

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



"TENNIS REALLY OPENED UP IN 2021, WELCOMING THOUSANDS OF NEW PEOPLE TO THE GAME"



Despite being locked down until late March, our tennis network reported growth last year. We welcomed an increase in tennis club membership, an increase in qualified and accredited coaches, and encouraged over 2,000 new children to take part in tennis activity.

I can't say thank you enough to our network of tennis venues, coaches and volunteers, who were outstanding in 2021. Together, we reopened the sport, welcomed more than 130,000 adults and children to the game and saw growth in participation. Our partners and sponsors were invaluable during 2021, enabling us to invest into the sport, support the tennis community and ensure we can continue to grow and develop the sport in the years ahead.

It will take time to fully recover from the impact of the pandemic. All of us should look to the future in a positive way but ensure we manage the sport in a responsible manner to secure its future.

Thank you to everyone in Welsh tennis. Your work and support throughout the last 12 months has been incredible.

SIMON JOHNSON

Chief Executive



"WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE RESPONSE OUR TENNIS COMMUNITY HAS MADE IN THE MOST DIFFICULT OF TIMES. "



Despite the challenges of Covid-19, Tennis in Wales has demonstrated incredible resilience, and has miraculously come through stronger than ever. We should be proud of the response our tennis community has made in the most difficult of times. Participation and venue registration is on the up and we have an exciting, talented crop of emerging tennis stars. Tennis in this era is well and truly opening up. However, none of this would be possible without the lifeblood of tennis in Wales, its people.

Our volunteers are unsung heroes and heroines. The time and effort given is as crucial as it is selfless. They are relentless, passionate and create a feeling of family, like no other sport. Our coaches at all levels are skilled, flexible and determined, wading through adversity and covid restrictions to ensure every person of any age has the chance to pick up a racket. Our tennis venues across are dynamic, collaborative, and innovative, providing tennis all year round. Parents and guardians of all our players are persistent and enthusiastic. Our players, for choosing tennis, thank you. Our Tennis Wales team is a small but dedicated and talented group led by Simon leading the way for others to follow.

Thank you to all our sponsors who are part of the tennis family and key partners the LTA and Sport Wales, whom we have had nothing but support and commitment from whilst sharing a very clear vision of where we want to take tennis. A huge thank you to our North and South Wales Committees and our LTA councillor Simon Clarke and President Amanda Sater for being the faces of Tennis Wales and the huge amounts of time you give representing us, spreading the good word about tennis in Wales.

Finally, in what is my final year as Chair, I would like to thank the board both past and present members. Thank you for always doing what is right for tennis in a professional, diligent manner and for having the courage to make difficult decisions. I leave knowing that Tennis in Wales is in great hands and on the cusp of more new levels of achievement.

BARRY CAWTE
Independent Chair



"I AM IN AWE AT THE HUGE COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION SHOWN BY ALL"



It was a great privilege and honour to be appointed President of Tennis Wales. My work as President has started, supporting and promoting Tennis Wales, meeting with incredible volunteers, coaches, clubs, players and everyone who works at Tennis Wales and visiting tennis venues, and I am in awe at the huge commitment and dedication shown by all during this difficult time. It has been truly inspirational to see how everyone has adapted and worked so hard in these challenging times. We owe you all a very big thank you.

I look forward to supporting and promoting Tennis Wales, the Board, Simon and the team at Tennis Wales in their vision and helping with future opportunities for Welsh Tennis.

It was a great privilege to have been part of the Tennis Wales Awards and celebrations earlier this year and I was delighted and proud to have presented the President's and Lifetime Achievement Award; there were so many fantastic nominations.

I would like to particularly thank everyone at the Tennis Wales office, especially Simon and Maria, for their warm welcome and their time and support in making my introduction to Tennis Wales so enjoyable.

