



**BERKSHIRE TENNIS**

## **MINUTES OF THE BERKSHIRE LTA AGM MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM 10 DECEMBER 2020**

**PRESENT:** Brian Warren – President; Lesley Cundy – Chair and County Lead; Denise Walker – Hon Secretary; Heather Bates – County Treasurer and Head of Performance; Midge Cox –Wokingham TC; Dave Scarbrough – Maidenhead LTC; Liz Fidler – DL Newbury and County Safeguarding; Martyn Rowlands – Home Park LTC; Sheelagh Hawkins – Shinfield TC; Alan Frampton – Wimbledon Ticket Administrator; Dawn Newbery – Wellington TC; Rob Sim – Chair elect Berkshire Leagues; Mem Aldridge – Berkshire LTA Administrator; Andy Speight – Bracknell LTC; Eilish MacBean – Wargrave TC; Jane Rowlands – Home Park LTC; Steve Vaux – Shinfield TC; Siobhan Thompson – Slough TC; Bianca Winship – Caversham Park TC; Vladimir Blanusa – Latika JTC; Alan Brommage - Sandhurst TC; Mekaya Gittens – Slough TC; Ewan Hardman – TRL; Robert Carter-Shaw – VP; Alan Wilson; Jamie Henderson – GDT; Margaret Croft – Twyford TC; Dave Smith – Wargrave TC; John Farrow – Berkshire Leagues; Philip Brown - Hungerford TC; Angela Davey- Bracknell LTC; Julia Freeman - LTA official; Damian Fuller – Bradfield TC; Sean Carson - Caversham Park TC; Susan Topchik – Maidenhead LTC; Max Branet; Abdul Minhas – BCS; Maureen Laffey - LTA official; Andrew Mustill – Windsor TC; Ryan Vittles; John Clack – LTA official;

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Patricia Poyton, David Bell, Lynn Taylor, Mike Smith, Debra Schmidt

Lesley Cundy took the chair.

Due to the Covid19 constraints this year's AGM was held virtually and was not recorded. Denise ran through some general housekeeping and ensured that all participants were aware of how to vote using the Poll option.

### **MINUTES OF THE AGM 2019**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 5 December 2019 which had previously been circulated were approved unanimously.

### **CHAIRMANS'S REPORT**

Sadly, in the past year, we lost Beryl Warren, one of our vice-presidents, and more recently, John Dixon, our Berkshire League chairman. A 2 min silence was observed.

Lesley presented her report.

In summary

- Despite an extremely tough year for tennis once the first lockdown was lifted there was a significant increase in participation and most venues were showing an increase in members. It remains to be seen how well the retention levels will be going forward.

- Both the LTA and Berkshire LTA supported clubs and coaches during lockdown:
  - The LTA regularly posted Covid guidelines and updates
  - They offered a Venue Hardship fund, reimbursed registration fees, and made a free dedicated legal advice line which is still available.
  - A full time Coach grant was available - 96 were eligible in Berkshire
  - Free online Coach CPD courses have run and are still running to assist with Coach Accreditation.
  
  - Berkshire County communicated with Venues all the details of the support packages and venue reimbursement
  - Regular updates were posted on the County Website and Social Media
  - We were able to retain our County Administrator
  - There was a repayment holiday for any outstanding Berkshire Loans
  - We deferred the 3 Sponsorship agreements for 1 year and the agreements will now run from 2021 – 2023.
  - We offered Grants to County Coaches due to cancellation of County Cup events
  - 9 Part-time coach grants were taken up.

In relation to the County Strategy there has been a significant improvement with increased participation by Adult beginners, plans are in place for developing Disability tennis in the County and we are looking to refine opportunities for Girls tennis which include piloting a scheme with Brownies in Windsor.

Venue and coach webinars were held rather than forums and a significant number of coaches have attended the LTA Youth webinar ready for 2021. (LTA Youth will replace Tennis for Kids).

We introduced a coach mentoring scheme for coaches who were keen to develop their performance programmes.

The LTA have introduced a new Coach Development partner scheme and Berkshire will be working with Growing the Game to offer coaching courses within the county which will mean that coaches may not need to travel outside the County for their training. 53 Berkshire Coaches were trained last year.

Despite Covid restrictions there is positive news on Venue Developments:

- Crowthorne have had a new club house installed.
- BCS have had a new gate access system installed.
- Westmoreland Park and Farley Wood have had gate access systems approved with the Farley Wood gates being installed before Christmas.
- Home Park have had planning permission approved for their new Clubhouse.
- Latika have had approval for their courts and floodlights to be refurbished in 2021.
- Newbury and Thatcham have applied for new gate access systems. These will link with Victoria Park to offer court access across all three venues.

