

## Sunday Morning Gentleman's Tennis ("Niemals Aufgeben")

The Sunday Morning Gentlemen's Tennis Tournaments continue to feature on the tennis programme for men's tennis at Rushbrooke. Notwithstanding peak holiday periods, inclement weather conditions, snow storms, blizzards etc., twenty-four players line out on court every Sunday morning, during which the Niemals Aufgeben trophy is played in a series over a period of ten weeks per series. We are currently in series no 152 and over the last no of series the winners were

Series No 145	Kevin O' Donovan
Series No 146	John Mansworth
Series No 147	Shane Hughes
Series No 148	Michael Frawley
Series No 149	Chris Beausang
Series No 150	Michael Frawley
Series No 151	Chris Beausang

The coming season promises a lot of new winners.

In April 2019 we will celebrate our thirty years anniversary and a suitable celebratory function is planned for this year. Five years ago the twenty-five-year anniversary was duly marked with a multi faceted function attended by current and former members.

The Sunday Tennis series began from humble beginnings in April 1989 when a small group of players began to play regularly on an adhoc basis. This arrangement was formalised by Frank Walley, Joe Rodgers, Derek Moynihan and Paddy Whitty as Chairman, Treasurer, and Vice President respectively.

This same Committee continues at the present time with Paddy Whitty (on retirement) replaced by Kevin O' Donovan.

A modest trophy was procured and later replaced by a large trophy (When funds allowed).

And so, what started as a simple get together of a small group of players who were serious about their weekly game of tennis has developed into

a legendary series of tennis tournaments which have withstood the test of time (30 years in 2019). We are now playing in series no 152 and all 151 former winners are individually named on the large trophy. Each winner receives a medallion and a cash prize while all other competitors have a choice between a bottle of wine or 3 tennis balls (now kindly donated by the General Committee)

Over the years numerous club members have been members of the Sunday Morning Gentlemen's Tennis (Niemals Aufgeban) and we recently have lost count at over 350 members.

We cater for all club male tennis players between 18 years and 86 years. Our funding is derived from a subscription per player per series and members kindly donate when required to do so. We also receive small grants from Sport Ireland biannually and some local Companies when requested. Over the years we have financially supported many Club activities and other worthy causes at local level amounting to €15000.

These included

- Open Days in the 90's
- Croquet Bowls (Mallets & bowls & shelter)
- Juniors
- Parks Tennis
- Club Fundraising
- Centre piece for new Clubhouse bar
- Defibrillator
- Club History Book
- Women's Little Christmas (Wine)
- Local Charities (St V De Paul, Cobh Lions Club, Cobh Hospital)
- A Newsletter is produced every six months and special tennis tournaments are organised over the Christmas period

And so, as we look forward to celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> year of existence we must pay tribute to the many members, all who have kept Niemals Aufgeban and its spirit alive over those years, some of whom have gone for their eternal reward and we wish to acknowledge those members who have passed recently namely, Niall Ahern, George Wilshaw and Kevin Dillon

*They have fought the good fight*

*They have finished the race*

*They have kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7)*

Niemals Aufgeben has achieved tremendous success over the last 30 years and continues so today as being part of a great Tennis Club (Rushbrooke) which itself has a vibrant membership at all levels

Frank Walley

19/05/18