

Below, please find details of those who played on Tennis teams at Limavady Grammar School.

As with the other sports featured in this archive, the number preceding the pupil name is the school registration number of that particular pupil. If the number does not appear then that is either because there is no surviving school report in school detailing that pupil's activities or the activity is not recorded on their report. The only other information we have therefore is taken from the school magazine, Roesian.

If you, the reader, have any information that would improve this archive, we would be delighted to hear from you. Thank you.

Words in italics are taken directly from Roesian.

Tennis

1936

'We congratulate the following: Marjorie McConnell, on being selected to play in the Ulster Senior Tennis Trials and on playing twice in the Ulster Junior Tennis Team. Dorothy Miller, on being selected to play in the Ulster Senior Tennis Trials ...'

1948

351 Elizabeth McLaughlin

1949

661 Dorothy Mae Gibson
Oonagh Mary O'H Millikin (Captain)
351 Elizabeth McLaughlin

'The newly formed Tennis Team was most successful in its few matches.'

1950

- 343 Maureen Elizabeth Kyle
- 646 Oonagh Mary O'H Millikin (Captain)
- 351 Elizabeth McLaughlin

Roesian 1956-1957

'It is a heartening thought that the new tennis courts will be ready next year for the girls to take their proper part in inter-schools matches.'

The Grammar School, on its present site, opened in September 1957. From this point onwards, boys as well as girls represented the School in Tennis.

'The new school promises to be well equipped, spacious, and is admirably situated with rugby pitches, hockey pitches, and tennis courts round it.'

1958

- 133 David G S Avrell
- 252 William T Blair
- S Blake
- 11 William A Chambers
- 140 Mary A E Coles
- 142 Victor Crawford
- 144 William G Deddis
- 363 Gordon S Jones
- B Kane
- 621 Kathleen M Kane
- 163 Ann E Mullin
- 639 Jocelyn A Sherrard
- 176 Virginia B Wright

'...tennis was started as we had then, for the first time, courts convenient to the school. Enthusiasm ran high, and the courts were occupied at every opportunity. Our first match was against a Parent-Teacher Association team who beat us rather easily 8-1.

The Parents' Association reported in the Roesian 1958-1959,

'Summer term last year (1958) saw what we hope may be an annual event, a tennis match with the school. This proved satisfactory to some parents in that they weren't so senile as their children had supposed, and, indeed, the champions of some years ago have lost none of their cunning. Need we say that the Association won? Except for one or two parents who – well, never mind. We look forward to this year's match.'
(1959)

'.....The Boys' team played two games against CAI Junior team, winning both, 4-2 and 5-1. G Avrell, W Chambers, W Deddis, W Blair and B Kane represented the school on these occasions.

The Girls' team played two matches against Coleraine HS drawing the first 3-3 and winning the second 6-0. A Coles, K Kane, V Wright, A Mullin, S Blake and J Sherrard played in these matches.

In the County Londonderry Junior Championships LGS was well represented, having finalists in almost every competition, and a few reached the semi-finals of the County Antrim Tournament at Portrush.

Our thanks are due to Miss Stevens and Mr Kane for their interest in the Club.'

1959

- 252 William T Blair (Captain)
- 315 Robert B Bloomfield
 - A Coles
 - E Hayes
- 763 James R B Kane
- 621 Kathleen M Kane
 - L Morrison
 - A Mullin
 - S Rankin
- 639 Jocelyn A Sherrard
- 267 William W Thompson
 - J Wright (This could be Virginia Wright who played on the Tennis team in 1958 and who left school in 1959)

'In the Junior Schools' Cup the boys team played St MacNissi's School, Garron Tower, and had a decisive six matches to nil victory. In the next round they were beaten by a strong Coleraine Inst. Team. Players in these matches were: B Blair, B Bloomfield, B Kane, W Thompson and E Hayes.