BARONESS AMANDA SATER
President, Tennis Wales



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

COVID-19 restrictions were still in place as we went in to 2021 and therefore continued to provide operational challenges in the first quarter of the year. Whilst turnover increased overall from £850,402 to £877,813 compared to the previous year, it was down on budget by £180,274. This was largely due to investments in projects still being impacted by the pandemic as they were unable to start.

Our core funding from the LTA decreased by £107,500 from the prior year as we agreed to a drop in our agreement for the year. Sport Wales funding levels remained the same as the previous year. As well as our core funding, Tennis Wales were able to secure further Resilience Funding of £117,500 to help support our tennis community further as they recovered from the pandemic. Commercial income remained low due to minimised numbers at Wimbledon and therefore a drop in sponsorship income associated with it. The Tennis Wales Coach Development Centre was successful in its first year of running providing income of £41,498.

Overall expenditure decreased by £13,284 from £887,769 in 2020 to £874,485 in 2021. Salary costs increased slightly due to changes in staff, however some positions which were due to begin in 2021 have been delayed to 2022. Our County and Performance programmes had increased expenditure as training and events were able to start again. Due to close budgetary controls throughout the year we were able to manage cashflow carefully which meant that we ended the year showing a profit of £3,700.

Reserves of £345,242 are shown on the Tennis Wales balance sheet as of the 31 December 2021. A full Risk and Reserves audit has also been carried out along with the Tennis Wales Board which should help secure against any future uncertainties should they happen.

RACHEL TREVOR
Finance Officer



FINANCE BREAKDOWN

Income

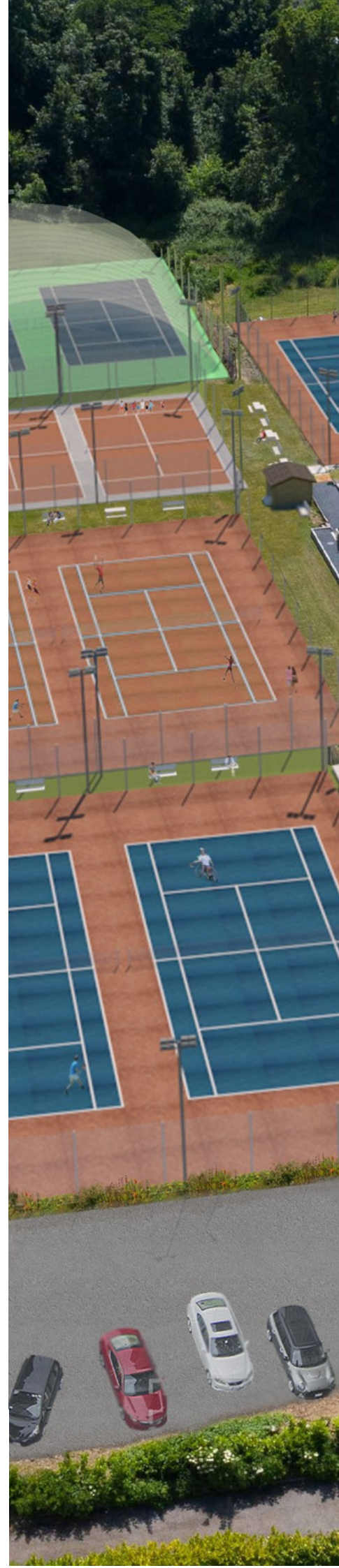
LTA Grant	£278,232
Sport Wales Core Funding	£278,686
Sport Wales Development	£8,911
Sport Wales Resilience Funding	£131,725
Venue Registration Fees	£43,595
Commercial	£19,291
Elite Programmes	£6,494
County Tennis Programmes	£16,350
Leagues & Competitions	£25,319
Parks	£17,173
Coach Development	£41,498
Other	£10,539

£877,813

Expenditure

Staffing	£492,758
Administration Costs	£83,160
Leagues & Competitions	£37,232
County Tennis Programmes	£70,819
Elite Programmes	£38,620
Growing the Game	£54,412
Coach Education	£29,526
Disability Tennis	£3,945
Tennis Wales Awards	£4,352
Parks	£23,720
Marketing	£28,337
Other	£333
Sponsor Servicing	£7,271

