



History Made – Sandycove Are Summer League Champions!



Sandycove have done it!

For the first time since 2018, when the legendary Liam Hurley was club captain and Sandycove won the Class 7 Summer League title alongside Pat Leamy, Tim McNichols, Stephen McGoohan, Tom O'Higgins, Simon Hugh Jones, Sean Cronin and Harry Wall, Sandycove are Summer League champions once again.

This time, it was our outstanding 4th Team captained by Patrick Dempsey who brought the Class 5 trophy back to Sandycove, defeating Templeogue in a superb final. In doing so, they reclaimed a title that had not been in Sandycove hands since 2007, when a team of Michael Butler, David Widger, Joe Cunningham, Paddy Fitzpatrick, Gerry Boyle, Pat Giles and Keith O'Byrne lifted the same trophy. Nearly two decades later, a new generation has proudly added its names to that distinguished chapter of Sandycove history.

Our 1st Team captained by Cormac Jennings finished runners-up after a hard-fought battle against a strong Sutton side, while our 7th Team captained by Dominic Dowling also reached the final before narrowly losing to Leopardstown. To have three teams competing in Summer League finals on the same day is an extraordinary achievement and one that will surely go down as one of the finest Summer League campaigns in Sandycove club's history.

The finals were held at the neutral venue of Castleknock LTC, but judging by the amount of Sandycove faces around the courts, you could have been forgiven for thinking the tournament had been moved to Sandycove! The support throughout the day was simply phenomenal. Every court had members cheering, encouraging and willing the teams on. It was one of those special occasions that reminded everyone what makes this club so unique.

Success on this scale is never about one team or one result. It comes from an entire club pulling in the same direction. Our President, John F, and Vice President, Paul Fitz, were there throughout the campaign offering their support, while our Ladies' Captains, Oisine and Emma, were equally encouraging from start to finish. Stephen McGoohan deserves enormous credit for the work he put in behind the scenes and on the court, while all the men's captains played their part in making this campaign such a memorable one.

A special mention must also go to David Cooney and Eduardo, whose guidance, commitment and leadership were invaluable in helping our 1st Team secure promotion back to Class 1. It was an objective set after the winter league, and seeing it come to fruition is a testament to the work they put in and the standards they set throughout the campaign

No championship is won without a squad, and all the subs who stepped onto the court throughout the league made an important contribution. One player, however, seemed to appear whenever he was needed and could always be relied on. Congratulations to Paul Kilduff, our deserved Summer League Sub of the tournament, whose contribution across the campaign was invaluable.

Saturday also produced some exceptional performances. Louis Hemeryck, Zach Bailey, Sean Cronin, Conor Emerson, John Shanley and Alex Sinnott all rose magnificently to the occasion, producing dominant displays when the pressure was at its greatest. When the biggest moments arrived, though, two players stood tallest. Our Players of the Final are Ken Browne and Stephen Tilson, whose

composure, determination and fearless tennis under pressure sealed the victory that brought a Summer League title back to Sandycove.

Finally, no celebration would be complete without mentioning one of the club's true unsung heroes. A huge thank you to our magnificent barman, Mark Dowling, who somehow managed to keep the players hydrated, motivated and, for the most part, reasonably well behaved throughout the campaign. Some might even argue his recovery drinks were as important as the pre-match warm-up!

This was about far more than lifting a trophy. It was about an entire club pulling together in pursuit of a common goal, with players and supporters creating an unforgettable atmosphere that reminded us all what makes Sandycove so special. Days like these make every member proud to wear the Sandycove colours and be part of this remarkable club.

Match Reports

Sandycove 1sts v Sutton 1sts – Summer League Final

A true clash of the titans awaited Sandycove in the Summer League Final. With both David and Guillem unavailable, the team had to reshuffle the line-up and dig deep for one final effort.

First up was Will, who faced the talented Ciaran McKenna. Conditions were far from ideal, with strong winds making clean ball striking extremely difficult throughout the afternoon. Will made a slower start than he had hoped but battled brilliantly in the second set, testing Ciaran time and again. Leading 4–3, it looked as though he might level the match, but Ciaran responded with three outstanding games to close it out.

