

# Connacht Squash Provincial Annual Report

## 2001/2002 Season

### LEAGUE

The CBE Four Counties League was run very successfully this season by Kilconly Squash Club with John Concannon looking after the smooth running of the competition.

The junior section introduced to the league last season proved very successful and was continued this season, with Junior "A" and "B" teams taking part. Young players who may not have competed in "Open" tournaments take part, proud to be representing their home club as well as gaining valuable match practice.

### Results

<b>Men's B Section</b>	<b>League Winners</b>	<b>Galway Lawn Tennis Club</b>
	<b>Cup Winners</b>	<b>Galway Lawn Tennis Club</b>
<b>Men's D Section</b>	<b>League Winners</b>	<b>Galway Lawn Tennis Club</b>
	<b>Cup Winners</b>	<b>Galway Lawn Tennis Club</b>
	<b>Plate Winners</b>	<b>Claremorris</b>
<b>Men's E Section</b>	<b>League Winners</b>	<b>Westport</b>
	<b>Cup Winners</b>	<b>Westport</b>
<b>Junior A Section</b>	<b>Cup Winners</b>	<b>Galway</b>
<b>Junior B Section</b>	<b>League Winners</b>	<b>Sligo</b>
	<b>Cup Winners</b>	<b>Claremorris</b>

### COMPETITION

The 2001/2002 season was a very busy one competition wise beginning with **The Connacht Junior Open** hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> September 2001. This was the first tournament using the new format (introduced on the recommendation of Irish Squash) taking in qualifying rounds and allowing twenty-four players into the draw as opposed to only sixteen in the past.

**Tournament Director: Kevin Rooney      Tournament Referee: Aidan O'Colmain**

<b>Results: U-19 Boys</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Brian Byrne (Leinster)</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Willie Morgan (Munster)</b>
<b>U-17 Boys</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>David Noone (Connacht)</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Sam Olwill (Leinster)</b>
<b>U-15 Boys</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Rory Byrne (Leinster)</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Kevin Kilduff (Leinster)</b>
<b>U-13 Boys</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Johnny Roberts (Ulster)</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Sean Caheny (Connacht)</b>
<b>U-17 Girls</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Aoife Kerrin (Connacht)</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Niamh McCallion (Connacht)</b>
<b>U-15 Girls</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Ciara Moloney (Leinster)</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Niamh Brennan (Leinster)</b>

### **Connacht Junior "Mini Tournament" (Connacht Ranking)**

The first "Mini Tournament" (as per Irish Squash directive) was run in Sligo Tennis Club over the weekend of October 12<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>. The tournament was well attended and the results were as follows:-

<b>U-13 Boys</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Sean Caheny (Sligo)</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Shane Fahy (Galway)</b>
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>Brian Brennan (Kiltimagh)</b>
<b>U-15 Boys</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Roger Leahy (Sligo)</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Alec Lillis (Galway)</b>
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>Ross Cannon (Galway)</b>
<b>U-17 Boys</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Niall Caheny (Sligo)</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Cian Hackett (Sligo)</b>
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>Paul Kenna (Claremorris)</b>
<b>U-19 Boys</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Colin Concannon (Kilconly)</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Padraig Nolan (Claremorris)</b>
<b>U-13 Girls</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Caroline Kenna (Claremorris)</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Aoife Clancy (Sligo)</b>
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>Aishling O'Connor (Sligo)</b>

U-15 Girls	Winner	Aine Hackett (Sligo)
	Runner Up	Linda Kenna (Claremorris)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Karen Prendergast (Ballina)

The **Sligo Junior Open** was cancelled this November, as a mark of respect, on the sudden death of Les Parker at the end of October.

The **Connacht Vets Open** was hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club weekend of 30<sup>th</sup> November/1<sup>st</sup> December 2001. Sponsors: Galway Irish Crystal  
Tournament Director: Michael Hynes    Tournament Referee: Shane Cannon

(Full Results shown in the Connacht Vets Report - attached)

The **second Connacht Junior "Mini Tournament" (Connacht Ranking)** was hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club over the week-end of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> December 2001

Entries for this event were down on the first "Mini Tournament" – It was felt players having already traveled to take part in Provincial Opens plus the date getting very close to Christmas were the two factors contributing to the smaller entry.

