



BERKSHIRE TENNIS

MINUTES OF THE 2023 BERKSHIRE COUNTY TENNIS AGM 15 FEBRUARY 2024 7:30 pm

Present

Lesley Cundy - Chair, Denise Walker – County Secretary, Heather Bates - Treasurer and Chair of Performance, Robin Walter – Cholsey, Patricia Poyton – Kintbury TC, Liz Fidler – DL Newbury, Lara Suarez-Neves – Berkshire Tennis Social Media, Eilish MacBean – Wargrave TC, David Jeffery, Matt Reid, Emma Newman – Latika JTC, Alan Frampton, Dave Scarbrough, Owen Stanhope – Maidenhead LTC, Graham Birch, Jane Rowlands, Martyn Rowlands – Home Park LTC, , John Farrow – Chair of Leagues, Ewan Hardman -TRL, Lyn Taylor, Midge Cox, David McCarthy- Wokingham TC, Andy Speight, Rachel Speight – Bracknell TC, Saskia Burrows, Gary Scrivens, Alan Bromwich – Sandhurst TC, Tim Banks, Colin Byers – Sonning TC, Camilla Brown, Nick Gorham – Riseley TC, Richard Raynes, Amanda Holland, John Alderton – Pangbourne TC, Caroline Atkinson – Crowthorne TC, Julia Freeman, Sarah Freeman – Wargrave TC, Abdul Minhas BCS, Mekaya Gittens, Sameekha Svidler – Slough Tennis Club, Nigel Mann – 10U Performance Lead

Apologies for Absence

Deborah Schmitt, David Bell, Robert Carter-Shaw, Kim Sedgewick, Cecile Thomas, Steve Vaux, Carol Searce.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes from the 2022 AGM had been circulated, no comments were received, and they were approved.

Chair's report

Lesley presented the Chair's report. A copy will be shared with the minutes.

The main points are:

- The LTA Counties and Island Associations Governance Framework and the new funding model. 4 areas of compliance:
 - Purpose – how our committees are structured and responsibilities.
 - Finance & Risk – Budget, Reserves policy and Risk Register.
 - People – who does what for us – paid or volunteer and recruitment.
 - Inclusion – Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion – we have developed a new EDI Policy and are currently working on the Plan.
- CIO status - We have contacted Trust Advice and will work on applying for CIO in 2024
- We have increased the Open Court offers.

- Padel Tennis – we have 3 venues with a total of 9 courts and plan to hold a Padel Championship in November
- We have made three new appointments which are paid positions:

Nigel Mann – 10U Performance Lead

Nigel.mann@berkshiretennis.org.uk

Nigel Mann started the part time role of Berkshire 10U Performance Lead in September 2023. Prior to this, he was Head Coach at Maidenhead LTC (an LTA Performance Centre) working with players and designing a performance programme to equip them to compete at Regional, National and International level (including Tarbes and the Orange Bowl). He will lead and coordinate the County Training Programme for 8/9/10 year olds and select teams to participate in the various County Cup competitions. Berkshire LTA has also set up a Talent ID system to identify younger players showing potential to attend County Training and represent Berkshire LTA. In addition to his County Responsibilities, Nigel will liaise with LTA Coaches and Managers identifying players to be included within the 10U LTA National Pathway. He will support the Berkshire Clubs and Coaches helping them be aware of performance standards at 8/9/10 level and the programme to enable the players to compete at County and Regional levels.

“I enjoy helping players fulfil their tennis potential within the competitive environment. If players or their parents require support or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will help you find the right solution to enable you and your coach achieve your aims”.

Nigel still enjoys competing at GB and International level. He has represented GB over 50 times and is currently ranked in the top 40 singles and 20 in doubles in the World (Mens 65 Age Group).

