

LTA COUNCIL

Wednesday 3 October 2018 at The Queen's Club at 10.30am

Present

Mr D Rawlinson (Deputy President), Mr S Lloyd (Chief Executive Officer), Mr S Farrow (LTA Company Secretary and Director of International Events and Professional Game), Mr D Gregson (former Chairman, LTA Board) and Lord M Davies (Chairman, LTA Board).

Past President

Mrs C Sabin.

Vice-President

Mr C M Thomson

Councillors

Mr M Angell, Mr I Alexander, Mr R Blackburn, Mr A Bradley, Mr F Caldwell, Mrs A J Clark, Mr S Clarke, Mrs A E Clayton, Mr R Colabawalla, Mr R Cutler, Mr J Copsey, Mrs L Cundy, Mr L Evans, Mr P Evans, Mr A Fay, Mr R Gibson, Mr P Grinyer, Mr I Haigs, Mr R Henshaw, Mrs C Hollingsworth, Mr B Horne, Mr A Jarvis, Ms K Keohane, Mr R Kerr, Mr T F Kinloch, Mr E Knowles, Miss M A Laffey, Mr S Law, Mrs J Marks, Mrs N Maskens, Mr S Matthews, Mr D Macdermid, Mr D Mazzucco, Mr R T Palmer, Mr M Peters, Mr A J Petherick, Mrs S Procter, Mrs J Robinson, Mr M Rock, Mr M Sanders, Mr R Staniland, Mr M Stocks, Mrs E Sweeting, Mr D Vinall, Mr A Waite, Mr B Walton and Mrs C Windmill.

In attendance

Ms Ali Ensor (Wimbledon Ticket Manager and Council Coordinator), Mrs J Farquharson (Interim Executive Director, Tennis Foundation), Mrs J Freeman (PA to Chief Executive Officer), Ms L Hutchinson (attending in place of Jemima Morris representing Middlesex), Mrs J Mackay (Legal Services and Discipline Coordinator), Miss A Naughton (PA to Director of International Events and Professional Game), Mr Oliver Scadgell (Participation Director), Mr S Timson (Performance Director) and Mrs V Williams (People Director).

Minutes

1. Welcome

The Deputy President, David Rawlinson, welcomed everyone to the third Council meeting of 2018. He also welcomed Lord Davies and Sara Bennison to their first Council meeting.

Lord Davies had been appointed as the new Chairman of the LTA and he was invited to come up and introduce himself to Council. He gave some background information about himself and noted that he was looking forward to working with Council over the next few years. Sara Bennison also introduced herself to Council.

2. Apologies for Absence

The following apologies for absence had been received; Ms F Awoderu, Mr S Baddeley, Ms R Baillache, Mr J Baker, Ms N Cavaday, Mr C Howarth, Mr P Nicholson, Ms J Morris, Mr R Stoakes, Mr H Stow and Sir David Tanner.

3. Declarations of Interests

Members of Council were asked to declare an interest as necessary if a relevant item was discussed.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 17 May 2018

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 May 2018 were approved.

5. Matters Arising

There were no specific matters arising that were not already covered within the agenda.

6. Deputy President's Report

The Deputy President's Report had been included within the Council pack and was taken as read.

Further to his report, the Deputy President thanked all of those Councillors who had attended the recent Davis Cup tie in Glasgow. He also shared the good news about Bath being the host city for the next Great Britain Fed Cup tie in February 2019. This would be the first home tie for 25 years.

The Deputy President also explained the LTA Meritorious Service Award nomination process. He asked Councillors to consider whether their County/Organisation would like to nominate a volunteer to receive an award at the next AGM. If so, they were requested to submit the nomination to Sheila Wall by 14 December 2018 for consideration by the Council Nominations Committee. He added that the criteria for a Meritorious Service Awards would be circulated with the minutes of this meeting.

7. LTA Chairman's Report

The LTA Chairman's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and was taken as read.

David Gregson highlighted some points in addition to his report. He expressed the importance of the LTA financial position and that work had to be done to align certain areas so that reserves were not used in the future. He also noted that he was delighted with the new Board appointments. Lord Davies would make a great Chairman, combined with Rachel Baillache, bringing some new, specific skills and experience to the Board, alongside Sir David Tanner and Sara Bennison who had been appointed earlier in the year.

He also explained that the overall income of the LTA was down for a number of reasons including; reduced funds from the All England Club due to the No1 Court roof development as well as significantly increased spending in completely necessary areas such as safeguarding and the technology system upgrade.

The Deputy President thanked David Gregson for his update. He also highlighted that this would be David's last Council meeting with Lord Davies recently being appointed as Chairman. He thanked him for all of his time and commitment to the LTA and wished him well and every success in the future.

David Gregson also expressed his thanks and noted that his time as Chairman had been a great privilege. He was proud of British Tennis and he would continue to be a committed supporter of the sport. He highlighted what he thought were the biggest differences in British Tennis today compared to when he was appointed as Chairman six years ago. He noted that there was now great partnership working, a desire for humility among the LTA at all levels and an increased amount of trust particularly between the Board and Council.

8. LTA Chief Executive's Update

8.1 Strategic Planning Update

The Chief Executive's business update was included in the pack and taken as read. He went on to present to Council the new strategic plan for British Tennis, setting out the new vision and mission. Olly Scadgell, Participation Director, also provided an update on the Regional Team structure.

8.2 Break-out Session

Simon Timson, Performance Director, facilitated a break-out session with Council in order for them to discuss the integration and promotion of disability tennis in counties.

Simon Timson explained that all of the Councillor's feedback would be collected, typed up and fed into Executive meetings.

The meeting broke for lunch at 1.10 pm and resumed again at 2.00 pm.

9 Performance Update

Simon Timson provided an update on the Performance Player Pathway. He set out that it was important for everyone to continue promoting the key elements of the Pathway and the aspects that fed into it. An animation video was shown which explained what the Pathway was and how it worked (there is a link to it on the LTA website (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knsAyY82WZ0>)).

There was a responsibility for the Pathway to provide a life shaping experience for potential players being delivered now as part of the wider Performance Strategy. This was particularly important at the Local Player Development Centre (LPDC) level. If the strategy was going to be successful then a key aspect would be to assure parents that the Pathway offers their children a successful lifestyle and that it would not be focused completely on playing tennis.

A further video was shown to Council with set out the importance of National Academies and preparing players for the Pro Tour.

Simon Timson answered some questions from Council. He explained that managing the personal expectations of players and parents at the low level of the Pathway was difficult and that the LTA had to get better at inducting parents and players at the LPDC level and explaining that it would take a lot of hard work and commitment to keep progressing up the Pathway.

He also clarified that those British players at a higher level who were now training abroad would have the choice to attend the National Academies. It would be their choice and the LTA would be working to put more funds into grant giving companies which could assist with the player's finances. He added that the appointment of the Head Coach at the academies could be a crucial deciding factor for those players.

He confirmed that mental health and psychology was a key aspect of the Pathway. The LTA worked closely with psychologists specialising in adolescent and child psychology and they worked closely with the players, regularly analysing their behaviours, in order to support them and create a good tennis environment throughout the Pathway.

Andrew Petherick noted a declaration of interest as a member of David Lloyd Leisure when asking if it was still intended to use the clubs to fill in potential gaps at the LPDC level. Simon Timson responded that the LTA was still working with David Lloyd Leisure and other partners.

10. Participation

Olly Scadgell provided an update on the progress of the Participation business objectives. There continued to be a decline in overall monthly participation so there needed to be a review into how things could be done differently in order to improve this. There had been an increase in membership at focus clubs as well as a growth in court bookings and active ClubSpark accounts. There had also been an increase in the number of children attending 11U programmes such as Mini Tennis.

This year had also seen the implementation of Safeguarding Minimum Standards for all LTA Registered Venues and Olly Scadgell thanked Councillors for all of their work to support this project.

There were some other good points to note including the success of Team Tennis this year as well as growth in Team Challenge and strong County Championships.

Olly Scadgell answered questions from Council. He clarified that the overall participation figure was measured by the LTA's own tracker, which was a useful trend mapper. However, it was worth considering if the LTA's performance should continue to be measured on the result of that tracker or if it should be measured on certain interventions that could be put in place to work towards improving participation.

11. Major Events 2018 Review

Stephen Farrow, Director of International Events and Professional Game, provided a review of the 2018 Major Events.

He started off by highlighting the Fed Cup tie due to take place in Bath next year. It would be great opportunity to improve the visibility of the sport and women's tennis in a region that had rarely seen professional tennis, and no women's professional tennis since 1972.

He thanked Councillors for all of their support throughout the grass court season as well as thanking officials, volunteers and venues which had worked hard to contribute towards successful major events in 2018.

