

TENNIS WALES LTD



*Annual Report
2018*

Chief Executive Report



Tennis Wales continued to lead the growth & development of tennis in Wales throughout 2018. In a year which saw a change in leadership, the organisation has continued to work in partnership with the LTA and Sport Wales to benefit our tennis community. With Peter Drew leaving as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), I was appointed to start officially on 1st April 2019 and lead the organisation into creating a new vision & strategy with our partners.

All tennis venues were supported throughout the 2018 year to meet the new & improved safeguarding standards, ensuring we are at the forefront of keeping players safe when participating in tennis. 83 tennis venues that register with Tennis Wales, now have appointed & trained Welfare Officers in place and they will be supported by a new Tennis Wales Safeguarding Officer being appointed in 2019.

Tennis participation has fluctuated throughout the year. Club membership remains static, and we need to look at how we help tennis venues, coaches & volunteers to modernise our tennis offer, take tennis online for people to find and book what's on offer and work more proactively through social media and marketing of our sport. We know that people want to play tennis, but they struggle to find a place to play and someone to play with locally. We also see a need to attract investment into the 90+ park sites with tennis courts in Wales. Many of the courts are in a state of disrepair, but provide a low cost opportunity for thousands of people to play.

On the court, Team Wales have had a superb 2018, topped off by winning the Junior Home Nations in Ireland. We'll be hosting the competition at home in Wrexham during 2019 and look to retain the title that was recently won. Elsewhere, Wales had players competing at Wimbledon, with James Story and Morgan Cross both competing in the Junior Championships at the All England Club. Swansea Tennis Centre was also accredited by the LTA with performance status and funding to support the development of players.

What to expect in 2019

We will be finalising our new strategy in partnership with the LTA and Sport Wales, our two largest funding partners. Once up & running, our aim will be to get out & about to all tennis venues, partners and coaches to showcase what we have available to help tennis grow in Wales.

We aim to be a modern, fit for purpose Governing Body, with great people who lead by example and take the sport forwards.

Simon Johnson

Presidents Report



My first year as President began at the Tennis Wales Annual General Meeting in 2018 when I took over from Pam Alford who has been a great help in advising me on my duties.

I have very much enjoyed supporting Welsh tennis during this year. My first visit was to the Home Nations junior event in Belfast where the Welsh team amidst great rejoicing, won the overall tournament. I was extremely impressed by the spirit which existed amongst the 3 age ranges during the tournament and by the support given by the coaches

The Welsh Championship Tournament was my next port of call, hosted by Cardiff Lawn Tennis Club who always provides an excellent welcome and efficiently organized by Mark Wilkinson. Here I enjoyed some excellent tennis from both North and South Wales players and met some really nice people.

Although it was a difficult task, I enjoyed participating in the panel which decided upon the Tennis Wales awards. It is encouraging to see what progress different clubs have made and how they are striving to increase participation in Wales. It was then a great pleasure to attend the Awards ceremony in order to present the prize to the Team of the Year- our Junior Home Nations team

I also attended the junior County Closed tournament between Christmas and the New Year and enjoyed helping out with the younger players. Once again I was impressed by the organization and effort put into these events by both Tennis Wales Staff and volunteers.

This year, of course we said goodbye to our CEO, Peter Drew to whom we send our very best wishes on his return to his native New Zealand and said hello to Simon Johnson, our new CEO, we very much look forward to working with Simon.

Wales has had a lot of success during 2018/19 and I would like to extend my congratulations to everyone who has made this year so memorable.

Ann Powell

Chair's Report



2018 saw a period of change for Tennis Wales, we are evolving and entering into a new era. We are only at the start of this journey, but we have already seen much change. Firstly I am delighted and humbled to have been selected as the first Independent Chair of Tennis Wales. I am committed to making a real difference to the organisation and helping our fantastic team open up tennis. We have appointed three new Independent board members, Neil O' Doherty, Mike Jones and Tyrone Davies, bringing with them a range of global expertise in their respective fields of HR, sponsorship and finance. We will continue to look at ourselves, and with the help of the tennis community

and our stakeholders we will stride forward and aspire to be a governing body that leads at the forefront of effective leadership in Welsh Sport. We expect further exciting evolution across the Tennis Wales board in the coming years.

