

# LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION LIMITED (“LTA”) COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 March 2022 at 10.30 am  
at the National Tennis Centre and via Teams video call

## Present

David Rawlinson (President).

### Councillors

Ian Alexander, Bridie Amos, Stephen Baddeley, Rachel Baillache (via Teams), Sanjay Bhandari, Lottie Birdsall Strong, Liz Bissett, Heather Bottomley, Andy Bradley, Naomi Cavaday, Simon Clarke (via Teams), Yasmin Clarke, Roy Colabawalla, John Copsey, Martin Corrie (Past President), Lesley Cundy, Richard Cutler, Lord Davies of Abersoch (Chairman, LTA Board), Rick Denton, Blane Dodds, John Doe, Jane Grey, Ian Haigs (via Teams), Craig Haworth, Barry Horne, Simon Jones, Nigel Jordan, James Keothavong, Ben Knapp, Sarah Langford, Steven Law, Chris Mansour, Jo Marks, James Marsalek, Adrian Packer, Malcolm Peters, Mike Piper, Sandi Procter, Joy Robinson, Martyn Rock, Mark Sanders (via Teams), Sir David Tanner, Alison Taylor, Steph Trill, David Vinall, Adrian Waite, Brian Walton, Viv Wilson, Steven Winyard and Christine Windmill (via Teams).

### Alternates for Councillors

Simon Brand (representing Andy Fay, Councillor for Somerset), Malgorzata Gryzb (representing Peter Grimsdale, Councillor for ABTO), Janet Jamieson (representing Venetia Cottman, Councillor for Buckinghamshire via Teams) and David Walrond (representing Annie Smith, Councillor for Dorset).

## In attendance

Alex Beaumont (Volunteering Manager), Michael Bourne (Performance Director), Jackie Freeman (PA to the CEO), Simon Johnson (Observer, Tennis Wales), Abbie Lench (Head of Clubs, Parks, Counties and Volunteering), Scott Lloyd (Chief Executive), Olly Scadgell (Participation Director), Roy Staniland (Chair, Development Tennis Advisory Group), Simon Steele (Finance Director), Sheila Wall (PA to the President), Liz Sweeting (former Councillor for Cheshire), Vicky Williams (People Director) and Pamela Woodman (Head of Legal).

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

David Rawlinson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Sara Bennison, Richard Blackburn, Francis Caldwell, Venetia Cottman, Jonathon Dawes, Andy Fay, Peter Grimsdale, James Grindell, Wasim Haq, Anil Jhingan, Karen Keohane, Judith Loffhagen, Shiv Paul, Annie Smith and Richard Stoakes.

David Rawlinson welcomed Liz Sweeting who had retired from Council at the end of 2021 after 13 years as a representative for Cheshire. He presented her with a certificate and a gift as a token of appreciation for her service.

### 2. Welcome to New Councillors

David Rawlinson welcomed the following new Councillors, each of whom was given the opportunity to introduce themselves: Blane Dodds (Scotland), John Doe (Cheshire), Simon Jones (Shropshire), Sarah Langford (Tennis Industry Association) and James Marsalek (player representative).

David Rawlinson invited Sanjay Bhandari to say a few words; Sanjay had been appointed to the Board as an independent member in August 2021 but had not yet had the opportunity to introduce himself to Council.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors were asked to declare an interest as appropriate when a relevant item was discussed.

### **4. Minutes of Meetings held on Wednesday 15 December 2021 and Tuesday 8 February 2022**

The minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 15 December 2021 and on Tuesday 8 February 2022 were each agreed as a correct record.

### **5. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

### **6. President's Report**

The President's Report included in the Council papers was taken as read.

David Rawlinson referenced the following: the biennial Councillor Contribution review which will commence shortly and which will incorporate a Council effectiveness review; arrangements for booking tables in the Members' Enclosure at The Championships will be circulated shortly (with a reminder that that these table are for friends and family and not for partners/sponsors who should be accommodated in one of the LTA Suites or in the Wingfield Restaurant); that printed Wimbledon tickets can be requested by Councillors from Ali Ensor to enable Councillors' guests to swap between Centre and No 1 Courts; and that President's Lunch invitations will be circulated shortly to include four volunteers from each County and the Meritorious Service Award winners from the last three years.

### **7. LTA Chairman's Report**

The Chairman's report included in the Council papers was taken as read. Lord Davies addressed the meeting and referenced the following: his thanks to Pam Woodman for her outstanding work on Project Themis; his thanks to Sheila Wall for her service to the LTA; the Parks Strategy which, whilst its implementation will be complex, presented a once in a lifetime opportunity to transform park tennis infrastructure; and the war in Ukraine and its implications on sport.

### **8. LTA Chief Executive's Update**

The Chief Executive's business update (together with the latest Business Dashboard) included in the Council papers was taken as read.

Scott Lloyd expanded on a number of items from his business update including: his thanks to Councillors for getting involved in and ultimately approving Project Themis which represented an important step in the LTA becoming a case study of NGB best practice; the proposed County Governance framework which represented an opportunity to create a "line of one" between the LTA and the Counties; the overall support for tennis evidenced by those MPs who

attended an All-Party Parliamentary Group for tennis dinner earlier that week; the need to start thinking about the next strategic cycle for tennis to follow the 5 Year Plan (now in its fourth year); and the launch of the new LTA website. He also provided a brief financial update.

