



# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kent County Lawn Tennis Association

Held 7.00pm on Monday 16 January 2023

In the main school hall, Newstead Wood School, Avebury Road, Orpington  
and online via Zoom video call

## **Present:**

*Note: Those suffixed with \*Z attended via Zoom*

### **Council (22):**

John Ratcliffe in the chair, John Watton (President), Mary Evans (Deputy President), Jason Baker (Hon Secretary), Nigel Jordan (Hon Treasurer), Angela Darby (Life Vice-President), John Darby (Life Vice-President), Stuart Smith OBE \*Z (Life Vice-President), Stephen Woodley \*Z (Life Vice-President), Jacqueline Darby \*Z, Tom Defrates, Susan Finch, Tony Fisher, Luke House, Lisa King, Rosemary Lee, Graham Silvester, Graham Sutherland, Vanessa Webb, Keeley Wicks, Anna Wilson.

### **Representatives of Clubs, Schools and Other Organisations (41 clubs/organisations represented):**

Bearsted & Thurnham (1 \*Z), Beckenham (2), Bethersden (1 \*Z), Bexley (1), Bromley LTC (1), Bromley Sports Club (1), Bromley Tennis Centre (1), Bromley Wendover (1 \*Z), Canterbury (1), Catford Wanderers (1 \*Z), Chislehurst (1 \*Z), David Lloyd Beckenham (1 \*Z), Deal Paraochial School (1 \*Z), Hartley CC (1 \*Z), Headcorn (1 \*Z), Herne Bay LTC (1 \*Z), Horsmonden (1 & 1 \*Z), HSBC (1), Ightham (1), Kings Hill Community Tennis (1), Knoll (2), Leigh (2), Maidstone (1 \*Z), Margate (1 \*Z), Meopham (1 & 1 \*Z), Oakwood (1 & 1 \*Z), Old Wilsonians (2), Sevenoaks (1), Sevenoaks Tennis Centre (1 \*Z), Shooters Hill (2), Sidcup Recreation (1), The Parklangley Club (1 & 1 \*Z), The Sundridge Park Club (2), Swanley Community (1 \*Z), Tonbridge (1), Trottiscliffe (2), Tunbridge Wells (2), Twist Fizz (2), Walmer (1 \*Z), Whitstable (1), Wye (1).

### **Kent Tennis Office Team (4):**

Phil Lynch (taking minutes), Craig Allen \*Z, Siobhan Butler, Janice White.

### **Kent Tennis Supporters Club Members (1):**

Ian Mackay.

### **Others (8):**

Hazel Lindfield (Ladies Seniors County Teams Co-Ordinator), Dino Skeete (Men's Seniors 55s Captain), Keith Gill, Mimi Hoffman, Emre Saridogan, Jason Sigba \*Z (all proposed new Councillors), Mark Martin (Kent Men's League Organiser), Charlie Falconer (Officials Network).

### **Apologies for absence (24):**

Austin Smith (Life President), Roger Bottomley OBE (Life Vice-President), Denis Costelloe (Life Vice-President), Susan Finch, Sarah Langford, Clare Lilley, Sandi Procter, Malcolm Smith, (all Councillors), Anne Gibbs (Veterans League Organiser), Alastair Filmer (Men's County Captain), Jim May (Kent Mens 35s Captain), Cynthia Smith (former Ladies Seniors County Teams Co-Ordinator), Colin Coombes, Simon Gent (both Kent Seniors team players), Steve D'Almeida (Communications Committee), Colin Jarvis (Avenue), Catherine Mackenzie (City), Matt Bance (Kemsing), Dez Lewington (Sydenham), Brian Moleshead (Walmer, and ex-Councillor), Pat Braam, Kathleen O'Hanlon (East West Connect), Katie Morris (Head UK), Tim Freeman (Trevor May Contractors).

82 people attended (77 in previous year)



### **Welcome.**

John Ratcliffe, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out some ground rules to follow for those in the room and those joining online via “Zoom.”

