



EMBARGOED UNTIL: MONDAY 8 OCTOBER – 12PM

TENNIS FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES TO BE INTEGRATED INTO THE LTA AS PART OF EXCITING FUTURE FOR TENNIS IN BRITAIN

The Tennis Foundation, Great Britain's leading tennis charity, is to integrate its activities into the Lawn Tennis Association, the national governing body for tennis in the country. The move will unify tennis in Britain, providing a unique opportunity to open up the sport to a more diverse team of people, players and leaders.

The decision was unanimously agreed by the Boards of both organisations and the process will be completed by the end of 2018, with a view to being fully operational from the start of 2019.

The Tennis Foundation's current activities sees it work to open up tennis and its benefits to anyone and everyone, with a focus on its three primary beneficiary groups of disabled people, young people in education and young people in urban and disadvantaged communities.

Under the leadership of Chief Executive Scott Lloyd, the LTA has developed a new vision to open up tennis and grow the sport through making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable to anyone who has an interest, from players of all abilities and backgrounds, to its many millions of fans.

Joanna Farquharson, Interim Executive Director of the Tennis Foundation, said: "We are tremendously proud of the achievements of the Tennis Foundation and the impact we have had on the lives of our beneficiaries. The new exciting vision for tennis in Britain now presents a fantastic opportunity for our sport as a whole to make it one that is truly for anyone.

"We are only in a position to be able to take advantage of the opportunity integration presents because of the ground-breaking work that has been done over the past 30 years. Among the many highlights are the outstanding success of Great Britain's disability tennis players on the international stage, supporting over 20,000 schools to deliver tennis to young people and establishing the SERVES programme to take the sport to new people and new places.

"I'd like to thank the many partner organisations and individuals who have helped the Tennis Foundation achieve what we have done, creating a legacy that the LTA can take forward and build on as part of a bright future for our sport."

Scott Lloyd, Chief Executive of the LTA, said, "Our new vision aligns very closely with the Tennis Foundation's great work and by integrating we hope we can take it to the next level, with greater scale and greater impact. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for inclusivity across our sport and I want to welcome the Tennis Foundation team to the LTA."

For more information about the LTA visit www.lta.org.uk, and to read more about the work of the Tennis Foundation see www.tennisfoundation.org.uk.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE LTA:

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the National Governing Body for tennis in Great Britain, responsible for developing and promoting the sport, with a mission to get more people playing tennis more often. It does this under the consumer brand of British Tennis, by working with a broad range of partners and over 25,000 volunteers, to grow the game in communities, clubs and schools.

The LTA represents the interests of over 590,000 British Tennis Members, men and women, girls and boys across the country, playing on more than 23,000 courts.

The LTA runs and supports a network of 11,500 approved tournaments for players of all ages, the corner-stones of which are the premier grass court events leading up to Wimbledon: the Nature Valley Open (at Nottingham), the Nature Valley Classic (at Birmingham), the Fever-Tree Championships (at Queen's Club-London) and the Nature Valley International (at Eastbourne).

The LTA works with many delivery partners to grow the sport across the country. One of these is its charitable entity, the Tennis Foundation, to provide a tennis provision for more than 20,000 schools, disadvantaged youth as well as promoting tennis as an inclusive sport for anyone with a disability. For further information about the LTA and British Tennis, and to review the British Tennis strategy for 2015 – 2019 visit www.lta.org.uk or follow us on Twitter @BritishTennis.

ABOUT THE TENNIS FOUNDATION:

The Tennis Foundation is Great Britain's leading tennis charity and our vision is to create a sport which is inclusive and accessible to all people and communities.

We aim to bring the health and social benefits of tennis to our priority audiences of young people in education, disabled people and people in lower socio-economic communities.

In partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association and many other organisations, we're promoting tennis as an inclusive sport across a wide range of disabilities.

We support over 500 venues across the country with training, resources and funding to improve opportunities for disabled people to play tennis in their area;

We deliver world class tennis events for disabled players; and identify and develop the most talented players and deliver a world class performance programme for our most promising players.

Follow the Tennis Foundation on social media:

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