

LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION LIMITED (“LTA”) COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 February 2025 at The National Tennis Centre, 100 Priory Lane, Roehampton, London, SW15 5JQ at 9:30am

Present

Sandi Procter (President)

Voting Council Members

Ian Alexander, Ron Allan, Bridie Amos, Elizabeth Bissett, Nick Bonello, Peter Bradshaw, Simon Brand, Naomi Cavaday, Yasmin Clarke, Anne Clayton, Roy Colabawalla (Deputy President), John Copsey, Rob Creswell, Ash Cudlipp, Richard Cutler, Jonathon Dawes, Rick Denton, Blane Dodds, John Doe, Andrew Farnworth, Nick Fuller, Keith Gill, Jane Grey, Malgorzata Grzyb, Matt James, Richard Johns, Simon Johnson, Fiona Jones, Ben Knapp, Sarah Langford, Judith Loffhagen, Chris Mansour, Paul Marks, James Marsalek, Katharine Maurici, Garry Morris, Ola Obaro, Mike Piper, Jackie Robinson, Mike Thomas, Steph Trill, Peter Vann, Phil Veasey, David Walrond, Julia Waters, and Julie Wych.

Alternates for Voting Council Members

Tom Barton (Representing Graeme Adams for Warwickshire)
Ade Bates (Representing Tina Manning for Herefordshire and Worcestershire)
James Buddell (Representing Heather Bottomley for Norfolk)
Joanna Hale (Representing Venetia Cottman for Buckinghamshire)

In attendance

Non-Voting Council Members

Rachel Baillache, Anil Jhingan and Sir David Tanner.

Others

Sophie Curthoys (Investment Manage, Programmes and Property Strategy Team and LTA TF – item 7), Tom Gibbins (Head of Programme and Property Strategy and Foundation Development – item 7), Nigel Jordan (DTAG Chair), Abbie Lench (Head of National Delivery – item 8.2), Scott Lloyd (Chief Executive), Chris Pollard (Managing Director - Commercial & Operations), Nick Rose (Fundraising Lead (Tennis Foundation) – item 7), Alex Ross (Head of Ticketing and Hospitality – item 9), Olly Scadgell (Managing Director - Tennis Development), Jenna Smith (Head of Delivery Support – item 8.3), Simon Steele (Finance Director), Alyx Wilde (minutes), Vicky Williams (People Director) and Pamela Woodman (Head of Legal).

1. Welcome, Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interests

Sandi Procter welcomed everyone to the meeting, including four alternates.

Apologies for absence were received from: Graeme Adams, Heather Bottomley, Simon Clarke. Venetia Cottman, James Grindell, Tina Manning, Adrian Packer, Shiv Paul, David Rawlinson and Steve Winyard.

Councillors were asked to declare an interest as appropriate when a relevant item was discussed.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2024 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

3. New Councillor Introductions

Sandi Procter welcomed three new councillors to introduce themselves. Nick Fuller (Independent), Matt James (representing Devon) and Jackie Robinson (representing Seniors GB Tennis). They and the remaining new councillors were then invited to receive their welcome gifts.

A short remembrance for former councillors Adrian Waite and Roger Bottomley was held.

4. LTA President's Summary

The President's summary included in the Council papers was taken as read. Sandi Procter gave a presentation covering her recent activities including visits to the Australian Open (AO), United Cup and Davis Cup in Japan. Looking ahead to the Billie Jean King Cup in Holland on 10-12 April, Councillors were informed to look out for a ticket offer later that day and encouraged supporters to attend.

Congratulations were re-iterated to winners of Councillor and Organisation Awards made in December. She thanked counties for their impressive handling of their County Awards panels, nominations and presentation events especially the social media presence.

5. LTA Chair's Report

The Chair's report circulated in the Council papers was taken as read.

6. LTA Chief Executive's Summary

The Chief Executive's business update included in the Council papers was taken as read. Scott Lloyd expanded on several items from his business update including children's participation figures and LTA Youth Schools figures. The change to the 2025 Grass Court Calendar and WTA 500 event at Queens was mentioned and the success of the general sale last week with approximately two thirds of the tickets already sold. This is a great result and an exciting opportunity.

Scott Lloyd then answered a few questions on competition management software, biodiversity as part of the LTAs Sustainability Plan, WTA Queens broadcasting and fair play in competition.

7. LTA Programme, Property and Tennis Foundation

Tom Gibbins (Head of Programme and Property Strategy and Foundation Development) joined the meeting.

Tom Gibbins gave an overview of the LTA Tennis Foundation (LTA TF), covering the vision, mission and key areas of focus for the charity which include supporting organisations, developing facilities and fundraising.

Nick Rose (Fundraising Lead (Tennis Foundation) joined the meeting.

Private & Confidential

Nick Rose presented on the priority revenue streams for the LTA TF, and announced a new fundraising initiative, GIVE.SET.MATCH for tennis venues to support the LTA TF. The concept will be piloted in 2025, with the aim of encouraging 200 clubs to take part. The pilot will run from April to September with the registration process opening in March/ April.

Tom Gibbins then presented an overview of the LTA Youth review and strategic plan, outlining the priorities for 2025.

