

# Somerset Lawn Tennis Association

## Chairman's Report for 2021/2

A very warm welcome to all those joining us this evening. I had hoped that we might be able to do this face to face but given the success of recent online forums and meetings and the geographic dimensions of Somerset as a County along with the super cold conditions, it is perhaps wiser to use this virtual medium. I would welcome feedback on this of course.

We are planning venue forums face to face in 2023 and welcome any thoughts on agenda items and venues. We, as a County Committee, would very much like to be more closely involved with your clubs so if you have an upcoming AGM or committee meeting that you might like our involvement in, please do contact me and one of us will be able to attend hopefully.

I would like to look at both tennis nationally and locally to give some context to how the game is growing. Last year we were sitting in the glory of Emma Raducanu's brilliant success at the US open, sadly her injury issues have not allowed her to compete as she would have wanted.

Despite this the take up to tennis from girls and ladies, and across the board, to the sport is looking very good, as a role model she is excellent. Whilst about ladies' international results I really enjoyed Harrier Dart's win over Spanish world number 2, Paula Padosa, in the Billie Jean King Cup.

On the men's side - Cam Norrie got to the quarters of the end of year event in Italy and Jack Draper got to the semi of the next Gen end of year event – all looking good for 2023!

So, to the local scene. We have or will have reports from most of the County teams or their captains which we will make available on the website after the meeting for those interested. It appears lower on the agenda.

There is much going on nationally as many of you will be aware. Our ambition is to deliver Tennis Opened Up, a sport for anyone and everyone, and as a sport, we are at the leading edge for national sports bodies on both safeguarding and inclusion & diversity which are key to delivering that ambition. You are already familiar with the Safeguarding focus and the continued rollout of the LTA's ground-breaking Inclusion and Diversion strategy will, I think, make tennis even more inclusive.

There continues to be some pressure on venues to match these ambitions and I hope you all know that you have County and LTA regional support for these improvements to our vision of how we make the opportunity to play tennis available to a wider audience safely.

Before moving on to the County team and our year, I would like a shout out for one individual who has really put the County on the map this year. I refer to Parul Patel who won the County & Regional award but also finished as runner up in the national LTA award for official of the year. Congratulations to Parul!

This year's award nominations have been received and we are in process of judging. They will be awarded at a meeting in the middle part of February as part of a venue forum with each winner going forward to the regional awards later in 2023. Thank you to all of you who have nominated a volunteer. It is a special way to recognise those volunteers who do so much for tennis at our clubs!

So how are we fairing in the delivery of these national ambitions in the County you may ask. At the County level, I hope you all will have visited our much-improved website and even followed us on the various social media platforms that we now have much greater visibility on. This includes our County Strategic Plan for the next 5 years as well as other useful information.

At present, we are also involved in looking at how we run the LTA Nationally and the County Associations and more will come out on this in the finance report.

This is an opportunity to look at what we do and how best to maximise efficiency, reduce burdens on our precious volunteers and mitigate any risks that we face. In the light of an increasing litigious landscape, sadly the last point is probably the most critical at present. We are looking to run some venue forums on this subject and maybe some one-to-one follow ups with your venues to see if you might want to think about any changes to your club's legal status and how it operates and if so, what we or the LTA Regional team can do to help.

Turning to your County team, they continue to a wonderful job committing time and effort to their roles as volunteers and bringing exceptional skills to our small County group. I would like to express my thanks to them all. Whilst there are too many to mention by name, I would like to record our thanks to Dan Manlow and Zoe Leach, our men's and ladies' captains respectively.

I need to report, for those who might not be aware that Sophie Butland has decided to take a break from Somerset and spend a year or more, in Australia and hopefully progress her professional career and broaden her personal perspective. We are planning that Michele Philipson, well knew to those involved in County Training, will be taking over most of her role from January 2023. More on this later.

I am sure you would join with me in recording a big thank you to Sophie for all her hard work and best wishes for her future both.

