



## Seniors Tennis GB Council Meeting Minutes

Date - 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Venue – via Zoom

### Present

- Christine Windmill (CW) – Chair
- Keith Bland (KB) – President
- Valerie Willoughby (VW) – Vice-President
- Michelle Barber (MB) – Treasurer
- Jackie Robinson (JR) Seniors National League
- Anne Clark (AC) – Participation
- Caroline Blincoe (CB) - Participation Support, Seniors National League Committee
- Ed Oakenfull (EO) – Selection Administrator
- Charlotte Knight (CK) – Marketing
- Mark Sanders (MS) – LTA and Volunteering
- Alistair Alexander (AA) – Tennis Wales Representative
- Keith Carder (KC) – LTA

### 1) Apologies

- Peter Bretherton, Ed Edwards, Tom James, Mary Nevill, Jo Shepherd, Sarah Wooding

### 2) Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

- The minutes were approved with one addition to clarify that the review of GB ITF tournaments related to singles entries only.
- Action points – covered in the agenda.

### 3) Highlights/ Issues from reports and working groups. Action in bold

- **Fast4 Review:** CB advised that F4 one day tournaments had not been successful in 2022 with only 2 of 39 competitions proceeding, the remainder being cancelled through lack of entries. Possible reasons for this that were suggested were: lack of publicity; dislike of the F4 format amongst the target players; too far to travel for some for a one day competition; alternative tournament options available for regular competitive players. **We aim to qualify the above suppositions through responses to our proposed survey of competition-orientated seniors players planned for early 2023.**
- **ITF Update:** VW advised that the IPIN service fee for entering a tournament would increase to £6 for 2023. Every tournament is required to display an ITF banner and a photo from each tournament must be submitted. We think this is to show the ITF banner is in place! Furthermore, rules state that every tournament that features a 35s age group must also have a 30s age group. Many present considered this is not possible to monitor and may not always be possible to deliver.
- **GB Kit:** EO advised that FILA would be the new GB kit supplier. There were a few final details to conclude but the deal represented better value than the current one.
- **SPOTY:** EO advised that a shortlist had been drawn up. Mark Cox had kindly agreed to join the selection panel and that the panel was looking for one further independent member to assist.
- **Seniors National League Finals:** JR advised that the vast majority of finals had taken place at NTC. There had been much positive feedback, particularly concerning the live streaming of matches which had resulted in over 5,000 views. Thanks to KC, and to CK for social media

promotion. **To consider for 2023 would be team identity and scores on the live stream. KC can advise but this will be at modest additional cost.**

- **Streaming of other Seniors National Tournaments:** This was discussed and is possible with two portable cameras belonging to LTA. It requires some paid assistance. **If required, discuss logistics and responsibilities with KC.**
- **Seniors National League Payments 2023:** MB advised that 2023 entries must be accompanied by payment or the process becomes unmanageable.

#### 4) Website update - CK

- CK advised that a number of updates had been made to the website pages. The LTA marketing team were being more responsive in terms of assistance and speed of action.

##### **Action:**

- All to review seniors website pages and provide any further updates to CK.
- CW requested that results from tournaments featured on the website pages should be updated promptly after the tournament to keep pages current and informative.

#### 5) Chair's Update - CW

- CW advised that it had been a busy period since the last Council meeting with a newsletter published and selection for the Young Seniors World Championships having been completed.
- Seniors National League finals had taken place mostly at NTC and the streaming had been appreciated. The finals were mentioned in Scott Lloyd's December report to LTA Council.
- Seniors County Cup: Finals had taken place in Sheffield and gone well. A survey had been sent out to Seniors County Cup captains to which there had been 275 responses. One question asking respondents if they would favour a north-south divide to reduce travelling received 76% in favour. Some Councillors felt a move to regionalise may weaken competition particularly for strong counties.

##### **Action:**

- Seniors County Cup: Council pointed out that 2023 entry details had not been sent out and the usual deadline was mid-December. KC to check target date and to organise a holding email to SCOs for reassurance.
- Seniors County Cup: Council requested KC to see if further analysis of the survey data by age group could be obtained. This might highlight different priorities for different age groups

#### 6) Chair's position post 2023 AGM

- KB advised that Christine wished to stand down as Chair at the 2023 AGM. She had faced three challenging years in which to be Chair during which time much had been achieved. KB thanked Christine on behalf of Council for her leadership and enthusiasm.
- Anne Clark had expressed her willingness to stand as Chair and this proposal was unanimously endorsed by Council. In accordance with the Rules, the Chair will be formally elected by Council at the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 following the AGM.
- AC thanked everyone for their vote of confidence. She advised that a priority for her as Chair would be to attract people outside Council but interested in seniors tennis to assist with the furtherance of our objectives.

#### 7) Wimbledon Ticket Update – EE in advance

- EE advised that the process for volunteers obtaining Wimbledon tickets was changing for 2023 as follows:
  - Individuals to complete and submit the online form by 31 January.
  - Individuals will receive an email in March with a link to the sale for them to choose the day and court that they wish to purchase their pair of tickets for and to pay for them online.
  - Individuals will receive an email from the AELTC in May/early June with a link to access their digital tickets.
- MS advised that there was an opportunity for STGB to secure Partners who, in acknowledgement of financial support for STGB, could be offered Championship tickets.

**Action:**

- CW asked all present to consider which individuals or companies they knew might be interested in becoming Partners. We must be mindful that the submission deadline to LTA is 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- In the New Year it is hoped PB might chair a working group to consider this

**8) Any Other Business**

- **Participation Grants 2023:** AC asked if Council would be happy to adopt the successful 2022 participation grant criteria or if there were other suggestions? All were happy to repeat the 2022 offer - of a £200 grant toward recreational competition or activities to attract seniors back into tennis - for 2023.  
**Michelle Dutton:** Michelle is South African by birth but has a GB passport and has lived in GB for years. Could she represent GB? Council members were in favour if ITF rules were met. VW advised that there was no issue if she had not previously played for South Africa. **EO to progress as appropriate.**
- **Transgender Players:** JR asked if there was any update following discussion at our October meeting. CW responded that she was in contact with Jon Hughes (LTA Lead on Inclusive Tennis). Jon had advised that this was under discussion within the LTA and ITF. We need to await decisions from our governing bodies on this sensitive issue.
- **ITF Seniors Player Advisory Panel:** Council thanked Rosie Dennis for completing her term on the Panel. Nominations have been put forward for the next term of the Panel.
- **Di Hill:** CW reported that a donation had been made to Parkinson's Disease charities in memory of Di via her son.
- **LTA Rankings:** KC advised that all ITF tournament results would count towards LTA rankings.
- **Woking Results:** AA said that results did not appear to have reached LTA. He was advised to ask the tournament referee if they had been submitted to LTA (in addition to ITF) and if so to contact the LTA Competitions Department to resolve the matter.

**Proposed 2023 Meeting Dates**

- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023: AGM and Meeting. 5pm via Zoom
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- Possible February meeting to review accounts and prepare for AGM. TBC

The format and timing of meetings after 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to be confirmed by the incoming Chair.