

TENNIS WALES LIMITED (TW)
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 1st MAY 2021
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

PRESENT:

Ann Powell – Tennis Wales President and Company Member Allt-Yr-Yn LTC
Barry Cawte – Tennis Wales (TW) Chair
Bethan Lewis – Director TW
Dean Richards – Company Member Haverfordwest TC
Dr David Foster – Company Member Penarth LTC
Graham Webster – Company Member Cardiff LTC
Glynn Walters – South Wales Committee Member
Helen Dougherty – Company Member Swansea T&SC
Janet Evans – Company Secretary
Leah McDaniel – Incoming Director TW, North Wales Committee Member
Linda Sawyer – Company Member Wrexham TC and North Wales Committee Member
Liz Parry – Director TW
Lucy Scott – Director TW and North Wales Committee Member
Lynda Goodwin – Radyr LTC
Lynn Finch – Company Member Peterson Super Ely
Maria Rees – Staff Member (minutes)
Mary Hunter – Volunteer
Mike Buck – Director TW
Mike Dunn - Director TW, South Wales Committee Chair, and Windsor LTC
Mike Harpin – Company Member Bridgend LTC
Mike Halloran – Proxy for Company Member Usk TC
Neil O'Doherty – Director TW
Nigel Jones – South Wales Committee Member and Company Member of Glynneath TC
Nigel Williams – South Wales Committee Member
Pam Alford - North Wales Committee Member
Patsy Roseblade – Incoming Director TW
Paul Arkontopoulos – Company Member Dinas Powys
Rachel Trevor – Staff Member
Simon Clarke – LTA Councillor
Simon Johnson – Tennis Wales Chief Executive Officer
Sophie Hughes – Director TW
Stephen Blunt – Company Member Ruthin LTC

The meeting commenced at 10:30 a.m.

1. Welcome

Barry Cawte (BC) welcomed attendees to Tennis Wales AGM and thanked everyone for giving up their time on a weekend to attend and for their combined effort during a very difficult period.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from David Clarke – Company Member Windsor LTC, Peter Hawke – Company Member Usk TC (proxy given to Mike Halloran), Linda Sawyer – Company Member Wrexham TC (Proxy given to the Chair), Leanne McLellan – South Wales Committee Member, Jim Calvert – Stow Park, Hillary Pullen – Prestatyn TC, Oliver Scadgell – LTA and Joy Bringer – Sport Wales.

23 voting Directors and Company Members were in attendance at the meeting, with an overall number of votes of 33.

3. Minutes of the AGM of Tennis Wales Ltd held on Saturday 11th July 2020

The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were unanimously approved.

4. Annual Report for 2020

Simon Johnson (SJ) ran through a presentation of the 2020 Annual Report and reflected on key activities of the year and the plans for the remainder of 2021. SJ confirmed that the year 2020 had started off well with the awards ceremony and TW's first Coaches Conference in 5 years. Plans for the new strategy had started to be implemented when the floods hit Wales, shortly followed by lockdown as a result of COVID-19 in March.

SJ stressed that overall feedback from the tennis community on TW and LTA communications and funding support during lockdown has been extremely positive. SJ thanked all venues, volunteers, workforce and players for their dedication to the sport over the year.

Participation levels for tennis had seen a great increase in 2020 with over 130,000 adults playing tennis, and a huge increase in park activity. SJ highlighted that though participation levels were high in 2020, a big effort would be needed to keep people playing tennis once restrictions on other sports relaxed.

SJ confirmed that 2021 would be more challenging for tennis as the LTA Insurance package which greatly helped the sport in 2020 would no longer be accessible. The beginning of 2021 continued to see heavy restrictions on venues, however it was hoped that these would continue to be relaxed over the weeks ahead. SJ stated that the Sport Wales Be Active funding was providing much needed support to tennis venues across Wales in 2021, with other facility development support being provided by the LTA. Coach education courses have returned in full via the Tennis Wales Coach Development Centre, with some face to face courses being undertaken. Competitions and leagues have started to return and a new LTA Youth Schools initiative offering training and a £250 voucher for coaching or equipment being launched for primary and secondary across the UK.

SJ summarised that though there were still many challenges facing TW and the tennis community, he remains optimistic for the future following the great work being carried out by the tennis workforce, TW team, the LTA and Sport Wales.

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

SJ provided a summary of the audited accounts which were to be formally approved by the Board following the AGM.

