

The Minute of the 109th Annual General Meeting of Tennis West of Scotland which was held at 8:30 pm on Monday 27th November 2023 at Scotstoun Stadium, Glasgow following a presentation of awards.

Chair

Barry Gibson-Smith	President
Claire Kinloch-Anderson	Vice-President
John Stevenson	Company Secretary and Executive Director

15 representatives of 11 affiliated clubs attended. 7 Directors of the company and 1 member of staff were in attendance.

The President welcomed all in attendance.

1. The President stated that **Notice** calling the meeting was issued to clubs on Friday 3rd November 2023.
2. The Secretary offered **apologies** from Titwood LTC. Director J Macdonald offered his apologies for non-attendance.
3. It was noted that the **Minute of the 108th Annual General Meeting** held on 28th November 2022 had been circulated to clubs and published on the company web site. The Minute was approved by Alan Lackie (Broomhill) and seconded by Baljinder Purba [Hillhead]
4. The **Annual Report** from the Directors for the year ended 30th September 2023 had also been circulated to clubs and published on the Tennis West of Scotland web site. No questions were received relating to the Report.
5. The Secretary reported on the **Accounts** as follows:

“The company made a surplus of £7,353 in the last financial year.

Its main source of income is from team entry fees and the number of teams entered into competitions has increased. The Board debated at length whether to retain entry fees for 2024 at the same level as 2023, having shown a surplus, or increase in line with inflation as all other costs increase. A compromise was reached and, later in the meeting, small 2.5% will be proposed.

Funding from Tennis Scotland continues to decrease with its priorities now distant from county and district tennis. Unfortunately, the 4 play counties in Scotland – N S E and W – are treated as 1 county by the LTA even though the cost of participating in inter-county competitions is greater than for most English and Welsh county teams. The majority of our senior age group county teams have declined to enter the GB inter-county competition with the cost of participating escalating and with all financial support for seniors' tennis now withdrawn by Tennis Scotland. With no access to Wimbledon tickets as English counties have, it is difficult to attract sponsors to generate the additional income needed to field and pay for teams in the manner to which they are entitled. Fortunately, the Board has secured sponsorship for the West in 2023 and that has made a difference to the company's bottom line in their first year of partnership. The Board has also launched a Patrons' Club with an aim of raising funds to retain a county coach who can oversee and manage the junior training programme. Not many years ago, Tennis Scotland significantly supported seniors' tennis and junior training.

Tournament income has increased as has expenditure mainly due to there being two West of Scotland Opens held in the same financial year. There was a decision taken to raise the

profile of this event in 2023 and this was achieved however, with a new standard being set with players, the Board is looking for an event sponsor. The Senior Players tournament spend anomaly is the result of the LTA agreeing to pay for the indoor court hire required in various venues as the event was displaced from Scotstoun for BJK Cup team practice. Sundry expenses – this includes marketing costs, trophies and engraving which are now significant.”

The Secretary stated that the Board has approved the Accounts but that he was happy to take any questions related to them. There were no questions.

6. Appointments

a. The President took great pleasure in proposing Claire Kinloch-Anderson (Busby LTC) as **President** of Tennis West of Scotland. This was seconded by Richard Cook (Giffnock) and Baljinder Purba [Hillhead]

CKA stated that she was very honored to be proposed and was delighted to accept the position. On behalf of the Board of Directors, she thanked the outgoing President for his time and work in his role over the last 3 years as President. She advised the meeting that he will remain on the Board as immediate Past President.

- The new President reported that Director Ross Mackenzie had tendered his resignation from the Board because of increased work commitments. She thanked him for his valuable contribution to the Board over the past year in governance issues especially in updating the Articles of Association which will be presented for adoption later in the meeting. With a view of replacing those skills and continuing to create a diverse Board, the new President proposed the appointment of two new Directors – Sharon Bonar (David Lloyd Renfrew) and Mark Pelosi (Uddingston LTC). These were seconded by Baljinder Purba (Hillhead) and Alan Dickson (Newlands) respectively.

In addition, the following Directors will remain on the Board.

- Alan Lackie
- Jamie Macdonald
- Barry Gibson-Smith
- Baljinder Purba
- Alan Dickson
- John Stevenson (Executive Director)

The President thanked staff member Elizabeth (Stevenson) for her support and contribution to the company's achievements over the past year.

7. The Directors of the company made the following proposals:

a. **“That the annual affiliation fee to Tennis West of Scotland remain at £250”.**

This was seconded by Gavin Stevenson (Strathgryffe T&SC)

b. “That the entry fee for all cup competitions be increased to £34 [from £33]”

This was seconded by Baljinder Purba (Hillhead)

At this point, Richard Cook (Giffnock) asked whether the Board had put the ball agreement to tender at the end of 2022 as he considered that clubs were already paying too much when entering teams into competitions. He quoted a £14.85 per dozen cost for Dunlop balls from Stringsports compared with a £9.85 per dozen cost for Head balls. Discussion followed as to the advantages of having Dunlop as a sponsor however it was agreed that other options will be considered by the Board before the current agreement ends in December 2025.

c. “That the entry fee for all Youth League teams be increased to £34 [from £33]”

This excludes team entries for junior league competitions which are organised at a central indoor central venue.

This was seconded by Gavin Stevenson (Strathgryffe T&SC)

d. “That the entry fee for all adult and senior league teams be increased to £72 [from £70]”

This was seconded by Alan Dickson (Newlands LTC)

e. “That the Articles of Association of Tennis West of Scotland, updated and issued to member clubs along with the notice of the meeting, be adopted by special resolution”.

Attendees entitled to vote showed their approval of adoption with a show of hands. 12 votes of approval were noted – 80% of those in attendance. The Articles were duly adopted with approval having exceeded 75%.

The Articles will duly be filed with Companies House.

The President concluded the formal part of the meeting and thanked club representatives for attending.

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

An informal Q&A session followed with the following matters raised and discussed:

- The cost to parents of junior players who are selected to represent the county.
- Use of sponsorship income and alleged ‘back-door’ financing of the company
- Adult team selection criteria
- Premier & Division 1 new format

It was agreed that the Board will consider all points raised and address as required.