Caroline Atkinson - Berkshire Junior Competitions Lead

Junior.competitions@berkshiretennis.org.uk

Caroline is looking to increase the number of competitive opportunities in Berkshire available to players of all standards. Her initial focus has been encouraging more clubs to both enter and complete the Play Your Way to Wimbledon tournament, with winners from each venue progressing to the County stage in early summer. She is also working with coaches to run another Red Ball Grand Prix, which allows players aged 8&U to get some fun competition experience between April and July at venues around the county. For those players who took part in 2023 but are not ready for Grade 5 events, a smaller scale Orange Ball Grand Prix will also run. These will be advertised soon via Berkshire Social Media and on the County website [Berkshire Tennis / Berkshire Tennis \(lta.org.uk\)](http://BerkshireTennis.org.uk)

Although Caroline has retired from playing tennis, she is still passionate about the sport and has managed Junior teams in the Berkshire league for over 20 years. She wants to ensure that planned events run smoothly so players get a positive experience and want to return again.

Lara Suarez-Neves, Berkshire Tennis Social Media and Women & Girls Tennis Lead.

Lara.suarez@berkshiretennis.org.uk

As the social media coordinator and lead for women & girls tennis, Lara brings together her passion for tennis and background as a coach with her day job as a branding and graphic designer together in her dual role for Berkshire Tennis. She manages the social media presence

of Berkshire Tennis, aiming to showcase, celebrate and share what goes on in the county at all levels - from grassroots programmes through to the achievements and opportunities of players at the top end of the game. Lara is passionate about helping to open the sport up to people from all parts of the community, and through her role as women & girls tennis lead, aims to ensure that opportunities and support for growth are available wherever possible.

Please do send Lara any opportunities your venue or programme would like to share with the county tennis community, particularly competition or employment opportunities and any women and girls focused sessions you may be running. She's also open to connecting with venues and individuals who need advice with their own social media and digital presence.

- We have increased our County Partners from 2 to 4
- Parks Investment has continued across 5 out of the 6 boroughs in the County.
- Club Development – Pangbourne has installed new floodlights and work has commenced on the new Clubhouse at Home Park LTC
- Good success in both County Cup and School Tennis Leagues

Full details of the Chair's Report will be shared with these Minutes.

Treasurers report

Heather presented the accounts.

The Accounts are now presented in a new format in line with the 4 funding streams. They are also for a 15-month period to 31 December 2023 to align our financial year with the LTA.

A surplus of £859 was made in the period (2022: deficit of £6,055)
There are reserves of £136k, of which £124k is being held as cash at bank.

The new style presentation of the Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet were well received, and it was agreed that the new format was straightforward to understand.

The accounts were approved.

A copy will be shared with the Minutes.

Elections of officers

The following were elected:

Chair	Robin Walter
Honorary Secretary	Denise Walker
Treasurer	Heather Bates
Chair of County Performance	Heather Bates
Chair of development	Lesley Cundy
Chair of Leagues	John Farrow

Robin Walter was formally welcomed as our new Chair and introduced himself. He was Chair of Shinfield Tennis Club for 5 years and moved to Wales in 2014 serving on Llanelli Tennis Club's committee. In the past he has worked for the LTA and Tennis Wales.

Elections of Club Representatives

The following were elected by their respective clubs and will serve for a further 3 years

Martyn Rowlands – Home Park LTC

Eilish MacBean – Wargrave

Owen Stanhope – Maidenhead LTC newly elected to replace Dave Scarbrough

Dave Scarbrough has been a valued member of the County Management Committee since 2017 and was thanked for his support, advice, and expertise.

Presentation of Awards

This year's recipients are:

Volunteer of the Year	Louise Shearer – Pangbourne Tennis Club
Rising Star	James Newman Latika JTC
Coach of the year (Development)	Matt Reid – Latika JTC
Official of the Year	Julia Freeman
Club of the Year	Pangbourne Tennis Club
Tennis For all	Reading University Sports Park Wheelchair Tennis
Competition	Red Ball Grand Prix
Lifetime Achievement Award	Midge Cox

Other awards:

Outstanding Contribution to Berkshire Tennis – Mem Aldridge

High Commended in the Rising Star Category - Eva Kopik - Latika JTC

Highly Commended in the Club of the Year Category - Latika JTC

Lesley Cundy – the outgoing Chair, has completed her 9 years maximum term of office and we took an opportunity to thank her for her excellent leadership which has brought about significant improvements in the tennis landscape in Berkshire. She will be our EDI lead and will continue to work with the Dan Maskell Trust. [Berkshire Tennis / BLTA Annual General Meeting & LTA Awards Presentation](#)

Any Other Business

There were no questions or comments.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm