

LTA COUNCIL

Wednesday 4 October 2017 at The Queen's Club at 10.30 am

Present

Mr M F Corrie (President), Mr D Rawlinson (Deputy President), Mr S Farrow (LTA Company Secretary, Legal Director and Aegon Championships Tournament Director), Mr D Gregson (Chairman, LTA Board).

Past President

Mrs C Sabin.

Vice-President

Mr C M Thomson.

Councillors

Mr I Alexander, Miss F Awoderu, Mr S Baddeley, Mr R Battersby, Mr R Blackburn, Mr A Bradley, Mr F Caldwell, Mrs A J Clark, Mrs A E Clayton, Mr J Copsey, Mrs L Cundy, Mr L Evans, Mr A Fay, Mr R Gibson, Group Capt V Gosling, Mr P Grinyer, Miss N Hall, Mrs C Hollingsworth, Mr B Horne, Mr A Jarvis, Mr R Kerr, Mr T F Kinloch, Mr E Knowles, Miss M A Laffey, Mr S Law, Mrs N Maskens, Mr S Matthews, Mr S G J Meaking, Ms J Morris, Mr P Nicolson, Mr R T Palmer, Mr M Peters, Mr A J Petherick, Mrs S Procter, Mrs J Robinson, Mr M Rock, Mr M Sanders, Mr M Smith, Mr R Staniland, Mr R Stoakes, Mr M Stocks, Mr H Stow, Mrs E Sweeting, Mr D Vinall, Mr A Waite, Mr R Walmsley, Mr B Walton, Mrs C Windmill.

In attendance

Mr A Beaumont (Volunteering Manager), Miss L Blake (Head of Membership), Valerie Copenhagen, Mr R Dearing (Head of Tennis Delivery & Innovation), Miss A Ensor (LTA Wimbledon Ticket Manager and Council Coordinator), Mrs J Farquharson (TF, Deputy Executive Director), Mrs J Freeman (PA to Chief Executive), Mrs M Green (representing Northamptonshire), Mr A Hewitt, Mr D Humphrey (Head of Safeguarding), Mr A Krol, Mr S Lloyd (Chief Executive Elect), Mr A Marks (Participation Director), Miss A Naughton (Legal PA), Ms J Osleger (Disability Development Manager), Mr O Scadgell (Director of Major Events and Competition), Mr G Richards (Head of Disability Player Performance), Mr S Steele (Finance Director), Mr S Timson (Performance Director), Mr M Van Der Braam (Interim Head of Coaching), Simon Walker (LTA National Club Lead), Vicky Williams (People Director).

Minutes

1. **President's Welcome**

The President, Martin Corrie, welcomed everyone to the October Council meeting and welcomed Margaret Green who was attending on behalf of Craig Haworth (representing Northamptonshire). He also gave a particular welcome and introduction to Scott Lloyd who was only here today as an observer. Scott would be taking up his new position as Chief Executive from January 2018.

Thanks were expressed to Andrew Stewart and Queen's Club for hosting the meeting.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

The following apologies for absence had been received: Mr M Angell, Mr J Baker, Mr R Baker, Mr S Clarke, Mr P Evans, Mr C Haworth, Mr R Henshaw, Ms K Keohane.

3. **Declaration of Interests**

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

4. **Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 18 May 2017**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 May 2017 were agreed, subject to a couple of minor amendments and signed as a correct record.

5. **Matters Arising**

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

6. **President's Report**

Martin Corrie gave a brief update on the President's Report which had been included within the Council papers.

Martin Corrie confirmed that the Great Britain delegates who had attended the ITF AGM in Vietnam had voted for the proposed changes for the Davis Cup and Fed Cup, which was the wish of the GB players and team.

Martin Corrie highlighted the LTA Meritorious Service Awards, which were presented to volunteers working with Member Organisations in recognition of outstanding voluntary service given to tennis in any capacity over a long period of time. Member Organisations were asked to consider whether they wished to nominate someone to receive an LTA Meritorious Service Award at the 2018 AGM. Nominations, with full details of the nominee's service, should be submitted to Sheila Wall by 15 December 2017 for consideration by the Council Nominations Committee.

7. **LTA Chairman's Report**

The LTA Chairman's Report was taken as read. David Gregson gave a brief update on the recent Board meeting. It was confirmed that once the new Chief Executive had started, a copy of the Dashboard would be included within the Council papers.

8. **BTM**

Martin Corrie introduced Olly Scadgell and Lauren Blake, the LTA's Head of Membership, who gave an update on BTM.

Council was informed that since the launch of the BTM scheme the uptake had not been as quick as had originally been hoped but steps have been taken to re-tool the LTA's approach.

Lauren Blake agreed to compile some good news stories to help Counties and clubs to promote the scheme and circulate this to Council.