The girls played two friendly matches against Coleraine High School, winning one and drawing one. Players in these matches were: J Wright, K Kane, J Sherrard, S Rankin, A Coles, L Morrison and A Mullin.'

1960 **(photograph by kind permission of Mr Nelson McGonagle)**

766 Richard E Acheson
252 William T Blair (Captain)
315 Robert B Bloomfield
763 James R B Kane
267 William W Thompson

'... We reached the final of the Ulster Schoolboys' Cup, but went down narrowly to a strong Campbell College Team in the Final. On the way to the Final we defeated Rainey Endowed School, Coleraine Inst., and Royal Belfast Academical Institution. We were also successful in our annual game with the Old Pupils' Association. Our successes also continued in most of the major Ulster Junior Tournaments, some of us winning cups, and we would like to congratulate Billy Blair on being chosen as substitute for Ulster.

We wish to thank Mr Kane, Mr O'Kane and Mrs Tetley for their abundant support, and also some of the girls who stayed after school hours to provide tea for us, and the visitors.

... we hope that the Tennis Club will continue to flourish, ...'



Junior Tennis Team 1960
Beaten Finalists in Ulster Junior Tennis Cup
B Kane R Acheson
W Thompson B Blair B Bloomfield

1961 (photograph by kind permission of Mr Nelson McGonagle)

766 Richard E Acheson
467 Gordon H Bloomfield
315 Robert B Bloomfield
763 James R B Kane



Junior Tennis Team 1961
Winners of the Ulster Junior Tennis Cup
B Bloomfield G Bloomfield R Acheson B Kane

1962

- 179 Daphne A Acheson
- 74 Margaret Yvonne Acheson
R Acheson (This is probably Richard E Acheson who played for the Under 16 Tennis Team 1960 and 1961)
- 465 Dorothy E Armstrong
W Blair (If this is William T Blair, he captained the side in 1959 and 1960)
Alan Bloomfield
- 315 Robert Brian Bloomfield
Gordon H Bloomfield
Rosaleen M Calvert
- 469 Alistair C R Cooke
- 660 Virginia A B Dunphy
- 763 James R Boyd Kane (Captain)
- 501 John Lee
P Matthews
A McQuillan
- 713 Helena Rogalska

'Again this year interest in tennis has increased vastly as can be seen from the large number of enthusiasts who took Coaching Lessons from Mrs McIvor.

During the summer we had various successes and experiences in the tennis field.

Boyd Kane was one of the two N Ireland representatives who were chosen by the Ulster Council of the ILTA in the Tennis Coaching Course at Lilleshall, Newport, provided by the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

Brian Bloomfield took part in the Northern Junior Championships in Manchester.

In the County Derry Hard-Court Junior Championships at Limavady, many of our pupils took part and several reached the finals, some winning cups. Rosaleen Calvert was beaten in the Under 15 Girls' Singles Final, D Armstrong beat I Morrison in the Girls' Under 18 Final, M & D Acheson were beaten in the Girls' Doubles Final. W Blair beat B Bloomfield in the Boys' Under 18 Final, Bloomfield and Blair beat R Acheson and B Kane in the Boys' Doubles Final. W Blair and H Rogalska beat B Bloomfield and P Matthews in the Mixed Final.

A large number of our players also took part in Tournaments in Derry, Portrush and Belfast. An excellent performance was put up by Daphne Acheson who lost very narrowly in the Under 14 Girls' Final in the Co Antrim Championships.

In the Senior Schools' Cup we went out by 1 set to Campbell College team fielding 2 inter-provincials.

During the Summer Term, an American Tennis Tournament was organised for the girls. Hilda Hunter and Mary Gilfillan won their section and Jean Brown and Ann Montgomery won theirs – H Hunter and M Gilfillan won the Final.

Special thanks are due to Mrs McIvor for her invaluable help in coaching during the school term and through the summer. Her keenness is an example to everyone. Thanks are also due to Mr Kane, Mr O'Kane, Mr Caskey and Miss McCunn for their interest and we hope that tennis will continue to prosper in the school.'

