

HEREFORDSHIRE & WORCESTERSHIRE LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Draft

Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 23 November 2023 at Manor Park and so via teams at 7.30 pm

Present in person: **President** Ian King, **Chairman** Ed Bradford, **County Secretary** Sue Pennington, **County Safeguarding** represented by Adrian Todd, Richard Herriman.

Present via teams: **Hon Live Vice Presidents** Phil & Carol Siviter, Ade Bates, Nick Thomas
Treasurer(part) Lucy Holland, Jon Bradshaw, Tom Burton (part), Neil Bates, John Pelly, John Lloyd, Alan Purnell

1. Tom Burton presented the challenges and success of the Padel court installation which happened at Whitecross Tennis Club in July [Link to padel](#) . The club has received revenue of £1200 per month, 10 new members – currently £20 pay and play to be reviewed next year. Cost to install was circa £110,000 but 3 courts were disused and in bad repair. There were no planning issues due to the position of the courts and infrastructure already in place – Ed thanked Tom and welcomed an update once courts established.

2. John Bradshaw presented the Worcester youth league which aims to provide competition opportunities for young people who might not normally experience it. Aiming to be fully inclusive of tennis around the county but not necessarily to an elite level. Relaxed environment playing similar levels in social and inclusive manner – 5 events throughout the year. The presentation is attached to the minutes

3 The President – Ian King took the chair and welcomed everyone to the 47th Annual General Meeting which was held as a hybrid meeting both in person and on Teams.

4 Apologies for absence had been received from Jo Marks, Tina Manning, Hazel Briggs, Penny Herriman, Ali Tuck, Charlotte Bradford, Stuart Cole, Val Finney, Janie Allman, Kim Martin, Jodie Cresser

4 Minutes of 46th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 24 November 2022– the minutes previously circulated were agreed as being an accurate record of the meeting. The President asked the meeting to adopt the minutes – this was agreed.

5 Accounts– Nick Thomas presented the accounts with items to note- Sponsorship had dropped when compared to the previous year but informed the group that there were a number of sponsorship opportunities that were being investigated. Overall the accounts put H&W LTA in a good position.

Ian asked Nick about the LTA's view on our accounts based on the new revision to the reporting matrix. Nick advised that for this year we would be Ok but in future years that the LTA may be looking to revise the budget based on underspending so important to keep within the new boundaries set.

The accounts were voted to be accepted.

6 The Annual Report – The Chairman, Ed Bradford delivered the Annual Report for 2023: Thank you to those who have attended this evening, either here in the room or via Teams.

This time last year I reported that we had experienced quite a bit of change to our management team, with some long standing servants moving on to enjoy other pursuits in life!

I'm pleased to say that we managed to recruit Jodie Cresser who has been heading up the office side of our operation who has settled in well and I'm even more pleased to say that she appears willing to continue in the role for the next year! We have and will be making further changes to how we operate moving forward and we will be looking to bring in additional resources to help support Jodie, particularly around competition.

Whilst our numbers have shrunk somewhat, I continue to be grateful for all that everyone does on the team and within the wider county community, but it does show how we are reliant on a handful of individuals. I would therefore reiterate my comments from last year in that I would welcome any conversation with anyone who can volunteer to help in any way, be it related to a specific interest or project, or for a specified number of hours or length of time.

In my report last year I mentioned that finance had been dominating our discussions, particularly around the new funding model. Whilst Nick will go through the finances later in the meeting, we have come to the end of our first year of the funding model and I'm pleased that we have been able to commit our grant funding of £66k from the LTA across the pillars of Participation, Performance, Competition and Volunteering.

Over the past year there has been plenty of activity across the county, from new facility projects such as Hereford that we have heard about earlier and our venues have continued to attract new members.

A video with the county activity on social was played with the aim to show the amount of promotion that goes on and to call out to clubs to share their successes so that we can share.

I again took great pleasure in getting out on the road to present our County Award winners with their certificates and prizes that were donated by HEAD. Spending time with clubs and volunteers listening to all that they have achieved and about their plans for the future was truly rewarding and I wish to do the same again next year. Special mention to Neil and Droitwich Lido in the Park for their national nomination. Nominations are open until the end of the month so I would encourage as many people to apply as possible – you have to be in it to win it!

It's also important to congratulate Pauline Fisher on becoming World No.1 in the Over 70 age group – a brilliant achievement.

In summary Mr President, I would like to thank everyone for their efforts over the past 12 months and I look forward to the year ahead.

7 Welfare and Safeguarding Adrian Todd presented the report from Ali Tuck which was included in the pre-pack with some additional comments:

Following the departure of Alyson O'Donnell, John Thursfield has recently taken over the role of Regional Safeguarding Officer for the Midlands. A meeting of the County Safeguarding Officers within the Midlands Region was convened by Jon Thursfield, on Tuesday 21st November 2023. Adrian attended the meeting and the the following issues were discussed:

- The LTA's 3 Year Safeguarding Strategy for 2024 to 2026 will be published before the end of 2023. It is currently with the LTA's Strategic Board awaiting sign off. Whilst the content of that document is currently unknown, Jon indicated that safeguarding at competitions is likely to be a feature of that document. This links in with the 4 Pillars that Ed Bradford referred to within his presentation at the AGM.
- The safeguarding section of the LTA's website contains a lot of valuable information, and people are encouraged to visit that site. However, Ali Tuck and be contacted if clarification

is required on safeguarding related matters. Contact details can be located on the County website.

- Several counties are starting to have people using their tennis courts for pickleball, which includes the delivery of coaching sessions. Whilst this can be a positive development with regards to the use of tennis venues, the LTA is not the national governing body for pickleball. Therefore, it is essential that our safeguarding arrangements are not undermined by these activities. Given this emerging issue, the LTA's Safeguarding Team are looking to provide some guidance on this subject. In the meantime, if venues within H & W are being used for pickleball the situation should be highlighted for the attention of Ali or Adrian.
- Venues are encouraged to continue promoting the 'Safe to Play' initiative that was launched sometime ago. Venues should already be in possession of the relevant literature. Additionally, information on this subject (including some videos) is available on the safeguarding section of the LTA's website.
- The LTA held a Safeguarding Week during the week commencing 2nd October 2023, which involved the delivery of sessions on several safeguarding related subjects (including subjects such as Risk Assessments and a Safeguarding Case Workshop). The details of this event were circulated to all Welfare Officers within H&W in advance of the Safeguarding Week. Ali Tuck and Adrian were able to dial into to some of those events, and it is hoped that our Welfare Officers were also able to join those events.
- Ed Bradford expressed his gratitude to all the club Welfare Officers for the excellent work that they have done during the last year. I echoed those sentiments.

8 National LTA Matters – Ed delivered the report from Jo Marks which is attached. It included details on the LTA Awards, Participation, Play your way to Wimbledon, the LTA Tennis Foundation, Beyond the Baseline along with competition updates for the Billie Jean King Cup and Davis Cup.

9 Election of the Management Team Members 2023-2024

There are still opportunities to join the management team
The following were standing for re-election: -

Chairman:	Ed Bradford
Treasurer (The finance Sub-committee Chairman):	Nick Thomas
The Junior Sub Development Team Chairman:	Tina Manning
Social media and web development	Ade Bates
Secretary	Sue Pennington
Member:	Jo Marks

The nominations were taken en-bloc for re-election, and all were in favour.

10 AOB –Sue Pennington reported that those attending had been asked to submit an email with any matters arising and she was able to report that none had been received.

The President thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55 pm