

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of Tennis Scotland held via Zoom on Thursday, 22 April 2021.

1.0 Present:

Name	Club/District represented/Position/other
Alison Lunn	Sportscotland
Allie Henderson	Montrose TC
Andrew Raitt	Tennis Scotland, Regional Development Manager
Andrew Stevenson	
Ann Hill	Glenrothes TC / Tayside District
Barbara Southern	Tennis Scotland, Company Secretary
Blane Dodds	Tennis Scotland, Chief Executive
Christine Windmill	Honorary VP
Claire Kinloch Anderson	Tennis Scotland, Board member
Clive Thomson	Honorary VP
Deborah Hood	Tennis Scotland, Board member
Denise Irvine	Tennis Scotland, Head of Operations
Derek Lauder	Tennis Scotland, Board member
Derek Quirk	Tennis Scotland, Board member
Graham Watson	Tennis Scotland, Chair
Helen Leng	Innerleithen TC
Ian Gibson	Newtonmore TC
Jane Moncrieff	Tennis Scotland, Head of Development
Jason Atkins	Tennis Scotland, GBNTA
John Frame	Tennis Scotland, Board
John Stevenson	Tennis West of Scotland, Honorary VP
John Stirling	Tennis Scotland, Vice President
John Wilson	Tennis Scotland, incoming VP
Karen Ross	Tennis Scotland, Head of Performance
Ken Patrick	Dunfermline TC
Kirsty Humphries	Tennis Scotland, Head of Facilities
Laura Wallace	Tennis Scotland, Office Manager
Lynne Barbour	Tennis Scotland, Corporate Service Manager
Marie Burns	Accessible Tennis
Mark Snell	Frame PR
Michael Robson	Dalkeith TC
Mike Cohen	Tennis Scotland, Head of Competitions
Mike Kolacz	Tennis Scotland, Regional Development Manager
Patricia Reid	Dunfermline TC, Honorary VP
Peter Nicolson	Honorary VP
Rhona Alston	Montrose LTC
Richard Cook	Giffnock TC
Rick Gardner	Tennis Scotland, President
Steffi Anderson	Kinnoull TC
Steve Smith	
Stuart Lyon	West of Scotland Padel
Susan Whiteford	Blairgowrie TC
Wendy Sanger	Montrose TC, Tayside District
Yvonne Birnie	Rothiemurchus TC

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 53 proxies received by the deadline of 21 April 2021. These proxies more than fulfilled the quorum for the business proper of the AGM to be conducted.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Andree Hawke, Mr Dennis Carmichael and Mrs Christine Lawrie.

3. Approval of minutes dated 23 April 2020

The Chair requested that the minutes of the Tennis Scotland Annual General Meeting dated 23 April 2020 (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;

"Firstly, it is my great pleasure to be your new Chair and I look forward to meeting each of you in person at some stage in the future. Thank you for attending this evening and for your interest in the governance of Tennis Scotland.

I am fortunate in following in the footsteps of Scott Martin as your Chair. Scott gave a huge amount of his time, and the benefit of his extensive business and tennis experience, to Tennis Scotland. I am most grateful to him for all his endeavours, and for handing over the reigns of such a well-run organisation.

I have been able to join Tennis Scotland at an exciting time, both for the organisation and the sport. With a very positive platform from which to deliver continued growth now in place. I look to continue the ambition that is clearly present in the organisation for developing all aspects of the sport for everyone to benefit from.

Without wishing to repeat all that I said in my comments in the annual report, which you have in front of you, I did want to make a few observations, after almost four months as your Chair.

The last year proved to be a particularly challenging one - but one that was aided by all involved within the tennis community through their positivity and solution orientated approach.

