# Welcome to the 2026 National Officiating Conference

We really appreciate you making the effort to attend the Conference in-person this year and hope you have an enjoyable experience.

In this document you will find:

The Conference Timetable
Information about the Sessions
Information about the Speakers

# Conference Timetable – Day 1

| Timings | Day 1 - Saturday 28th November |
|---|---|
| 10am-10.45am | Conference Welcome and Introduction (Centre Court) |
| 10.45-11am | Break |
| 11am-12.30pm | Technology in Tennis - PlayReplay<br><br>(Centre Court / Meeting Room 2 / Indoor Court 5) |
| 12.30pm-1.30pm | Lunch |
| 1.30pm-3pm | Keynote speaker - Professor Chris Harwood<br>'Beyond the Rulebook: Setting the Standard for Positive Official-Parent Relationships (Centre Court) |
| 3pm onwards | ABTO AGM (Officials with ABTO Membership) |

# Conference Timetable – Day 2

| Timings | Day 2 - Sunday 29th November | |
|---|---|---|
| 10am-10.15am | Welcome and Introduction (Centre Court) | |
| 10.15am-<br>11.30am | Keynote speaker - Q&A with James Keothavong MBE<br>'The journey to the top' (Centre Court) | |
| 11.30-11.45am | Break | |
| 11.45am-<br>12.45pm | Integrity in Tennis: What Officials Need to Know (Centre Court) | A detailed look at the Competition Satisfaction Survey (Meeting Room 2) |
| 12.45pm-1.30pm | Lunch | |
| 1.30pm-3pm | Officiating Scenarios Panel (Centre Court) | |
| 3pm-3.15pm | Break | |
| 3.15pm-4.30pm | Keynote speaker - In Conversation with Denise Parnell<br>'Refereeing The Championships' (Centre Court) | |

# About the Sessions – Day 1

Conference Welcome and Introduction

Accreditation and Development co-ordinator Chris Drew will welcome Officials to this year's Conference before looking back and celebrating some officiating successes this year and giving Officials some updates from the LTA Competitions and Coach & Official Development & Support Teams.

Technology in Tennis : PlayReplay

With the place of technology in sport growing day by day in this session Officials will learn about the work of PlayReplay in tennis in three breakout sessions.

PlayReplay's Data Integrations Manager Pete Wright will give Officials background on the work of the company and their work with technology and data in tennis.

Officiating Operations Manager Matthew Morrissey will talk through the LTA's work with PlayReplay, how the technology has been tested, some findings and plans for the future.

Officials will get the chance to see the technology in action first-hand on the indoor courts at the NTC led by Competition Measures and Systems Manager Chris Mann.

Keynote Speaker: Professor Chris Harwood - Beyond the Rule Book: Setting the Standard for Positive Official-Parent Relationships.

Psychology Professor Chris Harwood will talk Officials through the LTA competition strategy with Parents in Tennis and Padel and look at the role Officials play in setting the standard with Parents and the support tools being created for Officials. Officials will then have the opportunity to ask Chris questions.

# About the Sessions – Day 2

Keynote Speaker: James Keothavong MBE ‘The journey to the top’

Gold Badge Chair Umpire James Keothavong MBE will answer questions about his (over) 25 year career in officiating, how he has reached the highest level of umpiring and the lessons he has learned on the way.  Officials will then have the opportunity to ask James questions.

Integrity in Tennis: What Officials Need to Know

Join the LTA and International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) for an interactive look at integrity in tennis and the important role officials play in protecting the sport. We’ll explore the national and international integrity landscape, key rules and responsibilities, real-life cases involving officials, current trends, and the behaviours to look out for on and off court. Officials will have the chance to share your views and find out where to go for advice or to report a concern.

A detailed look at the Competition Satisfaction Survey

Competition Planning Manager Ali Dalton will take Officials through an in-depth look at the Competition Satisfaction Survey, talking through what is recorded, an analysis of some of the results and themes from results so far for tennis and padel and talking Officials through what can be accessed in the Official dashboard view.

Officiating Scenarios Panel

In this interactive session, World Tennis badged Officials Denise Parnell, James Keothavong MBE and Olwyn Roy will discuss a series of tennis and padel scenarios, from both off an on court perspectives, and take questions from Officials.

Keynote Speaker: ‘Refereeing the Championships’ in conversation with Denise Parnell

Gold Badge Referee Denise Parnell will talk through the experience of refereeing The Championships in conversation with Chris Drew.

Denise will give Officials an insight into the breadth of her role from the end of the tournament right through to a tournament day at the following Championships.  Officials will have the opportunity to ask Denise questions.

