

## TENNIS WALES LIMITED (TW)

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026 THE MALTINGS, CARDIFF, AND VIDEO CONFERENCE

#### *PRESENT:*

Andrea Ludtke - Company Member Rhiwbina LTC  
Andrew Hill – HSJ Auditor  
Ann Powell – Company Member Allt-yr-yn LTC  
Anthony Phillips – Director Tennis Wales  
Baroness Amanda Sater – Tennis Wales President  
Bethan Lewis – Director Tennis Wales  
Chris Hanson – Company Member Creigiau TC  
David Walton – Company Member Whitchurch TC  
Derek May – Company Member Wrexham T&PC (virtual)  
Ellinore Lightbody – South Wales Committee member (virtual)  
Graham Webster – Company Member Cardiff LTC  
Hannah Ward – Director TW (virtual)  
Jakub Kus – Staff Member  
James Armstrong – Director Tennis Wales and proxy for Radyr LTC (virtual)  
Jamie Clewer – Tennis Wales Staff Member  
Jeff Jones – Guest  
Jeremy Cross – Committee Member (virtual)  
John McDonald – Proxy for Pen-y-ffordd TC (virtual)  
John Rooney – Incoming Director of Tennis Wales and Committee Member  
Linda Sawyer – Wrexham Tennis Club (virtual)  
Lucy Cohen – Director Tennis Wales (virtual)  
Maria Rees – Staff Member (minutes)  
Nigel Jones – Company Member of Glynneath TC  
Nigel Osborne – Director Tennis Wales  
Oscar Seager – Company Member Aberystwyth LTC (virtual)  
Paul Arkontopoulos – Company Member Dinas Powys  
Paul Bates – Company Member Llantrisant TC (virtual)  
Rachel Simpson – Proxy for Monmouth TC (virtual)  
Rachel Trevor – Tennis Wales Staff  
Sarah Jones – Independent Chair  
Simon Clarke – LTA Councillor (virtual)  
Simon Johnson – Tennis Wales Chief Executive Officer  
Sophie Hughes – Director of Tennis Wales  
Stephen Blunt – Company Member Ruthin LTC (virtual)  
Susan Mitchell – incoming Director Tennis Wales (virtual)  
Thomas Hoyt – Company Member Llanelli T&SC (virtual)  
Tim Buckle – Proxy Company Member Stow Park (virtual)  
Victoria Floyd-Ellis – Committee Member (virtual)

*The meeting commenced at 10:30 a.m.*

#### **1. Welcome**

Sarah Jones (SJ) welcomed attendees to the Tennis Wales (TW) AGM.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cliff Gardner - Radyr LTC , David Clarke – Penarth Windsor, Alison O’Doherty – Monmouth, Luke DiFranco – Newport LIVE, Charlotte Griffiths – Abergavenny, Rob

Wedlake – Llantrisant, David Baker – Merthyr Tydfil, Ellen Jones – Director Tennis Wales, Glyn Walters – Garw TC and South Wales Committee Member, Jim Calvert - Stow Park, Michaela McDonald – Pen-y-Ffordd TC, Sue Jones – Penarth LTC, Julie Greenslade – Aberaeron, Roy Colabawalla – LTA President and Olly Scadgell – LTA.

23 voting Directors and Company Members attended the meeting, with an overall number of votes of 39.

### **3. Minutes of the AGM of Tennis Wales Ltd held on Saturday 10th May 2025**

The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were unanimously approved by Anthony Phillips and seconded by Paul Arkontopoulos.

### **4. Annual Report for 2025**

CEO provided overview of 2025. Key highlights included:

- Mimi Xu making history by competing at Wimbledon Singles main draw and winning both singles and doubles of the Lexus Wrexham Open.
- James Story achieving career high ranking of 455, featuring in the Wimbledon qualifying draw for the first time. James and family featured in a new TW podcast this week, and available to watch.
- Strong junior performances with Felix Bockelmann-Evans competing in Junior Wimbledon, Fletcher Davies playing for GB, and five juniors winning national/international level singles titles.
- Welsh #1 Louie Harris won the LTA British Padel Championships in Bristol.
- Padel popularity continuing to grow and a rapid pace.
- TW increased the Player Grant funding programme again in 2025, supporting more players with more direct grant funding.
- Welsh players contested 65 national or international finals throughout the year, the highest on record
- 178,000 adults played tennis at least once during the year, 57,000 playing monthly. Adult participation is broadly flat for the year, but still well above 2020 levels of play and activity
- Children’s annual and monthly participation surpassed targets, with a reduction in weekly play, though significantly higher than 2021.
- Excellent relationships with the 22 Local Authorities across Wales, and now beginning to work with the five Regional Sports Partnerships.
- LTA Youth Schools surpassed 900 Welsh schools, with over 1,300 Welsh teachers trained to deliver tennis as we partner with the education sector
- Charitable and community organisations are driving the casual growth of tennis and padel, with U3A padel in Wrexham, Chinese Association of Wales in parks and projects linked to diversity with the Black Tennis Mentors and Pride in Tennis.

Some challenges identified included:

- Retaining and increasing workforce. Between £30 and £40k allocated to train and upskill current coaches, leaders and volunteers.
- Planning for unpredictable weather and impact on facilities.
- Finding the right balance of attracting new players, whilst retaining those currently playing.
- Maintaining the rapid padel expansion effectively as we build padel into our game.