I would like to thank all the Committee for their hard work and commitment over these particularly challenging times. I think Simon Brand's efforts to uplift County Performance through a well-run and parent inclusive County Training and County Cups quite exceptional. Karuna also does a great job in the challenging field of Safeguarding and Inclusion; the key I think remains that this is not about one or two individuals at a club but more a common consciousness that all members are aware of making sure everyone is safe to enjoy our sport.

Julie Williams who has done a great job as Coach Development and She Rallies lead is stepping down and, on your behalf, I thank her for all her hard work.

Delighted that Sarah Thomas, Director of Tennis at Millfield Prep is joining the Committee to take up Julie mantel and help free up some of Simon's time as he

becomes our LTA County Councillor. I also welcome Arthur Turner who is taking up the lead on Padel tennis across the County. A keen Padel player with a background of supporting tennis, he will make an excellent addition.

We still have opportunities for anyone interested to join the County Committee and in particular the roles of Treasurer and Secretary as vacant – I am filing in on the latter role – and would welcome any offers of help. Please feel free to contact me or any other committee member.

As I reported last year I am standing down as County Councillor and Simon Brand is elected to take on this key role from January 2023. His term of office is three years so he will not come up for re-election until 2024. I am happy to remain as County Chair, subject to your approval, for another year and work towards recruiting a few more County volunteers to add their unique skill sets to our existing resolute team.

Thank you to all your clubs, committees and coaches who are the lifeblood of our County game.



**SOMERSET LTA  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

Apologies for absence from Lindsay (Wincanton), Stuart Mark (Stoke St Gregory) Rachel Apsey, Ivor Griffiths, Dan Manlow, Zoe Leach, John Barrington, Nigel Barker, Sharon Heeley

Attendees: Simon Brand (SLTA Councillor), Michele Philipson (County Training Administrator/ Crowcombe Tennis Club), Kerry Quirk (Taunton TC), Karuna Tharmanthar (SLTA Safeguarding Officer), Alison Hillyer (Brent-Knoll), Carole Beach (Bridgwater Lawn Tennis Club), Sarah Strawbridge (Cheddar Lawn Tennis Club), Gill Dunn (Ilminster TC), Rosemary Gilling (Cheddar Lawn Tennis Club), Sarah Thomas (Millfield School), Chris Chapman (Millfield School), Barry Ramsdon (The Avenue Burnham-On-Sea)

Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday, 8th December 2021 taken as read, approved by Karuna Tharmanthar, Seconded by Simon Brand.

**Chairperson/LTA Councillor's Report - AF**

SLTA are planning on holding more face-to-face meetings and engaging with other clubs meetings more in 2023 now that the pandemic is behind us.

The take up for tennis from girls and ladies and across the board is very good this year. British players Harriet Dart and Jack Draper looking promising going into 2023.

Inclusion and diversity - Our ambition is to deliver Tennis Opened Up, a sport for anyone and everyone, and as a sport, we are at the leading edge for national sports bodies on both safeguarding and inclusion & diversity which are key to delivering that ambition. AF's main point regarding this aspect is that there needs to be a consciousness for all people who are a part of tennis to make the game accessible and safe.

AF gave a shout out and congratulated Parul Patel who not only won the county and regional award for Official of the Year but was runner up in the national awards.

This year's award nominations have been received and we are in process of judging. They will be awarded at a meeting in the middle part of February as part of a venue forum with each winner going forward to the regional awards later in 2023. AF thanked everyone who has nominated a volunteer.

AF thanked Dan Manlow and Zoe Leach as men's and ladies' captains. Sophie Butland who is taking a break from Somerset for a year of coaching in Australia. Michele Philipson will be taking over most of her role from January 2023. AF thanked all the committee for their hard work and commitment over these particularly challenging times. Simon Brand's efforts to uplift County Performance through a well-run and parent inclusive County Training and County Cups. Karuna, who also does a great job in the challenging field of Safeguarding and Inclusion. Julie Williams who has done a great job as Coach Development and She Rallies lead is stepping down. AF delighted to announce that Sarah Thomas, Director of Tennis at Millfield Prep is joining the Committee to take up Julie mantel and help free up some of Simon's time as he becomes our LTA County Councillor. AF also welcomes Arthur Turner who is taking up the lead on Padel tennis across the County. A keen Padel player with a background of supporting tennis, he will make an excellent addition.



