



DURHAM AND CLEVELAND LTA

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 18th APRIL 2024

Held at Sunderland Tennis Centre and Online

Present: John Schofield, Anne Clayton, Gill Reeves, Tony Pensom, Graham Fowler, Emma Hocking, Pat Ross, Alan Jones, Darren Walker, Peter Symm

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Christine Heppell, Michael Eggleston, Viv Wilson, Richard McLaughlin

2. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 1st June, 2023

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved by the meeting. There were no matters arising.

3. President's Address

The President praised the performance of the many teams that represented Durham & Cleveland in the past year's County Cups from 8U to Over 70's. He also thanked the Captains for their organization of the teams.

He then paid tribute to two long-serving former members of the County Executive who had sadly passed away in the last year.

- Bill Ruffell had served the County tirelessly from 1995 and could always be relied upon to take on responsibility and ensure that any job was done completely, correctly and in the best interests of the County.
- Taylor Collinson had served on the Executive from the 1970's, always providing gentle, friendly and helpful advice and support to colleagues both within the County and through his service as the County's LTA Councillor. He and John Schofield had together established the Green Shield coaching programme that brought coaching to a much greater number of potential players and was the forerunner of today's coaching scene. Taylor was awarded his County Colours in 1976 and later served as deputy President from 1996 and as President from 2004 – 2006.

4. Chair's Report

In 2023-24 the County has represented 33 venues and 265 schools with over 50,000 recorded players and 6,000 juniors, served by 69 coaches. 16 venues offer inclusive tennis opportunities from 16 Open Court programmes. The County team has successfully delivered County Closed and Open competitions, competed in County Cups from 8U to O'70 and organized LTA Leagues for Durham & Cleveland and Northumberland across all age groups.

The County Coaching programme remains a great strength, with junior performance levels consistently improving under the leadership of Matt Jackman and several juniors now participating in Regional Performance programmes.

The Chair reminded venues of the availability of the Advantage Durham & Cleveland loan funding scheme in support of club projects and grant scheme in support of new coaches and officials.



5. Treasurer's Report

The County had income of £164,000 in the financial year to Sept 30, 2023, coming from LTA funding (£65k), Performance coaching (£59k) and Sponsorship and Competitions (£25k). This was offset by expenditure of £128,000, of which Performance coaching absorbed £69k, County competitions £37k and other costs of £21k.

6. LTA Councillor report

The LTA has recognized that the current mission of Tennis Opened Up remains appropriate and will continue to evolve. Counties have an important role in supporting this strategy. We are all encouraged to be involved in the LTA Awards and make nominations for clubs, volunteers and coaches.

7. Governance

Amendments to the Constitution proposed in the Agenda were all approved:

- General- add 'Padel'
- Sections 4, 5
 - Membership – Member or Associate Member
 - Fees - no longer applicable
- Sections 7, 8, 10, 12
 - Revised role of President
- Section 17
 - Use of Facilities - no longer applicable

8. Election of Officers

The Chair explained that following revisions to the Constitution approved at the 2023 AGM and in compliance with developing LTA governance standards, 3 long-serving members of the Executive were standing down at this AGM. On behalf of all colleagues and the entire tennis community of Durham & Cleveland, sincere thanks were expressed to Pat Ross, Viv Wilson and John Schofield for their dedicated and passionate commitment to the work of the Association over many years.

The position of Chair was not subject to election as the Chair is entering the 3rd year of a 3 year term.

Nominations were received and approved for:

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| • Treasurer (3 year term) | - | Stephen Squirrell |
| • Secretary (3 year term) | - | John Doe |
| • Workforce Lead | - | Anne Clayton |
| • Club Liaison Lead | - | Alan Jones |
| • Safeguarding Lead | - | Gill Reeves |
| • Inclusion Coordinator | - | Frankie Rohan |
| • Competition & Performance Lead | - | Alan Smith |

9. Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 8.45pm