£874,485



2021 FACTS & FIGURES

16,291 members in registered places to play



- North Wales 3,577 members +9%
- South Wales 12,714 members +11%



Followers of our social media channels increased 8,774 to 9,875 (+12%)

98 newly trained LTA Level 1 Coaches and 35 newly trained LTA Level 2 Coaches



2,013 new players U10 taking part in LTA Youth Start courses throughout Wales



SPORT RESILIENCE FUND

Tennis Wales gratefully received Sport Resilience Funding from Sport Wales during 2021 to help navigate the pandemic and support us to deliver our strategy. We invested this funding in a number of areas across the sport.

- Tennis Wales Awards, investing in a virtual ceremony to reward & recognise the superb people and places in Welsh tennis who were doing incredible work during a difficult year.
- The Dragon Tour and Welsh Local Tour, investing into a circuit of local tournaments and competitions for juniors in Wales. Events were delivered with reduced player numbers and full social distancing to comply with Covid-19 rules in Wales. 1,065 entries across 130 events at 18 tennis venues helped get players competing again.
- Coaching & official bursaries, investing into people to diversify our workforce during the year, with funding grants to make tennis qualifications affordable.
- Grant funding to CITCs who faced a difficult year with lockdowns significantly impacting their ability to operate
- Delivery of our National Performance Programme, providing national training squads, individual grants and ongoing support to Wales' top players.



PERFORMANCE TENNIS

2021 got off to a slow start as the second national lockdown meant that training and competitions were impacted until March right across Wales. Once the lockdown ended, tennis returned and there were some notable achievements for Welsh players and teams:

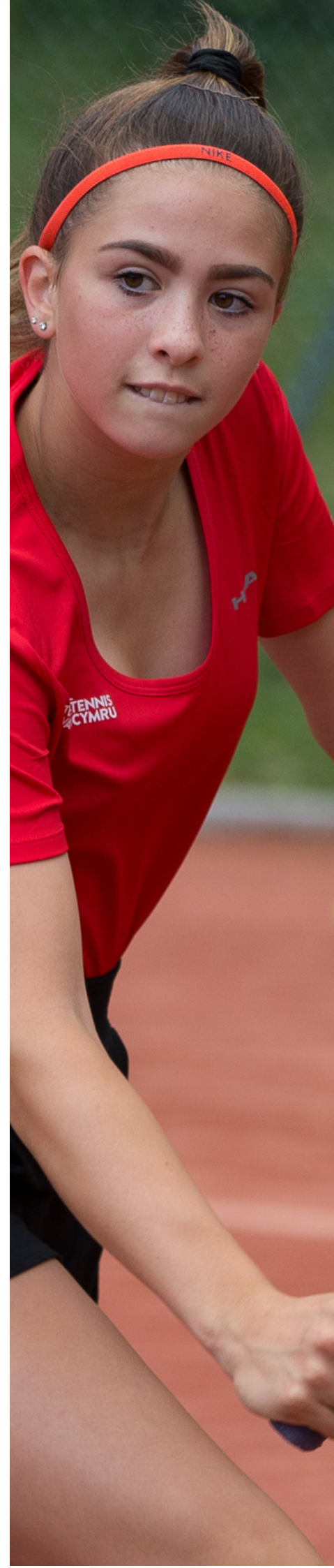
Mimi Xu continued her progression at the LTA National Academy in Loughborough University and recorded debut singles and doubles tournament wins on the junior ITF circuit. She also recorded wins against two top 50 ITF ranked opponents, paving the way for her to receive a wild card into Junior Wimbledon where she became the youngest ever Welsh player to compete. Mimi ended the year with a junior ITF ranking of 201.

Viktor Frydrych and Wil Jenkins also flew the Welsh flag overseas by winning debut singles tournaments on the junior ITF circuit in Finland and Panama respectively. Wil doubled up by winning the doubles at the same event.

