



Seniors Tennis GB Council Meeting Minutes

Date - 3rd October 2022

Venue – Virtual via Zoom @ 5pm

Present (fourteen persons)

- Christine Windmill – Chair
- Keith Bland – President
- Valerie Willoughby – Vice-President
- Peter Bretherton – Vice-President
- Michelle Barber – Treasurer
- Jackie Robinson - National Inter-Club
- Anne Clark - Participation
- Ed Oakenfull – Selection Administrator
- Mark Sanders – Volunteers, LTA Liaison
- Charlotte Knight - Marketing
- Keith Carder – LTA
- Mary Nevill – Competition Support
- Jo Shepherd – Selection
- Tom James - Co-opted

1) Apologies

- Sarah Wooding, Ed Edwards, Caroline Blincoe, Alistair Alexander

2) Minutes of 23rd May 2022

- Approved as read
- Action points covered in agenda

3) Welcome to Tom James

- TJ was welcomed to the meeting as a player, coach and tournament director. He will work with VW to establish the 2023 GB Masters Tour calendar and to represent the views of younger Seniors players

4) Young Seniors (30-50 age groups)

- Seniors: World Tennis Masters Tour (team event-30-50 age groups) scheduled for Manavgat Turkey 19-24th March 2023 with the World Individual championships taking place at the same venue 25th March to 1st April 2023
- Noted 30s Team event new, and 50s age group moved to this category

5) 30-35 Age Group World Tennis Masters Tour Team Event

- Discussed practicality of taking 30s teams for first time but agreed there was insufficient balanced tournament data to consider this for 2023 given selections are required by late October 2022

Action

- Ideally need to include 30s age group in major national tournaments 2023 but court space may preclude this
- Selectors to consider developing 30-35 team selection via other tournament results and WTN criteria for 2024

6) Individual Reports (circulated in advance). Action highlighted in bold

- GB Masters Tour calendar: Preparation is in progress for 2023. Liaising with LTA (Chris Mann) to ensure all feature in LTA calendar as well
- Participation Grants: Excellent response from venues which took up £200 grant in 2022 mostly to run recreational competition with results input for WTN purposes. **For 2023 consider the same or emphasise second option aimed at encouraging seniors back to playing tennis.**
- Volunteers: LTA Awards 2023: Open for nominations 1 October-30 November. **Please encourage support**
- Volunteers: Tennis Volunteer Community on Facebook: Growing with 1,300 members and active peer-to-peer engagement. **Please encourage venue volunteers to join**
- County Governance: Funding agreement reaching final stages of approval and aims to be in place for beginning of 2023. Big financial benefit - especially for smaller Counties.
- Analysis of Entries to ITF Tournaments January-mid-September 2022: Much appreciated by all present Few ITF tournaments midlands and north with only Leicester, Wrexham and Glasgow north of Oxford. Gender split: 81% Men/19% Women. **Do we have any data showing a trend of overall participation from previous years?**
- Seniors National League: Entering results remains challenging. Finals of most age groups will be at NTC 11th to 13th November 2022 but insufficient court time for all events. Some will take place at venue mutually agreed by captains. 2023 entrance details will be available in December 2022
Live streaming now available at NTC. Explore for broadcast/YouTube at the Finals
- Fast4: Entries 2022 poor and do not appeal to our player demographic. One day format popular but not Fast4. **Review for 2023**

7) Website update and FAQ draft

- Website (Seniors pages): Improving with some updates and better news items. Meeting at NTC 4th October 2022 should lead to further improvements
- Emails and occasional calls to STGB Secretary and Chair: Agreed need to provide FAQs to signpost enquirers in a useful way. Draft circulated by secretary represents a useful start

Action

- MS to meet with Rhys Doherty, LTA Customer Support Manager to discuss coordinated approach

8) Future Plans for SCOs

- Considerable feeling that their knowledge and involvement with County Associations varies.

Action

- CW/MS/CK/KC to discuss possible SCO webinar including timing and content
- Produce short presentation to be used at association AGMs as last year
- MS to consult Abbie Lench to agree who owns SCO master list and how it is maintained accurately

9) Chairman's Update including Transgender Paper

- Reported a positive meeting with Sandi Procter who is keen to support Seniors activity and communications via Bulletin, County Communications Hub and Regional Forums
- Wimbledon Tickets: Review of ticket issues impacting on association volunteers and partners nearing completion with report to Council in October 2022
- LTA Council dates 2023: 15th March, 14th June, 20th September, 13th December
- Transgender Paper: Discussed the impact of transgender players taking part in female tournaments which is becoming more evident. Chair reported on LTA/ITF responses to concerns raised around our Circuit tournaments this year. After discussion it was agreed little could be achieved without further guidance from our National Governing Bodies

Action

- Given high level of activity all requested to review responsibility chart and report and send any updates to Chairman and Secretary
- Transgender Paper: KC advised that this was a matter the LTA Board would be discussing at their next meeting. LTA would then be liaising with ITF to update policy and provide guidance

10) Any Other Business

- Continued difficulty with use of tournament software for Seniors result entry: This was raised again on several occasions during the meeting

Action

- KC to arrange a meeting with Julie Piper, LTA IT and representatives from STGB with the aim to resolve what has become an ongoing challenge

The meeting ended at 6.40pm

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday 12th December 2022 commencing at 5pm.