Tennis Wales would like to thank Steve Clarke who after serving the maximum term vacates the board. His enormous dedication over 28 years is admirable. Congratulations to him on his Meritorious award for his service to Welsh tennis. Tennis Wales will miss his legal expertise, phenomenal support he has given the team, and the extensive amount of commercial income he has raised for Tennis Wales. Steve will be succeeded as LTA Councillor by Simon Clarke who knows the organisation well, we have no doubt he too will be successful in championing Tennis in Wales. We would also like thank Rosemary Bernard who also exits the board; her financial expertise will be sorely missed.

We also have a change of leadership with the appointment of Simon Johnson as our new CEO. We are delighted to welcome Simon officially to the team. He has done a superb job stepping in as our interim CEO over the last few months. Simon was selected after a very competitive process. He has the track record, skills and experience required to be a success in this position. Simon has already done a great job in engaging our tennis community and working tirelessly to build relationships across the country. We are very excited about the future as Simon takes us into our new era using his innovative and dynamic leadership style to help us open up tennis. The Tennis Wales board wishes him the very best of luck. We would like to thank Sport Wales and the Lawn Tennis Association for their assistance during the recruitment process. Tennis Wales would also like to thank Peter Drew for his time as CEO and wish him luck as he returns to his homeland of New Zealand to have an impact on the sport of his beloved country.

It's been a great year for our players, with many of them achieving their highest ever rankings and of course our Home Nations success. We are also fortunate to have a Regional Development Centre at Swansea Tennis Centre whom we will endeavor to support over the coming years. The future of talent in Welsh tennis is bright.

Sadly we lost Chris Rudkin, Chris from North Wales was both Chair and President of Tennis Wales, our condolences to the Rudkin family.

We would like to thank all our stakeholders and sponsors for their continued support of Tennis Wales. We are working hard to ensure we work together continue to strengthen these relationships to safeguard and grow our sport in the future.

Our executive teams have been excellent and very resilient through this period of change. Any change can bring uncertainty, but they have been unwavering to their commitment to Tennis in Wales. The Tennis Wales board would like to thank them for their dedication. I would also express my gratitude to the Tennis Wales board for giving up their time to support the organisation.

We need our tennis community to help us. Invite your friends to join your club, tell your neighbours to pull their old wooden rackets out of their garages and get to their local tennis court, start coaching, volunteering, support your local indoor centres, attend club meetings, AGMs and get involved in Tennis Wales. No matter your age or ability you can have an impact on our sport. Help us open tennis up.

Barry Cawte

North Wales County Report – by the Chair of the Committee

2017/18 has been a year of change on many fronts. We have gained a Participation Officer in John Whitehall, who has hit the ground running with his enthusiasm and his ideas on how to promote tennis. We have a County Support Officer in Garry Owens who has been a calm and positive presence since he took up his post mid –season. We said goodbye to our Flintshire lead Alicia Goulding who did an incredible job building local authority relations and our CEO Peter Drew who left Tennis Wales at the beginning of September. We wish them both well in the next chapter of their careers. We welcomed Simon Johnson as an interim CEO in a year of challenge for Tennis Wales also.

North Wales County Tennis

Change continues to be the theme here too with the LTA launching a new player pathway which has impacted on every county in GB. The pathway includes a specific structure for the development of players and much of the work that has been carried out in North Wales has been about getting the processes right in terms of our County Training provision. This came with a small subsidy that allows us to subsidise training and provide more opportunities for players and coaches. Our county results can be seen in the annual report but to summarise there were mixed results. This means that there is still a lot of work to do in this area, particularly with our clubs and centres around player programmes and player development. Our County Captains for 2018/19 are all in place and in my other role as County Team Coordinator I am excited that we have a great team of coaches to take us into the year ahead.

Clubs/Centres

Just as we have got through Data protection along came Minimum Safeguarding Requirements which will be a challenge for many clubs who rely on volunteers in the general running of their clubs. These volunteers are greatly appreciated and without them tennis would not be what it is today in North Wales. I am sure you will agree that the Safeguarding changes are positive and although will require a lot of work they will raise awareness around such an important issue.