AF announced that we are still looking for members to join the council, roles of treasurer and secretary are vacant. AF stepping down as county councillor and Simon Brand is taking on the role from January 2023. AF thanked all clubs, committees, and coaches.

### **Treasurer's Report & 2022 accounts – AF**

Reports and 2022 accounts circulated to club main contacts prior to meeting. A high-level review of 2021/2 would show slightly increased income and increased expenses resulting in a larger deficit than we recorded last year, rising from £19k to £23k. This means that our free reserves are now around £24k. (See treasurers report for more detail)

New funding arrangement for counties effective from January 2023. Enabling the county to cover its costs.

Proposer to adopt the accounts, Simon Brand, seconder, Alison Hillyer.

### **Safeguarding Report – KT**

LTA's safeguarding policy is up for review, KT believes the approach is giving people assurance that tennis is a safe space for people of all ages and vulnerabilities. KT thanks all welfare officers in the county for all their work. KT recommends that committees complete a self-assessment and to complete a survey for their members to raise awareness to any issues. KT shares the idea of swapping self-assessments with other venues to become familiar with other clubs self-assessments.

### **Captains' Reports for County tennis**

Dan Manlow report from Men's summer county cup, Somerset came up against strong opposition in Division 4 at West Worthing consolation win on day 5 against Nottinghamshire, however will drop down a division after losing against Durham, Warwickshire, Berkshire and Dorset. Winter County Cup featured 4 juniors, two of which win made their debut, Joshua Craze and Charlie Ruffell. Win against North Wales on day 1, win on day 2 against Shropshire, lost to Cambridgeshire on last day but stay in division.

Zoe Leach reports that the ladies stay in division 3 after finishing third. Connie Cox made her debut. Winter county cup the ladies finished second in division 2, picking up wins against Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire, but losing to Hampshire on day 1.

Ladies over 35's at Eastbourne, Natalie, Kerry, Ellie, Liz and Rachel, a well-established team. They beat Essex, Cheshire and Yorkshire meaning they gained promotion from division 2 and next year will be competing in division 1.

Senior County Cup -Teams entered in 5 of the 7 senior age groups. Over 50's in division 2a came top in the division without losing a rubber. Over 60's won 2 of 3 matches. Over 65's had a couple of singles wins but lost the doubles. Over 70's won 1 out of 3 matches. The ladies seniors over 40's team, they did well in division 1b only losing to Middlesex. Over 60's ladies won division 3a, the over 50's ladies came forth in 2b, 65's ladies came third in division 3a, 70s ladies came 4<sup>th</sup> in division 2b.

### **County Training Report including County Junior Cups – SB**

U8, U9, U10 age groups train at Taunton, older age groups train at Millfield School. SB thanked Millfield for use of facility. SB thanked coaches for their continued support with delivering the training. SB thanked Sophie Butland and John Cooksley for their contributions this year and welcomes Tim Seymour and Jon Rolnik who will be coaching the U8's. This year we ran trials for



all of the age groups to select the best players for the program. Those unsuccessful at the trial have an opportunity to be selected downstream. We ran additional sessions for those 12 & 14U players not selected this term and for those aged over 14 who have represented the county previously but not yet strong enough to be considered for the 18U squad. These sessions were held at the Avenue and the intention is to run at least one session per term in the future or more if funding allows.

SB thanked Chris Chapman who leads the coaches for county training ensuring standards are maintained. The programme has seen more players participating and also the standard of those players increasing. SB delighted to welcome Sarah Thomas to the Council who will take on responsibility for the JCT programme over the next year as she has a wealth of experience in coaching junior players and will undoubtedly take it to the next level.

