



Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting, 24th March 2025

The meeting was held via Video Conference at 5.00 p.m. on Monday 24th March 2025

Present:

Council: Mr K Bland (*President*), Ms V Willoughby, (*Vice-President*), Mrs A Clark (*Chair*), Mrs M Barber (*Treasurer*), Mr E Edwards (*Secretary*), Mrs C Windmill, Mrs J Robinson, Mr M Sanders, Mrs M Nevill, Mrs S Mitchell, Mrs C Blincoe, Mr S Morris

Others: Mr R McCutcheon (LTA), Ms K Quirk, Mr R Staniland, Mr T Barton

1 Apologies for absence had been received from Council members Mrs J Shepherd, Mr T James and Mr A Hutchinson and Tournament Director Mrs S Wooding.

The President, Mr K Bland, was in the chair and welcomed all present to the meeting at 5.01 pm.

2 The Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting *(Paper 1)*

With the exception of Item 4 which was amended from 2022 to 2023, the Minutes were proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Report of the Council for 2022 *(Paper 2)*

Mrs Clark highlighted some key areas for Seniors Tennis GB over the previous year including:

- 106 million people worldwide play tennis, an increase of 25.6% in five years according to a study released in (ITF study, November 2024). Great Britain is at the forefront of this global rise in participation and has the highest percentage of population playing tennis of any of the 199 nations who contributed to the ITF study.
- From 2019-2023, LTA data showed adult annual participation (adults playing at least once a year) in Britain grew by 44% to around 5.6m people (10% of the population). This report ranks Britain No.1 on this metric above other Grand Slam nations, the USA, France and Australia, and major European tennis nations, such as Spain and Germany.
- The many social media updates, photos, reports from the senior County and Club teams, players and supporters at tournaments, our GB and 4 Nation teams and our grant scheme winners, show the diversity and ever-growing popularity of tennis. Information about STGB activities is regularly updated on the LTA website.
- Senior Players of the Year Pauline Fisher (Herefordshire and Worcestershire) and Chris Hearn (Buckinghamshire) were recognised at the LTA Awards ceremony during the Wimbledon Championships. In addition, Pauline Fisher was Tennis Europe Player of the Year (W70) as was June Pearce (W85). Marjory Love also became world number one, winning the World Individual Championships (W75 category).
- In addition to teams who came 4th and 5th in their events, GB Senior Teams won the following:
 - Women's - 2 bronze, 3 silver and 2 gold (W75s, W50s)
 - Men's - 1 bronze and 1 silver.
- For the 4 Nations, England won the Young Seniors and Super Seniors events. This was the first year that a 4 Nations event for the 70/75 age groups took place.

- The Inter County competitions continue to offer competitive opportunities for age groups from 35 to 80. Hertfordshire won the men's 80 event – the first year this took place.
- The popular Seniors National Club League offers the opportunity for teams to compete against clubs they may not necessarily have played before. A special mention and thank you to Julie Piper, LTA , who has just retired after 44 years, the end of an era.
- The European Club Championships in Turkey in November saw reduced GB representation with Leicestershire M65 winning silver and Griffnock M45 and Gerrards Cross M55 winning bronze medals.
- In 2024 there were 25 ITF Masters Tournaments in the UK.
 - Our flagship events, the indoor, clay and grass court closed championships were very well managed and well supported. Our thanks go to Sarah Wooding, all the referees, court supervisors and volunteers who so ably manage these national Tournaments.
 - At the British Open Grass Court Masters Championships, Eastbourne the grass courts excelled and the Referee, Peter Grimsdale, scheduled age groups at different times through the week holding some finals earlier. Our thanks go to Christine Greenwood who took over as the Tournament Director; sadly she was taken ill in September 2024 and we wish her well.
 - The National Clay Court Championships at Bournemouth has been upgraded to MT1000, with 2 extra days and Mixed Doubles events for the first time!
 - There are two new MT100 events on the Isle of Wight and at Hunstanton.
- STGB gives thanks to the LTA for their support financially and through their teams, in particular Rory McCutcheon, our LTA representative and Jenny McAneny-Vincent as the LTA Head of Competition.
- It was very sad to hear that Charles Trippe, MBE, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, passed away in October 2024. A top class player, Charles held many positions on the LTA, ITF, Tennis Europe, AELTC, County as well as serving on the STGB Committee in various roles. A strong, determined President of the LTA, Charles achieved a great deal in modernising the governance. He will be missed.
- Christine Windmill came to the end of her 9-year term as the STGB LTA Councillor. Representing STGB on the LTA Council, Christine has played a crucial role in promoting tennis for the over 30s and remains an integral part of STGB. Jackie Robinson is the new STGB LTA Councillor.
- Thanks were given to
 - ALL the volunteers for their time, effort, and support in planning, managing, and encouraging so many aspects of tennis.
 - Keith Bland (President) for consistently offering sound advice, support and guidance.
 - Ed Edwards (Secretary) for efficiently ensuring that things run smoothly

The 2024 Report was unanimously approved.

5 Treasurer's Report and Accounts for year ending on December 31st 2024 *(Paper 3)*

Mrs Barber outlined the key points from the Treasurer's Report and Accounts noting that it had been a very busy, challenging and rewarding year. The largest expenditure was to support players selected to represent GB with travel and accommodation; this should reduce in 2025 with three European venues and one in the USA. Tournament costs are rising, particularly with the National Clay Court Championships upgraded by the ITF to a MT1000. The National Tournaments were well supported and generated a surplus so, including very welcome sponsorship of £8,250, the shortfall was lower than budgeted.

The Accounts were proposed, seconded and unanimously adopted.

6 Election of Officers and Councillors for 2025

(Paper 4)

i) The following were proposed, seconded and re-elected unopposed:

President	Keith Bland
Vice-Presidents	Valerie Willoughby

Secretary
Treasurer

Ed Edwards
Michelle Barber

ii) The following Councillors retired by rotation, were nominated by the Council for re-election (Rules 7c and 9b iv) and were proposed, seconded and re-elected unopposed: Jackie Robinson, Tom James and Andy Hutchinson

(iii) No other nominations were received by the due date (Rule 9c v).

7 Election of Independent Examiner

Mr C Halder FCA was nominated by the Council to be the Independent Examiner for the ensuing year (Rule 9c iii), was proposed, seconded and re-appointed.

The meeting closed at 5.21 pm.

Minutes approved at the 52nd AGM held on 23rd March 2026.

Ed Edwards 26th March 2025