

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northumberland Lawn Tennis Association held on the 26th March 2015 in the function room of the Northumberland Club at 7.00pm.

Present :- Ian Brown (President of the NLTA), **Chris Lott** (NLTA Chairman, Ponteland LTC and Northumberland Club), **Tom Kinloch** (NLTA Vice Chairman), **George Murphy** (NLTA Treasurer and Cullercoats LTC), **Martin Clark** (NLTA Secretary and Northumberland Club), **Neil Carmichael** (NLTA Council and Collingwood LTC), **Jane Grey** (NLTA Council and Cramlington LTC), **Angela Appleby** (Jesmond LTC), **Keith Whitfield** (Northumberland Club and Northumberland and Durham League), **Chris Sanderson** (Northumberland Tennis Academy), **Marilyn McCluskie** (The Northumberland Club), **Graeme Manwell** (General Manager - The Northumberland Club).

Chris Lott (CJL), opened proceedings by welcoming everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Northumberland Lawn Tennis Association for 2015 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).

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 reported the deaths of John Wall, Brigadier David Wilson, Alan March and David Blount and asked the meeting to stand for a minute's silence.

CJL then moved on to the items of business as set out in the agenda for the meeting. Notice of the meeting had been given to the nominated Secretaries of all Registered Clubs in accordance with the Association's Rules and copies of the Association's Annual Report for 2014-15 and the minutes of the 2014 AGM had been made available at the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from: - David and Sue Monaghan, Richard and Margaret Baron, Sir David Kelly, Jan Brown, Iain Nicholson and David McAdam.

2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM and Matters arising.

The Minutes of the AGM held on 27th March 2014 had been circulated and were agreed to be a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising – Proposed – Chris Lott, Seconded Jane Grey.

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.

There had been a Club Forum held the previous evening which was attended by volunteers and coaches from a broad cross section of our clubs. Chris Lott had given a presentation at the forum covering a number of County highlights over the past 12 months under the headings of Clubs, Teams and Players; he then went on to re-cap some of the highlights of his report.

He thanked all his colleagues at the NLTA Council for their hard work and endeavour in supporting both the work of Council itself and in their clubs. He particularly thanked Joy Kinloch who deals with a whole

range of issues throughout the year at the County office as well as tournament organisation including the Sport Newcastle and Adderstone Events, also the Northumberland Open and County Closed events.

Thanks also went to George Murphy who keeps the Association's finances in the "best of order" and particularly for his work in oversight of the Academy's finances, a role which he did not think any other County Treasurer had to undertake.

Further progress had been made towards creating a more formalised relationship between the NLTA and the Northumberland Club and in providing a long term governance framework for the club which he hoped would see the Club's future secured for many years to come.

He mentioned the Northumberland Tennis Academy which was under Chris Sanderson's leadership and which continued to provide one of the highest quality high-performance junior coaching programmes in the country, and he referred to Chris's report which highlighted the structure and organisation of the coaching programmes provided. A review by the LTA of the performance network and future of the high-performance centres is anticipated, particularly as our current contract with the LTA expires on 30 September 2015. The funding implications from any new arrangements would need to be assessed as part of plans for performance coaching.

Thanks also went to Tom Kinloch, who, in addition to his oversight of our three main County tournaments, remains an influential voice on behalf of the County in LTA affairs as Northumberland's LTA Councillor. Tom had received a meritorious service award from the LTA last December which was in recognition of his contribution of 35 years to officiating on the half of British tennis. Finally, CJL congratulated Martin Clark who was recently the recipient of an unsung heroes' award by Sport Newcastle.

During the year Mike Bryson had stood down as Chairman of the Northumberland Veterans Association and Alison Charlewood had joined the NLTA as a co-opted member on the Council following her appointment as Mike's successor as Vets Chairman. CJL went on to record his appreciation of Mike's contribution to Council on behalf of the County Veterans.

Also, Carol Lincoln who had served on Council as a representative of the Northumberland and Durham League for many years decided to stand down from this role. CJL expressed Council's appreciation of Carol's active and lively contribution to Council, not only on League matters but on the many other topics discussed at Council meetings. Finally, he said we were pleased to welcome Keith Whitfield as Carol's successor to represent the League on Council.

Graham Manwell and the staff at the Northumberland Club were thanked for continually striving to maintain the Club and County Ground as one of the premier tennis venues in the country and with whom the NLTA have regular constructive contact in dealing with the various issues which arise on the Ground.

CJL finished by thanking the many volunteers in the Association's Clubs who strive to maintain and improve the tennis experience for their club members in what remains challenging times for many.

4. Association Annual Reports for 2014

CJL said the Annual Reports had been circulated with the Notice and were available on the County website. He hoped people had time to read them and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions and the reports were noted and taken as read

5. Adoption of Unaudited Accounts for the period to 30th September 2014.

The Accounts had been circulated and CJL invited George Murphy (GM) to comment on certain items.

GM reported a small surplus of £441. He commented on the HPC which had found it challenging to break even during the year, and also the Open Tournament had made a deficit. Other activities, however, had made a surplus. GM reiterated that our aim as a County was to break even.

There were no further questions from the floor, and CJL Proposed the adoption of the annual accounts for the year ending 30th September 2014; this was seconded by Neil Carmichael and the Accounts were approved.

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 2016. 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 were Mike Storey, Neil Carmichael, Jane Grey, and Nick Clark. Mike Storey was not offering himself for re-election; however, the remaining councillors were all offering themselves for re-election.

CJL placed on record his appreciation to Mike Storey for all his contributions to Council over the last 13 years and wished him well for the future.

No other nominations had been received and Chris Lott proposed that the meeting re-elect Neil Carmichael, Jane Grey and Nick Clark en-bloc again; there was a show of hands and the meeting approved the proposal.

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

7. Any Other Business

There was no further business.

CJL thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.14 pm