More international success was provided by Abby Kelliher who had a fantastic summer by winning her first U14 Tennis Europe singles event in Wrexham and then going on an unbeaten run in doubles which saw her win three further U14 Tennis Europe events and U14 GB Nationals.

The National Wheelchair Training programme we introduced in 2020 had a positive year of growth in 2021. We were able to grow the number of adults taking part in the weekly sessions, the number of coaches delivering and we also launched a junior training squad in November. Geraint Richards, our Performance Coach of the Year has been instrumental in developing the programme and there are plans to attract more talent and grow the programme further in 2022.

We have several Welsh players currently training in US Colleges, who are aiming to transition into professional tennis in the coming years. The most notable success stateside in 2021 was that of Finn Murgett who reached the final of the men's doubles at the NCAA Championships in Florida which was a remarkable achievement.



PERFORMANCE TENNIS

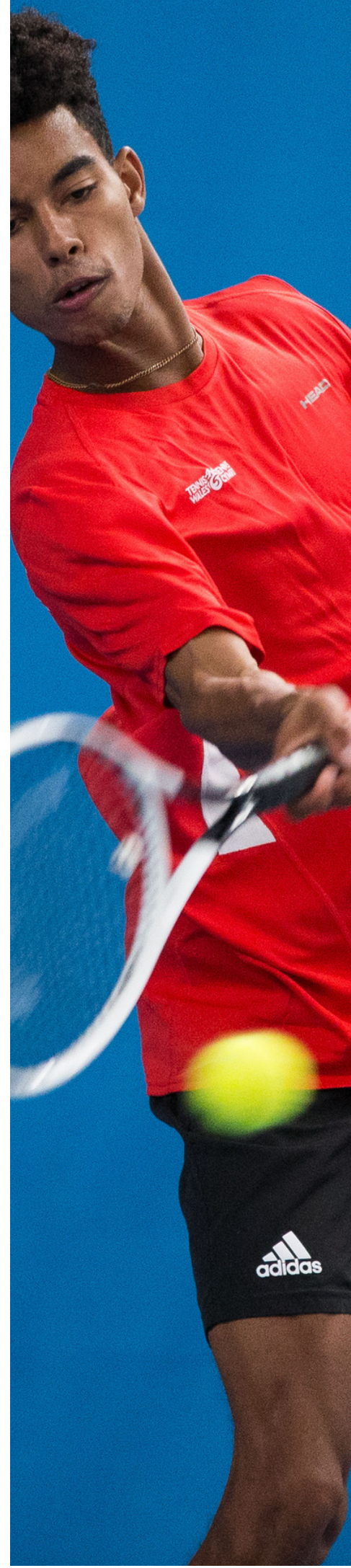
The Junior Home Nations team attempted to complete a hat-trick of victories at the 2021 event held in Corby but fell short and finished in 3rd place. The U14 team won their age category remaining undefeated against England, Scotland and Ireland and went on to win the Team of the Year category at the Tennis Wales Awards for their efforts.

Wales' RPDC located at Swansea Tennis Centre continued to increase its reputation for player development with a number of players reaching the latter stages of national level events and being selected for GB training camps and tournament trips. Swansea Tennis Centre and Tennis Squad were also accredited by the LTA and Tennis Wales as U10 Performance Programmes in recognition of the work they are doing at that stage of the pathway.

National Training camps were able to return in 2021 after being suspended due to the pandemic. We delivered sessions for players aged U9 to adult in June/July and December which saw over 50 Welsh players coming together to train.

Thank you to all of the players, parents, coaches and supporters who form the performance tennis community in Wales. You've all done a great job in difficult circumstances to help our players develop and achieve.

