



Media Release

July 16th 2012

FBD MENS IRISH OPEN TENNIS 2012

James McGee-Back to Defend the Title on the foot of his International Hat trick

Details were announced last night of the FBD Men's Irish Open Tennis Championships 2012 which will take place at Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club, Appian Way, Dublin 6 commencing on Saturday 21st July.

This is the first year of sponsorship of the event by FBD and a most exciting tournament is in prospect.

The Irish Open has a long association with Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club where it has been held for many years and the tournament kicks off with the qualifying event on Saturday and Sunday 21st and 22nd July.

The tournament is an International Tennis Federation Futures event with both singles and doubles and has attracted an excellent entry of international players from Europe, Australia and the United States who will be competing for valuable ATP points.

Among the entries are the highly ranked Englishmen Josh Goodall and Daniel Evans. Evans played singles for Great Britain some months ago in the Davis Cup. The Frenchman Albano Olivetti and the Italian Claudio Grassi are expected to be strong challengers for the singles title. Olivetti had a big win over World Number 10 Mardy Fish last February.

There will be huge interest in the performance of local hero James McGee who is defending the Irish Open Singles title which he won to great acclaim last year. Despite having had some injury problems James has shown excellent recent form and has won two Futures events in both Bahrain and Spain. He also played a major part in an excellent Irish victory in the Davis Cup against Egypt in Cairo when winning the deciding rubber. There are two players in the draw who are currently ranked higher than James McGee.

Morale among the Irish players is high at present following the magnificent achievement of the recently retired Conor Niland in qualifying last year for the main draw both at Wimbledon and the US Open. There have been some noteworthy performances on the international circuit by Sam Barry, Daniel Glancy and James Cluskey among others, and their progress in the tournament will be keenly followed as they strive to gain valuable ranking points in their only tournament on home soil.

Commenting on behalf of FBD, group marketing manager, Bronagh Twomey said:
"It's our pleasure to come on board as the title sponsor for this year's Men's Irish



Open Tennis Championships. Heralded as one of the oldest tennis tournaments in the world, FIBD is delighted to get behind this great legacy and help young talented players strive for excellence. We wish all involved, both players and spectators a memorable experience for the matches ahead.”

An excellent attendance is expected at Fitzwilliam during the week. There is no entrance charge. The final of the Men’s Doubles event will take place on Friday evening 27th July at pm and the Singles Final is scheduled for Saturday 28th July at pm.