

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Devon Tennis Association
Held on at 19.00 on Wednesday 29th January 2020
at The ISCA Centre, Summer Lane, Exeter EX4 8NT

The evening will commence at 19.00 with the presentation of the County Awards

The nominees for the awards and the winners (highlighted in yellow) are shown below:

Award category	Nominees	Venue
Lifetime Achievement	Jane Wilson	Plympton Tennis Centre
Volunteer of the Year	Roxanne Treloar Marian Vinall Phil Yabsley	St Budeaux Tennis Club ARC ARC
Young Person of the Year	Beth Groves Harley Treloar Sky Lambourne Jed Ionov-Flint Ardal Rooney Sam Hopper Elena Leolea	St Budeaux Tennis Club St Budeaux Tennis Club St Budeaux Tennis Club Sidmouth Tennis Club Heavitree Park Plympton Tennis Centre Plympton Tennis Centre
Young Coach of the Year (Under 25)	Liam Murch	South Devon Tennis Centre
Coach of the Year	Rob Short Jane Wilson James Wilkinson Hannah Miller Sue Wiltshire Ricky Palmer Jack Large James Jennings Ray Madeliene Ramsey	Cary Park Tennis Club Plympton Lawn Tennis Club David Lloyd Exeter Tarka Tennis Centre Sidmouth St Budeaux Tennis Club Exeter University Various Ottery St Mary Ipplepen tennis club
Club of the Year	Bovey Tracey Lawn Tennis Club Atlantic Racquet Centre Lypstone Tennis Club Exeter Golf & Country Club Exeter University Tennis Club	
Community Award	Kate Mason Plympton Lawn Tennis Club	Plympton
Education Award		
Disability Award	James Trout Lottie Koval Fiona Murphy Kingsteignton DS tennis	Kingsteignton Tennis Club Atlantic Racquet Centre Double Bounce Kingsteignton DS tennis

Official of the Year	Colin Knight Deborah Freeman	Nuffield Devonshire South Devon Tennis
Competition of the Year	Nexus Junior Tennis Tour Devon Tennis Exeter Golf & Country Club	
Junior Player of the Year	Sam Hooper Matthew Rutter Elena Leolea	Nuffield Devonshire
Senior Player of the Year	Dan Ahi Linden Hardisty	Nuffield Devonshire

Minutes of the AGM

David Vinall (DV) welcomes everyone to the AGM.

1. Apologies

Sue Wilshire
Daniel Ahl
Lottie Koval
Phil Yabsley
Linden Hardesty
Pat Browne (Woodbury)
Stonehouse TC
Park Lane TC
Braunton TC
Sylvia Jane (Exmouth TC)

2. Minutes

Signed as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters arising not covered in the rest of the meeting

No matters arising.

4. Chairman's report (Verbal)

Normally the chair's report is circulated pre-meeting. This year, however, DV wants to address everyone directly as there are important matters to be covered.

Firstly DV acknowledges and thanks the fantastic Management Team we now have in Devon:

- John Allen MBE – Vice Chair 32 years' experience
- Nicky Trevaskis – Secretary
- Andy Malcolm – Treasurer
- Marian Vinall – County Safeguarding Officer
- Martin Dawes – Media & Communication Lead
- Fiona Murphy – Disability & Inclusion Lead
- James Temple – Coach Network Lead
- Will McNally – Performance Lead
- Jemima Morris – Competition Lead
- Debbie Freeman – County Administrator

All of these volunteers and paid employees go far above and beyond what is expected of them and put in a huge effort to support Devon Tennis.

In addition to the Management Team DV also thanks all the County Coaches and Team Captains and in particular:

- Catriona Batty – Ladies Vets Organiser

- Ken Jones – Men’s Vets Organiser
- Josh Jones – Ladies’ Captain
- Justin Kraushar – Men’s Captain (who is standing down and being replaced by Oscar Wynne)

All the leads have submitted written reports which were circulated with the AGM papers. DV picks out some personal highlights.

- **Competition** – The Devon & Cornwall Whirlwind Tour mini players aged U8 to U10 and the NEXUS Tour for U12 and U16 but capped (rating) to give the lower rated children an opportunity to compete. Both these tours are extremely well supported and the envy of other Counties in the South West.
- **Performance** – The structure, organisation and content of the County Training is also the envy of other Counties and with the introduction of tier 2 training, more children are benefiting from County Training.

