

Agreed Report of Munster Branch Council meeting held on June 2nd. 2010 at the Firgrove Hotel, Mitchelstown.

The meeting was informed that the Regional Development Officer for Munster Conor O'Callaghan has been appointed travelling coach of the Tennis Europe U14 Touring Team. The Council approved the request to allow Conor to take up this prestigious post. Conor was warmly congratulated on receiving this honour.

A letter was received from Limerick Lawn Tennis Club expressing their dismay at the manner in which the club was used during the recent Secondary Schools Finals. A wide-ranging discussion concluded that all aspects of this very important event needed a fundamental review. The Competitions Sub-committee will include this in their review of all Junior Competitions.

Reports were submitted to the meeting by the Communications, Competitions, Junior Development, Finance,,Veterans Selectors and Rules Sub-committees.

The Competitions sub-committee reported that the finals of the Primary and Secondary Schools Competitions, the under 10, 12, 14 & 16 Junior Summer Cups had been held over the last number of weeks. In general all the competitions including the finals had run very well and the usual high level of interest had been evident. However a number of issues had arisen including non-compliance with the rules relating to players' eligibility to play on teams .which regrettably resulted in a number of teams being disqualified. The Competitions sub-committee together with the Junior Development sub-committee intend carrying out a comprehensive review of all aspects of these competitions with a view to addressing the issues which had arisen.

The Competitions sub-committee also confirmed that the final of the Spring League had recently been held at Lakewood Tennis Club. The draws for the up-coming Senior Summer Cup Competitions has been completed and will issue to clubs in the coming days.

The results of all the recent competitions will be on the Branch web-site in the next few days.

The Junior Development sub-committee submitted a report to the meeting. The Council accepted the suggestion from the sub-committee that clubs running Junior Open Tournaments should be made aware that it is the responsibility of the Tournament Committee to decide the entries to be seeded in all of the events. The information on which to base these decisions such as open results, match-play results etc. is all now available on the internet. The Branch may be contacted to advise on young players who may not yet have results but the final decision in all cases should be made by the individual Tournament Committees.

The Junior Development sub-committee will seek to encourage the inclusion of under 8 & 9 events in all open tournaments and similarly with under-10 doubles events. The rules relating to allowing younger players to take part in events for older players should be strictly adhered to.

The meeting was informed that the meeting to discuss Veterans Team Selection held at the Firgrove Hotel, Mitchelstown on Wed. May 19th was attended by about 40 people. A very open discussion took place covering a wide range of issues. The principal message from the meeting was that selection for teams should be based primarily on results from competitions. 7 people were nominated for 5 places by the meeting as selectors and to develop a system of assessing results.

The meeting was informed that the recent inter-pro match at Limerick Lawn went off well. Unfortunately for Munster they were narrowly edged out into 3rd. position. If a number of tight matches had gone their way a better outcome might have resulted.

The Regional Development Officer reported to the meeting on the progress with the implementation of the National Player Database incorporating the ITN grading system. Progress is going well with presentations taking place in Kinsale Tennis Club, Sundays Well Boating & Tennis Club, Bishopstown Tennis Club. Presentations will also take place in Lower Aghada, Tramore, Carrigaline, Nenagh and many other clubs in the near future. Conor will be visiting clubs for the remainder of this month so that they are fully informed.

The President reported that at the recently held AGM of Tennis Ireland the Branch strongly expressed its disappointment with the increase imposed on the tournament capitation fee for entrants in Junior Open Tournaments (from 2.50 to 5.00 euro). The Munster Branch was supported in this view by the majority of those at the meeting. The chief executive stated that the Board would take all of the views expressed into account when considering this issue at the next Board meeting. The Munster Branch Representative Director on the Board Tony O'Donoghue confirmed that the Board meeting has been postponed twice since the AGM .

The President also informed the meeting that two resolutions submitted to the Board by a Member (Club) in the Munster Province for consideration at the AGM were rejected by the Board. It was stated by the Board that such resolutions should more properly be put to an EGM. The call for an EGM to be convened would require the support of 10% of the membership of Tennis Ireland (approximately 20 clubs).

The President also informed the meeting that the chief executive confirmed to the AGM that a meeting with the Leinster Branch of Tennis Ireland to agree the method of collection of Player Capitation and Club Affiliation fees was due to be held shortly. The chief executive stated to the AGM that the method agreed would apply equally to all provinces.

Ursula Hogan (Ballinlough TC) asked that the meeting note that the success of the Munster Regional Development Officer Conor O'Callaghan in implementing the ITN project was specifically complimented at the AGM.

The meeting asked that letters of thanks should be issued to all clubs who provide facilities to the Branch to host the finals of Junior and Senior competitions, match-play events and Junior Squad Coaching. Without their generous support it simply would not be possible to run the Branch programmes.