Brian Bloomfield

1963

- 179 Daphne A Acheson
- 465 Dorothy E Armstrong
- 114 Rosaleen M Calvert
- M Gilfillan
- P Matthews
- I Morrison
- 355 Maureen A Montgomery
- N Wylie
- S Wylie

'For the first time a Senior Girls' Team was entered for the Ulster Schoolgirls' Cup. The team did very well to reach the quarter-finals, being beaten by Strathearn who were the eventual winners.'

'We entered boys' teams for both the Junior and Senior Schools' Cups.'
Senior boys' team

- J Armstrong
- 315 Robert Brian Bloomfield
- S Evans
- A McQuillan (see Tennis 1962)

Junior boys' team

- 678 Alan Bloomfield
- Gordon H Bloomfield
- 469 Alistair C R Cooke
- D Randell

1964

- 179 Daphne A Acheson
- 465 Dorothy E Armstrong
- 467 Gordon H Bloomfield (Captain)
- 114 Rosaleen M Calvert
- 479 Marion C Loughery
- 355 Maureen A Montgomery

'During the 1964 Tennis season we were indebted to Mrs Sheila McIvor who ran a most successful coaching scheme in the school. As some of the pupils had already participated in an indoor coaching scheme the previous winter, they were very keen to continue outside.

A Senior Girls' tennis team was entered for the Schools' Cup, and after winning against Derry High School and Ballymena Academy, were beaten in the quarter-finals by Victoria College in Belfast. A friendly match was also played against Coleraine High School which Limavady won.

Congratulations to Dorothy Armstrong who won the All Ireland Nestle's Tennis Championships. She is now ranked No. 2 in Ulster.'

1965

- 179 Daphne A Acheson
- 465 Dorothy E Armstrong
- 114 Rosaleen M Calvert
- 479 Marion C Loughery

'During the 1965 Tennis season we were indebted to Mrs Sheila McIvor who ran a most successful coaching scheme in the school. The girls' senior tennis team had indoor coaching, during the winter months, which later proved of great benefit in the Ulster Schoolgirls' Tennis Cup which the team won.

In the Schools' Cup they played the following schools: - Rainey Endowed, Magherafelt; Cambridge House, Ballymena; Victoria College, Belfast; and in the final round, Strathearn.

..... Daphne Acheson repeated her success of 1964 when she figured prominently in all the leading Irish tournaments. Starting very early in April, 1965, she beat Julie Menzies 7-5, 6-0 in the final of the Belfast and District hard-court championships at Windsor. In the Senior Championships of Co Londonderry in June she was beaten 7-9, 6-1, 6-1 by Dorothy Armstrong at Limavady. Later in June she again encountered Dorothy in the final of the City of Derry Championships. Dorothy won 6-4, 6-2. The two girls teamed up to win the doubles 7-5, 6-8, 6-4.

In the Junior Londonderry Championships Daphne won the under 18 Singles and partnered by Rosaleen Calvert, went on to win the Girls' Doubles.

In the North West Ulster Championships at Limavady she beat Julie Menzies of Belfast 6-2, 6-0, also winning the doubles title with Julie.

In the Senior Lawn Tennis Championships of Antrim at Ballycastle she lost to Joan Wallace, ranked No. 2 lady in Ulster 6-4, 3-6, 8-6.

In August she was beaten by Mary Fetherstone 6-2, 6-4 at Windsor in the Ulster Championships. She also won the Girls' doubles with Julie Menzies 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

In the Antrim Championships at Portrush Daphne had a double victory in winning both the Under 16 and Under 18 titles. She won the doubles with Carol Gibson.

In the Irish Lawn Tennis Championships, she did extremely well to reach the singles quarter-final and, with Julie Menzies, the doubles semi-finals, at the Fitzwilliam Club, Dublin.

