

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northumberland Lawn Tennis Association held on the 30th March 2017 in the function room of the Northumberland Club at 7.00pm.

Present :- Ian Brown (President NLTA), **Chris Lott** (NLTA Chairman, Ponteland LTC and Northumberland Club), **George Murphy** (NLTA Treasurer and Cullercoats LTC), **Martin Clark** (NLTA Secretary and Northumberland Club), **Alison Charlewood** (Northumberland Veterans Association) **Keith Whitfield** (N&D League and NLTA Council), **Trent Ackhurst** (Chairman The Northumberland Club), **Ross Graham** (GM The Northumberland Club), **David Simpson** (Cullercoats LTC), **Angela Appleby** (Jesmond LTC), **Chris Sanderson** (Northumberland Academy), **Christine Fair** (Ponteland LTC), **Nick Steenberg** (Corbridge LTC), **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 2017 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 Associations 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 2016, the minutes of the 2016 AGM and the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2016 had 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 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 6th February 2017 and in accordance with the Association's rules.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from: - Tom Kinloch, David and Sue Monaghan, David McAdam Tim McAdam, Sheila Cowey, Ian Nicholson.

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM and Matters arising.

The Minutes of the 24th of March 2016 AGM had been circulated and were agreed to be a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising – Proposed – Jane Grey, 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 2016.

The Northumberland Tennis Academy under Chris Sanderson's leadership continued to provide coaching and training opportunities for our most promising juniors under the LTA grant funding contract with the Academy which runs until September 2018. The LTA are currently consulting on a review of the National performance network and Northumberland has been asked to contribute to that review by attending a forum to be held in May of this year.

Referring to the Northumberland Club Badminton Project, CJL said this was successfully completed by the Northumberland Club and the new facility was officially opened in June 2016. The facility is proving to be extremely popular and well used by badminton players.

CJL then commented on the section of his report that referred to the successful event held in March last year when the Davis Cup trophy came to Eldon Square as part of a nationwide tour. Shortly afterwards we were pleased to host a visit by Cathie Sabin, the retiring LTA President the County.

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. His thanks also went to Kim Sanderson who combined several roles for the Association including that of County Administrator

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 remain challenging times for many.

4. Association Annual Reports for 2015-16

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 contained a comprehensive record of the results achieved by the County's Junior, Senior and Veteran County Teams during the year.

He congratulated the Ladies Summer County Cup Team who gained promotion to Group 1 in the Aegon Winter County Cup. An achievement which was recently recognised by the award of Community Team of the Year at this year's Sport Newcastle annual awards event. The ladies over 40s and men's over 70s teams also gained promotion. Also noteworthy was the ladies over 65 who had a successful season competing in division 1A.

CJL thanked all the team captains who gave of their time to organise teams travel to venues across the country.

The results of the Sport Newcastle, Northumberland Open and Closed Tournaments were available on the LTA website. However, the results would be updated into the annual reports and would be posted on the County's websites for record purposes. Also included were the winners of the various County Tennis Awards and congratulations to Maureen Murphy who received the British Tennis Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Finally, CJL recorded that the Association, through its two representatives, continues to contribute to and fully supports the work of the Northumberland and Durham Executive Committee, in promoting and recognising competition through the leagues junior, senior and veteran leagues.

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 30th September 2016.

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

GM summarised by saying that the Academy had had their funding reduced in this financial year by £41,600 from the LTA. This year the Academy had made up the shortfall from increased parental contributions and overall cost cutting. The County Cups exceeded the normal LTA budget, however. The juniors came in under the budget figure. The tournaments all made deficits; however, overall the Association broke even and making a very modest profit. GM made the point again that the Association is not a profit-making organisation.

CJL thanked GM for his hard work during the year and management of the Academy's finances and proposed the adoption of the Annual Accounts of the year ending 30 September 2016 this was proposed by this was seconded by Margaret Barron and carried by the meeting.

6. Election of Officers.

CJL referred to the election of Officers and up to 5 Directly Elected 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 2018. 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 Jane Grey, and Nick Steenberg who were offering themselves for re-election.

A nomination had been received from Cullercoats Tennis Club for David Simpson to serve on Council.

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

CJL concluded by saying that Council would consider co-opting to the vacancies amongst the Elected Councillors during the year.

7. Any Other Business

There was no further business.

CJL thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7. 15 pm