

Lawn Tennis Association Limited

Company number 07459469
(the “Company”)

MINUTES of a meeting of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the Company (“Board”) held on Thursday 9 February 2023 at 9.00am by Teams video call

Present: Lord Davies of Abersoch, Rachel Baillache, Sara Bennison, Sanjay Bhandari, Roy Colabawalla, Richard Cutler, Lesley Cundy, Anil Jhingan, Nigel Jordan, Scott Lloyd, Sandi Procter, Simon Steele and Sir David Tanner

In attendance: Olly Scadgell (items 4.2 and 4.3), Alyx Wilde and Pamela Woodman (Company Secretary)

1. Welcome and declarations of interest

Lord Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that apologies had been received from Rachel Baillache. In accordance with section 177 of the Companies Act 2006, each director present confirmed that they had no direct or indirect interest in any of the business to be transacted at the meeting. Otherwise, the declarations of interest were as previously recorded and Board members were reminded to continue to declare any interest which may arise during the meeting at the appropriate time.

Sandi Procter provided an update on her attendance at the Australian Open in January 2023.

Lord Davies noted that he would be meeting with the new vice-chair of AELTC, Deborah Jevans, in due course. Scott Lloyd noted that the matter of accreditation to The Championships had recently been discussed but that it remained the LTA’s position that it was the LTA’s responsibility on the international stage to manage access as the national governing body for tennis in Great Britain.

2. Business update

2.1 Business dashboard 2022

The document included in the Board pack was taken as read. Scott Lloyd confirmed that this now included the data to the year end (31 December 2022) but that it had not moved significantly from the version provided to the Board for its meeting in December 2022. His overriding comment was that he was delighted with the 2022 results, with the 5-year targets having been met a year early being very rewarding.

2.2 Business dashboard 2023

The document included in the Board pack was taken as read. Scott Lloyd provided an overview of the new measures in place for 2023, which he considered were good stretch targets. He confirmed that all of the measures had been considered and approved by the Remuneration Committee.

In response to a question from Lesley Cundy, Scott Lloyd explained that, whilst there was not a measure which specifically referred to Clubspark, other measures encompassed this, including the

measures relating to the total number of venues accessible via LTA Play and satisfaction with LTA customer support

3. Finance update

Simon Steele provided a verbal update on the 2022 financial position and breakdown of the forecast losses for the year of £16 million at net reserve level (primarily arising from LTA Tennis Foundation, valuation of investments, costs related to the hosting of the Billy Jean King Cup and Davis Cup, and fines imposed by the ATP and WTA, and associated legal costs, relating to the LTA's decision to ban Russian and Belarusian players from its events). He noted that there were no provisions in the 2023 budget for hosting the Davis Cup group stage or for further fines from the ATP or WTA but that some allowance for inflation had been built in, albeit that there were risks around that. Simon Steele also noted that, at a meeting with AELTC earlier that week, AELTC had indicated that they were now expecting the surplus to be significantly higher (by circa £3 million) for 2023 as a result of the lower than budgeted cost for cancellation insurance, albeit that was not guaranteed. It was also noted that AELTC was undergoing a value for money exercise but that this was an internal exercise as opposed to one facilitated by external consultants. Simon Steele agreed to provide Sara Bennison and Anil Jhingan with any information which he had on this exercise in order to assist them in their discussions at AELTC sub-committee meetings.

Scott Lloyd provided a verbal update on the ongoing discussions with the ITF in relation to hosting the Davis Cup group stage in 2023. He noted that the ITF was understood to have terminated its contract with Kosmos (with which the LTA had a contract obliging it to host for 5 years, provided that Great Britain reached the group stage in the relevant year). Whilst the contractual position would need to be clarified, Scott Lloyd indicated that the LTA would want to host the group stage in 2023 (after qualifying in Columbia) but that needed to be considered in the context of affordability, in respect of which a prudent model had been developed based around actual ticket sales in Glasgow in 2022. At things stood, he indicated that this would be likely to require a net investment of £2.5m but further conversations required to take place, including with regard to a hosting fee and the expectation of a higher surplus payment from AELTC. Scott Lloyd noted that a decision would be required from the Board within the next 2 to 3 weeks, no later than the Board meeting on 1 March 2023, and so he would keep the Board updated.

