

MUNSTER SQUASH AGM  
4<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2009 @ HIGHFIELD

PRESIDENTS ADDRESS

Welcome to the 2009 AGM of Munster Squash after another busy season. The following is a summary of our activities over the past year.

1. FUNDRAISING/SPONSORSHIP

The annual golf classic was held last July @ Muskerry Golf club and continues to be an important source of revenue for the organisation. Thanks to all those who sponsored teams and tee-boxes along with all who participated. Great credit is due once more to both **Eddie Murphy** and **Noel Bradley** for their tireless work in organising this. *This years event is again scheduled for the same venue on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July.*

Without our sponsors, we would not be able to successfully run many of our events. Many thanks to the following companies and individuals for their kind assistance and I would urge all to support their businesses,

- **Irish Camper Vans (Tim O'Donovan)** - Munster Senior Open & Mens Division 2 League
- **F4 Energy (Aidan McDonnell)** - Golf Classic
- **O'Connell Builders (Anthony O'Connell)** - Mens Division 3 League
- **S Tyres (Eamonn O'Keeffe)** - Mens Division 1 League
- **EMC2 ((Brian Aherne)** - Munster Junior Open
- **Senator Windows (Noel Murphy)** - Munster Masters Open
- **JD Scaffolding (Jimmy Docherty)** - Munster Senior Closed
- **Express Kitchens & Floors (Neil O'Sullivan)** - Munster Senior Closed
- **Prince** - Munster Junior Closed
- **Orchard Bar (Kieran Barrett)** - Mens Division 4 League
- **James G Coughlan & Associates (Jim Coughlan)** - Ladies Team Leagues

## 2. TOURNAMENTS

We got through a particularly busy schedule of tournaments with 6 competitions run under the control of Munster Squash with a further 3 tournaments hosted and run on behalf of Irish Squash. In general, the numbers of participants was on a par with previous years. Thanks to the **Highfield, Sundays Well, Silversprings, Dunhill, Thurles** and **Templemore** clubs for providing us with the use of their venues. Thanks also to all who gave of their free time to organise venues and referee games with particular mention for those mentioned below,

- Munster Senior Open (held in Cork, October) - **Mark Smyth**
- Munster Junior Open (held in Cork, November) - **Jacqueline Humphries & Lee Healy**
- Munster Masters Open (held in Cork, January) - **Martin McDonnell & Eamonn O’Keeffe**
- Munster Senior Closed (held in Cork, February) - **Ken O’Keeffe**
- Irish Junior Nationals (held in Cork, February) - **Lee Healy**
- Munster Junior Closed (held in Dunhill, February) - **Mary O’Loughlin**
- Munster Schools (various venues, March) - **Gerry Connaughton**
- Masters Interpros (held in Cork, April) - **Martin McDonnell & Eamonn O’Keeffe**
- All-Ireland Schools (Thurles/Templemore, April) - **Gerry Connaughton**

## 3. LEAGUES

5 mens team leagues, 3 ladies individual leagues and 3 ladies team leagues were held this season. All leagues were well participated in and completed. Thanks in no small way for this goes to the league secretaries.

- Mens Division 1 League (**Eamonn O’Keeffe**, League Secretary)
  - 4 teams (all Cork City based) participated
  - Winners - Highfield
  - Runners-Up - Sundays Well
- Mens Division 2 League (**Richard Fitzgerald**, League Secretary)
  - 6 teams (5 Cork City, 1 Kerry) participated
  - Winners - Silversprings
  - Runners-Up - Highfield
- Mens Division 3 League (**Jim O’Callaghan**, League Secretary)
  - 4 teams (3 Cork City, 1 Tipperary) participated
  - Winners - Highfield
  - Runners-Up - The Orchard
- Mens Division 4 League (**Pat Keogh**, League Secretary)

- 9 teams (5 Cork City, 4 Co. Cork) participated
- Winners - Kilworth
- Runners-Up - St. Finbarrs
- Mens Novice League (**Timmy McCarthy**, League Secretary)
  - 6 teams (3 Cork City, 2 Co. Cork, 1 Kerry) participated
  - Winners - Kilworth
  - Runners-Up - St. Finbarrs
- Ladies Leagues (**Clare Jones**, Ladies Captain)
  - See Clare's separate report

#### 4. INTERPROVINCIALS

This past season, we had teams represent Munster at the Senior Interpros in Galway in March, the Masters Interpros in Cork in April and the Junior Interpros in Dublin in April. Congratulations to all those players selected on these teams and thanks to **Ken O'Keeffe**, **Martin McDonnell/Clare Jones** and **Jacqueline Humphries** who organised the teams for these events respectively. Special mention to the **Girls Under 15 team**, the **Mens Over-45 team** and the **Ladies Over-40 team** who were all national champions in their section.

#### 5. MISCELLANEOUS

- Early in the season, on the recommendation of Irish Squash presented Munster Squash with a **Defibrillator** for use (hopefully never) during our tournaments. A number of members attended a training session on its use.
- Again as a result of a recommendation from Irish Squash, Munster Squash implemented the **PARS** (Point-A-Rally Scoring) system for all our leagues and tournaments during the past season. This was initially to be a trial basis and we as a committee took steps in the last few months to gather opinion from our members as to their views on this for the future. Within the last couple of months however, both the WSF (World Squash Federation) and ESF (European Squash Federation) have both adopted PARS as the official scoring system for Squash. It seems likely that the new scoring is here to stay, however I would welcome any comments on the matter so that we can have our views represented at the forthcoming Irish Squash AGM.
- The payment of **affiliation fees** to Irish Squash by all clubs is an essential means of funding the organisation of the sport in the country. The provinces receive 50% of all affiliations received from clubs in their jurisdiction. Irish Squash have published on their website a list of the paid-up clubs and have directed at their most recent meeting that any club not paid-up will be prohibited from entering tournaments and leagues next season. We have yet to receive this years affiliation fees from Irish Squash, so it therefore affects our finances also. As a committee, we will

be addressing this issue as a matter of urgency and contacting all clubs to ensure that they are fully paid-up. If not, our competitions for next season may be badly compromised.

- Discussions have taken place regarding the re-structuring of the Mens leagues for next season with all leagues to start in September and run until April with a mid-season break. A more detailed proposal will be circulated in the coming weeks.

## 6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Thank you to all my fellow committee members for their work throughout the past season.
- Special mention for the following who have expressed a wish to step down from these positions for the coming season,
  - **Rose Quilter** (Secretary)
  - **Marian Slattery** (Treasurer)
  - **Jacqueline Humphries** (Junior Administrator)
  - **Michael Bradley** (Irish Squash Delegate)
- To **Eddie Murphy** for organising all prizes for tournaments and leagues.
- Finally, I'd like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the enormous contribution provided to the organisation by **Lee Healy** for his diligent and detailed updating of the MunsterSquash.com website.

Laurence O'Donovan  
4<sup>th</sup> June, 2009