

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northumberland Lawn Tennis Association held on Thursday 28th March 2019 in the function room of the Northumberland Club at 7.00pm.

Present :- Ian Brown (NLTA President, **Chris Lott** (NLTA Chairman and Ponteland LTC), **Tom Kinloch** (NLTA Vice Chairman), **George Murphy** (NLTA Treasurer and Cullercoats LTC), **Martin Clark** (NLTA Secretary), **Keith Whitfield** (Northumberland and Durham League), **Alison Charlewood** (Northumberland Veterans Association), **Nick Steenberg** (Corbridge LTC), **Sue Oswald** (The Northumberland Club), **Margaret Baron** (The Northumberland Club), **Richard Baron** (The Northumberland Club), **David Simpson** (NLTA and Cullercoats LTC), **Jane Grey** (NLTA and Cramlington CTP), **Trent Ackhurst** (Northumberland Club), **Chris Sanderson** (Northumberland Tennis Academy), **Angela Appleby** (Jesmond LTC).

Chris Lott (CJL), opened proceedings by welcoming everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Northumberland Lawn Tennis Association for 2019, confirming the meeting was quorate as per the Association's rules.

He introduced himself, Tom Kinloch (Vice Chairman), Martin Clark (Honorary Secretary), and George Murphy (Honorary Treasurer).

Following the minute silence, CJL referred to the Association's Rules 10(b) and 12(d) which state that each member of the Council shall be entitled to one vote, although his respective associate may be fully represented, and that the quorum for all General Meetings is ten persons entitled to vote.

CJL said that the Association's Annual Reports for 2018, the minutes of the 2018 AGM and the Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2018 had been circulated to all registered Clubs and copies had been made available at the meeting. To minimise the ever-increasing postage costs of posting out hard copies of all the documents, copies of the Annual Reports this year had not been posted out but were being made available on the County's website; also, anyone who required a hard copy was invited to contact the County office.

CJL then moved onto the items of business as set out in the agenda for the meeting, saying that Notice of the meeting was given to all registered Clubs on 4th February 2019 and in accordance with the Association's Rules.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from: - David and Sue Monaghan, Sir David Kelly, a representative from Tynedale Tennis Club, David McAdam, David Bottrill.

2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM and Matters arising.

The Minutes of the 28th March 2018 AGM had been circulated and were agreed to be a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising. This was proposed by Chris Lott and seconded by Nick Steenberg.

3. Chairman's Report.

CJL said his report was contained in the Association's Reports for the year which covered a wide range of activities both on and off court, undertaken during the year within the County. He asked that the report be taken as read and wished to comment on a few key activities during the year.

1. Safeguarding was a major focus area during the second half of 2018 with the LTA requiring all venues wishing to register as LTA members to meet minimum standards regarding their safeguarding practices. CJL reported that all 29 venues in the County achieved these minimum standards and thanks were due to Sue Oswald, who, in her role as County Safeguarding Officer, drove through a robust communication process with all venues at our Club Forums and by personal contact with Club Welfare Officers which contributed significantly to achieving that outcome. This is very much a work in progress with 2019 seeing the commencement of audits by the LTA of safeguarding practices within selected Clubs.
2. Performance was also a key focus area during the year with the Academy facing fresh challenges resulting from the introduction of a new performance strategy by the LTA. The Academy was unsuccessful in bidding to become a Regional Player Development Centre for players aged 10-14 but was successful in its application to become a Local Player Development Centre for players aged 7-10. These decisions have significant implications for the future of junior performance programmes in the County and discussions are on-going with

the LTA regarding the apparent gaps in provision both in terms of coaching and provision of a clear and sustainable pathway for players aged 10 onwards.

