guarantee a buoyant future for tennis in Ulster.

“ Life is like a game of tennis: the player who serves well, seldom loses.”

Wendy Cree  
Honorary Secretary, Ulster Branch  
April 2024