The Boys Under 14 team got to the National Final (at Nottingham) which was all level by the end, but they lost it on a single Championship Tie break shootout. We are all so proud of the boys’ achievement.

Also congratulations must go to our Ladies 70s captained by Anne Louis who won Division 2 without dropping a single set.

- **Coaches Network** – (Just starting up) The first group meeting has been held and was a great success with 18 coaches attending.
- **Disability & Inclusion** – Participation has increased greatly and Devon is now at the top of the table in the South West.
- **Media & Communication** – This area has also improved greatly over the last month with far more social media posts and engagement. Devon also staged three forums across the County for clubs and venues to help with their use of Media, Publicity and Communication
- **Safeguarding** – Again, Devon leads the way in the South West in this area as the most engaged and organised County. This is shown by the fact that some of our policies and procedures are being used by the National LTA and rolled out to all the other Counties as the exemplary way forward.
- **Accounts – Sponsorship** – Andy has again done a great job of balancing the books and running a tight ship, and he will be giving a full report verbally later. However, we have finished the year with a deficit of £24K.

This is largely down to a bad debt of £20k incurred from sponsorship - this is the issue that DV wanted to explain verbally.

EXPLANATION OF SITUATION:

- Devon, along with 14 other Counties, has used a third party to obtain sponsorship since 2017. Some of the counties have been using the same third party for many other years. This person is a county chairman and LTA councillor.

- This year something went on which resulted in the misuse of Wimbledon Tickets from all 14 Counties.
- This resulted in many tickets being cancelled hence our sponsor withheld £20k from the County. The same has happened to the other Counties to a lesser or greater extent.
- The Counties themselves did nothing wrong and were not aware of what the third party actually did in breach of the regulations.
- The LTA has carried out an investigation and as a result has decided to penalise the 14 Counties involved by fining them between 10% and 25% of their discretionary allowance of Wimbledon tickets for the 2020 Championship.
- Devon has been fined 25% which means we will have fewer tickets available to raise sponsorship or for our patrons.
- We have appealed and asked for this sanction to be reduced to 10% in line with other counties.

DV adds that this is an area of sadness in what has otherwise been an excellent year.

Volunteers – On behalf of Devon Tennis DV thanks all the volunteers across the County who give up their time running all aspects of tennis.

DV adds that if anyone would like to volunteer for the County then please talk to him or any of the Management Committee here tonight

Questions from the room:

- Does the penalty affect the clubs' ticket allocations? No, just the county's allocation.
- What would the usual year-end result be? Usually a small deficit of £2,000-4,000.
- How did it go wrong? The person who was using our tickets was an upstanding, respected member of the LTA. He used an agency to find sponsors. This agency flouted the rules by advertising tickets for sale to the general public. This is a total breach of the T&Cs. All 14 counties have been caught up in this. The sponsor withheld money from us because the LTA cancelled the tickets which had been issued to the sponsor for those tickets.
- What happens this year? We will try to source our own sponsors in county and DV will work very closely with other counties to find sponsors. We'll have fewer tickets and lower income.
- Why have we been penalised more than the other counties? There was a pot of tickets to find sponsors. Some of these were used for sale. Just bad luck that a lot of Devon's tickets were used. It was just pure chance. We all committed the same breach.
- Do we have any comeback from the person involved? No. We could sue the sponsor but that would be expensive.
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DV stresses that this should not get out to the press as it is embarrassing to the county, LTA, etc. DV asks for people to be discrete about the subject.

DV offers to step aside if people feel this was his responsibility. He introduced the person concerned to Devon Tennis initially. This is the first time that anything has gone wrong. In the past few years, this same person has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for grassroots tennis. It's important to remember the positives.

- Will he face sanctions? Almost certainly.
- Seems unfair that Devon has been unduly punished.
- What happens to the paid staff? We can go on for a few years with the reserve but that will dry up in the end. We need to carry on with the sponsorship route. Devon Tennis is

on the way up and it is a huge shame to halt this progress. We must do all we can to keep the ball rolling.

