

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Tennis Scotland held at the Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling on Thursday, 18 April 2024 @ 7pm.

## 1.0 Present:

Name	Club/District represented/Position/other
Alison Lunn	Sportscotland
Andrew Ibbetson	St Andrews LTC
Andrew Raitt	Tennis Scotland, Head of Participation
Anna Myatt	Tennis Scotland, Workforce Manager
Barbara Southern	Tennis Scotland, Company Secretary, Head of Finance
Barry Gibson-Smith	Tennis West of Scotland
Blane Dodds	Tennis Scotland, Chief Executive
Calum MacGeoch	Tennis Scotland, Digital Content Partner
Christine Windmill	Tennis Scotland, Honorary Vice President
Danny Curtis	Oriam Indoor Tennis Centre
David Lewis	Tennis Scotland, Marketing & Comms Manager
Denise Irvine	Tennis Scotland, Head of Operations
Dennis Carmichael	Tennis Scotland, Honorary President
Derek Quirk	Tennis Scotland, Board Member
Graham Watson	Tennis Scotland, Chair
Grant Shearer	Tennis Scotland, Participation Development Manager
Jack Ganley	Tennis Scotland, Participation Development Manager
Jason Atkins	Tennis Scotland, Head of GBNTA
John Wilson	Tennis Scotland, President, Tennis Ayrshire
Karen Ross	Tennis Scotland, Head of Performance
Kirsty Humphries	Tennis Scotland, Head of Facilities
Lynne Barbour	Tennis Scotland, Corporate Services Manager
Malcolm Dickson	Bridge of Allan Sports Club
Marta Krauze	Tennis Scotland, Participation Partner
Mary Byrne Leitch	Thistle Tennis Club
Mike Cohen	Tennis Scotland, Head of Competitions & Events
Mike Kolacz	Tennis Scotland, Participation Development Manager
Neil Haig	Tennis Scotland, Participation Development Manager
Pete Nicolson	Tennis Scotland, Honorary Vice President
Rhona Alston	Tennis Scotland, Vice President, Tennis Tayside

## 1. Chair's welcome

The Chair of Tennis Scotland, Mr Graham Watson, welcomed those attending the Annual General Meeting of Tennis Scotland. The Company Secretary announced that there had been a total of 34 proxies received by the deadline of 16 April 2024. These proxies more than fulfilled the quorum for the business proper of the AGM to be conducted. There was also a total of 4 voting cards in the room and hence a total of 38 votes for the 2023 AGM resolutions.

## 2. Apologies for absence

Formal apologies for absence had been received from 11 members.

### **3. Approval of 2022 AGM minutes dated 20 April 2023**

The Chair requested that the minutes of the Tennis Scotland Annual General Meeting dated 20 April 2023 (which had been previously circulated with the notice calling the meeting) be approved. The minutes were duly approved with no amendments noted.

### **4. To receive the report of the Chair**

The Chair, Mr Graham Watson presented his report to the meeting;

GW noted his pleasure on behalf of the Board regarding the continued development and growth in members with both adult and child memberships increasing over the year. Statistics from across the UK show Tennis Scotland favourably represented. GW extended his thanks for all the efforts from volunteers, members, partners, the CEO and Team of Tennis Scotland for this outcome.

GW noted his delight at the opening of the Oriam Indoor Tennis Facility in Edinburgh funded through the TSIT fund and thanks to the Tennis Scotland Board for contributions and getting the project over the line.

GW noted the financial results for the year to December 2023 were solid and Tennis Scotland continue to manage reserves and also of note to increased income levels with note of thanks to the LTA and Sportscotland for ongoing support. Of note are the good working practices allowing for building of confidence with LTA/SS. Going forward there will be a new Scottish Performance Pathway which CEO Blane Dodds will cover later in the AGM.

GW noted the challenging environment but believes Tennis Scotland have a very good platform going forward. The Annual Report refers to the great achievements and evidence of success of Tennis Scotland in the last year.