We were all delighted that the Tennis Scotland guidelines were adopted by the Scottish Government and sportscotland early during the first lockdown. This positive engagement enabled tennis to emerge as one of the first sports back to activity in June 2020. This clearly helped deliver the excellent growth statistics for both participation and club membership that you will note in the annual report. Events and competitions were obviously more challenging, with most players having a much abbreviated competitive schedule linked to the associated pandemic. However, the vast turnout to the events we were able to hold highlighted that the appetite for playing is most certainly still intact.

It is also pleasing that in such a challenging year, leading Scots did, as we all know, continue to perform strongly on the world stage.

As we emerge slowly from this most recent lockdown, I want to assure you that the Tennis Scotland Executive and the Board have ambitious plans for the year ahead.

While normality has yet to resume and finances remain under pressure, I am confident we can achieve our goals and continue the growth and development towards a lasting legacy for our sport.

We have a very strong team in place, under Blane's leadership, with the drive and ability to implement our strategies and continue building the reputation of Tennis Scotland as a world class governing body. Our historic agreement with the LTA, together with the capital funding and increased investment in performance programmes in Scotland, coupled with excellent relationships with sportscotland, the LTA and commercial partners, places us in a very strong position to grow and open up our sport as lockdown restrictions end.

I would like to thank you for your support throughout this past year. Your support has played a key role in allowing us to continue delivering our ambitions and aid us in striving to make tennis a sport for everyone across Scotland.”

The Chair then passed over to Blane Dodds, Chief Executive to present the Annual Report for 2020.

5. To receive the Annual Report of Tennis Scotland for the year ended 31st December 2020

Blane Dodds, the Chief Executive, presented the 2020 Annual Report with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. The Annual Report had been distributed to all members prior to the AGM. A summary of the key areas covered included;

- 2020 context; the Tennis Scotland ambition and strategy going forward by maximising programmes and the support through the LTA and sportscotland and Scottish Government.
- 2020 at a glance; the success of significant growth in Club membership across Scotland, updates to the National Player Programme and further development of the GB NTA. Moray Sports Centre being the first to benefit from the Indoor Tennis Fund through £1.2m funding.
- Facilities; Transforming Scottish indoor tennis (TSIT), 12 projects directly supported through the application process to date, 1 awarded, 2 pending, 10 gate access systems installed, 21 tennis clubs supported via LTA quick access loans.
- Clubs; membership has increased by 10% from prior year to 62,965.
- Workforce; a new LTA qualification structure has been formed and a Coach Development Centre secured for Scotland via Tennis Scotland. 3,451 people now have a UKCC coaching certificate in tennis in Scotland.
- Safeguarding; 100% compliance has been attained with Standards for Wellbeing and Protection in Sport.
- Equality and Diversity; 12 disability specific Open Court network programmes across 25 venues have been supported, allowing +600 people with disabilities to play tennis. Mental Health partnerships created, 5 new She Rallies girls and woman's ambassadors trained.
- COVID Response Support; Tennis Scotland specific part grants for coaches that were not eligible for centralised support, online webinars and support content provided to over 1,000 people.

- GB National Tennis Academy; week training camp in February 2020 with Jose Higuera, 1 ITF singles winner, 3 ITF doubles titles, 2 Tennis Europe singles titles, 1 Tennis Europe doubles titles.
- Performance successes; notable success through Gordon Reid, Jonny O'Mara, Jamie Murray, Maia Lumsden and Cameron Norrie. Junior success through Charlie Robertson, Ben Hudson, Lucas Nolte and Ellie Robertson. Continued development through RPDC/ LPDC and Wee Aces.
- Competitions; even with pandemic restrictions Tennis Scotland delivered 79 Scotland County tour events, 17 Winter regional tour events and 8 online webinars. For 2021 there are plans to increase the number of National and International events.
- Media relations; the Tennis Scotland media strategy has continued despite COVID-19 restrictions, 197 pieces of coverage including 71 Scottish National articles, a 25% increase on 2019. 179m viewers reached through media activity. For 2021 a new sponsorship agreement reached with Castore.
- Finance; Tennis Scotland accounts for 2020 showed a drop in turnover of £301k to £2.134m, a small surplus made for the year to 31 December 2020 with reserves remaining stable at £543k.