5. Safeguarding, Performance, Competition, Media & Communication, Disability & Inclusion and Captains reports circulated in advance and taken as read – *(We will take questions on any of these reports)*

No questions

6. Treasurer's Report & Accounts (Verbal and corresponding report)

Andy Malcolm (AM) reports a loss of about 19k mainly due to the Wimbledon tickets issue. Without that, we would have had a good year. Membership fees stayed the same. We had a grant from LTA for Performance Programme landscape. Competition income went up slightly. Commercial income is combination of sponsorship and patrons' fees. Staff costs have gone up slightly too; this was the first year of 3 paid staff. Otherwise, much as expected – other than sponsorship.

Balance at end of year is £121,000. Lost about 15% of reserves due to sponsorship issue.

This year's loss will lead to approx. £8,000 loss on tickets next year.

We will absolutely not lose our paid staff. Even if they are paid from the reserves.

AM will also send a written report with the minutes.

AM introduces 4 matters for the AGM to vote on:

- 1) The AGM accepts the annual accounts.
- 2) The council proposes that we increase the Patrons fee to £100 for the year starting January 2020. (The patrons' scheme is currently closed to new members but will be reopened if numbers drop below 100 members which will be the maximum number allowed. We will operate a waiting list on a first come first served basis.). In future, the patrons fee will be decided by the management committee at the end of the year and the amount be ratified by the AGM.
- 3) The fee for leagues to affiliate with the County remains at £25.
- 4) Reappoint Francis Clark as our auditors.

Proposed by Andy Malcolm

Seconded by Ashley Scott

Unanimously carried.

Questions:

- Reserves – currently 120k but will go down to 110k – what is best practice in terms of what you hold? Sport England suggests a maximum holding of 12 months of expenditure as reserves. We don't get an LTA grant due to the level of our reserves. This was about 27k for this year for us. We have around 48 months' worth in reserves to create a good 'safety net'. This means we can give loans etc to clubs and there are other areas that are being funded by Devon Tennis. By end of next year, we will have spent 15-18% of our reserves. We usually make a slight loss each year.
DV adds that the more sponsorship we get in, the more we spend on tennis so we aren't really able to build up our reserves.

- Why are we keeping patrons limited to 100? We don't want more patrons as we need the tickets for sponsorship as this is the main source of income.

7. Nominations & Elections

Chair and Vice chair are elected by council/management committee. Both have been re-elected.

Chairman/LTA council rep/head of sponsorship David Vinall
Vice chairman John Allen

Nominations en bloque – All other committee members have agreed to continue in post this year:

Secretary	Nicky Ormshaw
Treasurer	Andy Malcolm
County Welfare Officer	Marian Vinall
Head of Disability WG	Fiona Murphy
Head of Coaching WG	James Temple
Head of Media & Publicity WG	Martin Dawes

Re-election proposed by Peter Wilson
Seconded Catriona Batty

Captains and county organisers

Men's captain	Oscar Wynne
Ladies captain	Josh Brown
Men's organiser	Ken Jones
Ladies organiser	Catriona Batty

All agree to continue

Re-election proposed by Marian Vinall
Seconded by Martin Dawes
Carried unanimously

Two co-opted members

Peter Wilson
Ashley Scott
Both are willing to continue

President

Sir Simon Day – who says he is delighted to continue

Re-election proposed by David Vinall
Seconded by Andy Malcolm
Passed unanimously

Three Hon VPs

The rules are changing as these persons should not have to be re-elected. These should be posts for life.

Penny Pullen

Bud O'Connell

David Kirkness

No voting required

Honorary Life member

Mary Bayliss

8. Rule Changes for Devon Tennis

John Allen (JA): email of changes has been circulated.

The changes are just regularising where we are now so that the new structure is reflected by the rules.

There is the change of name to Devon Tennis

The rest concerns the officers within the mgmt. committee – this has been dealt with already. New officers on mgmt. committee are now regularised. This also includes paid staff (who don't have a vote).

Other changes concern safeguarding issues (see reports) and new headings.

Other changes are to make it clear that the President is elected for 3 years and that all VPs are life appointments.

County colours – the colours system has been revamped to provide four categories for awarding colours (see report).

Questions:

Item 6e – there's no mention of coaching? We need to add coaching coordinator into management team. JA agrees to rectify this issue.

Revised rules will be sent out to clubs.

Motion proposed by John Allen

Seconded by Sir Simon Day

Unanimously passed

9. Any Other Business (AOB)

No issues

Meeting closes at 21.40