GW noted the commitment of the Board of Directors and their cohesion and extended a note of thanks to the Board and all in attendance at the AGM for their continued support.

GW handed over to CEO Blane Dodds to present the annual report and accounts.

### **5. To receive the Annual Report of Tennis Scotland for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

Blane Dodds, the Chief Executive, presented the 2023 Annual Report with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. The Annual Report will be distributed to all members following the AGM. A summary of the key areas covered included;

- Strategy; To build stronger venues at the heart of our community making tennis accessible. To build a world-class player development pathway. To develop a range of facilities and venues fit for the future of our sport making tennis relevant. To grow and develop a world-class workforce. To deliver a range of events and competitions to experience and showcase tennis making tennis enjoyable and welcoming. To grow and develop resources to deliver an effective new organisation.
- Participation; Club Membership up c20k new members in last 5 years and stands at 78,618. 342 new coach qualifications completed; 1551 schools teachers trained. Adult monthly participation up 49% and child weekly participation up 27%.

- Facilities; Tennis Scotland ambition to grow the game by protecting and enhancing tennis and Padel facilities throughout the country. Increasing the number of indoor/covered courts, improved and sustainable park tennis courts, smart-gate access systems, all weather surfaces.
- Parks Tennis; Scotland benefitted from £2.1m of LTA investment covering 160 tennis courts across 46 venues.
- Padel; 30 new Padel courts, new Padel CPD courses and coaches developed through padel tennis instructor courses.
- Participation; LTA Serves development through doubling of LTA Serves venues in Scotland, total of 48 Serves venues. Achieve More Scotland showing how tennis makes a difference to lives of young people in highest areas of deprivation. Disability & Inclusion through programmes such as Open Court, Rally Allies, Tennis4RAD, LTA Youth Girls. Educational activities, through Universities, Club Leaders Conference November 2023, and Schools Tennis.
- Workforce; very positive year for Tennis Scotland, 480 accredited coaches in Scotland, 130 coaches at Level 3 or above, 342 qualification enrolments. Investment in Apprentices, 3 recruited and support and deliver through the community.
- Performance; most number of Scots at Wimbledon in 2023. New Scottish Performance Pathway and 5-year investment commences Autumn 2024.
- Performance success; Gordon Reid, Cameron Norrie, Andy Murray, Jamie Murray, Maia Lumsden.
- Performance 14+ players and NPP; Hamish Stewart, Jacob Fearnley, Ewan Moore, Scott Duncan, Charlie Robertson and Hephzibah Oluwadare. 14U players Louis Taylor, Cameron Rae, Lucas Nolte, Dominic Czopek and James Crowther.
- Performance – doubles spotlight, Ali Collins, Scott Duncan, Jonny O'Mara, Connor Thomson, Jacob Fearnley, Hamish Stewart.
- GB National Tennis Academy highlights: 11 ITF titles won by GBNTA players, 4 players represented Team GB, 8 current and former GBNTA players competed at Junior Wimbledon, 3 Junior ITF tournaments hosted in Scotland.
- Competitions: 3 World tennis tour events delivered, significant increase in events delivered.
- Media communications: Key announcements included; Tennis Scotland Awards, Record number of Scots at Wimbledon, Aberdeen Padel Centre Opening, launch of Oriam indoor tennis centre. X following up to 9,792, Instagram +803 to 5,875, Facebook following +1,154 to 13,168.
- Finance: Tennis Scotland accounts for 2023 showed an increase in turnover of £115k to £3.24m, a small surplus of £4k made for the year to 31 December 2023 with reserves remaining stable at £475k. Clean audits obtained via external audit and Sportscotland.
- A Look Ahead: Padel investment, Facilities – capacity building in line with growth in tennis and padel, Commercial – increase income and progress new and existing assets, Scottish National Performance Pathway – supported and funded by LTA, 10U to U16 with updated structure, Culture /Structure – team/ ambition/ strategy etc, Political, Media and Commercial engagement - create wider partnerships, galvanising the positive tennis and padel community and keep the momentum of a growing sport in Scotland.