SJ explained that traditionally TW received its income from the LTA, Sport Wales, commercial income, league entries and registration. 2020 had proved challenging as TW like many companies were managing an unknown situation. As a result of the LTA insurance policy, LTA Funding had remained static, coaches and members of the workforce had received grants from the LTA, registration fees had been refunded to venues and Tennis Wales staff remained in work. Sport Wales funding had remained static for the year with no decreases which had proved very helpful.

SJ thanked Simon Clarke (LTA Councillor) and Steve Clarke for assisting TW with the maintenance of relationships with TW commercial partners who remained optimistic for a further partnership in the future.

SJ summarised that given the circumstances, TW's financial position during 2020 remained positive. Thanks to the TW Board agreement to use some of the TW reserves, TW were not required to cut back on spending and only saw a loss of £37,000. SJ stressed that 2021 would prove a bigger challenge due to lack of competitions, loss of LTA insurance policy and limited

commercial partner relations. Though turnover was expected to remain low, it was hoped that TW would remain in a strong enough position for the year.

Question: Following a question raised regarding a £61,000 increase in staffing costs, SJ confirmed that this was as a result of the TW staffing restructure which had taken place prior to lockdown. TW had received an increase in funding from the LTA to ensure continuity in pay and responsibilities between the LTA and TW. The Head of Participation role had been introduced, with the Head of Performance role being made full time.

6. Election of Tennis Wales Directors following the South Wales Annual Open Meeting

The Chair reported that Bethan Lewis (BL) had been elected as Director at the South Wales Annual Open Meeting held on 28th November 2020 in accordance with TW Article 12.2(1) and 17.4. BL would be officially commencing her first three year term immediately after the AGM.

7. Election of Tennis Wales Directors following the North Wales Annual Open Meeting

The Chair reported that Leah McDaniel (LMc) had been elected as Director at the North Wales Annual Open Meeting held on 12th November 2020 in accordance with TW Article 12.2(1) and 17.4. LMc would be officially commencing her first three year term immediately after the AGM.

The Chair also confirmed that Lucy Scott (LS) had been elected as Director at the North Wales Annual Open Meeting for a second term.

8. Election of Independent Tennis Wales Directors following a formal recruitment process

Vice Chair LS confirmed that Patsy Roseblade had been recruited by the Board of Directors as an Independent Director for TW following a formal recruitment process. AGM voting members unanimously approved the appointment.

LS stated that following his completion of his first term as TW Chair, BC was also seeking re-election for a second three year term. AGM voting members unanimously approved the appointment.

9. Appointment of Company Secretary following a formal recruitment process

BC confirmed that following a formal recruitment Janet Evans had been appointed by the TW Board of Director as the Company Secretary.

10. President - Tennis Wales Limited

The AGM noted that as no candidate nominations for TW President had been received, a recruitment process was underway. AGM voting members agreed that the TW Board of Directors should appoint a President when a suitable candidate had been identified.

BC thanked Ann Powell (AP) for her time and support as President over the previous three years. AP thanked TW for the opportunity and for the thank you gift.

11. Approval of the proposed changes to the Articles of Association of Tennis Wales Limited.

Mike Dunn (MD) provided an overview of each of the proposed changes which reflected the Board's continuing commitment to good governance and the adoption of best practice, including streamlining a number of procedures and offered attendees the opportunity to raise any questions or concerns.

BC thanked MD and JE for their work on updating the Articles. Voting AGM members unanimously approved the changes.

12. Auditors - Tennis Wales Limited

The Chair thanked Watts Gregory for their valued efforts in the provision of advice and the auditing of the TW accounts and proposed that they be appointed for a further year.

Watts Gregory was unanimously appointed for a further year.

13. 2021 Registration Fees

The attendees noted the 2021 registration fees for Place to Play - £120 per court including Padel (£60 grass courts) capped to 12 courts and £60 per court for LA/Parks and Operators.

Any other business

1. **ClubSpark:** Helen Dougherty (HD) from Swansea Tennis and Squash Club recommended that other tennis venues utilise ClubSpark where possible. HD stressed that the free software had allowed her venue to increase its membership, allow pay and play and to have full access to data insights. HD thanked Luke Williams for his training and support in using the system, and also thanked Bangor TC for highlighting the benefits of ClubSpark during a TW webinar.
2. **Tennis Courts in Mumbles and Langland:** Mary Hunter (MH) questioned whether TW had been in contact with Swansea Council before the tennis courts in the area were lost forever. SJ confirmed that the courts were on TW's radar, with a meeting being arranged with the community officer in the near future.

The meeting concluded at 11:21am