



Lawn Tennis Association
The National Tennis Centre
100 Priory Lane, Roehampton
London SW15 5JQ

T 020 8487 7000
F 020 8487 7301
www.lta.org.uk
info@lta.org.uk

Press Release

For immediate release

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LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION AND TENNIS SCOTLAND SIGN FOUR YEAR FUNDING AGREEMENT

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and Tennis Scotland have today announced a four year funding partnership that will see £3.3m invested in to all areas of Scottish tennis development for the period 2015-2018.

The funding, which will be a combination of grants and loans, replaces the current model whereby funding was confirmed on a year by year basis, and the landmark agreement will allow Tennis Scotland far more financial flexibility going forward to develop its performance and participation programmes, as well as improve facilities.

Speaking at the signing, LTA Chief Executive Michael Downey said: "This is a pivotal moment for Tennis Scotland as we look to invest the funds that will make a long term sustainable difference to tennis north of the border. Along with the funding they received last year from sportscotland, these funding streams will provide a real opportunity to grow the game and take advantage of what is a huge opportunity to significantly increase levels of participation."

The landmark funding agreement is aligned to the four year £5.8m investment in Tennis Scotland made by sportscotland in 2013, aimed at capitalising on the phenomenal success of Andy Murray by modernising and developing the sport's structure by improving facilities and widening access.

Tennis Scotland Chairman Gordon Baker added: "I am delighted that a new four year funding agreement has now been finalised with the LTA, enabling our Board to plan strategically for the future, rather than on a year-to-year basis as has been the case in recent years.

“In response to the confidence shown in Tennis Scotland by our key partners, the Board has commissioned a full and comprehensive review of all aspects of our performance operations, with a revised strategy scheduled to be presented to the Board in the first half of 2015. The review will ensure our resources are better aligned with our colleagues at the LTA to support long term player development and give Scotland the best chance of continuing to produce world class talent such as Andy Murray and our current International Player of the Year, Gordon Reid.”

The funding will seek to grow participation rates, increase the sport’s accessibility, and provide suitable environments to develop athletes to performance levels. The investment will also help to improve tennis facilities in Scotland, including parks and clubs, and increase access to people of all ages and abilities to pick up a racket.

Stewart Harris, Chief Executive of sportscotland said: “We are delighted that Tennis Scotland and the LTA have agreed a new investment structure which will provide real stability for the development of tennis in Scotland.”

For more information on the LTA go to www.LTA.org.uk.

- ENDS -

Please see attached a photo of Gordon Baker (Tennis Scotland Chairman) and Michael Downey (LTA Chief Executive). Please credit James Jordan Photography.

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Laura Lord; LTA Senior Communications Manager
laura.lord@lta.org.uk
07779 001 601

NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Lawn Tennis Association’s (LTA) mission is to get more people playing tennis more often, and its role is to develop, promote and govern tennis in Britain.
- Aegon is Lead Partner of British Tennis and is helping to transform the sport in this country. They’re supporting young talent through the Aegon FutureStars programme, as well as sponsoring the junior and senior GB Davis and Fed Cup teams and amateur and professional events. Aegon sponsor three world-class grass court tournaments; the Aegon Classic, Aegon International and Aegon Championships and will also sponsor the new WTA and ATP events in Nottingham from 2015. For further information visit www.aegontennis.co.uk
- For more information on the LTA and British tennis, visit: www.LTA.org.uk