



Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting, 25th March 2024

The meeting was held via Video Conference at 5.00 p.m. on Monday 25th March 2024

Present:

Council: Mr K Bland (*President*), Mr P Bretherton (*Vice-President*), Ms V Willoughby, (*Vice-President*), Mrs A Clark (*Chair*), Mrs M Barber (*Treasurer*), Mr E Edwards (*Secretary*), Mrs C Windmill, Mr M Sanders, Mrs M Nevill, Mr T James, Mr A Hutchinson, Mr S Morris

Others: Mr R McCutcheon (LTA), Mr T Barton, Ms R Smith

1 Apologies for absence had been received from Council members Mrs C Knight, Mrs C Blincoe, Mrs J Shepherd and Tournament Director Mrs S Wooding.

The President, Mr K Bland, was in the chair and welcomed all present to the meeting at 5.03 pm.

2 The Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting (*Paper 1*)

The Minutes were proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Report of the Council for 2022 (*Paper 2*)

Mrs Clark began with congratulating Christine Windmill, the previous Chair, who had been awarded an OBE for contributions to STGB and tennis in Scotland, Valerie Willoughby's Lifetime Achievement Award and STGB President, Keith Bland's Meritorious Service Award.

Many players enjoyed international success in 2023 with special mention to Michelle Oldham, Sebastian Jackson, Richard Stempnowski, June Pearce, and Gordon Oates.

The National Team Competitions - Seniors County Cup and National Club League - continue to thrive and with 50.7% of the population in England and Wales over 30 the number of seniors playing tennis continues to increase.

Our full programme of 23 ITF Masters tournaments, headed by the four 'National' events at Wrexham, Bournemouth, Wimbledon and Eastbourne; age groups now range from 30s to 90s.

Despite the reduced grant from the LTA, due to their challenges the year before, we contained our deficit to under £9k.

Mrs Clark gave thanks to the LTA for their ongoing help and support. Rory McCutcheon provides considerable assistance and a warm welcome to Jenny McAneny-Vincent, the new LTA's Head of Competition.

Mrs Clark also gave thanks to three STGB Council Members who are stepping down:

- Ed Oakenful has taken the lead with GB team selections and Four Nations events over the last few years. We welcome Andrew Hutchinson to this role.
- Charlotte Knight who has provided huge support in getting the Seniors Tennis message out as widely as possible, we are looking to recruit a replacement as soon as possible.
- Peter Bretherton has been Vice-President of STGB for 12 years. Previously, Peter was Chair of STGB from 2005 to 2009, International Tennis Federation representative from

2002 to 2015, LTA President from 2011 to 2013 and the Lancashire LTA President. An attorney (and someone who has provided excellent, sage advice to STGB and other tennis organisations over many years) and an active senior player.

The 2023 Report was unanimously approved.

5 Treasurer's Report and Accounts for year ending on December 31st 2023 *(Paper 3)*

Mrs Barber reported that although the accounts show a shortfall of £8,678 this figure is lower than anticipated due to the positive contribution from the National Championships, in particular income from our Grass Tournament held at Wimbledon being higher with great court availability at both Aorangi and Raynes Park.

A significant portion of the budget is used on supporting our GB Teams internationally; in 2023 all venues were in Europe but with both Japan and Mexico hosting international events in 2024 the expenditure is forecast to be considerably higher.

Budgetary constraints saw our Participation Grants Scheme for clubs and coaches remained at a low level of £3,800. The intention is to continue the scheme in 2024 with higher payments and discussions are underway.

Interest income although relatively low rose from £400 to £1,500 (after tax) and should continue at this sort of level as short term rates remain competitive for the time being.

The LTA grant in 2023 was £50,000, approximately two thirds of our request. We hoped that the 2024 grant would more realistically cover STGB requirements but at £95,000, it only covers three quarters so we will be dependent on reserves to meet all of STGB commitments.

The Accounts were proposed, seconded and unanimously adopted.

6 Election of Officers and Councillors for 2024 *(Paper 4)*

i) The following were proposed, seconded and re-elected unopposed:

President	Keith Bland
Vice-Presidents	Valerie Willoughby
Secretary	Ed Edwards
Treasurer	Michelle Barber

ii) The following Councillors retire by rotation, were nominated by the Council for re-election (Rules 7c and 9b iv) and were proposed, seconded and re-elected unopposed: Caroline Blincoe, Anne Clark, Mark Sanders, Christine Windmill

(iii) No other nominations were received by the due date (Rule 9c v).

7 Election of Independent Examiner

Mr C Halder FCA was nominated by the Council to be the Independent Examiner for the ensuing year (Rule 9c iii), was proposed, seconded and re-appointed.

The meeting closed at 5.26 pm.

Minutes approved at the 51st AGM held on 24th March 2025.