Some County Training sessions were able to get up and running within the 2 lockdowns:

- We increased County Training for Juniors in line with the LTA County performance recommendations
- The Girls Development Squad numbers have increased with over 21 being invited and we are able to arrange an Intercounty fixture for them.
- We have 5 players on the Regional and National pathway which is the highest we have had for quite a while.
- We entered the 12 counties competition for the first time and won Division 2.
- Our Manning Davenport winners this year were Daniel Joita and Isabella Makuch

We delivered 4 different teacher training courses for Primary, Secondary, Cardio and Inclusive Tennis before lockdown

We continue to plan for disability programmes (these were impacted this year due to Covid). We have 4 wheelchairs at the County Office to help drive a wheelchair programme through a community tennis programme called "Serves" and we plan to run a festival day at Reading University TennisPark in April 2021.

Several Annual events were impacted by Covid:

- No Schools Competition
- No Nature Valley Big Weekend
- No Team Challenge

Three of our County LTA Tennis Award Winners from 2019, Nigel Mann – Performance Coach, Selena Coburn – Official, and Queen Anne’s School – Education, progressed through and won the Regional stage. Queen Anne’s School progressed to the Nationals and were runner up in the Education Category.

Finally, our Junior county Closed was one of only 20 to run in the country this year. Selena Coburn was congratulated for the way she planned and delivered the event. Her organisation plans were used as a "best practice guide" nationally and all ages apart from 8U and 9U were able to compete.

#### **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Heather Bates presented the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2020 which had previously been circulated to all venues. It has been a difficult year due to Covid and have a £6000 deficit. We are in a better position than some other counties as we have healthy reserves, low fixed costs, and little reliance on sponsorship. Berkshire LTA retained the venue registrations money as, although this was refunded to the clubs, central LTA paid this. We received no sponsorship and fewer county camps. Costs were lower, especially the teams costs as, on the whole, these competitions run from Feb until Jul. We entered the 12 counties competition in Corby and we have Selena Coburn as a paid administrator for the teams and county cups. Administrative costs were lower as we have not had the investment in the website this year.

The balance sheet shows an increase in funds held but this was a temporary situation as we had a few bills outstanding.

Robert Carter Shaw asked what interest rate are we getting on the business account? Heather said it was very low.

Also, the Indoor facility at Reading Uni TennisPark was closed so we were unable to make use of this. The Uni is not currently allowing any external use, but we believe that our agreements will be extended to compensate for this.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL** The following were re-elected:

Chair	Lesley Cundy
Honorary Secretary	Denise Walker
Treasurer	Heather Bates
Chair of performance	Heather Bates
Chair of development	Lesley Cundy
Wimbledon Ticket Holder	Alan Frampton

## **VENUE REPRESENTATIVES FOR RE-ELECTION**

Nominations have been received for the following Venue Reps to serve for a further three years:

Eilish MacBean	Wargrave TC
Martyn Rowlands	Home Park LTC
Dave Scarborough	Maidenhead LTC

All were approved by the meeting.

## **BRITISH TENNIS AWARDS**

We were delighted to receive 100 nominations this year across many of the categories. Our County winners for 2020 are:

<b>Club of the year</b>	Crowthorne TC
<b>Development coach of the Year</b>	Mekaya Gittens - Slough Tennis Club
<b>Performance Coach of the Year</b>	Damian Fuller – Bradfield Tennis Club
<b>Lifetime Achievement Award</b>	Margaret Croft – Twyford TC
<b>Official of the Year</b>	John Clack
<b>Volunteer of the year</b>	Bianca Winship – Caversham Park TC
<b>Young person</b>	Leontina Slovak – Bradfield TC
	Max Branet – Wargrave TC
<b>Outstanding Contribution to Tennis</b>	Julia Freeman

Julia thanked us for the award.

Denise and Lesley will contact all the winners and arrange to present them with their awards when it is permissible and safe to do so.

Damien Fuller thanked Berkshire LTA on behalf of coaches for all the support and guidance over the past year.

Lesley Cundy thanked the committee for their support, Denise and Mem who have worked tirelessly to ensure the latest guidance to the clubs and to everyone for attending.

AOB

Alan Brommage reported that Sandhurst TC have taken the old Portacabin from Crowthorne and they have now obtained planning permission for it to be on their site.

All attendees were asked that if they had further questions, could they please email them through to the County Office and they would be answered as quickly as possible.

The AGM 2021 is planned to be held at Cantley House Hotel on Thursday 9 December at 7:30pm.

Denise thanked Vladimir for facilitating the meeting with his excellent technical skills.

The Meeting closed at 20:20