

Dear Largs Tennis Club Member

I am writing to update you on the Club's plans to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), to inform you of the next steps in the process, and to seek your support in making the transition as smooth as possible.

Those of you who attended the briefing session in October will be aware that the plans to renovate the courts at Douglas Park are now unlikely to happen. This is disappointing for all concerned, but not all of the work the Club put into this project need be wasted.

In order for our local authority to win the funding from the LTA, the Club would have been required to enter into a lease with North Ayrshire Council to operate the Douglas Park courts. To do this, the Club needed to have a constitution which qualified it as a Community Controlled Body. The Club also needed to become an entity which had legal capacity in its own right. The most suitable way to meet these requirements was to amend our Constitution and become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

It has become clear, however, that even in the absence of the Douglas Park opportunity, there are advantages for the Club in continuing to seek charity status. It provides our Members with certain legal protections and places us in a position where we can rapidly take advantage of any other opportunities which may present themselves.

The Committee has decided, therefore, to apply to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) status.

We have commissioned and received from our legal advisers (Harper Macleod) a new draft constitution which has been constructed to qualify us unequivocally as a Community Controlled Body and meet the requirements of the charity regulator (OSCR). A copy of the draft constitution is attached to this note and I would encourage you to read it carefully. In due course, and under the terms of our current Constitution, the Committee will ask our Members to approve the new constitution at a General Meeting.

You will note that in the new constitution Committee members become Charity Trustees and that the membership categories and office-bearer structure are slightly different. This need not affect the subscription categories or the day to day running of the Club – Members are unlikely to notice much, if any, difference. The Committee looks forward to explaining the changes and answering any questions you may have at our Annual General Meeting on 4 March 2024.

We have been advised by the regulator that we cannot compel existing Members of Largs Tennis Club to transfer their membership to Largs Tennis Club the charity; it will be a different legal entity. Consequently, once our application for charity status has been approved by the regulator, and our Members have approved the new constitution at a

General Meeting, we will be asking Members to confirm they wish to join the club in its new form. We will make this process as simple as possible and at no additional cost.

Meanwhile, if any Members aged 16 or over are interested in becoming a Charity Trustee in the new organisation, please contact me or any of the current Committee.

LTC Secretary