



**Durham and Cleveland LTA
Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 24th March, 2026 online
at 7.00 pm via Teams**

Present:

Christine Heppell - Durham Archery
Mike Eggleston - Durham Archery
Steven Sumner - Barnard Castle
Gill Reeves - New Blackwell
Jane Nell - Boldon
Ashley Sword - New Silksworth
Bob Pailor - Hartlepool
Alan Jones - Boldon
Hannah Murdy - Boldon
Phil Whyllie - DL Teesside
Tony Pensom (Chair) - Shotley & Benfieldside
Stephen Squirrell (Treasurer) - Shotley & Benfieldside
John Doe (Secretary)
Anne Clayton (LTA Councillor) -Yarm

Apologies for absence.

Chris Clark - New Silksworth
Mike McGurrell - South Shields
Matt Jackman - Tennis World
Barbara Parkin, Sam Stokoe, Anthony Wilson - Durham Moor
Michael Farrey, Sara Farrey - Blaydon

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the AGM held 3rd April, 2025 were approved. There were no matters arising.

Chair's Report

The chair summarised the activity in the DCLTA in the last 12 months:

Performance Highlights

Strong results across junior girls' age groups (11U, 12U, 14U).

Notable individual achievements:

- Amelia Symm: National 11U Grass Court Champion.
- Francesca Simpson & Halle Pringle: Won 15/15 matches for 3rd year.

Women's County Team won Winter Division 5.

Participation Growth

Continued success of clubs and leagues.

Expansion of parks tennis in multiple regions.

70,000 people playing monthly across parks, clubs, and schools.

Strong EDI initiatives, including disability tennis, SEN schools, LGBTQ+ engagement, and women in tennis.

Padel Expansion

Rapid growth with 54+ courts and rising demand.

County Closed and new Padel Ambassador initiatives.

Operations



Focus areas include executive management, county coaching, 10U performance programmes, and regional pathways.

Recognition of support team members (Development Partner, Administrator, Open Court Coordinator, Social Media, Website maintenance).

Advantage Durham & Cleveland

Small Loans Scheme: Up to £4,000 interest-free over 5 years for clubs.

Coach & Official Grants:

- 50% funding for LTA coaching qualifications.
- 100% for organiser/referee courses.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave a Financial Overview

Income: £161k

Expenditure: £155k

Breakdown across participation, competition, performance, and commercial areas.

4-Year Comparison (2022–2025)

Income generally increasing.

Expenditure also rising but managed.

Surplus increasing from £4k (2024) to £6k (2025).

LTA Councillor's Report

This year we had a record 31 different nominations from 13 different places in 12 of the 13 award categories, so thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate.

Our county winners were revealed at our Presentation evening held at Hardwick Hall Sedgfield on 31st January, where we had close to 200 people attend. A very successful evening.

County Winners

Cathie Sabin Volunteer of the Year – Ashley Sword – New Silksworth

Club of the Year – Tennis World & Middlesbrough Padel Club

Coach of the Year - Stephen Harding-Gilbert

Competition of the Year- Blaydon Family Tournament

Lifetime Achievement – Jan Palmer – Eldon Grove

Official of the Year – Rob Wilkinson

Park Venue of the Year – Eden Lane Park

Performance Coach of the Year - David Esther -Shotley & Benfieldside

School of the Year – Epinay Business School – LINKED TO Boldon tennis club

Tennis Opened Up – Haskel School linked to Blaydon tennis club

University of the Year – Durham University

Young Person of the Year - - Lucy Potts – Durham University

Durham & Cleveland Presidents Award – Foster Garton – Tennis World

We have 5 National finalists all have been invited to the National ceremony at the National Tennis Centre on Thursday April 16th.

Tennis World for Club

Eden Lane Park

Epinay Business School

Durham University

Lucy Potts – Young volunteer

LTA have excellence awards, Highly commended and we have received 2 of these

David Esther – Performance coach & Rob Wilkinson – Official

Our county Harry & David Meritorious Award was given to Pauline Connolly for her services to Barnard Castle Tennis Club.



Governance Updates

Arising from the LTA County Governance Assessment there was a need for Clarification and tightening of constitutional rules.

Nine-year service limit for committee members reaffirmed.

Updates to co-option rules and LTA Councillor eligibility.

Revise rule 7.11

Officers and Members of the Committee may serve for a maximum term limit of 9 years.

Revise rule 7.12

In addition to the members elected or appointed in accordance with other clauses in rule 7, the Committee may co-opt further persons who shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Co-opted members shall be entitled to vote at the meetings of the Committee. At the discretion of the chair, any other person may be invited to attend and, if applicable, to speak at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

Both revisions were approved.

Election of the Executive Committee

Confirmation of Officers:

Chair-Tony Pensom-2nd year of 3

Treasurer-Stephen Squirrell-3rd year of 3

Secretary-John Doe-3rd year of 3

Appointments of nominated leads were approved:

Workforce Lead	-	Anne Clayton
Club Liaison Lead	-	Alan Jones
Safeguarding Lead	-	Gill Reeves
EDI/Inclusion Coordinator	-	Frankie Rohan
Competition Lead	-	Alan Smith
County Coach	-	Phil Wylie (Contract)

Any Other Business

Please provide updates for the Website : www.dclta.org

Encouragement for volunteers to support activities.

The Treasurer vacancy was highlighted.