

**Clontarf Parish Tennis Club**  
**Captain's Report**  
**18<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

I would like to welcome you all to this Annual General Meeting of the Parish Tennis Club.

Over the past twelve months we have seen good progress in the club's development both in terms of membership and playing activity. What is particularly pleasing is to see a really good atmosphere between members and overall general improvement in playing standards.

I am particularly lucky to be supported by such a good committee. There is a great range of talent and expertise and a general "can do" attitude which makes life easier for me.

Bearing in mind the difficult working environment for most people I am amazed at the commitment and hard work individuals are putting into the running of the club.

My heartfelt thanks to my committee and also to those who contribute even without an official title.

It is right and proper that I make mention some individuals.

Dorothy Godden – Hon Secretary and Membership Secretary.  
Derek McCullagh – Hon Treasurer.

Both Dorothy and Derek have a long association with the Club and I hope that this will continue for many years to come.

Your committee is very ambitious for the club and has a fantastic vision for what the club can become. As always, committees must be guided by feedback from the members – but the proposals we will be outlining to you today represent what the current committee believe is a good blend of retaining what is good about the club – but inserting a positive vision moving forward.

Over the past months we have recognised areas where we did not perform well – such as developing the junior section. And with this in mind the committee undertook a strategic review of how we can make things work better.

What was very clear was that the role of Club Captain is too onerous for one individual in its current format.

We will be proposing that the club be headed up by a Chairman – with a strategic brief while other key areas of the club's operation be undertaken by designated committee members. For example Liaison/Marketing will be responsible for membership growth and communication.

Each “ Head of Department” will create their own sub committee to help spread the work load. These sub-committees will be made up of club members who wish to help without being involved in the main committee.

The role of Chairman is seen as a co-ordinator keeping the “heads of department” on track and removing any blockages to progress.

The committee is also determined that our newer members become included into the committee structure and I know that some newer members are very keen to contribute.

The existing committee represents the “ old guard” - those who remember the days of grass courts – and it is essential that the committee reflects current membership.

So I would encourage all of your to participate in some way.

Lighting has been operational for some months now and swipe card system will be introduced shortly. These will available to purchase from the committee and details of cost etc will follow shortly.

No mechanism has been in place for members to pay for light usage and we would ask those of you who have made us of the lights to make a contribution toward your usage up to now.

Finally, I would encourage you to make full use of the facilities and enjoy the club’s activities.