CHRIS LEWIS
Head of Performance



TENNIS OPENED UP

2021 was a significant year for workforce and coach development in Wales with the undoubted highlight the launch of the Tennis Wales Coach Development Centre. The Coach Development Centre is a really important component in the delivery of our 'Tennis Opened Up' strategy. It allows us to tailor workforce development in Wales to deliver on our needs and requirements - providing bespoke delivery of coach qualifications for all parts of Wales. In partnership with Cardiff Met University and Wrexham Tennis Centre, we have a team of Welsh tutors to grow and develop Welsh coaches into the future.

In 2021, we provided 303 training opportunities to coaches with 98 newly trained LTA Assistants (Level 1) and 35 LTA Instructors (Level 2).

Diversifying the workforce is crucial to our future growth. Tennis Wales provided 20 bursaries to new and aspiring coaches and 36% of coaches completing the assistant qualification being female, were both indicators of progress. But we want to go much further in 2022.

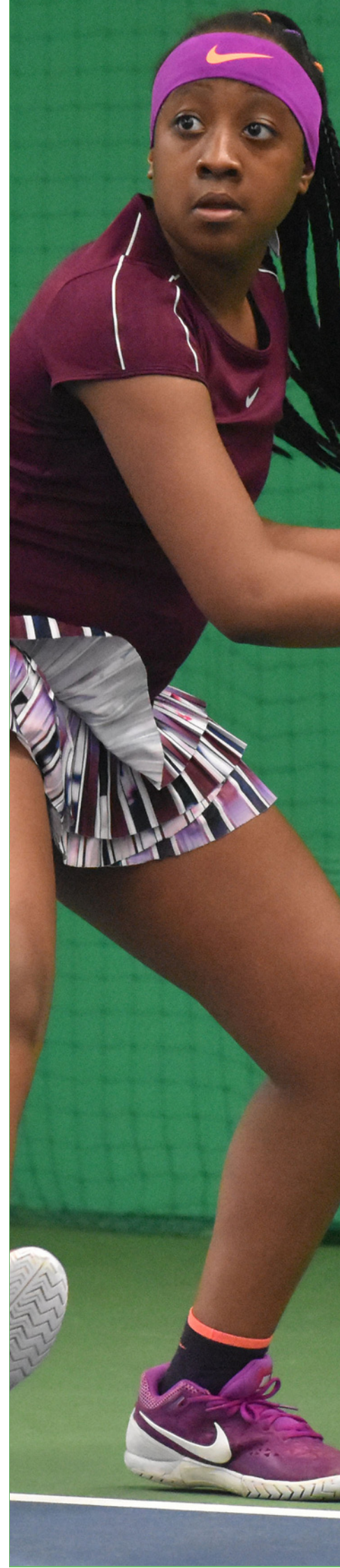
Tennis club membership grew across north & south Wales significantly to exceed 16,000. Year on year membership growth over the past 2 years is over 40%.

Welsh coaches and venues delivered LTA Youth Start courses once tennis resumed, introducing 2,013 participants and 246 courses ensuring many young people took their first steps into playing tennis.

Facility investment in Wales was significant in 2021 with upwards of £337,000 in grant funding for tennis secured and £191,000 of match funding committed by venues. Over £600,000 of capital projects took place during the year, with a major focus on LED upgrades for floodlights with 29 courts across Wales being improved. We also saw 9 gate access systems installed - improving access to tennis.

Finally but significantly, 2021 also saw the opening of the first Padel court in Wales at the Windsor Club in Penarth.

JAMIE CLEWER
Head of Performance



TENNIS OPENED UP

Case study

BRIDGEND TENNIS & SQUASH INVESTS IN THE FUTURE

Bridgend Tennis Club has been undertaking a rapid transformation throughout 2021. Through securing an LTA Quick Access Loan for £250,000 and a £94,000 grant from Sport Wales the club has been incredibly resourceful to secure funding and in-kind support from its members, committee and local contractors to support the delivery of their facility aspirations. A phenomenal number of volunteer hours have been committed to managing and overseeing delivery of the club transformation. The journey started with significant governance change in recent years to ensure long term sustainability of the club and venue via achieving CIC status.

