

**TENNIS WALES LIMITED (TW)**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD ON SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025**  
**SOPHIA GARDENS, CARDIFF, AND VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**PRESENT:**

Andrea Ludtke - Company Member Rhiwbina LTC  
Anthony Phillips – Director Tennis Wales  
Baroness Amanda Sater – Tennis Wales President  
Cliff Gardner - Company Member Radyr LTC (virtual)  
Ellen Jones – Director Tennis Wales  
Ellinore Lightbody – South Wales Committee member  
Geoff Scott – Committee Member and Director Tennis Wales(virtual)  
Graham Webster – Company Member Cardiff LTC  
Glyn Walters – Company Member Garw TC and South Wales Committee Member  
Hannah Ward – Director TW (virtual)  
Jamie Clewer – Tennis Wales Staff Member  
Jeff Jones – Member Penarth LTC  
Jim Calvert - Company Member Stow Park  
John Denton – Company Member Rhondda Cynon Taff  
Leanne Mclellan – South Wales Committee Member  
Lucy Cohen – Director Tennis Wales (virtual)  
Maria Rees – Staff Member (minutes)  
Micah Flores - Company Member Cowbridge Tennis Club (virtual)  
Nigel Jones – Company Member of Glynneath TC  
Nigel Osborne – Director Tennis Wales  
Paul Arkontopoulos – Company Member Dinas Powys  
Rachel Trevor – Tennis Wales Staff  
Sarah Jones – Independent Chair  
Simon Johnson – Tennis Wales Chief Executive Officer  
Stephen Blunt – Company Member Ruthin LTC (virtual)  
Sue Jones – Company Members Penarth LTC

*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 Jeremy Cross, Ann Powell, Bethan Lewis (proxy given to Chair), Chris Lewis, Sophie Hughes (proxy given to Chair), James Armstrong (proxy given to Chair), Rafat Arshad Roberts and Deborah Mahon.

19 voting Directors and Company Members attended the meeting, with an overall number of votes of 30.

**3. Minutes of the AGM of Tennis Wales Ltd held on Saturday 11th May 2024**

The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were unanimously approved by Nigel Jones and seconded by Glyn Walters.

#### 4. Annual Report for 2024

CEO provided overview of 2024. Key highlights included:

- First time Wales have seen two Welsh juniors competing at all four junior grand slams, Mimi Xu and Viktor Frydrych
- Welsh players contested 56 national and international finals through the year, including a win at the U18 Four Nations and Wales Junior Wheelchair Squad.
- Invested into a new performance partnership with Cardiff Met University, working with the best junior players aged 14+ and students on the tennis programme.
- Concluded two transformative capital investment projects totalling £6m: LTA Parks Tennis Transformation project saw 43 sites across Wales renovated and redevelopment of Wrexham Tennis and Padel Centre. Both projects welcomed thousands of new players to the sport.
- Tennis/Padel clubs have accessed record investment through Sport Wales and LTA. 11 venues accessed Sport Wales Be Active Wales Funding, 5 venues were successful in applications to the Sport Wales Energy Saving Grant, 7 venues secured funding from the storm damage grant and funding secured for development of 3 covered Padel courts at James Alexander Barr Tennis Centre.
- CEO confirmed that overall, participation for 2024 was very positive, albeit impacted by a very wet quarter 4. The weather did effect annual adult numbers with a big spike in Summer and drop off in the winter. However, figures for monthly adult and junior participation very healthy. CEO confirmed that Tennis Wales were working to get more workforce in place to support coaches and venues. LTA advantage members, just shy of 30k in Wales. Increasing year on year.
- Padel facilities grew during the year, with 17 padel courts operational and number expected to double in 2025. Padel Development Plan launched in 2024 and underway. 2024 saw Tennis Wales deliver the first LTA Padel Instructor Course with 8 candidates achieving qualification.
- Tennis Wales leading with good governance and extended partnerships with both the LTA and Sport Wales. Throughout the year new directors and committee members have been inducted and new organisational values introduced following a consultation programme.
- Work underway to review the North and South Wales Committees scope with the aim to modernise and provide further investment. CEO thanked all of the members of the Board, County Committees, Board Sub-Committees and Working Groups for their support throughout the year.
- Though not successful in bid to become governing body for Pickleball at current time, the game is being supported by the LTA and Tennis Wales due to desire from tennis community. Tennis Wales looking to develop further and support registered venues to offer the game to the players, and welcome new players if they wish to extend offer. CEO referred to the Pickleball courts introduced at both Radyr and Neath.

