



Some of the winners of the Longford Open Tennis Week 2011.

Longford Tennis Club 2011

Longford Tennis club had another successful year in 2011. No sooner had the ice cleared and the weather improved at the start of the year than players sprung back into action.

Two club championship events were held in April and September. Both events ran very smoothly as members arranged matches between themselves. After the finals of the April event a very successful barbeque was held at the club.

The Open week was held in July once more. There was a great variety of winners this year throughout the Senior event. Noel Strange triumphed in the Mixed Doubles event. The star of the show in the Junior event was Spaniard, Harrison Gonzalez

who won all four competitions he entered. Players travelled to other clubs for various tournaments as well. Longford's Tomasz Kowalewski won the Mens A Singles in both Cavan and Athlone. Junior and Adult coaching continued throughout the year. The summer camps held over four weeks in June and July again saw excellent numbers. An open day was also held at the end of July to show off the facilities and encourage new membership.

Finally a Tennisathon for charity was held at the end of November.

Longford Tennis Club welcomes new members all year round and if anyone is interested contact 086-0366527.

Longford and District Schoolboy/girl League

2011 was another successful year for the Longford and District Schoolboy/girl League. Our representative teams took part in tournaments in Limerick, Galway and Mullingar. In Limerick we reached the Kennedy trophy final only to lose a penalty shootout to our neighbours from Cavan. In Galway we played in the Umbro Cup for the first time and again we lost a final on penalties this time to Larne Schoolboy League.

Our Girls section under the guidance of Aisling Conway is growing every season. This season we have teams from Westmeath, Leitrim and Cavan joining the local clubs. The Girls also took part in the prestigious Gaynor Cup in Galway and again covered themselves in glory.

The highlight of the year was the opening of the Shane Brennan Pitch on 16th April. A huge crowd turned up for this historic occasion. Home Farm brought five schoolboy teams from Dublin to the event. The action started early and football was still being played late into the evening.

On the club front we continue to go from strength to strength we now have 25 Clubs covering Longford Leitrim, Cavan, Westmeath and Roscommon. Clubs play in the leagues from U/8 fun league to U/17. Most of the Clubs also enter the SFAI and Connacht Cups. The players really enjoy the Cups as getting an away draw can mean a trip to anywhere from Roscommon to Donegal.

Another highlight is our 7 a side finals. John Moloney has been running the small size game [7 a side] for some years now and has settled on the May



Junior Supporters' Club member Myles Dolan was delighted to meet former Man Utd and current Longford Town player Keith Gillespie at a game during the summer. Myles received a special Supporters' Club award from Keith.

bank holiday for the finals. The atmosphere at the finals is unbelievable with lots of colour and big crowds to make it a really special day.

In conclusion, Longford and District Schoolboy/girl League is making an important contribution to the Longford community. Every weekend sees young players of all ages playing matches. Behind every team is a network of parents, coaches, clubs and committees, all striving for the betterment of the community in which they live.



The Longford U 13 Kennedy Cup side that played in Limerick in June.

Still Scoring for De Town

The Republic of Ireland soccer team have qualified for Euro 2012 so brace yourself for a huge amount of over the top media frenzy in the months leading up to kick off in June. Flancare Park is a long long way from the multi million euro Stadia of Eastern Europe which will host over rated and over paid international players.

Yet the small band of die hard Supporters' Club members could hold their own with any international outfit. On the pitch, Longford Town FC have greatly improved their League standing, while off it, we're doing our best to support the club in every way possible. Being aware of the drastic economic situation locally, the fee for joining the Supporters' Club has been slashed by half while efforts to raise vital funds have been doubled. We pride ourselves on having the best value Clubhouse in the entire League while still maintaining the highest standards of fare. And it was nice to see this highlighted in the recent book on the League of Ireland "Just Follow the Floodlights" Apart from our Clubhouse activities, we host an incredibly popular Car Boot Sale every Bank Holiday Monday as well as holding numerous raffles and various fundraising events. The annual Golf Classic is also a hugely important part of our fundraising calendar which seems to stretch from January to December. And then we host the end of season awards ceremony as well as the monthly Player of the month awards.

Supporting Longford Town FC is far from the glamour of the international



This year our dear friend and member of the Supporters' Club and Longford Town FC president John Donlon passed away. John was Mr Soccer in Longford, having played for the club at every level before serving in administration. John Donlon was a wonderful ambassador for Longford Town FC both in Ireland and in Europe and is pictured here with the chairman of Sheffield Utd when they visited Longford in 2007.

Green Army team but Longford without the Town is unthinkable and so the struggle will never end.

Sadly at the end of our season, we lost one of most respected Supporters' Club members, John Donlon RIP. John played with distinction for De Town and then happily served at every level in administration right up to being the President of the club when he passed away. John

loved every aspect De Town from the Youths team to the senior team. There was hardly an event he missed and he attended matches right up to the end, despite failing health. No wonder he was called Mr Longford Town.

Roll on the season of 2012 when we'll be supporting the red and black from Flancare Park to Donegal and back. C'MON DE TOWN.



The U 12 Longford team that took part in the Umbro Cup in Galway during August.