



BERKSHIRE TENNIS

MINUTES OF THE 2021 BERKSHIRE LTA AGM MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM 13 JANUARY 2022 7:30 pm

Present

Lesley Cundy- Chair and County Lead, Denise Walker – Honorary Secretary, Heather Bates – County Treasurer and Head of Performance, Dave Scarbrough – Maidenhead LTC and Club Representative; Liz Fidler – DL Newbury and County Safeguarding; Martyn Rowlands – Home Park LTC and Club Representative; Sheelagh Hawkins – Minutes Secretary, Alan Frampton – Wimbledon Ticket Administrator; Dawn Newbery – Wellington TC; Rob Sim – Chair Berkshire Leagues; Andy Speight – Bracknell LTC; Eilish MacBean – Wargrave TC and Club Representative; Jane Rowlands – Home Park LTC; Patricia Poyton- Kintbury TC and Club Representative. Steve Vaux – Shinfield TC; Mekaya Gittens - Slough Tennis, Midge Cox – Wokingham TC, Lynn Taylor- Wokingham TC, Bethany Dark – Latika JTC, Michael Simpson – Wargrave LTC, David McCarthy -Wokingham TC, Robert Carter-Shaw, Robin London – Bucklebury TC, Tony Williams - CTC, Ewan Hardman – Wokingham TC, Chloe Hazell- GDT Tennis Cantley Park, Susan Topchik – Maidenhead LTC, David Winship – Caversham Park TC, David Harmer – St Bartholomew’s School Newbury, Abdul Minhas – Berkshire County Sports Tennis, Vladimir Blanusa – Latika JTC

Apologies for Absence

David Bell, Debra Schmidt, Valerie Holden, Mike Smith, Ara Martyrossian, Peter Mogan, Lorcan Cooling

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 last meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held virtually on Thursday 10 December 2021 which had previously been circulated, were approved unanimously.

Chair report

Lesley presented the Chair’s report.

In summary:

- Covid 19: We continued to provide support, keeping the website and Social Media regularly up to date with latest guidelines and promoted the LTA dedicated Helpline and Brabners to provide legal expertise to clubs. We ran free online Coach CPD courses and deferred our 3 Sponsorship Agreements to run from 2022 – 2024.

- The County Safeguarding Audit was successfully managed by Liz Fidler. It was a huge undertaking but resulted in the County being awarded an “Exceed” making us 1 of only 5 counties Nationally to achieve this.
- We reviewed our Club forums format and worked on a new strategic approach specifically geared to clubs of the same size. We started with 2 court clubs, sharing good practice, listening to their challenges etc. We ran a first Zoom meeting and recorded the second Zoom so that clubs could share the information and discuss in their own time. Lesley thanked those on the committee who had helped with the preparation and delivery. We now plan to hold the same forum format for 3 Court Clubs.
- Comparing Berkshire with Oxfordshire and Bucks we have extremely good participation figures for our number of Registered Venues. We have gained 5 new female coaches and have run 97 LTA Youth Start courses – 50 of which were delivered by Thames Valley Tennis
- We have continued our Coach mentoring scheme and, working with Growing the Game, we have trained a further 39 coaches - an achievement considering nothing could be done in the first half of the year.
- We have been able to offer 1/3rd part funding for coach qualification grants
4 x Level 1, 1 x L2 and 1 x L3
- Newbury TC, Thatcham TC, Great Hollands and Westmoreland Park, and Finchampstead Memorial Park Courts have all had a Gate Access System installed, Latika JTC are part way through a complete refurbishment of their courts including new floodlights, and Sandhurst Tennis Club acquired a new Clubhouse.
- County Training for Juniors increased in line with the LTA Performance recommendations, and we introduced a Development Squad for 8U.
- We have continued with FE Teaching Training, supporting Sport in Mind, and are looking for a coach to deliver Wheelchair Tennis in the County. Cantley Park are offering weekly sessions for the Berkshire Blind Society and people with Learning Disabilities.
- We were delighted to welcome David Rawlinson, the LTA President who visited us in November. He visited Bracknell LTC, Queen Anne’s School, Cantley Park Courts, Bradfield College and finally to Maidenhead LTC where he presented Nigel Mann with the LTA Regional Performance Coach Award.
- The Junior County Championships was extremely successful again this year. We had 199 entries, 129 Boys and 70 Girls across all age groups, singles + doubles. The largest number of entrants in the Boys 14U and 16U events – 25 in both. It was interesting to note, that despite the uncertain year we’ve had, the number of entries in this Competition has increased again.