Lauren Blake also agreed to speak to Maureen Laffey to solve the current problem of a number of ABTO officials being unable to become Lite members.

Councillors were reminded that it was important for them to act as ambassadors to promote the BTM scheme.

9. Participation

The Participation Director's Report was included within the Council papers and was taken as read.

Alastair Marks introduced Simon Walker who gave a brief overview of the proposals regarding British Tennis Venue Registration, which were detailed within the Council papers. The proposed changes to the British Tennis venue registration processes was planned to come into effect in October 2018. The reasons for changing the current venue registration was to improve the user journey, improve standards at venues, give value for money, alignment with the LTA Strategy and to provide a British Tennis family.

The outcomes and objectives that the LTA would like to achieve through Registration were: to provide registered venues with a range of excellent (value for money) benefits and services that help them to deliver tennis in their community and to maintain relevant up to date records on every British tennis venue.

It was proposed that all venues that wished to register to the LTA must meet a small number of minimum requirements.

With the introduction of minimum registration requirements it is proposed that Tennismark would no longer be required and would therefore cease to exist from Autumn 2018. Tennismark would be replaced by an online Club Health Checker that clubs would be encouraged to undertake each year.

All of the proposed changes would not come into force until the 2018/19 venue registration window that commences in October 2018. This would allow time for the LTA to not only make the necessary technology developments, but also provide time to communicate these changes to the venues and support them in putting into place the various minimum requirements, particularly in the safeguarding elements.

Following a number of questions and confirmation that Councillors and Counties would shortly receive more detailed information and resources on the changes, Council approved the proposed changes to the venue registration.

Martin Corrie proposed the following amendment to LTA Rule 43.2 relating to British Tennis Membership:

- 43.2 The following individuals will be eligible to be a British Tennis Member free of charge:
- (a) tennis members of an Associate **at the Full Venue Registration Tier**;
 - (b) card holders at an Associate **at the Full Venue Registration Tier** running a park-based tennis programme and/or an indoor pay and play tennis centre;
 - (c) adults and juniors involved in an organised tennis programme at an Associate **at the Full Venue Registration Tier**; and/or
 - (d) **Accredited and Registered Coaches** at the Associate **at the Full Venue Registration Tier**.

This was approved unanimously. The Rule change would be presented at the LTA AGM in May 2018.

Rob Dearing gave a brief update on Clubspark which was the LTA's digital platform for participation, helping to enhance the way that players engage with tennis online. Some of the positive benefits to date were the simplified online court and coaching bookings at scale, a valued benefit for venues and coaches registering with the LTA, reputationally positive, opportunity to maximise underutilised court hours and actionable data for users and the LTA. Clubspark was the winner of the Best Participation Technology at the recent 2017 Sports Technology Awards.

Merlin Van De Braam gave a brief update on the Coach Forums and promoted the 'Find a Coach' online tool which was a live online directory of LTA Accredited Coaches in the UK. It was mandatory for all Accredited coaches to be listed.

Alastair Marks informed Council that the TBTT Seminars had been well attended and supported and thanked all Councillors who had supported the seminars to date. It was confirmed that discussions with the DfE to agree a programme for AASE for 2018/19 were on-going.

The meeting broke for lunch at 1.00 pm and resumed again at 1.30 pm.

10. **Disability Tennis**

Martin Corrie introduced Barry Horne, Joanna Farquharson and Jill Osleger who gave an update on Disability Tennis. The Tennis Foundation's vision is "To make tennis a sport which is inclusive and accessible to all people and communities". It was highlighted that 1 in 5 people in the UK were considered to have a disability (physical, mental or sensory), with 8% of disabled people using a wheelchair. Sport England had agreed to provide the Tennis Foundation with support funding for another four years.

The 'Open your Doors' programme started in 2012 with the aim of getting more disabled people playing tennis. It's a bespoke approach, providing funding, training, equipment and general advice.

Valerie Copenhagen (Middlesex County Disability Coordinator) who had taken up this role in March this year, gave an overview of her role in the County. Her initial focus had been on getting an understanding of the County, being flexible and understanding the motivations of why people play tennis as well as raising the profile of deaf awareness and other disabilities..

A table discussion took place giving examples of: activity that takes place in Counties which encourages disabled people to be involved in tennis and the support the County gives to this activity; and, what Counties should focus on next and what support is needed from the Tennis Foundation Regional Team.

Geraint Richards gave a brief update on performance and international events before introducing Alfie Hewitt who addressed Council.

Vicky Gosling a brief report on the recent Invictus Games which had been held in Toronto and introduced Alex Krol, who with his doubles partner, Kevin Drake had won the Gold medal in the Wheelchair Tennis event at the Invictus Games (retaining their title from 2016).. Alex gave an overview of how the Invictus Games has helped him with his recovery as well as giving him the drive to improve playing tennis.