# About the Speakers

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Professor Chris Harwood

Chris is the Director of the Sport, Health and Performance Enhancement (SHAPE) Research Centre at NTU.
He is a Professor of Sport Psychology where his research focuses on the psychosocial aspects of athlete development, wellbeing and performance including the roles of the coach, parents, and the wider social and organisational environment.
He was previously a Professor of Sport Psychology at Loughborough University and has held the role of Lead Psychologist for the LTA and the National Tennis Academy at Loughborough.
Chris has published over 160 journal articles, book chapters and books on topics in youth sport, coaching psychology and parenting, and professional practice.

James Keothavong MBE

A Gold Badge Chair Umpire, James is one of the world's most experienced and in demand on-court Officials.
During an officiating career spanning over 25 years, James has chaired singles finals at all four Grand Slam tournaments, umpired at 10 Davis Cup finals, two Billie Jean Cup finals and six Olympic Games.
James teaches World Tennis Officiating Schools around the world and served as an LTA Councillor between 2019 and 2019. In 2025 he was awarded an MBE for services to tennis.

Denise Parnell

A former professional player, and now Gold Badge Referee, Denise has become a trailblazer for women in officiating. In 2024 she became the first female Championships Referee at Wimbledon, having previously held the role of Championships Assistant Referee and Referee for Wimbledon Qualifying. Denise has been part of the officiating team at Wimbledon since 2006.
Denise became the first female Referee for the HSBC Championships ATP event in 2021. Denise officiates at the Australian Open, French Open and US Open as part of the Grand Slam Supervisor team.

# About the Speakers

## EXTERNAL SPEAKERS

Pete Wright

Pete is the Data Integrations Manager at PlayReplay delivering on the company's mission to democratise access to sports data. Pete's education and 15 years professional experience includes systems engineering, data science and technology consulting.
He now combines this expertise with his passion for tennis, and is an enthusiastic supporter of how technology and data can be leveraged in the game at all levels.

Sophie Pink

Sophie works in the Education Department at the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA), where she develops and delivers education programmes and initiatives for people working within the professional tennis environment. She has experience working across a number of sports both nationally and internationally, developing education pathways within coaching, officiating, participation and performance environments, and brings a practical understanding of tennis officiating and coaching to her work.

Olwyn Roy

Olwyn holds White Badges as both a Referee and as a Chair Umpire and is now also building her experience as a Padel Official having worked as Referee and Assistant Referee at FIP events in addition to Control Desk for the Padel National Championships and refereeing Padel British Tour.
In 2026 Olwyn celebrated 40 years of officiating at The Championships.  Olwyn has tutored umpire courses for the LTA and Tennis Scotland.

# About the Speakers

## LTA SPEAKERS

Chris Drew

Chris has worked at the LTA since 2007 and specifically in officiating since February 2013. Currently his role covers coordinating some of the provision of officiating courses, organising CPD (continuous personal development) for Officials and Officials engagement which includes the Official Hub, newsletter, engagement survey and Official Shout Outs.

A former Official himself, Chris is passionate about supporting and developing Officials and particularly about recognition for Officials.

Matthew Morrissey

Matthew has worked in officiating at the LTA since 2001 and has been Officiating (Operations) Manager since 2014. Matthew is responsible for selection, deployment and evaluation of all officials at all levels. He looks after all of the grading and fees and expenses structures and the relationships between the LTA and ABTO.

Chris Mann

In 2012 Chris joined the LTA and in his current role as Competition Measures & Systems Manager he oversees the delivery of competition systems & measures including rankings, World Tennis Number and the Competition Manager System. Chris is also a Tutor and tutors the National and Regional Referee courses.

Chris began officiating as a referee shortly after going to university in 2007 and gained his Silver Badge as a Referee in Hamburg in 2017. He is an Assistant Referee at The Junior Championships, Wimbledon, WTA Referee at Rothesay Classic, Birmingham.

# About the Speakers

## LTA SPEAKERS (CONTINUED)

Ali Dalton
Ali started at the LTA in May 2025 as Competition Planning Manager in the Competitions Team. He oversees the provisioning and sanctioning of Grade 3 to Grade 5 Tennis and Padel tournaments in Great Britain. He also looks after the Winter Regional Tour and LTA regional disability calendar.
He previously worked in project management, most notably at Williams F1. Ali is a lifelong tennis player & recent (and very proud!) LTA Grade 5 Padel consolation winner.

Abbey Sisson
Abbey Sisson is the Anti-Doping & Integrity Manager at the LTA, where she leads the administration of the anti-doping and anti-corruption programmes across British tennis.
She has worked in tennis anti-doping and anti-corruption for 13 years and operates across the tennis stakeholder landscape to ensure coordinated delivery and compliance with national and international frameworks.