

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Tennis Scotland held at the Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling on Thursday, 24 April 2025 @ 7pm.

### 1.0 Present:

Name	Club/District represented/Position/other
Aidah Isa	Incoming Tennis Scotland Vice- President
Andrew Ibbetson	St Andrews LTC
Andrew Raitt	Tennis Scotland, Head of Participation
Barbara Southern	Tennis Scotland, Company Secretary, Head of Finance
Blane Dodds	Tennis Scotland, Chief Executive
Cameron Bishop	Ratray Tennis Club
David Lewis	Tennis Scotland, Marketing & Comms Manager
Denise Irvine	Tennis Scotland, Head of Operations
Dennis Carmichael	Tennis Scotland, Honorary President
Graham Watson	Tennis Scotland, Chair
Grant Shearer	Tennis Scotland, Participation Development Manager
Holly Sheeran Hall	Tennis Scotland, Digital Content Partner
Jack Ganley	Tennis Scotland, Participation Development Manager
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
Mike Cohen	Tennis Scotland, Head of Competitions & Events
Neil Haig	Tennis Scotland, Participation Development Manager
Nick Joy	Ratray Tennis Club
Pete Nicolson	Tennis Scotland, Honorary Vice President
Rhona Alston	Tennis Scotland, Vice President, Tennis Tayside
Richard Henderson	Montrose LTC
Sarah King	Tennis Tayside
Susan Whiteford	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 30 proxies received by the deadline of 17 April 2025. These proxies 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 34 votes for the 2024 AGM resolutions.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Formal apologies for absence had been received from 12 members.

### 3. Approval of 2023 AGM minutes dated 18 April 2024

The Chair requested that the minutes of the Tennis Scotland Annual General Meeting dated 18 April 2024 (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 a host of accomplishments over the period:

##### **Performance**

Launch of Scottish National Player Pathway (SNPP) following end of the GB National Academy in Stirling

- £2.5m investment from LTA into performance tennis from 11U-16+ being delivered by Tennis Scotland Performance team

Continued success of Gordon Reid, winning all 3 Grand Slams and Paralympics Gold

Retirement of Sir Andy Murray following the Paris Olympics led to suitable tributes

Emergence of Jacob Fearnley, reaching top 100 after starting year at 646, and Charlie Robertson, who reached semi-finals of US Open Juniors and finished his Junior career inside the World Top 8

##### **Facilities**

Official openings of Oriam Indoor Centre and Moray Indoor Centre under TSIT and announcement of indoor centre in Dumfries & Galloway, which is currently under construction

160 park courts refurbished across 38 sites under Parks Tennis Project with LTA

39 Padel courts now open around Scotland to cater for a fast-growing sport

##### **Participation & Workforce**

Record high club membership achieved of 81,428

Overall participation up 11%, with 27% rise in participation among women & girls

More people taking part in our community and inclusion programmes, including LTA SERVES and Open Court

Schools Roadshow gave more than 10,000 pupils the chance to try tennis

##### **Competitions**

Return of ATP Challenger Tour to Scotland for the first time since 2019 – successful event saw big crowds all week and it returned in 2025

Celebrated 100 years of the Women's Scottish Cup with series of presentations

TS Open Tour Finals broadcast live on BBC Scotland, with viewing figures beating expectations

Record number of more than 17,000 players competed in at least one match

### Corporate

GW noted the financial deficit incurred for year ended 31 December 2024 albeit lower than originally budgeted. GW noted the ongoing support from partners including SportsScotland and the LTA, stressing that Tennis Scotland are keen to expand other avenues of funding.

GW noted the commitment of the Board of Directors and their cohesion and extended a note of thanks to the Board, CEO and Executive team.

The Board of Directors to be further strengthened following conclusion of a current recruitment process.

John Wilson retiring as President as of tonight and thanks extended to John from the Board and all at Tennis Scotland. Rhona Alston assumes Presidency from tonight and Aidah Isa is welcomed as Tennis Scotland Vice President.

GW in conclusion noted that overall challenges remain but all the success of Tennis Scotland has been driven by Blane Dodds as CEO and the staff team, overall a small team consistently over delivering.

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 2024

Blane Dodds, the Chief Executive, thanked GW for his report and comments. Blane then introduced the 2024 Annual Report with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. Blane noted the Annual Report will be distributed to all members following the AGM. BD noted a significant amount of activity has been delivered by all and invited relevant members of the Senior Management Team of Tennis Scotland to present their key departmental highlights of the year; summary of the key areas covered included;

- Facilities – Kirsty Humphries – Head of Facilities presented some examples; KH opened but noting how fortunate she was to be working for Tennis Scotland and see all the exponential growth in facilities compared to other sports. January 2024 – Heriot Watt – Oriam indoor tennis centre – 6 courts, November 2024 – The Grange Club – Tennis and Padel – 2 covered Tennis and 2 covered Padel courts, Dumfries and Galloway – due to finish November 2025, Newlands – 2 covered Padel courts, Bellfield Park, Inverness – 8 full size courts resurfaced. KH described the examples above.  
Target for Padel courts is 70 by the end of 2025. Park Courts 160+ across Scotland have been transformed and reopened to the public which was recognised to be a significant step forward in progress.
- Participation – Andrew Raitt – Head of Participation presented some examples;
  - Community; Tennis Scotland has been providing tennis access in some of Scotland's most underserved communities by growing the LTA SERVES programme, connecting and working with youth clubs etc. c3,400 children have participated so a huge success.
  - Inclusion / disability; 43% increase in monthly participation from players with disabilities. The target set for introduction of more girls to sport was exceeded by 19%.