**Results:**

U-13 Boys	Winner	Sean Caheny (Sligo)
	Runner Up	Mark Neacy (Galway)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Kevin Davey (Sligo)
U-13 Girls	Winner	Isabelle Mortimer (Galway)
	Runner Up	Aoife Clancy (Sligo)
U-15 Boys	Winner	Ross Cannon (Galway)
	Runner Up	Alec Lillis (Galway)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Colm Doyle (Galway)

The **Connacht Senior Open** was run in January 2002 hosted by Sligo Tennis Club.

Tournament Director: John Kielty

Sponsors: Brooks Hanley & Irish Squash (Irish Squash Official "Tour" Event)

**Results:**

Ladies A	Winner	Aisling Blake (Connacht)
	Runner Up	Sinead Aiken (Leinster)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Fiona Parker (Connacht)
Mens A	Winner	Niall Rooney (Connacht)
	Runner Up	David Ayerst (Ulster)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Neil Murphy (Leinster)

The **Connacht Senior Closed** was hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club over the weekend 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> February 2002. Sponsor: Bank of Ireland

Tournament Director: Gerry Fahy      Tournament Referee: Pat Hanley

Results:	Men	Winner	Niall Rooney (Galway)
		Runner Up	Ian Thornton (Galway)
		3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Rory Gilligan (Galway)

The **Connacht Junior Closed** was hosted by Sligo Tennis Club over the weekend of February 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>.2002

Sponsor: Connacht Gold      Tournament Director: Padraig Hackett

Results:

U-13 Girls	Winner	Aishling O'Connor (Sligo)
	Runner Up	Caroline Kenna (Claremorris)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Isabelle Mortimer (Galway)

U-13 Boys	Winner	Brian Brennan (Kiltimagh)
	Runner Up	Eoin Duffy (Galway)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Thomas Kelly (Sligo)

U-15 Girls	Winner	Aine Hackett (Sligo)
	Runner Up	Linda Kenna (Claremorris)

U-15 Boys	Winner	Sean Caheny (Sligo)
	Runner Up	Cormac Delaney (Galway)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Owen O'Brien (Galway)

U-17 Boys	Winner	Niall Caheny (Sligo)
	Runner Up	Cian Hackett (Sligo)
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Paul Kenna (Claremorris)

**\*Vets Interregionals** hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> February 2002.

Sponsor Joe Higgins

Tournament Directors: Michael Hynes & Norrie O'Grady

Tournament Referee: Shane Cannon

Full Report and Results shown in Connacht Vets Report (attached)

The **West of Ireland Open** was hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club over the Easter Weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002. Sponsor: Charlie Garavan & Irish Squash

(Irish Squash official "tour" event)

**Tournament Director:- Mike Flattery      Tournament Referee: Aidan O'Colmain**

**Results:**

<b>Mens A</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Joey Barrington</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>John Abrahamse</b>
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>Niall Rooney</b>

<b>Ladies</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Aisling Blake</b>
	<b>Runner Up</b>	<b>Kerri Shields</b>
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>Fiona Parker</b>

**\*All Ireland Schools Finals** hosted by Sligo Tennis Club, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2002

**Tournament Director: Padraig Hackett**

**This event is going from strength to strength now that the tournament is open to all the age groups as opposed to U-19 only, which was the case until two seasons ago.**

**Results:**

<b>U-13 Girls</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Banbridge Academy (Ulster)</b>
	<b>Runners Up</b>	<b>St. Patrick's, Banbridge (Ulster)</b>

<b>U-13 Boys</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Methody College (Ulster)</b>
	<b>Runners Up</b>	<b>Summerhill College (Sligo Connacht)</b>

<b>U-15 Girls</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Banbridge Academy (Ulster)</b>
	<b>Runners Up</b>	<b>St. Leo's (Leinster)</b>

<b>U-15 Boys</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Summerhill College (Sligo Connacht)</b>
	<b>Runners Up</b>	<b>Methody ( Ulster)</b>

<b>U-17 Girls</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Ursuline College (Sligo Connacht)</b>
	<b>Runners Up</b>	<b>Gael Cholaiste (Carlow Leinster)</b>