Making his Summer League Finals debut at No. 2 singles was Cuan Kelly. Cuan started brightly, striking the ball aggressively and moving superbly around the court. Unfortunately, the swirling wind repeatedly intervened just as he looked set to finish points, pushing the ball out of his strike zone at crucial moments. It was another tremendous battle, but one that ultimately went Sutton's way.

At No. 3 singles, Louis took to the court full of confidence after his outstanding semi-final performance. That confidence proved to be the difference. Adapting brilliantly to the difficult conditions, Louis produced a composed and controlled display to defeat his opponent and put Sandycove's first point on the board. It was exactly the lift the team needed and gave everyone renewed belief.

In first doubles, Edoardo and Ross partnered for the first time this campaign, and their match was arguably one of the highlights of the final. Both teams produced tennis of the highest quality, with superb shot-making, athletic rallies and incredible precision despite the difficult wind. The contest was locked at one set all, but Ross remained confident in their partnership and their chances of getting over the line. It was a tremendous advertisement for league tennis.

Finally, Reon was drafted in to partner Cormac in what was probably the toughest doubles match of the entire campaign. Their opponents, Rob Turpin and Patrick Nolan, are one of the strongest pairings in the league and made life difficult from the outset. The windy conditions made it hard for either team to establish any rhythm on serve, but Rob and Patrick's quality and experience ultimately proved decisive.

Although Sandycove fell just short in the final, it was a fantastic and thoroughly enjoyable campaign for the first team. From topping the group to reaching the final, every player contributed throughout the season, and the team can be incredibly proud of what they achieved.

The future is bright, and everyone is already looking forward to competing in Class 1 next year. Congratulations to Sutton on a well-deserved victory, and well done to every member of the Sandycove squad and all its amazing supporters for a memorable Summer League campaign.

4th Team vs Templeogue

Thankfully, all journeys must come to an end. Much to the relief of the exhausted members of the 4ths, who's long and winding road finally came to an end in Castleknock on League Finals Day.

The 4ths started their campaign with a home win in early May and have since played every fixture on the road. Naas, Swords, Malahide, Castleknock, Charleville. Names that will haunt the team for years to come.

Sean Cronin won again and went the entire campaign undefeated, an impressive feat. He will now throw his weight around in Class 4.

Patrick Dempsey was defeated and finally found out, and will need to lose some weight to compete in Class 4.

Conor Emerson won well in a contest with a strong opponent. He won't need to worry about performing in Class 4, as he'll be operating somewhere above it next year.

Tom and Steve were unlucky to lose a tight game against an experienced pair, but contributed many valuable points throughout the campaign, in addition to much leadership.

So tied at 2-2, our campaign came down to Steve Tilson and Ken Browne. No better men. Having lost the first set, they battled back to win their tie and secure their team the trophy.

A huge thanks to all the players who lined out for the 4ths during this campaign. Alan Casey, Steve Boucher, Caoimhin Cronin, Roy Bailey, Philip Craig, and Richard Smyth. Your valuable contributions are greatly appreciated.

And to all the supporters who travelled to Castleknock to cheer us on. It finally felt like a home fixture.

Summer League titles are hard to come by, this one especially. So we hope it will be savoured by the entire club, who's hard work and support is greatly appreciated.

7th team vs Leopardstown

Saturday marked the final day of Sandycove 7s league campaign. With the stage set in Castleknock tennis club for a showdown against our league table rivals Leopardstown.

Firstly we had Zach Bailey at singles one. He put on an amazing performance to take home the first point of the day for Sandycove with a straight sets win.

Next up was Marc McCabe. A tough match up at singles two which unfortunately saw Leopardstown pull a point back.

Finally at singles 3 was Dominic. After coming from behind to win the first set 7-5. It was a nail biting third set battle which unfortunately also went in favour of Leopardstown.

Onto our doubles which saw Jim and Conor up against a very tough pairing. Who sadly on the day managed to get the better of the two lads despite a fine showing of tennis.

Rounding out our team was Alex and John who made extremely quick work of they opponents. With a straight sets win to earn us a valuable point on the day.

Unfortunately it was not our day on Saturday with Leopardstown coming out on top with a 3-2 victory.

However despite the loss, it was a hugely successful league campaign. Earning promotion up from class 8. And also making it to the final. A huge achievement. As Captain I am extremely proud of our Sandycove 7 team and I want to extend my thanks to the core team and all the subs who helped us all the way to the final.

Cheers guys - to the next campaign

Dom