There have been some changes in the leagues and shield events. There were 13 ladies teams and 19 men's teams competing in the North Wales League this year which led to a very competitive season. The shield events had a less enthusiastic entry and fulfilment of fixtures and are definitely an area for review for 2019. Team Tennis did not see a huge entry with twelve Mini Teams, thirteen Junior Teams and two Open teams but more matches were played than in previous years. A big area for improvement here is in the Girls entries as there were no Girls teams entered above the 10 & under age group.

Tennis Wales Awards

The Tennis Wales Awards recognise outstanding achievement across Wales and I am pleased to say that North Wales were well represented, with Jonathan Dawes from Rhyl claiming the Inspire2Coach Young Volunteer of the year award and a British Youth Citizen Award. Well done to all of the award winners.

Special Achievements

Alongside our award winners there have been a few other people who have had a particularly good year. Morgan Cross made her debut in the doubles at Junior Wimbledon. Megan Davies brought home the Welsh U18 and Senior trophy. Team Wales won the Four Nations event in Belfast with the help of Morgan Cross and Aditi Chezchian who was selected for the U14 team. Owen Critchell, Aiden Coopman, Christian Hawkey and Ann Vaughan Griffiths have also had the opportunity to represent Wales this year.

We are heading into 2019 in more settled times and the groundwork is in place for a positive year ahead. The Management committee are committed to raising the profile of tennis and supporting not only our lead TW staff but our clubs too. Clubs in North Wales have hit the Minimum Safeguarding requirements and Linda Sawyer and I attended the Safeguarding Conference for Club Welfare Officer's. North Wales also ran its first ever Winter Tennis League with a much support from local clubs.

Vicki Broadbent

South Wales County Report – by the Chair of the Committee

Tennis in South Wales in 2018 reminded us all that this truly is a sport for all ages and abilities, with enhanced levels of participation from mini tennis through to veterans, and some exceptional team and individual performances at elite level. In addition we made important advances in ensuring that the sport's governance arrangements are best-in-class, giving advice and support to tennis venues in the region to help them drive up standards and ensure that player welfare and safeguarding is treated as a priority.

A variety of initiatives aimed at attracting younger players into the sport, such as Tennis for Kids, supplemented the Team Tennis junior leagues, while the Junior County Closed was held in two venues in December and the Road to Wimbledon event involved schools and clubs in early summer, with notable Welsh success: Dan Griffiths of Carmarthen Tennis Club reached the national final at Wimbledon in the singles and won the doubles.

The summer doubles, Cymru Kitchens and winter Veterans leagues remain among the most popular in Britain, proving regular competitive tennis for several thousand players, and as part of our drive to expand the range of opportunities available for competitive play the two-pair summer league was retained for its second season to enhance the possibilities available to smaller clubs, and a new Over 60s mixed doubles league was introduced with some success, to cater for midweek, daytime demand for league tennis.

South Wales' age group teams delivered another strong performance during 2018, with the under 10 girls and boys teams both winning their regional events and competing in national finals, while the men's adult team won promotion to Group 1 and will compete at Eastbourne in summer 2019. Pride of place goes, however, to the Ladies Over 35s team, who were unbeaten over three days of competition and won the national championships. Notable individual performances included James Story's run to the semi-finals of the doubles at Junior Wimbledon, while among the seniors Alistair Alexander, Peter Boshier-Jones, Mike Harpin and Chris Hill were all selected to represent GB in their respective age groups.

Mike Dunn

Tennis Wales Awards Night 2018



Volunteer of the Year	Vicki Broadbent
Inspire2coach Young Volunteer	Jonathon Dawes
Chiltern Sports Club/Centre of the Year	Caerphilly Tennis Club
Club Team of the Year	Cardiff Castle Men's First Team
Team of the Year	Junior Home Nations Team
Player of the Year	Evan Hoyt
Official of the Year	Mark Wilkinson
Education Award	Cardinal Newman PE Department
Disability Programme Award	Newport LIVE Tennis Centre
Community Venue of the Year	Aneurin Leisure
Lifetime Achievement Award	Nigel Jones
Coach of the Year	Craig Ingham
Competition of the Year	British Tour, Penarth Windsor LTC

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Home Nations Championships 2018



Team Wales won the overall title at this year's Home Nations event in Belfast.