The Tennis Scotland Award Winners recognising 2019 achievements were announced as:

- *International Player of the Year*
 - **Maia Lumsden**
 - *Junior Player of the Year*
 - **Matthew Rankin**
 - *Senior Player of the Year*
 - **Marjory Love**
 - *Team of the Year*
 - **12U Boys North County Cup Team**
 - *Competition of the Year*
 - **Mactaggart & Mikel East Lothian Open (North Berwick)**
 - *Official of the Year*
 - **Richard Gardner (St Andrews)**
 - *Club of the Year*
 - **Prestwick Tennis and Fitness**
 - *Coach of the Year*
 - **Derek Brown (Strathgryffe)**
 - *Communities and Parks Award*
 - **Meadows Tennis Park**
 - *Disability Award*
 - **Prestwick Tennis and Fitness Disability Programme**
 - *Education Award*
 - **Fraser Gilmour (Glasgow City Council)**
 - *Lifetime Achievement*
 - **Yvonne Birnie (Rothiemurchus and Aviemore TC)**
 - *Volunteer of the Year*
 - **Bryan Leslie (Gullane TC)**
- 2021 – A Look Ahead; Padel – TS Articles will be updated to align with TS support into Padel in Scotland, embed the new team, facilities for indoor / Clubs and Parks. Re-engage and develop commercial partners and maximisation of outcomes.

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

Graham Watson continued the meeting with a vote of thanks to Blane for his presentation and overall thanks from the Board to Blane as Chief Executive.

6. To receive the Accounts of Tennis Scotland for the Financial Year ended 31st December 2020

The Financial Accounts for the year to 31st December 2020 were included in the papers issued prior to the AGM. The presentation of outline numbers had been considered in point 5 above.

Graham Watson then invited questions from attendees;

- Stuart Lyon from West of Scotland indoor Padel introduced himself and noted he hoped for a long and successful partnership with Tennis Scotland going forward. Stuart extended an open invite for all members to visit and use their facilities. Stuart intimated that by June / July they hope to have events / tournaments lined up. Blane Dodds responded on behalf of Tennis Scotland and thanked Stuart.

There being no further matters the meeting moved on and Graham Watson continued with the formal business and resolutions.

7. To fix the rate of Fees and Subscriptions Rates for 2021/22

The Chair confirmed that the Board proposes no change to the subscription rate of £120 per court for 2021/22. The Company Secretary confirmed there were 50 votes for and 3 against. Result being approval of subscription rate.

8. Announcements

The following appointments were intimated to the meeting:

- That the Chair is Graham Watson;
- That the Vice-President is John Wilson; (John Stirling will assume Presidency)
- That the Non-executive Director is Derek Lauder (extension)
- That Rick Gardner retires as President of Tennis Scotland
- That John Frame retires as Board Director (Tennis Operations)

9. Ordinary Resolutions

(a) The Honorary President

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

(b) The Honorary Vice-Presidents

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

Mrs A Hawke
Mrs C Lawrie
Mrs M Adams
A G Christie
Mrs L B Hamilton
G B Kerr
P C Nicolson
R S Paterson
Mrs P A Reid
C M Robertson
Mrs S Sim
J A E Stevenson
C M Thomson
I S Wiggins
Mrs C Windmill

(c) Auditors

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

10. Vote of thanks

The Honorary President, Mr D Carmichael OBE, had sent his apologies for not being able to attend the AGM. Blane Dodds tabled a note of thanks received from Mr Carmichael.

The CEO, Blane Dodds welcomed John Stirling as President from Vice –President following the close of this AGM. Blane also extended a vote of thanks to departing members; John Stevenson, Rick Gardner and John Frame. All were thanked for their support of Tennis Scotland over the years. Thanks were extended from all attendees via a virtual 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 19.55.

Barbara J Southern
Company Secretary.