- Education; +2.2k teachers trained since 2021. Schools festivals and competitions ran across 20 local authorities.
- Workforce; 4 Tennis Scotland Apprentices working across different locations in Scotland.
- Coaching Qualifications; 341 candidates qualified across 15 different venues in Scotland. Level 1 – 249, Level 2 – 66, Level 3 – 18 and Padel Instructor – 8.
- Performance – Karen Ross - Head of Performance presented; KR noted the new funding agreement with LTA for new Scottish National Player Pathway was a massive achievement for Scotland. The SNPP focus on 3 key areas;
  - 1) 11U – local delivery working with the Districts and hence avoiding long travel for players. Euan McGinn leading this area.
  - 2) SPDC – Tennis Scotland operated programme, bespoke programmes across 3 venues, University of Stirling / Oriam and Scotstoun Leisure Centre. Led by Toby Smith as National Coach 16U / SPDC Head Coach and Joe Gill as 11U National Performance Coach.
  - 3) NPP +16 – the best Scottish Pathway players and in the past players have included Gordon Reid and Jacob Fearnley. Led by Jonny O'Mara as the National Player Programme (NPP) 16+ Coach.

KR noted a few of the many successes in the younger players in recent period including, Hannah Rylatt and Charlie Robertson. U11 – Louis Taylor and Frank Atkins, U12 – Cameron Rae and Fraser Newcombe.

Notable was the sadness to see Andy Murray retire in 2024 but a massive encouragement for tennis to be served by his lasting legacy. A wonderful year for Jacob Fearnley appearing at Wimbledon and Gordon Reid completing the career Golden Slam.

Disability Tennis prevailed with 3 Scottish players out of a team of 8, special mention to Anna McBride.

Final mention from KR was for Marjorie Love who became the world number one in the ITF 75+ category.

- Competitions – Mike Cohen – Head of Competitions presented;

Mike noted the growth in competitions and events, 10 international events including flagship GB Pro Series and ATP Challenger events held in Glasgow in 2024.

The domestic game has been strengthened via Tennis Scotland Open Tour with 18 events across the year, seeing an increase in quality and a marked increase in levels of prize money.

Junior competitions saw a total of 17,146 players. 1,467 Grade 4 across 6 events.

Final note from Mike was regarding Scottish Cup and being the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Women's Scottish Cup.

The presentation handed back to Blane Dodds for the closing sections;

- Media communications: Key announcements included; Tennis Scotland Awards, celebration of Andy Murray's career, TS Open Finals televised by BBC and the opening of Moray Sports Centre TSIT project.
- Finance: BD noted a challenging year financially with Tennis Scotland accounts for 2024 showing a deficit of £47k, albeit less than originally budgeted. Turnover down on prior year due to cessation of the GB National Academy and subsequent commencement of SNPP. Clean external audit obtained, overall a good result for 2024.

- Tennis Scotland strategy – noted coming to the end of the current 2022-2026 cycle and this will be refreshed at the end of 2025 for the new 2026-2030 strategy.
- A Look Ahead: Padel investment- target for 70 by year end, Facilities – capacity building in line with growth in tennis and padel and National Tennis Centre proposals. Strategy – reshape the current strategy and build in legacy as part of this in conjunction with LTA and SportsScotland. Resource – renew investment partnerships with LTA and SS. Commercial – area of focus, TS have doubled commercial income over last few years, going forward aim is to further increase income and progress new and existing assets. Culture /Structure – BD outlines the 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 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 sportsScotland and the LTA, all TS commercial partners. Thanks extended to the outgoing President, John Wilson and welcome to Rhona Alston as President and Aidah Isa as incoming Vice President.

Graham Watson invited questions from the floor, no questions received.

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 for another year of significant achievements and positive growth.

### **6. To receive the Accounts of Tennis Scotland for the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

The Financial Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 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 2025**

The Chair confirmed that the Board proposes no change to the subscription rate of £140 per court for 2025. The Company Secretary confirmed there were 32 votes for and 2 against. Result being approval of subscription rate.

### **8. Announcements**

The following appointments were intimated to the meeting:

- Rhona Alston – President
- Aidah Isa – Vice President
- John Wilson – retiring President
- Deborah Hood – retiring non-executive Board member

### **9. Ordinary Resolutions**

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

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

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

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

J Wilson

**(c) Auditors**

That the firm of RSM Chartered Accountants was re-appointed unopposed as Auditor of Tennis Scotland with thirty-four 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. Personal thanks from D Carmichael for his reappointment.

Thanks were extended from all attendees via applause.

The President, Rhona Alston presented her incoming speech, thanking John Wilson and summarising her aims for the future of Tennis Scotland. Thanks extended to all.

## **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 20:15.

Barbara J Southern  
Company Secretary.