On the 11th May she won the play-off between the Ulster representatives for Junior Wimbledon and on 5th June she was beaten in the play-off of the three Irish candidates.

Ranked number two in Ulster, Daphne will undoubtedly be out to repeat her successes in 1966.

1966

- 179 Daphne A Acheson (Captain)
- 678 Alan Bloomfield (Captain)
- 114 Rosaleen M Calvert
- 1118 Rhona Margaret McGowran
M Taylor

In the Ulster Schools' Cup the team reached the quarter final losing to Richmond Lodge having beaten Cookstown High, Coleraine High 'B' team and Ashleigh House in the earlier rounds.

1967

Senior Tennis team

- 674 Frances M Stewart

Junior Tennis team

- J Armstrong
- L Kerr
- R Martin
- J Morrison
- Norma G Reid

Limavady Boys' team

- 832 John Andrew Fleck
- B Houston
- B Hunter
- S Knowles
- Roulston

'Because of considerable enthusiasm shown, a junior form tennis team was formed for the first time.

We entered the Ulster Schoolgirls' Tennis Cup and in the first round we defeated Belfast High School 6-0, on April 28th. Unfortunately, we had to scratch from the Cup at this stage owing to difficulty in week-day travel.

The next match was a doubles against Coleraine High School and Coleraine Academical Institution. We won the girls' doubles and mixed doubles matches, but lost the boys' doubles. This gave an overall victory of 6-2.

A boys' team of Roulston, Houston, Knowles and Fleck played CAI a few weeks later. They lost 6-0.

On June 18th the girls' team played a friendly match against Strabane Grammar School. In exceptionally hot weather, N Reid and J Morrison fought two-hour battles in the singles, which N Reid finally lost 3-6, 6-1, 5-7 and J Morrison won 3-6, 6-4, 6-2. R Martin and L Kerr lost their singles in straight sets and we lost both doubles.

We look forward to a successful season in 1968 when our very young team will have gained more experience.

N G Reid

1968

J Armstrong
Sybil Moses
Norma G Reid

'The tennis season was cut short last year, as the school courts were completely resurfaced. This was unfortunate, as the majority of the keen players were in the middle of revision for certificate examinations by the time the courts were playable again. We did, however, have some individual successes.

In the North-West Junior Championships, at Limavady, J Armstrong and N Reid reached the finals of the girls' doubles, and N Reid was beaten finalist in the girls' singles. Sybil Moses and Norma Reid entered the Co. Antrim senior hardcourt championships, where Norma reached the final of the ladies' handicap singles.

We hope to take up tennis early this year, and anticipate a successful season.'

N G Reid

1969

Senior Girls' team

J Armstrong
R Martin
J Morrison
Sybil Moses
Norma G Reid

Senior Boys' team

1252 Charles Henry Barton
832 John Andrew Fleck
B Houston
S Knowles
C Roulston

Junior Girls' team

D Bloomfield
D Greer
P Lane
J Smyth

Junior Boys' team

J Campbell
C Fleck
C Knowles
G Millar
R Semple

'The Tennis Club played very few matches this season with mixed fortunes. All the teams made an early exit from the Schools' Cup but not without some close and exciting games.

The Senior Girls' game was perhaps the closest in their match against Coleraine High School. The match was drawn but Coleraine won the tie because they won more individual games.

The Senior Boys played a strong CAI team at Limavady. Barton played particularly well in this match but overall CAI were the stronger team.

A very young Junior Girls' team met a much more experienced Strabane GS team. Although Limavady were outplayed in all facets of the game the experience they gained was invaluable.

The Junior Boys' team found Rainey ES much too strong. Although they played above themselves the result of the match was never in much doubt.

With first class courts to play on we look forward to much more success next season. The club wishes to thank Miss R Callaghan for the use of her Domestic Science Room and Mr R Pollock for the state of the courts and for quick and efficient repairs to the nets.