Junior County Cup went ahead as planned, with an introduction of an U8 event held in Taunton this year. The only team to gain promotion this year were the U18 boys. All teams competed with great sportsmanship and wore the county shirt with pride.

SB pleased to announce that Mrs Belinda Wong has kindly agreed to act as the 'parent voice' and feed in the views of parents whose children attend county training and compete regularly. Please engage with her and let her know your thoughts.

### **County Coach Workforce Development and She Rallies**

She Rallies has changed it's focused, encouraging more girls and ladies to be more involved in the coaching side therefore encouraging more female participation. Somerset coaches Whatsapp group is proving useful, collaborative tool with 46 coaches on the platform.

### **Disability Report**

This year has seen an increase of attendance due to players attending sessions from further afield. There has been an exchange of fun tournaments at Ivybridge and at home. Highlight of the year was the Somerset County Champs, inviting players from outside of the county, eventual champions were Somerset based Emily Donnan and Greg Shea. Learning disabilities has always been driven by Wendy Pryce seeing around 20-30 players at Taunton and Walking Tennis at Blackbrook ran by Sophie inviting people with various restrictive physical/mental issues.

If there is a volunteer out there with the skills to make applications for appropriate funding and who is willing to offer some time to administer that, please let Kerry Quirk, Andy Fay or Ivor Griffiths know, we would be very grateful.

---

Election of Council members noting Offices and outline job roles below:

Officers:

- a. Chairperson - Andy Fay
- b. LTA Councillor – Simon Brand
- c. Treasurer – Andy Fay

Other Committee roles:

- d. John Barrington - County Seniors Officer
- e. Simon Brand - County Training & County Cup / Communications
- f. Karuna Tharmananthar - Safeguarding Officer
- g. Sarah Thomas – Coach Development & County Training
- h. Neil Driver – Accessibility
- i. Arthur Turner – Padel Tennis lead



**SOMERSET TENNIS**

j. Clive Ross - Grants & Loans

Proposed by Karuna Tharmanthar, Seconded by Alison Hillyer. Unanimously agreed.

Note vacancies exist for Treasurer and County Secretary and any nominations / volunteers would be welcome – more information from Andy Fay or other Council members.

Election of Independent Examiner – Dan Stone Accountancy Limited

Proposed by Simon Brand, Seconded by Karuna Tharmanthar. Unanimously agreed.

AF raised some final points regarding meeting together in person in the future.

AF thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

# Somerset LTA

## Finance Report 2021/2

### **Introduction**

My apologies for the late circulation of the accounts but I was unable to complete them until this week due to other time commitments. A plug for a treasurer perhaps?

If you have been unable to look at the figures, I will summarise the position and then look briefly at the underlying factors before looking forward to 2023 and beyond.

These figures have not yet been subject to Independent Review, so, if agreed by the meeting, I would ask that these be approved as is and in the unlikely event of any significant changes that follow the Review, would require further approval by this forum.

I should also briefly explain the format as I am not fond of changing form portrait to landscape but in this case, I think given the extraordinary times that we have been going through I thought it helpful to have a view back across several years to more normal times to give some context to the current year.

### **2021/2 Results**

A high-level review of 2021/2 would show slightly increased income and increased expenses resulting in a larger deficit than we recorded last year, rising from £19k to £23k. This means that our free reserves are now around £24k.

So why a deficit at all and why so large, and importantly, are the County finances sustainable in the future.

If we ignore 2020 figures which were distorted by the pandemic where we continued to receive funding through registration fees (which were refunded to Clubs so were an LTA support payment effectively) and LTA grants with very limited outlaw, there is a pattern which shows expenditure increasingly exceeding income.

There are expenses that are discretionary for each county and within our control. The crux of the matter is that as part of the County agreement with the LTA, we are required to run County competitions – county cups, county training and county Champs. As you will see the costs of competitions significantly exceeds the LTA grant funding especially for 2021/2 when we actually had a reduced LTA main grant.

