



THE NET NEWS

CASTLEBAR TENNIS CLUBS NEWSLETTER - MARCH '26



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, John Feerick

This year promises to be a big year for Castlebar Tennis Club. As many of you know the committee has been working hard behind the scenes on securing funding and the procurement of the next generation dome. This is our biggest priority for 2026. We're also in the process of securing an investment company who will partner us on the introduction of 3 padel courts. This will compliment the offering at the club and will help sustain the club for many years to come. We're also looking at how we can improve our overall facilities, and the social side of the club, and we will consider any suggestions from members. We are lucky to have a club that has achieved so much on the court over the last few months. Our juniors (Eoghan and Lauren) have represented the club at the highest level, and many of our senior club members have also represented the club at Connacht League. I want to thank the committee for their support and we are looking forward to a positive year on and off the courts.



MESSAGE FROM LADY CAPTAIN, Fiona McHugh

As Lady Captain this year, I'm looking forward to plenty of social tennis, welcoming new members, and helping keep the club the fun, friendly and inclusive place we all enjoy. I'm delighted to be partnering with my Co-Captain Stephen, between the two of us we'll hopefully keep things running smoothly... or at least keep the kettle on and the pints flowing! I've been a member of the club for the past three years and loved every minute of it. Originally from Sligo, I've been happily living in Balla for the past 25 years.

I look forward to supporting all our members on and off the court this year. Looking forward to see you all out there!!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

TRY TENNIS
@ CASTLEBAR TENNIS CLUB

DESIGNED FOR **BEGINNERS**
STARTING **THURSDAY 26TH OF MARCH**
7:00 - 8:30PM | RUNS FOR **12 WEEKS**

WEEKS 1-4
LEARN THE BASICS
Get started with coach-supervised sessions alongside friendly club members who will help you learn the key skills of the game.
Week 1-4 Cost: €25

WEEKS 5-8
SUPERVISED MATCH PLAY
Start putting your skills into action with graded mixed play sessions alongside club members. Learn how to serve, how to play points, and gain confidence on court.
Week 5-12 Cost: €30

WEEKS 9-12
SUPERVISED MATCH PLAY
Take part in a fun and relaxed league organised just for the group - a great way to continue improving while enjoying some friendly competition.
Week 9-12 Cost: €30

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR PLACE | LIMITED TO 30 PLACES

ANNUAL TABLE QUIZ
@ CASTLEBAR TENNIS CLUB

MONDAY, 16TH OF MARCH
QUIZ STARTS AT **8:00PM SHARP**
TEAMS OF 4 PER TABLE | €40 PER TABLE
VENUE: CASTLEBAR TENNIS CLUB, CASTLEBAR, F23 TK70

SPOT PRIZES ON THE NIGHT!
GET YOUR TEAM TOGETHER, TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE, AND ENJOY THE CRAIC!

KINDLY SPONSORED BY: KEVIN DURCAN FINANCIAL STEPS

WEEKLY!

We're kicking off **FRIDAY NIGHT MIXED DOUBLES** every Friday from 8pm!

If you'd like to play, simply join the group by scanning the QR code below. A poll will be posted every Thursday where you can confirm your availability. Teams and court allocations will be shared on Friday evening.

This group is open to all members of all levels. It's about enjoying meeting different members to play with, while also getting in some great competitive tennis.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your **Lady Captain, Fiona McHugh** – 085 7145832.



MIXED SINGLES LADDER

The Mixed Singles Ladder is returning on **March 23rd 2026** and will run until **June 28th**.

Open to both adult members and performance-level junior members, the ladder creates a strong, varied playing field.

- **Flexible** and player-led – players can arrange matches at times that suit them.
- **Meaningful** matches – With a structured points system every match counts.
- **Progress** tracking – The ladder format allows players to see their progress over time
- **Social & Competitive** atmosphere
- Cost of Entry - **€10** – Enter via Acebook

Overall, it's a great opportunity to improve your game, test yourself in meaningful matches, and enjoy competitive tennis in a fun and supportive environment.

Contact your **Mens Captain, Stephen Lennon** on **087 6236410** if you have any questions.

Tag us on your socials!



@castlebartennis

GET INVOLVED! This newsletter is all about keeping our fantastic tennis community connected — sharing match reports, club news, upcoming events, junior updates, achievements, and plenty of photos along the way. We would love for members to get involved. If you have any match reports, stories, announcements, or great photos from club activities, please send them to pro@castlebartennis.ie and we'll include them in upcoming editions.

