



Tournament Official Bernie Morrissey from Wexford Harbour Boat & Tennis Club is also the Tennis Captain and member of Management Committee and describes herself as Middle of the road tennis player – Intermediate level!

Check out our interview below and be inspired to get involved in your club!

How did you get into tennis?

As a member of a family of 11 with many sporting interests, we played all sports including tennis in our back yard with an improvised net – a piece of rope strung across the yard.

When I was about 13 a neighbor gave me a present of her old school tennis racquet (in a wooden press) and I became more interested then.

We were lucky that our uncle put 2 courts in his caravan park so we played all summer long.

What is your background in tennis? (playing, coaching, volunteering, committee work)

Initially as a social player but when we joined the Wexford Harbour Boat Club (later changed to Wexford Harbour Boat & Tennis Club) in 1990, I was asked to volunteer on the Management Committee and then became involved in the Tennis Committee.

All of my involvement over the years has been voluntary and I played both socially and on team events such as Provincial Towns Cup/League over the years too.

How did you get involved in tournaments?

I've been a member of winning teams on Provincial Towns Cup / League over the years and enjoyed the team tennis.

As a member of the tennis committee we organised our internal events such as Club Championships, Winter Doubles etc and I assisted with the Wexford Senior Open from that.

I've been tournament referee for the Wexford Senior Open for the past 15 years.
Myself & my partner Mary Maguire won our Ladies Class 4/5 Doubles at the tournament this year.

Have you experienced any challenges since you started?

Learning the tournament software – particularly the old POP software. The current one is much more user friendly.

Getting volunteers to step up to more responsible positions.

Succession planning for the future of events.

Have you done any courses or training?

I did a tournament referees course with Fergus Murphy some years ago.

I would certainly recommend the course with Fergus and am still quoting from it!

What are the biggest lessons you have learned?

Not a very well learned lesson but we all should share knowledge with a view to getting more people involved. Committee members are generally happy to see someone else doing the work and also happy to give them the credit for doing it. I need to learn to put more responsibility on others so I can be relieved.

What advice would you give to girls looking to get involved in running tournaments or becoming officials?

You can do it. None of this is particularly difficult but it requires a bit of time commitment.

Is there anything you would like to see more of to encourage more females to run tournaments or become officials?

Females tend to stay in the background but are very capable of doing anything to do with running tournaments or becoming officials.

Our Junior open this year is being run by a 17 year old female member assisted by a Junior Tennis Committee of 4 females.