### **1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 6 December 2021:**

Jason Baker introduced the Minutes. With no matters arising, he requested the meeting’s approval of the minutes. They were approved unanimously.

### **2. Kent tennis - Highlights of 2021**

John Ratcliffe presented a review of all the year’s highlights, pointing attendees to the relevant sections of the Annual Review.

### **3. LTA Update**

Nigel Jordan then talked the meeting through some slides from the LTA, highlighting the following areas of interest:

- The LTA has seven pillars within the framework of their plan for 2019 to 2023, and Kent aligns its annual plan broadly to this. The Kent Tennis annual plan will appear on the website shortly.
- GB players had great success in 2022 with Alfie Hewett, Cameron Norrie, Katie Boulter, Neal Skupski, Liam Broady and many more achieving greater success in 2022.
- The LTA aim to increase participation is going well, with growth hitting the 2023 target a year early in 2022.
- Padel is really taking off. Only two clubs have courts in Kent so far but, like other counties, it is expected that more courts will be built as more people look to play this fun (and competitive) sport.
- The Tennis Foundation was launched by the LTA in June 2022, with the charity providing £250 for tennis equipment to schools signing up for the LTA Youth coaching.
- Plans for 2023 include:
  - More investment in LTA Youth
  - Parks Investment Project in conjunction with the Government to refurbish park courts and access to them.
  - Greater emphasis on inclusion as everyone should have access to and be welcomed into the sport.
  - Greater collaboration with counties
- Seniors Tennis GB – 56% of all LTA Advantage members are aged 35 and over with 3,500 players representing their county in the Seniors County Cup

John Ratcliffe thanked on behalf of the meeting Nigel for his thorough run through of the LTA initiatives.

### **4. Annual Review**

John Ratcliffe asked the meeting to approve 2022 Annual Review. The acceptance of the Annual Review was approved unanimously.

### **5. Financial Report**

The Hon Treasurer, Nigel Jordan, provided the report for the financial year ending 30 September 2022 and advised on the following points:



A very good year, with just a £76 loss. So close to breaking even as the Board had been prudent with its spending but also, the sponsorship was at its highest ever level (£65,000).

John Darby, as a former Secretary, expressed his thanks and congratulations to those involved in the sponsorship for the Association.

Nigel then outlined the changes that were being made to how counties would be funded in future by the LTA. Venues now register directly with the LTA and send their fees to the LTA. From this year, there will be a new governance framework in place as follows:

- How a county runs itself is changing, with no one able to be elected to a county Management Board for more than nine consecutive years before having to take a 4 year break
- The LTA will provide each county a fixed sum, depending on its size (Kent is in the largest county band, so receives the highest amount), resulting in an increase of almost £20k to Kent's income. However, this is offset by lower Supporters Club membership fees coming in as Supporters Club members will no longer be eligible for Wimbledon tickets with centralised ballots for LTA Advantage members now. Overall, we should be much better off financially.

Nigel advised that the LTA was spending an additional £1.3 million on funding counties from 2023.

Nigel Jordan thanked everyone who has helped and supported with the preparation of the Accounts, including Martin Leonard of Hayfield Bookkeeping plus Phil Lynch, Janice White, and Siobhan Butler (all from the Kent Tennis Office Team).

Nigel then asked the meeting to approve the 2021-2022 Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet. This was approved unanimously.

## **6. Appointment of Reporting Accountants**

Nigel Jordan advised that FW Berringer & Co had been in place for many years, and they currently offered the best price (something he regularly reviews). He recommended that they be re-appointed. Nigel Jordan then requested that the meeting vote for the appointment of FW Berringer & Co as Reporting Accountants for next year. This was approved unanimously.

## **7. Proposed Charitable Incorporated Organisation status for Kent Tennis.**

Nigel then confirmed that, following the previous AGM, where it was agreed Kent Tennis would become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, much work had been undertaken with a CIO Implementation Group set up to manage this. The new Kent Tennis CIO was registered with the Charity Commission on 11 November 2022.