Joanna Farquharson expressed thanks to Geraint Richards who would be leaving the Tennis Foundation later in the year.

11. Updates

Martin Corrie referred to the updates on the Tennis Development Committee, Performance and Volunteering/British Tennis Awards which had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting.

Simon Timson informed Council that the framework for best practice for County funding would be sent out to Counties in the next few weeks and that the Performance Strategy would be announced in 2018. Work would be undertaken over the next few months with each County to understand their individual County training requirements. The aim is to produce a clear investment policy in early February 2018 with the aim of kick starting the programmes for the new academic year.

Martin Corrie reminded Council of submitting nominations for the British Tennis Awards for 2018 and that work was taking place on developing the Regional Awards. Councillors were asked to feed in any ideas to Alex Beaumont, Sandi Procter or the President. It was confirmed that details of the first batch of nominations received were being sent out to Counties later in the week. Sandi Procter highlighted the Young Volunteer Award and Education Award which had received only a few nominations in 2017 and the two new Awards of Official Award and Competition Award. Councillors were encouraged to put forward nominations for these Awards as well as the categories.

12. Major Events 2017 Review

Martin Corrie introduced Stephen Farrow and Olly Scadgell who gave an update on the Major Events held during 2017 giving a reminder of the improvements made to the pre Wimbledon calendar. There had been significant growth in all of the events this year in relation to ticket sales and hospitality.

Thanks was expressed to all of the Tournament Ambassadors, tournament venues and event volunteers for all of their hard work in making the events in 2017 so successful.

13. Corporate Governance

13.1 Approval of Nominations of Officers for 2018

Stephen Farrow reminded Council that the Standing Orders were changed so that Council are notified of the confirmation of the Board's nomination of President and Deputy President. Council were therefore notified of the nominations of Martin Corrie as President and David Rawlinson as Deputy President for 2018.

13.2 Confirmation of Councillors nominated for 2018

An updated list of nominated Councillors for 2018 was given to Councillors on arrival. Council was asked to note this list.

Martin Corrie highlighted that, to date, 4 new Councillors have been nominated for 2018:

Ian Haigs (Combined Armed Services) who has been elected to replace Vicky Gosling, Richard Cutler (Hampshire & IOW) who has been elected to replace Bob Battersby, Joanna Marks (Herefordshire & Worcestershire) who has been elected to replace Nicola Hall and Roy Colabawalla (Warwickshire) who has been elected to replace Sherrie Meaking.

All of the new Councillors for 2018 would be invited to attend the December Council meeting as observers.

Martin Corrie asked Council to formally approve the Tennis Foundation Councillors for 2018 - Funke Awoderu, Barry Horne, Karen Keohane, Stephen Baddeley and Matt Stocks. These nominations were approved.

Nominations for Board Nominated Councillors would be brought to the Council meeting in December 2017 for approval.

13.3 Terms of References for Board Nominations Committee and Council Nominations Committee

Martin Corrie referred to the copy of the proposed changes to the Terms of References for the Board Nominations Committee and the Council Nominations Committee that had been circulated to Council, prior to the meeting. Council were asked to note these proposed changes. Several minor amendments were made.

14. **Safeguarding**

Martin Corrie introduced David Humphrey, the LTA's new Head of Safeguarding and Stephen Farrow who gave an update on Safeguarding.

Safeguarding was a strategic project of the LTA. Work was taking place on the following areas: agreeing and implementing minimum Safeguarding standards as a condition of registration at all venues, commencing a system of audits of venues to support volunteers and ensure minimum standards. The Tennis Development Committee would be involved with this process; purchasing a new case management system and increase the capability of the team; supporting volunteers, Counties and Regions; further work on the issue of coach accreditation.

It was confirmed that a role profile for a County Welfare Officer was being put together and would be circulated to Counties. All County Welfare Officers would be invited to a meeting in the new year.

David Humphrey offered to attend any County meetings to speak about Safeguarding.

15. **Summary of papers for reading only**

The Tennis Foundation report, Participation Planner and British Tennis Competition Programme 2017 were included in the papers for information.

16. **Any Other Business**

16.1 Aegon Partnership with British Tennis. Martin Corrie referred to the paper on the Aegon Partnership with British Tennis and reminded Council that 31 December 2017 would see the end of a nine-year partnership between British Tennis and Aegon.

16.2 Officials. Maureen Laffey reminded Councillors to send respond to her recent email requesting for Counties to send through to her their current list of officials

There were no further questions and no other items were raised under Any Other Business.

17. **Confirmation of date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 14 December 2017.

Councillors would be sent shortly an invitation to an evening buffet on 13 December.

The President thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 3.50 pm.