Lesley thanked the Committee and added special thanks to Denise and Mem for going above and beyond to ensure that the Berkshire LTA has achieved everything that we have this year.

Mike Simpson (Wargrave LTC) wanted to know more information about the Gate Access Systems. We will put Mike in touch with Mike Piggford.

Treasurers report

Heather presented the accounts. Covid has affected our accounts with less income from county camps and Wimbledon, but we ended the year with a surplus. £54000 income with £27000 from registration fees. Total expenditure totalled £41000.

County training broke even with the grant from LTA covering the administration costs. Notable costs included coach mentoring scheme and development grant costs.

The increase in administrative costs is from the introduction of additional marketing and communication.

Robert Carter-Shaw noted that the office rent had reduced. As we were unable to use the office due to Covid Regulations, Caversham LTC gave us a grace period and we renegotiated the rent.

Robert Carter-Shaw also asked that with 2 years in reserves, and with the new guidelines coming down the pipeline, did the Treasurer think that we will have any issues justifying the level of funds that we keep. Lesley confirmed that we should not have any issues justifying our reserves.

The accounts were approved unanimously.

Election of officers for the Executive Council

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

All were approved

Venue representatives for re-election

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

Patricia Poyton – Kintbury TC
Mekaya Gittens – Slough Tennis Centre

A Nomination was also received for a new Venue Representative

David McCarthy – Wokingham Tennis Club (replacing Midge Cox)

All were approved

On behalf of the County Denise thanked Midge for her support and commitment and the invaluable contribution she made for many years.

Governance Review

Lesley presented information on Governance explaining why we are looking into it for the County. In 2021 UK Sport & Sport England published its Code for Sports Governance. It provided mandatory requirements for Sports wishing to receive public funding - which the LTA naturally wishes to continue to receive. These reviews are required to be cascaded through to the county bodies. The LTA has therefore consulted widely with Counties to ensure compliance with the Code for Sports Governance – in a way that aims to clarify and strengthen the role of each County. The aim is to ensure the alignment of County strategy with that of the LTA nationally and regionally – whilst acknowledging that different Counties will have varying local priorities that they will wish to support,

Lesley explained the different options available to us, either to become a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) or a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

If we take the CLG option, we would need to establish a company, which will protect individual members from unlimited liability, adhere to all the requirements company law imposes on companies, like submitting accounts to Companies House, making annual returns etc. It will then separately need to apply to the Charity Commission to seek charity status. If successful will need to additionally comply with charity law.

Unlike the Company Limited by Guarantee option, the CIO is subject to a single regulatory regime – under charity law – rather than a dual regime under both charity and company law. Importantly being a CIO provides lots of opportunities via charitable status whilst not creating significant additional administration or regulatory requirements as we already prepare accounts.

We will be setting up a sub-committee to guide us through with the help and guidance of the LTA and other counties such as Avon, Shropshire and Kent who have already been through the process and have been granted Charitable status. We will report back at the next AGM. We would be welcome any person to join the sub-committee if they have knowledge of this subject.

Attendees were asked to vote to give the County permission to continue to look at these options. This was approved.

Robert Carter-Shaw commented that we were unable to get charitable status in the past as an organisation representing a sport was not considered eligible. Lesley was confident that this wouldn't be an issue as Avon and other counties had already been successful, so the precedent was already set.

Berkshire County Awards

We were delighted to receive some excellent nominations this year across many of the categories. Our County winners for 2021 are:

Club of the year	Bucklebury TC
Development coach of the Year	Lorcan Cooling – Caversham TC
Performance Coach of the Year	Peter Mogan – Bradfield Tennis Centre
Lifetime Achievement Award	Alan Frampton

Official of the Year	Fiona Edwards
Young person	Bethany Dark
Communities and Parks Award	Cantley Park

Denise and Lesley will contact all the winners and arrange to present them with their awards as soon as possible.

They also took this opportunity to thank Vladimir Blanusa who had helped with all the preparations and at the meeting to enable everything to run very smoothly.

Any Other Business

- Sue Topchik had a query regarding the leagues – the ladies captain was advised to email Rob Sim directly who should be able to respond.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.