<b>U-17 Boys</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Blackrock College (Dublin Leinster)</b>
	<b>Runners Up</b>	<b>Methody (Ulster)</b>

<b>U-19 Girls</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Gael Cholaiste (Carlow Leinster)</b>
	<b>Runners Up</b>	<b>Rainey Endowed (Ulster)</b>

<b>U-19 Boys</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Gael Cholaiste (Carlow Leinster)</b>
	<b>Runners Up</b>	<b>St. Patrick's (Ulster)</b>

**\*All Ireland Club Championships** hosted by Galway Lawn Tennis Club weekend of 10<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> May 2002.

**Tournament Director: Kevin Rooney Tournament Referee: Shane Cannon**

## **Winning Teams:**

**Ladies Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club (Leinster)**

**Men Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club (Leinster)**

(\*These tournaments were run by Connacht Squash on behalf of Irish Squash)

## **COACHING**

English squash coach Colin Whitney returned to Galway Lawn Tennis Club for the 2001/2002 season. Colin coached regularly in Galway Lawn Tennis Club and also travelled to Sligo, Kilconly and Claremorris over the season. We are hopeful that Colin will again be based in Galway next Season.

Fiona Parker (returned from Australia) also did a little junior coaching in Sligo Tennis Club.

## **PLAYERS SELECTED TO REPRESENT IRELAND**

### **Seniors 2**

**Senior European Championships, Boblingen, Germany, April 2002**

**Ladies Aisling Blake (Sligo) Anna McGeever (Sligo)**

### **Juniors 8**

**U-13 & U-15 Home Internationals, Edinburgh, January 2002**

**U-13 Caroline Kenna (Claremorris) U-13 Sean Caheny (Sligo)**

**U-15 Aine Hackett (Sligo) Roger Leahy (Sligo) Alec Lillis (Galway)**

**U-15 & U-17 European Championships, Boblingen, Germany, May 2002**

**U-17 Aoife Kerrin (Sligo)**

**U-17 David Noone (Galway) and Niall Caheny (Sligo)**

### **Vets 3**

**Vets Home Internationals 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May 2002**

**Ladies O-45 Norrie O'Grady (Galway)**

**Ladies O-45 Anita Mylotte (Galway)**

**Mens O-45 Alf Kavanagh (England based)**

**Bernadette Parker  
Connacht Secretary**

## **CONNACHT SQUASH 2001 - 2002**

# VETERAN'S REPORT

The 2001 Galway Irish Crystal **CONNACHT VETERANS SQUASH OPEN** tournament was held in Galway Lawn Tennis Club from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2001. Prizes were sponsored by Galway Irish Crystal and there was the usual monetary contribution from an anonymous donor. The tournament incurred no financial loss.

**Tournament organiser: Michael Hynes**

**Tournament Referee: Shane Cannon**

**Total entries of 44 included many of the top-ranked Irish players as well as some UK based players. Overall entries and results are as follows:**

Category	Entries	Winner	Runner-up
Ladies O-40	8	Norrie O'Grady	Ann Sheahan
Mens O-45A	8	Martin McDonnell	Alf Kavanagh
Mens O-45B	8	Pat Hanley	Robert Garvin
Mens O-50	8	Martin O'Meara	Des Connery
Mens O-55A	8	Bernard Daly	Seamus Toomey
Mens O-55B	4	Noel Murphy	John Calnan

Galway's well-known veteran squash player, Norrie O'Grady retained her over-40s title by overcoming Ann Sheahan in an exciting final. For another Galway player, Anita Mylotte, who normally plays in the vintage section, it was a memorable tournament as she overcame the number 2 seed, Barbara Murray of Limerick to secure the third place spot.

In the over-45B section, Pat Hanley of the home club overcame Robert Garvin, a UK based player to win his first Connacht Title.

The most notable performance of the tournament was by Bernard Daly who from the fourth seed spot secured the over-55 men's title by beating the current holder Gerry Byrne in the semi-final and Seamus Toomey in the final.

The premier title, the mens over-45A, changed hands this year. The current holder, Coventry based Connacht player, Alf Kavanagh lost his title to Highfield's Martin McDonnell in an enthralling five-set final that was watched by a full gallery. The destination of the title was in doubt until the very end.

