

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northumberland Lawn Tennis Association held on the 28th March 2018 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), **Alison Charlewood** (Northumberland Veterans Association), **Nick Steenberg** (Corbridge LTC), **Margaret Baron** (The Northumberland Club), **Richard Baron** (The Northumberland Club), **Johnathon Heslop** (Ponteland LTC), **David Simpson** (NLTA and Cullercoats LTC), **Christine Cail** (Gosforth LTC), **D H Botterill** (Cullercoats LTC) **Jane Grey** (NLTA and Cramlington CTP), **Trent Ackhurst** (The Northumberland Club), **Chris Sanderson** (Northumberland Tennis Academy)

Chris Lott (CJL), opened proceedings by welcoming everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Northumberland Lawn Tennis Association for 2018. 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).

Obituaries - Before the start of the formal proceedings, CJL asked the meeting to remember the following members of the Association who had passed away: Mr K J Hilton who was a life vice president, Alistair Sinton who was also a life vice president and a former Secretary of the NLTA, and Audrey Brown who was a long-term member of the Northumberland Club and wife of past president Derek Brown.

CJL particularly acknowledged Alistair Sinton's invaluable contribution to the Association in earlier times. Alistair played a significant role as a member of the NLTA Council as County Secretary, steering through the legal issues relating to the formation of the new Northumberland Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club in the early 1970s. These included negotiations with the LTA's solicitors and other funders in relation to the grants and loan provided to the Association towards the construction costs of the new clubhouse.

In addition, Alistair was sole remaining trustee of the 1925 Debenture Trust Deed which was the instrument put in place to raise the funds to secure the purchase of the County Ground in that year. In the year before his passing, Alistair assisted the Association and our solicitors in completing arrangements for the winding up of the Debenture Trust, a process which had significantly simplified the Association's tenure of the ground.

CJL then called for a minute's silence to remember KJ Hilton, Alistair Sinton, and Audrey Brown.

Following the minute's 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 2017, the minutes of the 2017 AGM and the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2017 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 had been given to all registered Clubs on 1st February 2018 and in accordance with the Association's Rules.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from: - David and Sue Monaghan, Gordon Cameron, Sheila Cowey, Mike Woods and Angela Appleby.

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM and Matters arising.

The Minutes of the 30th March 2017 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. 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 during 2017.
2. The Northumberland Tennis Academy under Chris Sanderson's Leadership continued to provide coaching and training opportunities for the most promising juniors under the LTA grant funded contract with the Academy which runs until September 2018. CJL reported last year on the review being undertaken by the LTA of the National performance network.
3. The County was visited by the LTA president in November 2017. The visit included an introduction to the Northumberland Club, a meeting with representatives from our coastal clubs - Cullercoats, Collingwood and Beverley Park - and a meeting with our Academy coaches to discuss performance issues.
4. CJL highlighted some significant new activity on the County Ground over the past 6 - 9 months with the refurbished Osborne pavilion now fully in use as an additional fitness facility within the Northumberland Club. He also commented on the work which was underway in relation to the Car Park Pavilion at the entrance to the ground. Council continued to work closely with the Executive Committee of the Northumberland Club and discussions were underway regarding longer term development plans for the ground.
5. 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 and Academy administrator. Kim also continues to manage a very successful and nationally recognised schools outreach program.
6. 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 2017.

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 the Ladies County Cup Team who competed in Group 1 in the Aegon Winter County Cup, successfully maintaining their place in the top flight. The ladies over 70s were promoted to Division I and the ladies over 40s had a successful season in their Division I group. Also noteworthy was the performance of our Boys and Girls under 10 teams who both competed in the national finals for their age groups.

Thanks were also extended to all the team captains who gave of their time to organise the teams' travel to venues to compete across the country.

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

Also included were the winners of the various Northumberland Tennis Awards at the Annual Awards Event held during the last Northumberland Open on the evening of August 4th. Award winners had been forwarded to the LTA for consideration as part of the British Tennis Awards Scheme.

The Association continues to contribute to and support the work of the Northumberland and Durham League Executive Committee, in promoting competitions throughout the junior, senior and veterans leagues and thanks go to Keith Whitfield and the League's Executive Committee for their continued efforts to provide inter-club competition across the region. Our thanks also go to Alison Charlewood

and the Northumberland Veterans Association which promotes events tennis in the county and fields many teams in the national inter-county competition.

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 2017.

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

The Academy was showing a loss of £12,000, this was due in part to the reduction in grants from the LTA. Costs for the County Cups went over budget by £943.

There were deficits for the South Northumberland, Northumberland Open and Closed tournaments. Professional fees showed an increase due in part to the legal work involved in winding up the Debenture Trust Deed and work associated in simplifying the various leases and sub-leases relating to the County Ground. There was also an increase in the cost of the Awards Evening due to the need to pay for flooring for the Club's indoor badminton centre to protect the newly laid court surface.

Overall the County accounts showed a slight deficit.

CJL proposed the adoption of the accounts, D Botterill 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 2019. 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, 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 be duly re-elected en-bloc. This was agreed.

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

7. 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 2017 that anybody would wish to raise. There were none.

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

The meeting closed at 7.17 pm