

**TENNIS WALES LIMITED (TW)**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD ON SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020**  
**VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

*PRESENT:*

Barry Cawte – Tennis Wales (TW) Chair  
Simon Johnson – Tennis Wales Chief Executive Officer  
Mike Dunn - Director TW, South Wales Committee Chair, and Windsor LTC  
Martyn Lewis – Director TW and North Wales Committee Member  
Lucy Scott – Director TW and North Wales Committee Member  
Neil O’Doherty – Director TW  
Alex Brown - Director TW  
Tyrone Davies – Director TW  
Simon Clarke – LTA Councillor  
Sophie Hughes – Incoming Director TW  
Ann Powell – Tennis Wales President and Company Member Allt-Yr-Yn LTC  
Leanne Mclellan –South Wales Committee Member  
Nigel Williams – South Wales Committee Member  
Vicki Broadbent – North Wales Committee Member  
Tcherina Vaughan-Griffiths – North Wales Committee Member  
Robella Whitehall-Lewis – North Wales Committee Member  
Georgina Hawkey – North Wales Committee Member  
Pam Alford - North Wales Committee Member  
Geraint Richards – Venue Member  
Stephen Clarke – Venue Member  
Mary Collard – Venue Member  
Mary Hunter - Volunteer  
Dr David Foster – Company Member Penarth LTC  
Marion Curtis – Company Member Dinas Powys LTC  
Mike Harpin – Company Member Bridgend LTC  
Linda Sawyer – Company Member Wrexham TC and North Wales Committee Member  
Owain Rees – Company Member Swansea TC  
Tom Hoyt – Company Member Llanelli T&SC  
Jonathan Jones – Company Member Prestatyn TC  
Tim Manson – Venue Member/Proxy for Mold TC  
Chris Lewis – Staff Member  
Maria Rees – Staff Member (minutes)

*The meeting commenced at 10:30 a.m.*

**1. Welcome**

Barry Cawte (BC) welcomed attendees to Tennis Wales’ first virtual AGM meeting and thanked everyone for giving up their time on a weekend to attend and for their combined effort during a very difficult period. BC confirmed that the meeting would be recorded and asked attendees to raise hands clearly when voting or when wishing to speak.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mike Buck – Director TW (Proxy allocated to Chair), Liz Parry – Director TW (Proxy allocated to Chair), David Clarke – Company Member Windsor LTC (Proxy allocated to Chair), Anthony Burden – Company Member Mold (Proxy allocated to Tim Manson), Nigel Jones – South Wales Committee Member, Pat Hill – North Wales Committee Member, Rob

Wedlake – Company Member – Llantrisant TC and Graham Webster – Company Member Cardiff LTC.

20 voting Directors and Company Members were in attendance at the meeting, with an overall number of votes of 28.

### **3. Minutes of the AGM of Tennis Wales Ltd held on Saturday 27th April 2019.**

The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were unanimously approved.

### **4. Annual Report for 2019**

Simon Johnson (SJ) ran through a presentation of the 2019 Annual Report and reflected on key activities of the year and the plans for the years ahead. SJ explained that the launch of the 2020-24 Strategy had been well received and was based on feedback received from the tennis community during the recent consultations, which had highlighted the desire to grow adult and junior participation, increase the number of performance players and led to the restructure of the Tennis Wales team.

Thanks were given to SJ and the TW team for the handling of the impact of COVID-19 on tennis in Wales, in particular for the constant communication, updates, webinars and lobbying to the Welsh Government.

Despite the fact that tennis was in a better position than some sports and had recently seen a spike in casual participation, SJ acknowledged that times were still incredibly tough and financially challenging for many people. Work was still ongoing to help those still struggling in particular larger venues.

### **5. Audited Accounts for Tennis Wales Ltd and the Finance Director's Report**

Tyrone Davies (TD) provided a summary of the audited accounts which had been approved by the Board. TW was in a good financial position during 2019 with a turnover of over £1m which had been fully reinvested. By the end of 2019, TW had accrued a healthy surplus and had expected an equally successful year in 2020.

As a result of the impact of COVID-19 on the tennis and wider community, TW were expecting a £750k-£800k turnover in 2020, with a forecasted loss of £50-60k.

Auditors have confirmed that they are comfortable with the TW position.

SJ thanked Stephen Clarke (SiC) and Simon Clarke for their support on commercial income. SiC confirmed that there would be a lot of uncertainty for next year but remained positive.