Nigel advised that Kent Tennis now needed to undertake the following :

- Plan the transfer of the Association activity and assets into the CIO.
- Draft the detailed "Rules" that sit underneath the constitution.
- Work though the detail and consequential changes before Easter and consult members after that.
- Determine when to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting so members can vote on whether to proceed.

Nigel then outlined that the financial year would be best changed from ending on 30 September to 31 December to align with the LTA's funding model. The EGM would happen in April or May.

There were no further questions.



## 8. Election of nominated Officers and Councillors for 2022.

- i. **President and Deputy President:** Jason Baker thanked John Watton for his 3 years as President and 2 years As Deputy president, with his Presidency being extended by one year when COVID-19 interrupted so much. He then asked the meeting to vote on the election of the following for a term of two years:

- **President** – Mary Evans
- **Deputy President** – John Ratcliffe

These were both elected unanimously.

- ii. **Officers:** Jason Baker explained as he had completed 9 years and was stepping down, a new Hon. Secretary was being sought and that Nigel Jordan would have to stand down as Hon. Treasurer at the end of 2023 after his 9 years would be completed in the role. Jason asked anyone interested in these roles to speak to himself, Nigel or Board Chair, Malcolm Smith. There were no elections due on these roles for now, but the Council does have the power to co-opt should someone become interested in either of these roles.

- iii. **Existing Councillors:** Nigel Jordan explained that Councillors are elected for 3 years. This year he advised that the following were all standing for re-election only up to a point in 2024 that the Association closed once everything is transferred into the new CIO. He then asked the meeting to vote en bloc:

- Jason Baker
- Luke House
- Sarah Langford
- Clare Lilley
- Graham Silvester
- John Watton

The above councillors were all elected unanimously.

- iv. **New Councillors:** Jason Baker explained there were vacancies on Council for which four new nominations were received. Jason asked the meeting to vote en bloc for the new councillors:

- Keith Gill
- Karen Hodgson
- Mimi Hoffman
- Emre Saridogan

The above councillors were all elected unanimously.

- v. Jason then thanked the following councillors, who were standing down, for their contributions to Kent Tennis:

Jim Barton, Jonathon Dawes, Susan Finch, Rosemary Lee, Adrian Packer and Graham Sutherland. And last, but certainly not least, Jason paid tribute to Sandi Procter for her many years of service to Kent Tennis; he expressed hope that as she became the LTA President, that Kent Tennis would be in her thoughts and she would return to the county once her term of office with the LTA is completed.

Of the above, Rosemary Lee was attending in person and Jason presented her with a small gift on behalf of Kent Tennis for her many years on Council and as Membership Secretary of the Supporters Club. Jason explained he would be providing gifts to the others once he had arranged to meet them.



## **9. Presentation of Seniors Colours**

John Watton paid tribute to four Seniors County players who have represented Kent 25 times or more, showing great commitment in practicing, playing and travelling across the country for Kent. He congratulated the following, and advised that Chris, Gillie and Sue would be presented their colours on another occasion:

- Jason Baker
- Chris Mackenzie (not available on the night)
- Sue Colvin (not available on the night)
- Gillie Turner (not available on the night)

Jason then presented colours to the following Seniors player who was unable to receive them at the previous year's AGM, due to it being an online meeting exclusively.

- Dino Skeete

## **10. Winners of the 2021/2022 Winter & Summer 2022 League Competitions**

Siobhan congratulated all the Kent Summer League winners, and then her and Keeley Wicks (Chair, Inter-Club Leagues) asked John Watton (President) up to present the Inter-Club league shields to all the winners of the previous year.

## **11. Any Other Business**

- John Ratcliffe thanked everyone present, both in the room and online, for attending. He also thanked the Board and Council members, Kent Tennis Office Team and all Kent Tennis volunteers for making such a great contribution to the Association. He also thanked Jason baker, Nigel Jordan, Phil Lynch and Janice White, Siobhan Butler and all the volunteers who helped set up the meeting. And last, but not least, he thanked Newstead Wood School for the use of their Main Hall and audio/visual equipment.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.