                                     Club Captain Speech 2015

                                      Wednesday 4th February

Welcome

First of all I would like to thank everyone for attending this years AGM. Secondly I would like to thank you the members for giving me the opportunity to represent you as club captain for the past 2 years. I hope you have enjoyed the experience as much as I have and feel that your competitive needs have been met these past 2 years.

Competitions Committee

The role of club captain has has many faces. It would be incorrect of me to say that I did most of the work. I had a team of dedicated people who gave selflessly to ensure each event ran as smoothly as possible. I was very fortunate to have a competitions committee who consisted of 3 people who gave as many hours as I did to ensure each competition was a success. To David Goulding , Lena O Connor and Triona Dunne I would like to personally thank you for your energy , humour and professionalism during the 10 or more events that took place in 2014.

President

We had a very popular President in 2014 in Ann Marie Darcy. I think you will all agree that she excelled in her role as President. Each event is different in our club and each requires a unique approach to ensure all members feel welcome. Ann Marie as hostess made everyone feel a part of the club during 2014. She was a pleasure to work with and I wish her continued success in her second year as President of Nenagh LTC. Ann Marie is getting married this year so on behalf of the club we wish her and Ken every success in their future together.

Internal Events

As you are well aware our club calendar is a busy one which numerous events taking place throughout the year. We have always prided ourselves on including all abilities of players in our competitions and last year was no different. Entries were again high in all our events from Spring Doubles to Our Presidents Prize. Our Inter-firms competitions again had over 40 Teams with Martin Ryan's and co deserving winners in one of the closest Inter-firms finals witnessed in many years.

Open Week

Nenagh Open Week was again the highlight of the year. With red stools, new scoreboards and glorious weather it was yet another fantastic week which again highlighted what the club has to offer. With over 250 participants playing throughout the week many volunteers were required to ensure everything went as planned. Players have always enjoyed our open week which surpasses most people's expectations year after year. We always seem to attract new players to this event and last year was no different with players coming from as far as Dublin and Wicklow. A fantastic night was had by all and hopefully this year will reach similar heights. I would like to personally thank Josie McGahey and Puckaun tennis club for their use of the courts during the week even at short notice. They have always been a supporter of Nenagh LTC and long may this continue.

This year I am glad to say Nenagh LTC has its own week in the calendar that no longer overlaps with Limerick Lawn. This will alleviate many of the court and time pressures which have existed in the past which will benefit players and organisers alike.

Summer Cup

The 2014 Summer Cup finals held jointly by Carrigaline/Crosshaven tennis clubs were again a special occasion for many of our players and supporters. Three Nenagh teams and one Puckaun teams contested the finals. Our Grade 2 Mixed team of Tom Gallahue, Robert Carkill, Loreto Slatttery and Aisiling Palmer and our Grade 4 Ladies Team of Jane Spearman McGrath, Claire Dillon, Maeve Gleeson and Rosemary Seymour had great victories on the day. Puckaun also had a victorious day.  The Team of Gary White, Bryan McGahey , Karen Smith and Christine Bruce also enjoyed a memorable day in Carrigaline winning the Grade 5 Mixed Event. Unfortunately the Nenagh Grade 1 Mixed team were narrowly beaten by Limerick Lawn. The team comsisted of Frank O Keeffe, Michael Hackett, Ann Marie Darcy and Deirdre McSherry.

Winter League

In this year’s Winter League we have our biggest entry with 15 teams compared with 12 teams last year. Eight of our teams look to be well on their way to the knock out stages so we hope that many will be in St Anne's tennis club on 12th April contesting the finals. I would like to thank all captains for their dedication in ensuring all matches were organised well in advance of play. I would also like to thank Committee member Kate Heduan who had a major role in organising the home matches for all teams via online booking.

Coaching

Improving the playing standard of members of Nenagh LTC should always be an integral part of any club. Last year we had a junior programme divided into 3 terms with over 150 children participating at all levels. Coaching aside Competitive opportunities also existed all year round and this could not be achieved without the sterling work of the junior committee. These players will be the future of our club so it is vital that a structure is in place to continually promote and retain these players into the future.

We have a new adult coaching programme calendar this year which allows members to plan what coaching activities they would like sign up to. The calendar caters for all adult members and is a welcome development in the club. Further information can be found out on our website.

Junior Vets

On a personal note this year I was chosen to represent both Munster for the Veterans Interpros and recently I was selected to represent Ireland at the World Junior Vets in Turkey in March. The support I have received from the members of the club has been fantastic and I hope to do the club proud no matter what the outcome is. I would also like to congratulate Deirdre McSherry in last year’s Veterans interpros held in Wicklow. She performed admirably during these two days of competition.

Closing

So in closing it has been a privilege to represent the club as captain. I had a wonderful 2 years where I got to know so many of you both on and off the court. It is with some sadness I depart but maybe one day in the near future I might take up the role once more.  I wish you all a healthy 2015 and an enjoyable year of tennis at Nenagh LTC.

Thank you

Frank O Keeffe

CC 2014