4. Corporate governance

4.1 Meritorious Service Awards (MSA)

The Nomination Committee had made recommendations to the Board in respect of the awarding of MSAs, all as set out in the paper in the Board pack. After due consideration, the Board approved the granting of an MSA to each of the eight nominees recommended to it. The recipients were:

Keith Bland (Seniors Tennis)
Robert Brown (Suffolk)
Jane Harvey (ABTO)
Bob Kerr, posthumously (Shropshire)
Kathy Lofthouse (Norfolk)
Chris Lott (Northumberland)
Bob Stone (Durham & Cleveland)
Dave Williams (Devon)

4.2 Development Tennis Advisory Group (DTAG) Workstreams for 2023

[Olly Scadgell joined the meeting]

The paper contained in the Board pack was taken as read. Nigel Jordan explained that, in going through the objective-setting process, it became clear that the titles of certain workstreams could usefully be expanded to reflect their scope. He noted that he and others had worked hard to achieve a balance and diversity of individuals on each workstream. The Board approved the objectives for each DTAG Workstream and the revision to the names of three DTAG Workstreams, such that the DTAG Workstreams for 2023 would be:

1. County governance, funding and inclusion
2. Venue support and volunteer engagement
3. Coach engagement and support
4. Competition and officials
5. Safeguarding
6. Padel
7. County performance
8. Communication and engagement

4.3 Safeguarding policies

Sir David Tanner confirmed that he had worked with Dave Humphrey and was comfortable with the drafts proposed, as set out in the Board pack. He noted that, importantly, there were now separate policies for children and adults at risk.

The Board noted the importance of safeguarding policies, and the application of them, to the sport of tennis and that further discussion on the topic was planned for the Board meeting on 1 March 2023, as well as safeguarding training for Board members. The Board approved the following policies in the terms set out in the Board pack:

“LTA Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy and Procedure”
“LTA Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure”

[Olly Scadgell left the meeting]

5. Any other business

5.1 Russia/Belarus

Scott Lloyd noted that the decision of the WTA board (regarding the appeal by the LTA and AELTC relating to the decisions to ban Russian and Belarusian players) had been included in the Board pack. He noted that it was heavily conditioned but probably a good outcome. On the basis that the potential halving of the fines was conditional, Simon Steele noted that he did not anticipate adjusting the 2022 financial position to recognise that and he expected the auditors to agree that approach.

With regard to the decision of the ATP board (again, in relation to the ban), Scott Lloyd confirmed that, whilst his preference ideally would be not to appeal, consideration was being given as to whether or not to appeal the decision. He noted that appeals would be through the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and/or the Delaware courts and that, with regard to CAS, the LTA had until early March 2023 [10 March 2023] in order to file an appeal.

Scott Lloyd updated the Board with regard to the various meetings which had been held with the Secretary of State and DCMS personnel over the last few weeks on this matter, including with regard to the 2023 competitions. However, he noted that what had happened at the Australian Open and the recent International Olympic Committee announcement had not been helpful.

Scott Lloyd noted that there appeared to be a willingness from the ATP and WTA to work with the LTA to find a mutually acceptable solution for 2023. He noted that the most likely way forward would be to have a declaration which as far as possible met the UK government guidance issued in 2022 and which players would be required to make either when entering a tournament and administered by the ATP and WTA or through the accreditation process administered by the LTA. He noted that a proposed draft declaration was being shared with AELTC today and that there was a target for end of February 2023 to agree it with AELTC, ATP, WTA and UK government.

5.2 Carl Aarvold Award

Scott Lloyd noted that, in February 2019, the Board at that time decided to award the Carl Aarvold Award to Sue Barker and that this had been communicated to her. Sue Barker was very grateful for it but asked if she could defer receipt until she stepped down from BBC, a request to which the Board at that time agreed.

It was noted that Tim Henman had also been awarded the Carl Aarvold Award but that it had not yet been presented to him.

It was agreed that an event needed to be identified at which both were presented with their awards.

Scott Lloyd also noted that, whilst some progress had already been made, there was a need for the criteria for all awards to be reviewed in order to ensure that there was no repetition and consistency.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.15am.

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Chair