### **6. Election of Tennis Wales Directors following the South Wales Annual Open Meeting**

The Chair reported that Sophie Hughes (SH) had been elected as Director at the South Wales Annual Open Meeting held on 30th November 2019 in accordance with TW Article 12.2(1) and 17.4. SH would be commencing her first three year term immediately after the AGM.

The Chair confirmed that Alex Brown (AB) would be stepping down as a Director, having completed his 6 years. The Chair thanked AB for his dedication and support over the previous years.

### **7. President - Tennis Wales Limited**

Those present unanimously agreed to the re-election of Ann Powell (AP) as the TW President for her third and final year. The Chair thanked AP for her support in representing Welsh tennis throughout the past year.

#### **8. Auditors - Tennis Wales Limited**

The Chair thanked Watts Gregory for their valued efforts in the provision of advice and the auditing of the TW accounts and proposed that they be appointed for a further year.

Watts Gregory was unanimously appointed for a further year.

#### **9. 2020 Registration Fees**

Following COVID-19 and tennis court closures, the registration fees for 2020 had been refunded by the LTA to all of the Welsh registered venues.

#### **10. Resolution under Article 13.1(8) of the Tennis Wales Articles of Association**

TD as Deputy Chair led discussion on the two points of the resolution.

##### *Deputy Chair Statement*

Following the serious safeguarding issues in Wrexham in 2012, which had led to the arrest of a tennis coach, an Independent Inquiry in 2019 had found significant failings by the LTA, TW and Wrexham Board. TD explained that the resolution related to the collective responsibility of the TW Board in 2012 and did not attribute any blame to any individuals. Actions recommended by the Inquiry had already been carried out by the Wrexham Tennis Centre and its Board.

TD stated that members of the present TW Board had stressed the need for all 2012 Board Members to retire from the Board in December 2019, to allow TW to move forward with a clean break and to protect its reputation. As a result two of the three 2012 Board Members who were still in place on the Tennis Wales Board at that time had voluntarily resigned. As Martyn Lewis had refused to leave the Board voluntarily, the remaining Board Members had felt extremely strongly about the need for the change, and indicated that they would reconsider their own positions on the Board if these changes were not implemented for the sake of their personal and professional reputations and for the good of Welsh tennis. They had reluctantly concluded that they had no alternative but to bring the resolution to the AGM for a member vote.

##### *Martyn Lewis Statement*

ML stated that he had been elected onto the Tennis Wales Board in 2017, after previously serving on the Board from 2009 to 2014. ML confirmed that he had been one of the whistle-blowers with regards to the coach involved in the case, and had pushed very hard along with other North Wales Directors to get the Wrexham Board to dismiss the coach. The TW Board passed information onto the LTA as it felt it didn't have the jurisdiction to deal with it. ML expressed that he feels as if he was being singled out especially as the coach's line manager for part of the time is now also serving on the TW Board. ML suggested that the Independent Inquiry criticised the Board between 2012 and 2017 and not just 2012.

ML reported that in June 2019 a Whats App message had been sent from the Chair of TW to the CEO stating 'let's get rid of the Whitehall Lewis domination', a message which he had tried to recall but had failed to do so. ML also stated that his step-son was the only member of TW staff not retained in his job in the recent reorganisation.

ML concluded by stating that he had had a 50 year relationship with TW and had tried hard to help and questioned why the situation had not been raised at the North AOM.

10.1 The majority of voting Company Members and Directors voted in favour of removing any Director currently holding office who was also a Director of Tennis Wales during 2012. 18 out of 20 members voted 'for', with 25 out of 28 votes.

10.2 The majority of voting Company Members (North only) and Directors voted in favour of removing Martyn Lewis as a Director of Tennis Wales with immediate effect.

12 out of 13 members voted 'for' with 14 out of 15 votes.

Members agreed that those Directors involved at the time should not be blamed in any way and had contributed substantially to tennis in Wales. It was agreed that the position was very unfortunate but reflected part of the risks and responsibilities of being a company Director.

### **Any other business**

1. Tennis Wales Vacancies – interviews were in the process of being arranged for the Company Secretary, Non-Executive and South Wales Director positions. TW had received an extremely high number of applications. Following a question from Stephen Clarke on diversity, SJ confirmed that TW had been very conscious of tracking diversity with the recent staff and board vacancies. A new monitoring system had been put into place, which had shown some very positive moves in attracting a more diverse employee/volunteer workforce. SJ stated that a lot of work was still needed in the area; however TW had started to advertise on a variety of channels outside of tennis and had been looking at ways to attract interest from underrepresented groups.

*The meeting concluded at 11:39a.m.*