A few points / questions were raised including: ABTO's appreciation for the significant increase in fees implemented this year; the components to be put in place with the aim of creating a sound infrastructure for park courts to ensure the facilities are sustainable; the challenge of delivering the Parks Strategy in the two-year timeframe set by the Government; and progress in relation to the target of new covered courts to complement the location of Indoor Tennis Centres and improve indoor court provision and infrastructure.

On behalf of the Council, Richard Cutler thanked Scott Lloyd, his executive team, the Board and LTA colleagues for everything they are doing for British tennis.

## **9. LTA President 2023**

Sandi Procter put forward her case for nomination as President in 2023, being the only candidate. She referenced that the process for appointing the next Deputy President will commence shortly and she asked Councillors to think about the Deputy President role for themselves or for colleagues.

It was noted that Sandi Procter's application will now be referred to the Nomination Committee as a Council-nominated candidate and an interview with a sub-committee of the Nomination Committee will take place shortly thereafter. On the conclusion of the interview process, the Nomination Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of the proposed candidate for the position of President for approval. It is hoped that the announcement of the new President (with appointment from 1 January 2023) will be made before the Easter weekend.

## **10. Workshop Session: County Governance Reforms – County Funding Model**

A presentation on a proposed County Funding model was shared with Council by Roy Colabawalla and Abbie Lench before breaking out into smaller groups to discuss the proposed approach. It was noted that regional volunteer forum leads have been asked to set up a specific meeting before the end of April to allow for further discussion with broader management committee members, including treasurers. More detail on the content of these forums will follow in due course. Feedback from a few of the breakout groups provided at the conclusion of the break-out sessions indicated general support in principle.

## **11. Development Tennis Advisory Group (“DTAG”) Update**

### **11.1 DTAG Workstreams Overview**

The comprehensive update on the activities of DTAG and its workstreams included in the Council papers was noted. Roy Staniland thanked the workstream leads, workstream members, the LTA executive team and other LTA colleagues for their continued hard work.

Each of the workstream leads (other than Volunteer Engagement) provided an update on the objectives for their respective workstream, details of which will be provided on the County Communications Hub following the meeting.

### **11.2 Volunteer Engagement**

John Copsey provided an update on Volunteers' Week 2022 (1-7 June), details of which had been included in the Council papers. Councillors and all Member organisations (including but not limited to County Associations) are encouraged to get involved in the activity surrounding Volunteers' Week and to start thinking about two or three volunteers they would like to

nominate to receive a call from the LTA team and to nominate them via the online form before the 14 April 2022 deadline.

On behalf of Mark Sanders, Alex Beaumont outlined the objectives for the Volunteer Engagement workstream.

## **12. Council Updates**

### **12.1 Participation**

Olly Scadgell gave a presentation covering: Participation trends and targets; LTA Youth priorities; Competition; World Tennis Number (he asked Councillors to encourage their local venues to read the World Tennis Number venue guide and submit all venue results to the LTA to ensure a player's World Tennis Number is accurate); Play Your Way to Wimbledon (he asked Councillors to encourage their local venues to sign up and enter); and County Dashboards.

### **12.2 Performance**

Michael Bourne provided an overview of the performance strategy priorities for 2022 and explained how progress will be tracked with a commitment to provide Council with periodic updates on specific areas of strategic progress throughout the year.

Michael Bourne responded to questions from Councillors relating to: the importance of the National Academy system whilst providing alternatives for those players for whom it might not be a fit; establishing the right balance in investing in facilities from a performance perspective; the importance of the 10U piece within the overall strategy; regional training for the U12 and U14 age groups; a planned review of RPDCs to determine the optimum network moving forwards.

## **13. Any Other Business**

### **13.1 Council Values & Behaviours Framework**

Lesley Cundy thanked her fellow working group members (Wasim Haq, Barry Horne and Judith Loffhagen) and Councillors for their input in deciding on the keywords and helpful and unhelpful behaviours for the new Inclusion Value and in refreshing the four existing Values. The new Values & Behaviours Framework was on the Councillor homepage of First Serve.

### **13.2 Pride in Tennis Launch Event**

Lesley Cundy congratulated Vicky Williams and the NTC Operations team for hosting a successful Pride in Tennis launch event on Saturday 12 February 2022.

### **13.3 Dan Maskell Tennis Trust Awards**

Lesley Cundy said Councillors nominated by County Associations will have received an e-mail from the Dan Maskell Tennis Trust ("DMTT") in relation to grants awarded for disability tennis. The e-mail had encouraged Counties to consider ways in which they could support the DMTT (which worked closely with the LTA) in meeting the increasing demand for grants either by matched County funding or fundraising.

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 25 May 2022. It will be preceded by the AGM at 10.30 am.

There being no further business, David Rawlinson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 3.35 pm.

Following the meeting a presentation was made to Sheila Wall, who was leaving the LTA the following week, in recognition of 43 years of service.