#### Questions:

**The CEO was asked why Tennis Wales and the LTA were investing so heavily into Parks, Padel and Pickleball as opposed to supporting Tennis venues.**

CEO confirmed that the role of Tennis Wales was not to directly fund tennis venues but to support them into accessing funding and providing guidance. Many tennis venues had undergone large refurbishments, seen improvements in governance and growth in membership numbers,

Parks funding was available as a result of major investment from the Government, with Padel funded via private equity investments. As 25% of tennis venues were already offering Pickleball, LTA had introduced a support package for any venues wishing to offer the game. CEO confirmed that Tennis Wales and the LTA were not advocating that all clubs should offer Pickleball, but could pick what programmes, activities and game formats works for them as a venue and their members.

Following concerns that Pickleball and Padel would take facilities from Tennis, Geoff Scott, confirmed that introducing Padel into Wrexham Tennis and Padel Centre had created extra opportunities for the centre, and had increased membership and extended opening times due to demand. GS stated that Padel had introduced a different demographic to the centre, some of which had taken up Tennis.

Cliff Gardner from Radyr LTC, stated that Radyr had turned two unused courts into four Pickleball courts, and have seen an increase in membership with older players, and also newer players as an introduction to Pickleball and a pathway to Tennis.

SJ thanked CEO and the Tennis Wales team for the progress made over the year.

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

CEO confirmed that financially, 2024 was Tennis Wales's most successful year with a £1.9 million turnover. CEO thanked the LTA and Sport Wales for their increased investment and support.

The 2024 draft audited accounts and finance summary for Tennis Wales LTD were received and noted by members. CEO confirmed that the audited accounts would be formally approved and signed at the next Board Meeting.

## **6. Note the appointment of Ellen Jones as Independent Director of Tennis Wales Limited.**

SJ welcomed Ellen Jones (EJ) as an Independent Director of Tennis Wales for her first three year term, following a hard fought recruitment process. EJ had been appointed as a result of her understanding of EDI and the Welsh Educational landscape.

## **7. Note re-appointment of Independent Directors Hannah Ward and Lucy Cohen for a second three-year term.**

The AGM noted the re-appointment of both directors for a second term.

## **8. Note re-appointment of Anthony Phillips and Nigel Osborne for a second three-year term, following re-election at the South Wales AOM.**

The AGM noted the re-appointment for a second term.

## **9. Note appointment of Director Michael Gibson for his second three-year term, following election at the North Wales AOM.**

The AGM noted the appointment of Michael Gibson for a second term. SJ thanked all re-elected directors for their time and commitment over the first term.

## **10. To approve election of President Baroness Amanda Sater for a fifth year.**

No objections to the re-appointment of Amanda Sater (AS) were raised. **Decision: Appointment Approved.**

SJ thanked AS for being a great ambassador of Welsh Tennis and for her dedication of the past four 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, most recently the Senior Four Nations event at Wrexham.

AS thanked everyone who had nominated for the Tennis Wales Awards, and was delighted to be present at the LTA Awards in London with three of the shortlisted Welsh nominees. AS requested that all the community use the opportunity to mark the achievements of the tennis family by sending in nominations for the next round of awards. AS thanked Maria Rees for organising the process.

AS thanked all of the team at Tennis Wales for support, including Jamie Clewer, the CEO and Tennis Wales Board of Directors and Committee Members who were also part of the volunteer workforce.

#### **11. Appoint auditors following tender process**

As the current auditors had been in place for over 6 years, and in order to ensure good corporate governance, members of the Company agreed that Tennis Wales should tender for new auditors for 2026.

***Decision: Tender for new auditors for 2026.***

#### **13. Note current registration fees as set by the LTA.**

Members noted the current registration fees set by the LTA.

A member questioned why tennis venues had to pay £140 a court, where are park courts would be free of charge. CEO confirmed that the registration package for park sites was substantially different to that of a tennis club, with clubs receiving liability insurance, wrap around support and services and access to Wimbledon ballot.

*The meeting concluded at 11:35am.*