3. Amongst our clubs, Cullercoats achieved a milestone in celebrating their 125th anniversary during the year, Wylam saw the opening of three resurfaced courts during the summer and Beverley Park completed a refurbishment of their clubhouse.
4. On the County Ground, the Northumberland Club continued to invest in facilities and we now have two fully refurbished and functioning pavilions which have been rescued from demolition. The Club has also completed a refurbishment of court lighting to three courts and further improvements are planned for the period ahead. Club membership has grown significantly, and the Club's Tennis, Squash and Badminton activities are all thriving.
5. Of our county teams, congratulations were due to the Girls and Boys Under 10 teams who competed in the national finals in their age group, and the Ladies County team who competed in Group 2 in summer County Cup and Group 1 in Winter County Cup.
6. CJL thanked his colleagues on Council for their input and support during the year and to Tom, Martin and George who as members of our Executive team make a huge contribution behind the scenes to all the many facets of the Association's affairs. Thanks also went to Kim Sanderson who combines several roles for the Association including that of County and Academy Administrator. Kim also manages a very successful and nationally recognised schools outreach programme.
7. CJL then placed on record his appreciation of Council for the many years of service which Tom Kinloch has given to the County in his capacity as the LTA Councillor. Tom has worked tirelessly to promote and serve the interests of Northumberland tennis at national level and CJL conveyed sincere thanks to him for his contribution. He then went on to wish Jane Grey every success in the future in taking over from Tom as the County's LTA Councillor.

Finally, CJL asked to put on record his thanks to the many volunteers in our clubs who continue to strive to maintain their facilities and provide competitive opportunities for their members.

4. Association Annual Reports for 2017-18.

CJL confirmed that the Annual Reports had been issued saying that he had already referred to the reports prepared by Jo Cunliffe and Chris Sanderson. He went on to say that the Annual Reports contained a comprehensive record of the results achieved by the County's Junior, Senior and Veteran County Teams during the year.

He congratulated all the team captains who gave of their time to organise their teams to travel to venues to compete across the Country.

The results of the Sport Newcastle, Northumberland Open and Northumberland Junior Closed are also included in the reports.

Also included are the winners of the various Northumberland Tennis Awards at the Annual Awards Event held during the last Northumberland Open last year. Award winners have been forwarded to the LTA for consideration as part of the British Tennis Awards Scheme.

The Association continues to support the work of the Northumberland & Durham League Executive Committee in promoting competition throughout the League's junior, senior and veterans leagues and thanks went to Keith Whitfield and the League's Executive Committee for their continued efforts to provide inter-club competition across the Region. Keith was congratulated on achieving 50 years as Honorary Secretary of the League. This achievement was recognised at the Awards evening in August.

Finally, thanks went to Alison Charlewood and the Northumberland Veterans Association which promotes Vets tennis in the County and fields many teams in national Inter-County competition.

CJL asked if there were any questions: there were none – he therefore took the annual reports as noted.

5. Adoption of Audited Accounts for the period 30th September 2018.

The Accounts had been circulated and George Murphy was invited to comment on certain items.

The Accounts were showing a small deficit on Academy and County activities. The Open, Sport Newcastle and County Closed competitions showed losses. Expenditure had increased for County Cups. County week expenditure broke even. The LTA grants are down. Next year it was expected that funding would be down by £26,000 from the LTA.

CJL thanked GM for his diligence and hard work keeping the Association's finances in order.

CJL proposed the adoption of the accounts; Trent Ackhurst seconded and all agreed.

6. Election of Officers.

CJL referred to the election of Officers and up to 5 Council members.

The retiring Office holders of the Council, namely himself (Chairman), Tom Kinloch (Vice Chairman), Martin Clark (Secretary) and George Murphy (Treasurer) were all offering themselves for re-election, and as no other nominations for officers of Council had been received, CJL proposed that the retiring officers be re-elected to serve on the Council until the AGM in 2020. He asked for a show of hands and the meeting indicated their approval of this proposal.

CJL then moved onto the Directly Elected Council members, and explained that the current directly elected Councillors are, Jane Grey, Nick Steenberg and David Simpson. All three were offering themselves for re-election and as no other nominations had been received it was proposed that all three elected Councillors were duly re-elected en-bloc. This was agreed.

CJL concluded by saying that Council will consider co-opting to the 2 remaining vacancies amongst the elected councillors.

7. Appointment of Auditor.

CJL said that the Accounts for the current financial year which would end on 30th September 2019 would be subject to external audit under the now long-established convention that the Association's Accounts would be audited once in every three years. He proposed that Robson Laidler Accountants be appointed as Auditors of the Association's Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2019.

This was agreed by a show of hands.

8. Any Other Business

CJL said there had been no other items of business notified in advance of the meeting and asked if there were any matters of a general nature relating to the affairs of the Association arising during 2018 that anybody would wish to raise. There were none.

CJL thanked The Northumberland Club and Ross and his team for making the room available and everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 7.16 pm