Improvements have seen two new artificial clay courts, two new macadam courts and floodlighting upgrade and installation to new build courts. Complete renovation of outdoor off court space to make it more welcoming and attractive to parents. Work to install indoor bubble courts is due to be complete by autumn 2022 and clubhouse renovations are well under way.

On court the appointment of new head coach Mark Thomas has seen a rapid growth in the coaching programme and membership with roll out of new programme, committed to the principles of LTA Youth. The club have seen incredible growth at the venue in short space of time - Junior Membership has grown from 122 junior members to 277 and junior coaching programme numbers from approximately 75 children to 229. All achieved in less than six months.

A successful 2021 was capped off with the club rightfully winning Club of the Year at the recent Tennis Wales Awards.



TENNIS OPENED UP

Case study

KICKSTARTING TENNIS AT ARFON TENNIS CENTRE

Arfon Tennis Centre reopened its doors to the public in August 2021 having been closed from March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent use as a vaccination Centre for North Gwynedd. The tennis programme had therefore effectively ceased, and the site required a complete relaunch.

Tennis Wales held several meetings with the Byw'n lach leisure trust to reboot tennis at the site and invested in partnership with the LTA, in a school's roadshow which linked to open day sessions at the Centre to restart the junior coaching programme. 600 children took part in taster sessions at local primary schools with 320 children visiting the Centre for the open day. As a result, 102 children have signed up to the programme.

The recruitment of a new head coach for the programme was a key action achieved, both Tennis Wales and Byw'n lach are now focused on growing the workforce at the centre, with three level 1 coaches being trained to support activities. An action plan for the centre to grow tennis at the centre and across Gwynedd is currently being developed collaboratively.



UK ANTI-DOPING

2021 saw the introduction of a new Assurance Framework developed by UK Anti-Doping and which all National Governing Bodies for sport were required to demonstrate their compliance with. Tennis Wales liaised with the LTA and Tennis Scotland to ensure our inclusion on the wider LTA submission where it was relevant, and we also submitted an education plan to UKAD to go further here in Wales.

The Tennis Wales Clean Tennis Implementation Plan was submitted to UKAD in October and set out several tactics to raise awareness and educate our players, parents and coaches. The actions taken in 2021 included:

- Chris Lewis, Head of Performance, appointed as Tennis Wales' Anti-Doping Lead
- Lucy Scott appointed as Tennis Wales' Anti-Doping Board Lead
- Lucy Scott identified as the Coach Development Centre tutor who would undergo training to become a UKAD Educator in 2022
- WADA Prohibited List changes communicated to Welsh players aged 14+ and in receipt of individual funding grants
- UKAD Workshop delivered to U14 players and 14+ players who attended Welsh National Training in December
- UKAD information distributed to the parents of U14 and 14+ players who attended Welsh National Training in December



TENNIS WALES AWARDS 2022

Tennis Wales continued to recognise the extraordinary contributions from our players, volunteers, venues and workforce during 2021 with our annual Tennis Wales Awards. Once again, we received a record number of nominations and after much deliberation our winners were announced at a ceremony held in Cardiff in March.

Chiltern Sports Club of the Year

BRIDGEND LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Dragon Signs Development Coach of the Year

JOHN WHITEHALL

Performance Coach of the Year

GERAINT RICHARDS

Floodlighting and Electrical Services Community & Parks Award and
Disability Award

NEWPORT TENNIS CENTRE

Competition of the Year

RHIWBINA, ITF WELSH OPEN

Volunteer of the Year

SUSIE GRIFFITHS

Young Person of the Year

EMILY-MAI JORDAN

Official of the Year

JOHN WILLIAMS

Player of the Year

MIMI XU

Club Team of the Year

RHIWBINA MENS 1ST TEAM

Team of the Year

U14 HOME NATIONS TEAM

Lifetime Achievement Award

LIZ SINGER

President's Award

MATHEW JAMES



THANK YOU TO OUR 2021
PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



Chiltern

Sports Contractors