The Tennis Scotland Award Winners were announced as:

- *International Player of the Year*
- **Ali Collins**
- *Junior Player of the Year*

- **Charlie Robertson**  
*Senior Player of the Year*
- **Jacob Fearnley**  
*Senior Veteran Player of the Year*
- **Sarah McFadyen**  
*Competition of the Year*
- **East Lothian Open**  
*Official of the Year*
- **Lucy Davies**  
*Club of the Year*
- **Abercorn LTC**  
*Communities and Parks Award*
- **Promoting Inclusion Through Sport**  
*Tennis for All*
- **Accessible Tennis CIC**  
*Education Award (University)*
- **University of St Andrews**  
*Education Award (School)*
- **Dollar Academy**  
*Lifetime Achievement*
- **Ken Revie**  
*Volunteer of the Year*
- **Teresa Tait**  
*Rising Star*
- **Euan Donegan**  
*Development Coach*
- **Alessia Palmieri**  
*Performance Coach*
- **Joe Gill**  
*Team of the Year*
- **Prestwick Academy Girls' Team**

The Chief Executive in conclusion of his presentation extended a vote of thanks to Graham Watson as Chair, the Board of Tennis Scotland, all the staff, all members of Tennis Scotland, partners of Tennis Scotland including sportscotland and the LTA, all TS commercial partners.

Graham Watson invited questions from the floor, one question was received in which it was asked if TS Annual Report would be shared more widely. CEO explained that the TS Annual Report is emailed out to all members / stakeholders and would also be available on the website.

Graham Watson continued the meeting with a vote of thanks to CEO Blane Dodds for his presentation and overall thanks from the Board to Blane as Chief Executive and all staff at Tennis Scotland.

## **6. To receive the Accounts of Tennis Scotland for the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The Financial Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 were included in the papers issued prior to the AGM. The presentation of outline numbers had been considered in point 5 above.

## **7. To fix the rate of Fees and Subscriptions Rates for 2024**

The Chair confirmed that the Board proposes no change to the subscription rate of £135 per court for 2024. The Company Secretary confirmed there were 32 votes for and 6 against. Result being approval of subscription rate.

## **8. Announcements**

The following appointments were intimated to the meeting:

- Graham Watson – appointed for second term as Chair

## **9. Ordinary Resolutions**

### **(a) The Honorary President**

That Mr D Carmichael OBE was re-elected unopposed as Honorary President of Tennis Scotland with thirty-eight votes.

**(b) The Honorary Vice-Presidents**

That the under-noted were re-elected unopposed as Honorary Vice-Presidents of Tennis Scotland with thirty-eight votes.

Mrs M Adams

A G Christie

Mrs A Hawke

G B Kerr

Mrs C Lawrie

P C Nicolson

R S Paterson

Mrs P A Reid

C M Robertson

Mrs S Sim

J A E Stevenson

I S Wiggins

Mrs C Windmill

R Gardner

J Frame

J Stirling

**(c) Auditors**

That the firm of RSM Chartered Accountants was re-appointed unopposed as Auditor of Tennis Scotland with thirty-eight votes.

Following closure of formal resolutions Graham Watson took the opportunity to extend a vote of thanks regarding the financials.

**10. Vote of thanks**

The Honorary President, Mr D Carmichael OBE, presented his vote of thanks to all in attendance and a separate acknowledgement of thanks to all officials and executive of Tennis Scotland for the successful operation of Tennis Scotland.

Thanks were extended from all attendees via applause.

**11. Close of Meeting**

The Chair, Graham Watson announced that the formal AGM proceedings were concluded and thanked those present for attending and gave a vote of thanks to all.

Meeting closed at 19.45.

Barbara J Southern  
Company Secretary.