SPEED TENNIS VALENTINE'S SPECIAL



Our first Friday Fun Night of 2026 kicked off in style with a Speed Tennis Valentine's Special! It may have been a freezing cold February night, but the love in the air certainly warmed everyone's souls. There was plenty of laughter, fast-paced rallies and great shared laughter on court, making it a fantastic start to the year's social tennis calendar. Huge congratulations to our winners on the night, The Heartbreak Servers, **Emer and Denny**, who served up some brilliant tennis to take the title!



CONNACHT LEAGUES

WINTER LADIES DOUBLES



Our Ladies Doubles team delivered a fantastic performance in this year's Connacht League, representing the club with great commitment, teamwork and competitive spirit. Match after match, the players showed real determination on court, supporting one another through tough matches and securing some excellent wins along the way. Their impressive run brought them all the way to the semi-finals, where they narrowly lost 3-1 to Sligo, who went on to become the eventual Connacht League winners. It was a hard-fought contest and a performance the team can be very proud of. The standard of tennis throughout the league was extremely high, and our players rose to the challenge at every stage. Beyond the results, the camaraderie and team atmosphere were a real highlight, reflecting the strength and positivity within our club.

Congratulations and well done to all involved for representing the club so proudly, **Fiona McHugh (Team Captain), Diane Kellet, Sarah Flood, Emily Worden, Fiona McHale, Cathriona Roughneen, Orla Egan** and many thanks to **Katrina Conlon** a late entrant to the team who helped secure a spot in the semis. A tremendous achievement by the team!

MEN'S DOUBLES GRADE 3

Our Men's Double Squad of **Aran McMahon, Stephen Lennon, Colm Harte, James Durkan, Ard van Balkom, Dallan O' Donnell** and **Karen Martinez** played the Connacht Winter League between November and February. In a closely contested group playing home and away fixtures against Sligo tennis Club and Ballaghaderreen Tennis Club they just missed out on qualifying for the finals. After all matches in the group finished as 2-2 draws, it came down to the number of sets won, with Castlebar missing out on a place in the finals by one set! Hard luck to the lads, but great tennis played over the course of the league.



SPRING DOUBLES

The Connacht League Spring Mixed Doubles campaign gets underway this March, and we're delighted to confirm that a team has been entered to represent the club in the XD4. The team will be led by **Captain Stuart Derry**, alongside **John Feerick, Kevin Keane, Paul Brennan, John Greenan, Sarah Flood, Diane Kellet, Fiona McHale, Zuzana Zitnikova**, and **Fiona McHugh**. We wish the team and Captain Stuart the very best of luck for the season ahead. We look forward to some exciting matches and great team performances over the coming weeks. Further updates on their progress will be shared as the league unfolds. Best of luck to all involved!

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

For players looking for more competitive action, be sure to check the Tennis Ireland tournaments page for details on upcoming events. Tournaments of interest over the next month include:

20th - 22nd March Galway LTC Indoor Masters Tour 1000
27th - 29th March West of Ulster Masters Tour 500



COACHING UPDATE *From Garrett Barry*

Junior coaching continues to run Monday to Friday each week, with groups catering for all ages and levels. Our juniors are continuing to make waves on the provincial and national scene. **Eoghan Jennings** (pictured on the right) has reached a career-high world ranking of #110, with upcoming events in Spain and Croatia. Eoghan is making a push to play in the years 2nd Grand Slam, the French Open which takes place at the end of May.

We're also delighted to see Irish U16 champion Lauren Dunne back on court after a three-month shoulder injury, and we wish her the very best in her recovery.

Congratulations to junior members Pete Jennings, Frank Jennings, Matthew O'Raghallaigh, Jessica Staunton, Oisín Barry, Bartek Karolczyk, Jack Renton, Maya Kubiszewska, and Penny Cabot, who competed in the recent T1000 tournament at Galway Tennis Club. Well done also to Ella Dunne and Timothee Long, who represented the club at the T100 tournament at Stratford Tennis Club in Dublin.



2026 CASTLEBAR TENNIS CLUB COMMITTEE **President:** Paul Gavin; **Chairperson:** John Feerick; **Vice-Chair:** James Durkan; **Secretary:** Anne Canning; **Treasurer:** Noreen Mc Namee; **Men's Captain:** Stephen Lennon; **Ladies Captain:** Fiona Mc Hugh; **PRO:** Sarah Flood; **Additional Committee Members:** Katrina Conlon; Alma Egan; John Greenan; Tony Mannion; Paul Meldrum; John O'Malley