A lot of work had gone into changing the look and feel of all of the events in line with the new sponsors; Fever-Tree, Nature Valley and Fuzion 100. It was a big task but it had been done well and in a short turnaround time.

The Nature Valley Open in Nottingham had gone well, with a family fun weekend taking place before the main draw which was a great success. The event had continued to grow over the last few years. There was a strong player field with 8 Top 50 WTA players and 2 Top 100 ATP players.

The Nature Valley Classic in Birmingham saw Petra Kvitova win her second consecutive title there since her return after her hand injury. The overall attendance and financial position of

the event needs improvement but all of the players continued to enjoy the event and the delivery of the event by the team was great. There were 4 Top 10 players in the draw.

The Nature Valley International in Eastbourne had an amazing player field and a great quality order of play throughout the week. The success of this event was at a high with £1m of tickets already sold for 2019.

The Fuzion 100 Trophy Series was a great success with a strong player field and high attendance figures. Ticket sales were up by 40% and there was significant success of British players.

The Fever-Tree Championships had a successful year with a new look and feel and great new partnership with Fever-Tree in their first year as the new title sponsor. There were great improvements with spectator catering which was noticed in the considerable increase in commission on 2017. There was a peak TV audience of 2.2m although overall TV figures were impacted by the football World Cup.

The Davis Cup tie in Glasgow was challenging to deliver given slow ticket sales. It was a real team effort to put on the best event possible with Leon Smith at the heart of it, both on and off court.

It was highlighted that Great Britain had been awarded a wild card for the 2019 Davis Cup Finals. Further information about the event would be shared with Council in due course.

12. Governance

12.1 Deputy President Nomination Process

The Deputy President explained the Deputy President nomination process. The appointment would take effect from 1 January 2020 but expressions of interest could be made now and he asked Councillors to inform Sheila Wall of any by 31 October 2018. He also asked Councillors to contact him if they wanted to discuss their future plans. The process would be slightly different this time with the interested parties being asked to present to the Deputy President, the CEO, the President and the Chairman. Some meetings would follow to hold discussions and then a recommendation would be made to Council.

12.2 Councillor Contribution Review

The Deputy President noted that the results had been collated from the Councillor Contribution Review and had been set out in a report. This was included in the pack and was taken as read. He thanked everyone involved in the process, especially those that had led on the project and had collected the feedback.

There were questions from Councillors about some of the recommendations in the report. In relation to recommendation 6, it was confirmed that there would be occasions when certain topics would have to be redacted from Council meeting minutes. In relation to recommendation 11, it was clarified that this was in order to have greater clarity about who people are and what they do and that this should happen at local County level too. The process for contacting LTA employees for Councillor should first be to the Head of Region.

The Deputy President confirmed that the project would be completed again, but not every year. It was planned to complete it again towards the end of 2019.

Clare Hollingsworth noted that following this Councillor Contribution Review it would be good to conduct an overall Council Contribution Review. The Deputy President agreed and confirmed that this would be worked on.

12.3 Approval of Nominations of Officers for 2019

Stephen Farrow provided some information about the 2019 Councillor nomination process. Due to changes that had taken place following the introduction of the Code for Sports Governance, it was no longer the case that every County needed to nominate a Councillor every year. Only those Counties who had a Councillor coming to the end of their term would need to submit a nomination.

It was the intention to contact every County to inform them of the status of their Councillors and would explain in more detail at that stage about the nomination process.

13. Summary of papers for reading only

Councillors had received in their packs a TDC work stream update and a document setting out the 2018 British Tennis Competition Programme.

There were no questions.

14. Any Other Business

Anne Clark provided some background information and GB results in relation to the ITF Seniors World Championships. The event was split into three categories; Young Seniors (35-45), Seniors (50-60) and Super Seniors (65+) with each being held every year at different venues. The Young Seniors team and individual championships would be taking place in Miami at the end of October.

The Seniors individual and team events had taken place in Ulm in August. The highlight was Steve Alger winning a gold medal in the men's 60's double event.

The Super Seniors team and individual events had recently been held in Croatia. GB teams won one gold, one silver and two bronze medals. There was also great success in the individual events with a total of 15 medals.

Councillors were asked to contact Anne Clark or Christine Windmill if they wanted any further information.

There was no further business.

15. Confirmation of date of next meeting

The next Council meeting was confirmed as Thursday 13 December 2018 starting at 10:30am.

The Deputy President thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 3:30pm.