



Minutes of The Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 3rd April, 2025
at 7.00 pm via Teams
(draft minutes to be accepted at 2026 AGM)

AGENDA

1. Attendance
Tony Pensom (Chair/Shotley), John Doe (Secretary/Sunderland), Stephen Squirrel (Treasurer/Shotley), Anne Clayton (LTA Councillor/Yarm), John Scofield (President/Yarm), Alan Jones (Baldon), Christine Heppell (Durham Archery), Gillian Reeves (New Blackwell), Darren Walker (Yarm), Frankie Rohan (VI Tennis)

2. Apologies for absence.
Stephen Sumner

3. The minutes of the AGM held 18th April, 2024 were approved.

4. Chair's Report

The chair summarised activities in the County in 2024 under the LTA headings of Participation, Competition and Performance.

Participation

There are 36 Venues and 304 schools registered in the County. Surveys reveal 90,000+ adult players (40,000 regularly) and 10,000 juniors. There are 83 accredited coaches in the County. 16 venues take part in the Open Court scheme and there is a growing parks tennis programme. There has been a rapid increase in the number of Padel venues in the County.

We have continued support for venues through the Advantage Durham & Cleveland Small Loans Scheme for Clubs making available loans of up to £4,000 which are Interest-free and repaid over 5 years.

We support the development of Coaches and Officials through a Grant Scheme providing 50% of course cost for LTA Assistant and Instructor Coaches and 100% of course cost for Organisers, Supervisors, Referees.

Competition

There were 170 players (Junior, Open and Seniors) in County Closed Championships. There were Grade 3 – 6 Competitions involving 2,300 players (98 playing 20+ events). Teams from D&C entered the County Cup ranging from 8 and under to over 70. The 10U Girls won North Area Group and then placed 3rd in National Finals. The over 60's Ladies promoted. LTA National League & Local leagues thrived in the County.

Performance

We have several players Nationally ranked in the National Top 100.



We run a well developed 10U Performance Programme that leads into the Regional Pathway. We have broadened the pyramid base by running County Coaching at Sunderland and at Tennis World.

5. Treasurer’s Report

The County finances were summarised:

Income

Participation	-	£16k
Competition	-	£61k
Performance	-	£50k
Commercial	-	£32k
Total	-	£159K

Expenditure

Participation	-	£10k
Competition	-	£62k
Performance	-	£69k
Commercial	-	£14k
Total	-	£155k

Fixed Assets	-	£0.5k	
Current Assets	-	£126k	(£119k Bank & Cash)
Current Liabilities	-	£12k	

6. LTA Councillor Report

We managed to get nominations in all 12 of the categories in the LTA Awards and at our Awards evening in Feb at Hardwick Hall we awarded Winners and, in some categories, highly commended. 180 people attended and it was a big success. All our LTA Youth League winners for winter 2023/2024 and summer 2024 were recognised and our county closed winners and runners up received their trophies.

The process for the awards changed this year and the regional stage has been removed with our county winners going straight to the National panel. We have 3 National finalists, there are 5 shortlisted in each category, this is a huge achievement out of all 44 counties. The ceremony is on April 24th at the NTC, and our finalists are Jacob Spence Young Person School Polam Hall and Durham University. The LTA have also awarded Excellence awards for the next 5 best in each category throughout the country and we have received 2 excellence awards David Esther Performance Coach and Yarm Tennis Club, again fantastic achievement. It is something we will be shouting about, and we wish our finalists good luck on April 24th.

We also presented 3 Harry and David Meritorious Award, Christine Heppell from Durham Archery, Denis Laycock from Lanchester and Keith Philpott from Yarm.

7. Governance

There were no governance matters requiring attention.

8. Election of the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee

Officers



Chair
elected. Tony Pensom (3 year appointment) was

Not subject to election this year:

Secretary John Doe (2nd of 3 year appointment)

Treasurer Stephen Squirrell (2nd of 3 year appointment)

The following were elected as Executive Members:

Club Liaison Lead	Alan Jones	
Workforce Lead	Anne Clayton	
Performance Lead	Phil Wylie	(Contract appointment)
Competition Lead	Alan Smith	
Safeguarding Lead	Gill Reeves	
EDI Lead	Frankie Rohan	

John Schofield continues as Non-Executive President

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Chair thanked those who had attended and all the many volunteers, coaches, officials and staff who had supported tennis in Durham and Cleveland in 2024.