Some priorities for 2026 included:

- Continued investment in players and pathways.
- Grow and sustain the workforce in Welsh tennis and padel.

- Strengthen partnerships further.
- Unlock funding and resources for facilities and infrastructure.
- Maximise the opportunity padel offers people in Wales.
- Consulting on our strategy and plan from 2027 onwards.

#### **Questions:**

##### **Role of TW in Pickleball?**

CEO confirmed that TW had previously applied for Pickleball accreditation however were unsuccessful. LTA and Tennis Scotland had also applied, with accreditation eventually granted to Pickleball England/Scotland. Though at the time of application there was no Pickleball Wales, the volunteer group had now been set up and had begun running leagues and tournaments. CEO confirmed that he had met with the volunteer group, for now TW and LTA have supported registered tennis venues and coaches by providing Pickleball coaching and insurance cover. JC confirmed that funding application was available from Sport Wales for pickleball and could be used for kit, equipment and coach education.

##### **With Padel growing in clubs and independently, were there any statistics on growing rates?**

CEO confirmed that padel courts were predicted to double each year. TW were working with new facilities when made aware, and the LTA were looking to modernise Padel venue registration offer. Data had started to be captured and would be available over time. Some growing pains evident with tennis coaches moving to Padel, but it was hoped that this would be resolved over time. CEO suggested that if any venues wished to have 121 conversation regarding what was happening with padel in their area that they contact a member of the team.

#### **5. Audited Accounts for Tennis Wales Ltd and the Finance Director's Report**

CEO confirmed that overall, 2025 was a financially successful year as TW continued to grow income through Partner funding and Tennis Wales activities. As an organisation TW focused investments to grow the game across Wales.

The 2025 audited accounts and finance summary for Tennis Wales LTD were received and noted by members. CEO introduced Andrew Hill from TW's new auditors HSJ Accountants following their first audit for TW.

Rachel Trevor thanked the auditors for their support, and confirmed that TW had recently moved over to a new accounting system with their help.

#### **6. Note the appointment of Susan Mitchell as a Non-Executive Director (South) of Tennis Wales Limited.**

In accordance with 12.2(1) of the Articles of Association, SJ welcomed Susan Mitchell (SM) as a Non-Executive Director of Tennis Wales for her first three year term. Following an external recruitment process, Susan had been formally elected at the South Wales Annual Open Meeting. SM thanked members for her appointment and provided a summary of her tennis and professional background as per the biography provided within the papers.

SJ thanked Sophie Hughes who had served the maximum 6 years on the Board for her support and dedication.

#### **7. Note the appointment of John Rooney as a Non-Executive Director (North) of Tennis Wales Limited.**

Following on from Geoff Scott's (GS) retirement and in accordance with 12.2(1) of the Articles of Association, SJ welcomed John Rooney (JR) as a Non-Executive Director of Tennis Wales for his first three year term. Following approval at the North Wales Annual Open Meeting, TW undertook an external recruitment process, and appointed John to the role. JR provided a summary of his

tennis and professional background as per the biography provided within the papers. SJ noted thanks to GS for his time on the Board.

**8. To approve election of President Baroness Amanda Sater for a sixth year.**

No objections to the re-appointment of Amanda Sater (AS) were raised for a sixth and final year.  
**Decision: Appointment Approved.**

SJ thanked AS for being a great ambassador of Welsh Tennis and for her dedication of the past five years.

AS expressed her thanks to the volunteers and workforce at Tennis Wales who she had visited over the past year. AS confirmed that she had thoroughly enjoyed visiting venues and tournaments, including the Masters Four Nations Event, Lexus Wrexham Open and Cymru National Championships.

AS stated that it was a pleasure to be part of Tennis Wales Awards once again, and confirmed it was a delight to see so many fantastic achievements in tennis and padel.

AS thanked all of the team at Tennis Wales for their support, organisation and company at venue/competition visits, as well as the Tennis Wales Board of Directors and Committee Members who work tirelessly as volunteers.

**9. Note current registration fees as set by the LTA.**

Members noted the current registration fees set by the LTA.

**10. Questions as submitted in advance**

SJ confirmed that two questions had been submitted, with one specific question answered directly to the individual.

***Q: Update on the plans to support small and medium sized tennis clubs to provide court renewal, canopies and indoor facilities. Please can we also have figures on the use of the refurbished Parks Scheme courts since last Wimbledon including Activators and footfall at these venues.***

JC ran through pre-prepared slides on levels of park investment, and the increase and impact on participation as a result. JC also highlighted the current status with covered courts in Wales, a LTA Pilot Project and court resurfacing via a club sinking fund. (slides to be provided with minutes).

SJ confirmed that 2025 had been another successful year, with more work to do going forward. SJ stressed the importance of members completing the upcoming strategy surveys to help shape tennis and padel for 2027 and beyond. SJ thanked Sport Wales and the LTA for their continued support, and thanked the TW team for their hard work and determination. Lastly SJ thanked everyone in the room for their love of the sport and for helping to make a success of tennis in Wales.

*The meeting concluded at 11:55am.*