You will note that within our costs the level of support for both clubs and coaches was much reduced which is due to the financial position that we find ourselves and the reduced level of coach development – although 2022/3 look to be picking up again which is good. We will need to continue to run our moratorium on facility funding for now until we can secure some more funding for sponsors or similar which we are working on. Obviously if any of you know someone who might be interested in supporting tennis in Somerset, we would love to hear from you.



## **2022/3 and Beyond**

The LTA have recognised that the current County funding model is not fit for purpose. They have been extensive consultations and I am delighted to report that there is a new funding arrangement for Counties that will be effective from January 2023.

This will effectively consolidate all the current funding that we had received – Registration Fees, main and County Training grants - into one lump sum. Critically the level of the lump sum will enable the county to cover its costs and be able to plan for the future.

The only blip being that the LTA year end is 31 December (ours is 30 September), so we are budgeting for a small loss in 2022/3 followed by small surpluses thereafter.

Whilst the funding side looks positive, we do need to scrutinise what we do spend to make sure we are getting best value for money for the County in all areas.

## **Corporation Tax**

We are now filing annual returns so will hopefully be able to release some of the liability that we are holding in due course. There are a number of Counties in a similar position, but they have not made any provision, so we are well placed to meet any potential liability if that were to occur.

Welcome any questions but otherwise would like to ask the meeting to approve these accounts as they stand.



**SOMERSET TENNIS**

# SOMERSET LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Accounts

Year ended 30 September 2022

Income & Expenditure for the year ended 30th September 2022

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2022



**SOMERSET TENNIS**

## SOMERSET LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Year ended 30 September 2022

Income & Expenditure		2021	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>				
Club Registration Fees	11,160	11,580	13,475	13,902
LTA Grant	7,045	12,310	11,694	11,555
County Training Grant	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
County Training Fees	12,935	5,443	7,268	6,398
Sponsorship				11,379
Patrons	7,590	7,690	7,100	7,100
Competitions	1,641	1,793		2,299
Other Income			580	-2,062
Total Income	<u>45,371</u>	<u>43,816</u>	<u>45,117</u>	<u>55,571</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
LTA Affiliation Fee	200			200
Club Support	3,800	7,378	6,354	26,226
Competitions	26,971	19,311	12,100	34,534
County Training	20,641	15,570	12,091	14,537
Business Operations	9,303	12,211	12,205	16,458
Coach Support Grants	100	2,664	1,776	
Communications and Marketing	7,551	5,796	616	
Corporation tax				2,276
Total Expenditure	<u>68,566</u>	<u>62,930</u>	<u>45,142</u>	<u>94,231</u>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>-23,195</b>	<b>-19,114</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-38,660</b>



**SOMERSET TENNIS**

## SOMERSET LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet at 30th September 2022

		2021		2020		2019
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
Current Assets						
Debtors and Prepayments	2,088	838		1,470		2,378
Outstanding Loans				1,000		4,000
Cash	<u>75,047</u>	<u>104,223</u>		<u>119,701</u>		<u>121,642</u>
	<u>77,135</u>	<u>105,061</u>		<u>122,171</u>		<u>128,020</u>
Current Liabilities						
Deferred Income	4,667	1,711		2,196		7,927
Creditors and Accruals	4,999	12,686		10,198		10,291
Corporation Tax	<u>43,355</u>	<u>43,355</u>		<u>43,355</u>		<u>43,355</u>
	<u>53,021</u>	<u>57,752</u>		<u>55,749</u>		<u>61,573</u>
Net Current Assets	24,114	47,309		66,422		66,447
Total Assets	<u>24,114</u>	<u>47,309</u>		<u>66,422</u>		<u>66,447</u>
Represented by :						
Reserves Brought Forward	47,309	66,422		66,447		105,107
Loss for the Year	<u>-23,195</u>	<u>-19,114</u>		<u>-25</u>		<u>-38,660</u>
Reserves Carried Forward	<u>24,114</u>	<u>47,309</u>		<u>66,422</u>		<u>66,447</u>
	0					