

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northumberland Lawn Tennis Association held on 24th March 2016 in the function room of the Northumberland Club at 7.00pm.

Present :- 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), Alison Charlewood (Northumberland Veterans Association), Julia Carmichael (Beverley Park LTC), Angela Appleby (Jesmond LTC), Joe Wear (Northumberland Academy), Frank Matthewson (The Northumberland Club), Gordon Cameron (Rothbury LTC), Geoff White (Gosforth LTC), Christine Fair (Ponteland LTC), Nick Steenberg (Corbridge TC), Margaret Baron (The Northumberland Club), Richard Baron (The Northumberland Club),

Chris Lott (CJL), opened proceedings by welcoming everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Northumberland Lawn Tennis Association for 2016 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 said that the Association's Annual Reports for 2015, the minutes of the 2015 AGM and the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2015 have been circulated to all registered Clubs and copies have 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 have not been posted out but are being made available on the County's website; also, anyone who required a hard copy is invited to contact the County office.

CJL then moved on to 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 9th February 2016 and in accordance with the Association's rules.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from: - David and Sue Monaghan, Sir David Kelly, Ian Brown, David McAdam, Trent Ackhurst, Nick Clark, Tessa McKeag.

2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the AGM held on 26th March 2015 had been circulated and were agreed to be a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising – Proposed: Chris Lott, Seconded: 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.

He reported that the County had continued to work closely with the LTA field operations team and Jo Cunliffe's report indicated a wide scope of their activities to promote tennis within the County. Two Club Forums were held during 2015 and a further Forum was held at the Northumberland Club two weeks ago.

The Northumberland Tennis Academy under Chris Sanderson's leadership has secured LTA grant funded status under a new three-year contract from 1st October 2015 following a review by the LTA of the performance network. Chris's report highlights the achievements of Will Gray in representing Great Britain at under 12 level and our under 12 boys team became National Champions by winning the under 12 Aegon Premier League title.

Towards the end of the year a significant new development occurred within the Northumberland Club with the signing by the NLTA on behalf of the Club of a 20 year funding agreement with Badminton England, to create a high-performance badminton environment in the old indoor tennis court. The court is dedicated to

badminton for the foreseeable future; it will, however, retain provision for tennis to still be played on the surface.

CJL highlighted his report which made special reference to the retirements during the year of three stalwarts of County tennis- Ian Wood from Wood Sports, Sue Monaghan as our Wimbledon Ticket Co-ordinator, and Joy Kinloch as our County Administrator. All of them have given extraordinary service to Northumberland Tennis collectively over many decades. CJL wished them all well for the future.

Finally, CJL thanked his colleagues on Council for their input and support during the year, in particular to Tom, Martin and George who were members of the Executive Team and make a huge contribution behind the scenes to all the many facets of the Association's affairs.

Finally, CJL wished to put on record his thanks to the many volunteers in the Clubs who strive to maintain and improve the tennis experience for the club members in what remains challenging times for many.

4. Association Annual Reports for 2014-15

CJL confirmed that the Annual Report 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 contain a comprehensive record of the results achieved by the County's Junior, Senior and Veterans County Teams during the year. He congratulated the Ladies Summer County Cup Team who gained promotion to group 3, the Ladies over 60s who were promoted to division two, the Ladies over 50s who were promoted to Division I and the Ladies over 35s also gained promotion.

He thanked all the team captains who give of their time to organise teams and travel to venues to compete across the country.

In addition to the team results, the results of the Sport Newcastle, The Northumberland Open and Northumberland Junior Closed Tournaments are also included together with the winners of the various County Tennis Awards. During the year, the LTA launched a new national award scheme and we have participated in that process by forwarding details of our award winners to the LTA regional panel.

As an addendum to the annual reports CJL said he would like to record that the Association, through its two representatives, contributes to, and fully supports the work of the Northumberland and Durham League Executive Committee, in promoting and recognising competition throughout the League's Junior, Senior and Veterans competitive structure.

CJL asked if there are any questions; there were none - he therefore took the annual reports as noted.

5 Adoption of Audited Accounts for the period to 30th September 2015.

The Accounts had been circulated and CJL invited George Murphy (GM) to comment on certain items. GM said that the work of the County is split into two main areas - performance and tournaments.

Performance produced an overall surplus despite the LTA grant being cut by £24,000, parental contributions were up by £14,000; however, other significant savings had been made. Overall the LTA funding had dropped by £42,000 over the last two years. Tournaments had made a deficit and there had been an increase in administration costs by £1300 due to an increase in legal fees.

CJL then proposed the adoption of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2015. This was seconded by Neil Carmichael.

CJL concluded this item by putting on record his grateful thanks to the hard work that George Murphy carries out on behalf of the Association.

5. 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 2017. 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, Neil Carmichael, Jane Grey, and Nick Clark. Neil Carmichael 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 Neil for all his contribution to Council over the last 10 years and as Chairman of the Tennis Operations Group and wished him well for the future.

A nomination had been received from Corbridge Tennis Club for Nick Steenberg who is Vice Chairman of Corbridge Tennis Club to serve on Council.

As no other nominations had been received CJL proposed that Jane Grey, Nick Clark and Nick Steenberg should be elected as Directly Elected Councillors en-bloc - this was agreed unanimously with a show of hands.

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

6. Appointment of Auditor.

CJL explained that the accounts for 2014–15 and the current year's accounts for 2015–16 are unaudited which means that the accounts for 2016–17 require to be audited under arrangements instituted many years ago that our accounts are audited once every three years.

It was, therefore, necessary to approve the appointment of an auditor at this AGM and Council had recommended that we should once again use Robson Laidlaw LLP as our Auditors. CJL therefore proposed that Robson Laidlaw LLP are appointed as NLTA auditors. This was seconded by Margaret Baron

7. Any Other Business

There was no further business.

CJL thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.20 pm