



Press Release

For immediate release

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LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION AND SPORTSCOTLAND ANNOUNCE HISTORIC £15M TENNIS AGREEMENT, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TENNIS SCOTLAND

The Lawn Tennis Association and **sportscotland** are today proud to announce a ground-breaking £15 million joint-funding agreement to start in 2017. The ambition, in partnership with Tennis Scotland, is to transform tennis in Scotland by doubling the number of covered courts from 112 to 225 over the next 5-10 years with the end objective of significantly increasing participation.

LTA Chief Executive Michael Downey said: “2016 has been an historic year for British Tennis with success across the board, reaching the Davis Cup semifinals as reigning champions, Jo Konta finishing in the world’s Top 10, Kyle Edmund breaking the Top 40 and Heather Watson winning mixed doubles at Wimbledon. Gordon Reid had a phenomenal year winning two Grand Slam titles, Paralympic Gold and becoming world No. 1. But the highest levels of success belong to the remarkable Murray brothers. Jamie became the first British man to rank at No.1 on the ATP computer and the first in more than 100 years to win two major titles in the same year. Andy retained his Olympic Gold medal, won his second Wimbledon singles title and finished the year in style winning the ATP World Tour Finals, and ending the year ranked No.1 in the world.”

“Therefore the time is right to seize the moment and capitalise on the Andy and Jamie Murray effect. We must create a lasting legacy with a purpose built plan for Scotland. Importantly this unprecedented investment will make tennis more accessible in the years to come, bringing certainty of play to a climate that sees on average 200 days rain a year and in a country that is under-resourced versus the rest of Britain and other European nations when it comes to the number of covered tennis courts per capita.”

Mel Young, Chairman of **sportscotland** said: “This is terrific news which represents a great opportunity to further develop tennis in Scotland, and we are delighted to be working with the LTA to deliver this £15 million investment in facilities. The £7.5 million **sportscotland** contribution from our National Lottery investment stream and the LTA’s £7.5 million will have a transformational impact on Scottish tennis.

“It is tremendous that in Gordon, Andy, and Jamie we have three Scottish world number ones, and it is the ideal moment to capitalise on the sport’s popularity by helping to achieve further growth in this country. The strategic partnership between **sportscotland**, the LTA, and Tennis Scotland, coupled with this significant investment in indoor courts, will deliver substantial benefits for tennis in Scotland. It is our belief that, collectively, this announcement and partnership will provide more and better opportunities for people to play and progress, in terms of improving facilities as well as increasing the accessibility and reach of tennis across our society. ”

Blane Dodds, Chairman of Tennis Scotland, added: “We look forward to providing the on-the-ground support to ensure this breakthrough level of funding comes to life for tennis in Scotland. It

will all start with a robust plan, developed in partnership with **sportscotland** and the LTA. This level of investment may come once in a lifetime so it must be maximised throughout Scotland. This is what we all have been working towards to deliver an appropriate and ambitious legacy so the whole country benefits from the performances of our three World No.1's: Gordon Reid, Jamie Murray and Andy Murray.”

Sports Minister Aileen Campbell said: “2016 has seen Scottish tennis taken to new heights through Andy, Jamie and Gordon’s remarkable achievements. We want to see more people playing tennis and having access to top quality facilities to get fit, try something new, and have fun. This money is all about making sure the right facilities are there to help people get more active, as well as helping to create the tennis stars of the future.”

The full application plan for community led bids will be established by April in 2017. We are looking to work with local partners who share our ambition and can bring a financial contribution to make the investment more sustainable and the resources go a lot further to truly transform the tennis landscape in Scotland. This is stage one of the LTA’s new community-based tennis funding programme. The LTA will be making further announcements later in 2017 for the remainder of Great Britain.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE LTA:

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the National Governing Body for tennis in Great Britain, responsible for developing and promoting the sport, with a mission to get more people playing tennis more often. It does this under the consumer brand of **British Tennis**, by working with a broad range of partners and over 25,000 volunteers, to grow the game in communities, clubs and schools. The LTA represents the interests of over 350,000 British Tennis Members, men and women, girls and boys across the country, playing on more than 23,000 courts. The LTA runs and supports a network of 11,500 approved tournaments for players of all ages, the corner-stones of which are the premier grass court events leading up to Wimbledon, held in Nottingham , Birmingham , Queen’s Club-London and Eastbourne, all title sponsored by Aegon. The LTA works in partnership with its charitable entity, the Tennis Foundation, to provide a tennis provision for more than 20,000 schools, disadvantaged youth as well as promoting tennis as an inclusive sport for anyone with a disability. For further information about the LTA and British Tennis, and to review the British Tennis strategy for 2015 – 2018 visit www.lta.org.uk or follow us on Twitter [@BritishTennis](https://twitter.com/BritishTennis).

ABOUT sportscotland:

sportscotland is the lead agency for the development of sport in Scotland. Our mission is to build a world-class sporting system for everyone in Scotland. By world class we mean being ambitious and aspiring to be the best we can be at all levels in sport. We see a Scotland where sport is a way of life, at the heart of society, making a positive impact on people and communities. Across Scotland, people are already working together to make this happen. It’s now time to build on this work and raise the bar. #raisingthebar

ABOUT TENNIS SCOTLAND:

Tennis Scotland, whose role is to govern, develop and promote the sport in Scotland, is working hard to get more people playing tennis, more often. Tennis Scotland is working together with our partners (LTA & **sportscotland**) to make tennis more inclusive for anyone to enjoy irrespective of your age, sex, ability or background. Tennis Scotland is committed to investing in park tennis courts in the heart of our communities to give more people the opportunity to access affordable tennis and more people with a disability are choosing to play tennis as there are a variety of programmes catering for particular groups (wheelchair, visually impaired, deaf tennis).