

DURHAM AND CLEVELAND L.T.A

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

HELD VIRTUALLY ON “ZOOM” ON 24 MARCH, 2022

Apologies:

John Marshall, Taylor Collinson, Neil Wright, Moira Smith, Matt Jackman

Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 March, 2021. Agreement proposed by Anne Clayton and seconded by Richard McLauchlan.

The meeting was held on Zoom, and as a visual Power Point presentation.

President's address

The President, John Schofield, gave a verbal summary report on the year completed. Each item was expanded upon during the presentation. The President indicated brief details of the following:

Durham & Cleveland's success at Regional Awards

Details of County Performance successes, including results of County Teams, The County Open and Closed events, and the continuing success of the County's Coaching programme.

Chair's Report

The Chair, Tony Pensom, explained the County's goals are aligned to the LTA Strategy for Participation, Workforce, Performance and Governance.

Participation – a County priority. Covid had led to a drop in participation across the county and is a focus for growth in partnership with our clubs. Open Court and inclusion programmes were priority targets requiring development.

Workforce – a County commitment to increase the number and quality of qualified coaches, and targeting additional venues to host competitions, therefore influencing improved performance.

Performance – Continuing to ensure the best players in the county receive the highest level of coaching required to increase standards at all levels.

Governance – Strengthening relationships with Clubs and Venues, with a particular focus on Safeguarding. Attention is needed to secure the financial stability of the County after several years of declining reserves as a result of underfunding by the LTA.

Durham & Cleveland's County Plan has been prepared to map out the steps to achieve these goals. This is a 3-year plan implemented by the Executive, and will require additional resources on the Committee to achieve the ambitious goals. It has 58 action points, with named leads and measures in place. Key action areas were noted – Inclusion, Competition and Safeguarding. The Chair announced that we had passed the LTA's County's Safeguarding Audit, and other counties are using our preparations for it as a template. Members of the Executive Committee and Christine Heppell were offered thanks by the Chair for achieving this excellent outcome.

Treasurer

Income & Expenditure showed a surplus of £10,396. Treasurer Viv Wilson explained that due to Covid, operational costs were reduced. The Summer County Cup took place, but there were no hotel costs for the Junior County Cup, and Administration costs were reduced. The Awards ceremony did not take place. (The county's Coaching programme is self-funding)

The Treasurer recorded thanks to John Schofield for negotiations and engagement with sponsors Multisol and Leaders.

LTA Councillor

The Councillor indicated the LTA priorities for 2022, including Parks development – with £22m Sport England/Government funding. Though held up by Covid, LTA Youth is to be re-launched, with a target of 20,000 teachers, 15,000 schools and 10,000 trained teachers. World Tennis Number is to replace rankings and ratings. There is some concern for a lack of involvement of many members in the LTA Awards programme. The county has low nominations, and this needs to be improved. The nomination process is now more user-friendly, and more condensed. Low nominations have been a national problem. VW offered thanks to Sunderland Tennis Centre for hosting the County Awards presentation night.

Governance

Constitutional changes were highlighted as detailed in the agenda, as follows:

Amend Section 4.1 – Add: (g) a local authority

Amend Section 4.3 – Replace: 'Any person...' with 'Any entity...'

Amend Section 7.1 – Replace 'a maximum of ten individuals...' with 'a maximum of twelve individuals...'

Amend Section 7.5 – Replace: 'up to six elected members...' with 'up to eight elected members...'

Amend all – Replace: 'he/she' with 'they'

All were proposed and accepted.

Election Of Officers

Except for those Executive members not up for re-election, every club in the county was invited to nominate candidates for any position on the Committee.

President: John Schofield is beginning the 2 year of a 3 year appointment, and is therefore not up for re-election.

Nominations from tennis clubs were read at the meeting.

Boldon Tennis Club:

Club Liaison Lead – Alan Jones

Yarm Tennis Club: (both for currently-serving officers)

Workforce Lead – Anne Clayton

Performance Co-ordinator – John Schofield

Chair: Tony Pensom had been co-opted by the Committee to serve as Chair and was now nominated to begin a 3 year appointment in the post

No further nominations were made from attendees of the meeting or members.

Currently serving Officers who are willing to offer themselves for re-election

<u>Treasurer</u>	– Viv Wilson	-	2 year appointment
<u>Secretary</u>	– Pat Ross	-	2 year appointment
<u>Workforce Lead</u>	– Anne Clayton		(also nominated by tennis club)
<u>Performance Co-ordinator</u>	– John Schofield		(also nominated by tennis club)
<u>Club Liaison Lead</u>	– Alan Jones		(also nominated by tennis club)
<u>Inclusion Co-ordinator</u>	– Frankie Rohan		
<u>Competition Lead</u>	– Steven Sumner		
<u>Safeguarding Lead</u>	– Gill Reeves		

In each category, there is only one candidate for each position, meaning that a vote was not required. The above were duly elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

Contracted Appointments:

<u>County Coach</u>	– Matthew Jackman
<u>County Administrator</u>	– Sarah Lowes

The Treasurer nominated Torgersen as the County's Honorary Accountant.

Any Other Business

Viv McFarquhar from Boldon Tennis Club asked two questions.

1. In relation to County Awards, she queried the process for making nominations, assessing candidates and the absence of feedback on outcomes. TP explained that the categories and criteria for the Awards are set by the LTA. The county uses completely independent third parties to assess nominations, but it is true that there is no feedback process to nominees or nominators and this should be considered. General discussion regarding the LTA website followed, with AC explaining that the County also publicises the Awards and seeks nominations from our website. This year, the LTA website is more user-friendly. VW will take feedback to the LTA, and hopefully the county can then publicise why an individual has received the award. TP emphasised that one unavoidable factor influencing the decisions of the independent assessors is the quality of the nominations – a particularly well-drafted proposal may outweigh a lesser proposal for a very strong alternative nominee. This is regrettable.
2. The funding of £22m funding for tennis in parks, was noted, with a suggestion that tennis clubs could become involved. Boldon tennis club could be interested in offering to support any local park projects. TP replied that the LTA are undertaking a national review of park courts and their condition, with a senior team seconded for two years to manage the investment. There is an expectation that the North East will be a beneficiary of the development plan. LTA officials Paul Bennett and Laurie Haines are part of the development team, and are both North East based. A plan for "Tennis for free" can provide a link between clubs and parks, with the

hope of support from local authorities, though this initiative is still to be developed. There are good models of successful park development around the country which have both grown overall participation numbers while also strengthening clubs. It is hoped this will be the result of this national initiative.

The Chair, Tony Pensom, concluded the meeting by thanking participants for joining the meeting, and encouraging any offers of support for the County in the future, adding a wish for success for all county clubs in the coming year..



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