An enjoyable social evening was held in the Galway Lawn Tennis Club with catering by Gabrielle O'Riordan and her crew of *Eat Your Heart Out*.

**Irish Veterans Open (Fitzwilliam, 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002)**

The following Connacht players competed in this competition:

Alf Kavanagh (Coventry), T.J. Mullins (Galway), Matt Lohan (Galway), and Tom Cantwell (Westwood)

Norrie O'Grady (Galway)

Norrie O'Grady was runner up in the Ladies' O-40 while Alf Kavanagh finished runner-up in the Men's O-50.

## **Veteran and Vintage Interprovincial Championships**

The Joe Higgins sponsored 2002 Veteran and Vintage Interprovincial Championships were hosted by Connacht Squash at the Galway Lawn Tennis Club on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**Tournament Director: Michael Hynes and Norrie O'Grady**

**Tournament Referee: Shane Cannon**

All four provinces entered teams the Men's and Ladies' Veteran competitions. All four provinces entered teams for the Men's Vintage Leinster and Ulster entered teams for the Ladies' Vintage competition. The Connacht Teams were as follows:

No.	Men's Veteran	Ladies' Veteran	Men's Vintage
1	Alf Kavanagh (Coventry)	Norrie O'Grady (Galway)	Michael O'Connor (Galway)
2	John Kielty (Sligo)	Anita Mylotte (Galway)	Michael Devanney (Galway)
3	Pat Hanley (Galway)	Helen Reapy (Claremorris)	Brendan James (Galway)
4	Tom Cantwell (Westwood)	Jenny Burrows (Galway)	Tom Murray (Kilkenny)
5	Ray Reade (Galway)		John Murray (Galway)
6	Jim Hynes (Galway)		Charlie O'Connell (Galway)
7	Gerry Fahy (Galway)		

**Due to the last minute withdrawal of Trudie O'Byrne, Connacht only fielded four players in the Ladies' Veteran section. Connacht teams did not fare well in the final results. Alf Kavanagh suffered an injury in the first match and played no further part in the proceedings. A number of players were only available on the Friday evening and this weakened the teams. Tribute must be paid to the manner in which the remaining players competed even though they were eventually beaten.**

**Results:**

<b>Division</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>
Men's Veteran	Munster	Leinster	Ulster	Connacht
Ladies' Veteran	Ulster	Leinster	Munster	Connacht
Men's Vintage	Leinster	Munster	Ulster	Connacht
Ladies' Vintage	Ulster	Leinster		

**A dinner and disco was held on Saturday night in the Salthill Hotel. Thanks to Pauline Griffin and her staff at the Salthill Hotel for a truly wonderful evening.**

**Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Joe Higgins, the generous discount obtained by the tournament director on the trophies and the excellent catering by Patricia Hynes and her assistants for the Friday evening meal and Saturday lunch, the tournament broke even. Without these inputs, the quality of the prizes, and the quality of the food and entertainment would have been very much reduced. I believe we set a high standard and showed once again that we in Connacht can do things better than anyone else. The feedback from those who participated in the tournament was wonderful and we appreciate their kind words.**

**As tournament director of the Connacht Vets Open and the Vets Interpros in the current 2001-2002 season, I would like to thank all those who helped to run the tournaments. Special thanks to Shane Cannon who acted as tournament referee for both tournaments, and also to Mike Flattery who assisted greatly with the refereeing. The organisation of the refereeing in the Connacht Open was a model of how it should be done. Referees were immediately available once players were ready to play and this aspect of the tournament was very favourably commented on by the participants.**

### **Munster Vets Open**

**Alf Kavanagh and T.J. Mullins participated in the Munster Vets Open (25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2002).**

**Alf Kavanagh was finished runner-up in the Vets 0-45 section.**

**Connacht Players on Irish Teams for Home Internationals (17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> May 2002)**

**Ladies O-45 Norrie O'Grady (#1) - won two of her matches**

**Ladies O-45 Anita Mylotte (#3) - won all her matches**

**Mens O-45 Alf Kavanagh (#2)**

**Michael J. Hynes**

**May 2002**

**Updated by Michael J. Hynes June 10 2002**