The U18 team finished 1st, the U14 team finished 2nd and the U12 team finished 2nd which was enough to top the group and win the event for the first time since 2015.

The teams consisted of:

Under 18 Team

Captain - Chris Lewis

Players - James Story, Finn Murgett, Morgan Cross, Elinor Beazley

Beat England 5-1, beat Ireland 5-1, beat Scotland 6-0

Under 14 Team

Captain – Claire Powell

Team - Hugo Cochin, Jethro Dela Vega, Elina Pickerd-Barua, Aditi Chezhan

Lost to Ireland 6-0, beat Scotland 5-1, beat England 4-2

Under 12 Team

Captain - Becca Strelzyn

Players – Conor Flynn, Viktor Frydrych, Gracie Hurley and Mimi Xu

Lost to England 4-2, beat Ireland 5-1, beat Scotland 4-2,

A big thank you to all of the players, captains and parents who all played their part in this achievement.

Four Nations Senior Championships 2018



The biennial senior's four nations championships were held in Dublin over the May bank holiday weekend. With age groups of over 55, 60 and 65 men and ladies, Wales was represented by 24 players from across the country, and came in at 3rd position overall.

Results

Men 55's 3rd

Men 60's 2nd

Men 65's 4th

Women 55's 3rd

Women 60's 3rd

Women 65's 4th

Welsh Championships 2018



Players from Cardiff, Wrexham, Swansea, Llanelli, Newport, Penarth and Dinas Powys were among the winners at the Welsh Tennis Championships. The event was held at Cardiff Lawn Tennis Club and David Lloyd Cardiff. In all, 191 players took part in the competition playing 452 matches, with events for 8-and-under to adults.

Open Women's Doubles	Rhian Griffiths and Buddug James (Cardiff LTC)
Open Men's Doubles	Tiarnan Brady and Danny Flynn (Cardiff LTC / Radyr LTC)
Open Women's Singles	Megan Davies (Wrexham TC)
Open Men's Singles	Danny Flynn (Radyr LTC)
18U Boy's Doubles	Dafydd James and Frank Powell-Davies (Cardiff LTC)
18U Girl's Doubles	Tegan Heaton and Ellen Jones (Swansea Tennis Centre and David Lloyd Club Cardiff)
18U Girl's Singles	Megan Davies (Wrexham LTC)
18U Boy's Singles	Danny Flynn (Radyr LTC)
16U Girl's Doubles	Sofia Chivers and Rebecca Dow (David Lloyd Club Cardiff)
16U Boy's Doubles	Henry Muxworthy and Frank Powell-Davies (Llanelli LTC and Cardiff LTC))
16U Girl's Singles	Laila May Savage (Llanelli LTC)
16U Boy's Singles	Frank Powell-Davies (Cardiff LTC)
14U Girl's Doubles	Iris Plane and Laila Mai Savage (David Lloyd Club Cardiff and Llanelli LTC)
14U Boy's Doubles	Rufus Plane and Shay Ryan (Cardiff LTC and Stow Park LTC)
14U Girl's Singles	Laila May Savage (Llanelli LTC)
14U Boy's Singles	Viktor Frydyrch (Bolton Arena)

12U Boy's Doubles	Felix Bockelmann-Evans and Neirin Gilani (Windsor LTC Penarth)
12U Girl's Singles	Mingge Xu (Swansea Tennis Centre)
12U Boy's Singles	Viktor Frydyrch (Bolton Arena)
10U Girl's Singles	Elizabeth Evans (Swansea Tennis Centre)
10U Boy's Singles	Archie Gray (Dinas Powys LTC)
9U Girl's Singles	Jemima Dean (Dinas Powys LTC)
9U Boy's Singles	Archie Gray (Dinas Powys LTC)
8U Girl's Singles	Awen Gwilym Davies (David Lloyd Club Cardiff)
8U Boy's Singles	Max Lendrum (Windsor LTC Penarth)
Open Men's Wheelchair Singles	Tony Heslop (Cardiff Wheelchair Club)

***Thank you to our Sponsors and Funding Partners
of 2018***

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inspire2coach, Link Laters, RPC BPI Group, Savills (UK) Ltd, Slaolm Consulting, Terra Firma
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