Sophie Curthoys (Investment Manager, Programmes and Property Strategy Team and LTA TF) joined the meeting.

Sophie Curthoys provided an update on property covering the facility strategy objectives, facility investment streams and future developments. Alongside a focus on Quick Access Loans and the impact and outcomes of this scheme and the plans to introduce an interest charge from 1 April 2025.

A breakout session then took place with a focus on discussing more covered courts projects through Quick Access Loans and supporting the Give Set Match fundraising initiative.

Sophie Curthoys then answered several questions on the fixed duration of LTA Loans, padel and property investment. It was suggested by councillors that some guidance or slide deck covering LTA TF activities, facility investment items and case studies would be useful for sharing. These could then be presented at Area Volunteer Forums and increase awareness.

The meeting was adjourned for a lunch break and then reconvened after lunch.

8. DTAG

8.1 DTAG update

Nigel Jordan reported on the recent DTAG meeting and reminded counties to request their Associations to complete the funding report, which is due by the end of February. Nigel Jordan then introduced the first workstream.

8.2 County Funding and Partnerships Workstream

Abbie Lench and Roy Colabawalla presented the findings from the County Governance and Funding ROI exercise. This was used to set the direction for the workstream, including the two new objectives. They outlined the partnership principles and objectives, noting that more time was needed to review, and in some cases seek clarity to options available to enhance and maximise our approach in this area in the future. Therefore, the plan is to share a revised 'Member Organisations Partnership Framework' at Council in May.

A workshop then took place to discuss and feedback on funding agreements and to complete a proforma to return. Councillors were asked to comment on the funding agreement term, banding, timing of grant payments, county dashboard metrics and county dashboard tracking.

A request will follow asking each County & Island Association, via their Head of Delivery, to complete a competition costing sheet. To be completed by mid- end of April.

8.3 Volunteer Engagement and Support Workstream, including Volunteer Recruitment

Sandi Procter introduced the Volunteer Engagement and Support DTAG workstream.

Julia Waters updated on the review of the LTA Awards process and proposal to create an action plan for the launch of the 2025 awards in National Volunteers Week in June. An email containing a link to a questionnaire will be sent to County Awards Leads in the coming week, all are encouraged to complete the questionnaire to support the developing action plan.

Nigel Jordan recapped the County Governance Framework requirements to supporting inclusive volunteer recruitment. Another objective of the Volunteer Engagement Workstream is to find and share the latest good practice examples, ideas and advice around recruiting volunteers, with the aim to provide a resource guide and deliver a Connect Webinar on recruitment later in the year.

A workshop session followed on discussing inclusive recruitment of volunteers, gathering good practice examples, additional support required and helpful suggestions.

9. Major Events/ Wimbledon Update

Chris Pollard (Managing Director - Commercial & Operations), and Alex Ross (Head of Ticketing and Hospitality) joined the meeting.

Chris Pollard updated on the 2025 grass court calendar, highlighting what's new in 2025, covering commercial partnerships, broadcasting, spectator app, event presentations and activation plans.

Alex Ross provided an update on the grass court sales to date, followed by an update on information for Association Partners during Wimbledon, LTA Presidents Suite bookings and information on booking LTA Advantage Lounge. Finally, new councillor ticket offers around Roland Garros ballot and Billie Jean King Cup were announced.

10. Corporate Governance

10.1 Applications for President 2026-2028 – presentations from applicants

The paper included in the Council papers was taken as read. The two applicants for President (Roy Colabawalla and Phil Veasey) each presented their case for nomination by giving a short presentation. Both applicants will be referred to the Nomination Committee for consideration. Thereafter, provided that at least one of the two applicants is determined by the Nomination Committee to meet the Fit and Proper Person Test, the Nomination Committee must make a recommendation to the board of Lawn Tennis Association Limited of the applicant which it recommends be appointed to the position of President from 1 January 2026.

Pamela Woodman further updated that the application window for Deputy President would open week commencing 3 March 2025, with a deadline for submission by Tuesday 29 April 2025.

10.2 Member-Nominated Councillors – Recommendations from Nomination Committee (for approval)

The paper included in the Council papers was taken as read. Upon the recommendation of the Nomination Committee, the Voting Council Members approved the appointment of Nigel Mann as a Voting Council Member with effect from 27 February 2025 (for an initial term running until 31 December 2027, unless replaced/removed earlier).

10.3 LTA Rules – amendments to part D – for approval

The Voting Council Members were asked to approve, with effect from Thursday 27 February 2025, the amendments to Part D of the LTA Rules. The Voting Council Members are asked to note the other amendments to the LTA Rules, including changes to the Members of LTA. Upon the recommendation of the Board, the Voting Council Members approved the changes.

11. Any Other Business

Sandi Procter read out a list of actions which had been noted during the meeting and confirmed that a summary of the meeting information and key takeaway points would be circulated to Voting Council Members shortly. Everyone was encouraged to share with respective management committees.

12. Conclusion of Meeting

The next Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 21 May with a later start time of 10:30am. The meeting will be preceded by the AGM at 9.30am-10.30am.

There being no further business, Sandi Procter thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 3.10pm.

Signed: 

Date: 27 May 2025