



ESSEX TENNIS

ESSEX COUNTY LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT REDBRIDGE SPORTS CENTRE, BARKINGSIDE ON WEDNESDAY, 4 JANUARY 2023

Representatives from the following clubs:

Aldersbrook: Lora Michaylova, Sam Waton, Jemma Taylor **Billericay:** Lester Galley, Richard Lehman (Council), Juliet O Mahony (Council) **Brentwood Lawn:** Peter Cook **Castle Hedingham:** Wendy Taylor **Cranbrook Castle:** Trevor Gallant, Sammy Twitchett **Epping:** John Doody **Gidea Park:** Jan Towers **Grosvenor:** Carmel Saulby **Raphaels Park:** Mike Jones (Council) **Rayleigh:** John Blewett (Council) **Redbridge:** Gemma Wiggs **The Connaught Club:** David Taylor **Thorpe Bay:** Fiona Coull, Paul Marks (Council) Alan Rayner (Council) David Gadd **Westclif Lawn:** Steve Wynn (Council)
Essex Tennis: Menisha Narberam, Celine Rogers, Joanne White

In Attendance: Celine Rogers

Before the meeting Alan Rayner, Chair, asked for a minute's silence for two past Life Vice Presidents who had passed away during the last year, Derek Collins and Don Barton

Apologies for absence

Elm Park, Hamptons, Hylands, Theydon Bois, Writtle, Clive Rippon,

1 To confirm the Minutes of the last online Annual General Meeting held 2 February 2022 and matters arising

It was pointed out that there was a typing error in Agenda Item 3a. It stated 6 abstentions. It should have read Zero.
The minutes were approved and adopted

2a Essex Tennis County Reports comprising:

Chair/Advantage Essex/LTA Registration/Safeguarding/Coaching/Inclusivity/Essex and LTA Awards/Partners/Patrons/Essex Tennis Parents and Friends Assoc/Social Media
All were agreed
Proposer: John Blewett Seconder: David Taylor

2b. Essex Competition Reports Comprising:

Essex Tennis Performance Liaison Competitions Officer/Play your Way to Wimbledon Organiser/Mens and Ladies Captains/Mens and Ladies Seniors Coordinators
All were agreed
Proposer: David Taylor Seconder: Peter Cook

3 Proposal to change the Rules regarding the Area Representatives and the Patrons Club

Paul Marks who had been working on the rules clarified the changes:
All were approved

Proposer: Paul Marks Seconder: Gemma Taylor

Thanks were expressed to Lesley Pitt for the work she had done over the years when she held the post of Membership Secretary and Paul Marks for the time and effort he had given to the rule changes

4 **To agree and adopt the Treasurers Report the profit and loss account and balance sheet**

Mike asked for thanks to be extended to Council and Staff for the support given during the Covid Pandemic. Steve Wynn asked Mike to clarify how Essex Tennis raise Wimbledon funds. Mike then clarified how Essex Tennis are increasing support in the following areas:
Inclusivity and Diversity – more funds being spent
County Kit – The county kit for the both the performance squads and county teams is now heavily subsidized.

Parents and Friends Association – This has very recently been formed. The County will be supporting them and they will feed back. Details and Constitution will appear on the Essex Tennis website.

Mike again reiterated that the County has a 60 year lease on the office at Redbridge Sports Centre of which 30 are remaining. The aim is for Essex Tennis to have its own Tennis Centre. Essex Tennis investments: £600,000 were invested which fell to £545,000 during the pandemic. They are now back up to £588,000.

The reports were approved and adopted

Proposer: Mike Jones Seconder: John Doody

5 **To elect Officers**

These were all approved and adopted

Proposer: Peter Cook

All in favour

6 **To agree that the Essex Council will appoint an appropriate individual and/or corporate body to undertake an independent Review of the accounts**

Josh Foster is now going to be co opted on to Council, therefore he will no longer be our independent auditor. Mike asked the meeting if anyone would be willing to take this role or if there were any suggestions. It would necessitate being in place by September 23.

7 **Update on the agreed change of our legal status to that of a charitable incorporated organisation**

Alan explained that we are in the process of changing the legal status of Essex Tennis. Mike went on to clarify further:

- There would be no corporation tax involved
- A number of other counties and Essex clubs had gone down the trustee route.
- There will be a need for Essex Tennis to be compliant with the Charities Commission.
- Paid For Legal advice will need to be sought on certain technical elements. Mike asked the meeting's permission to seek this advice

Richard Lehman endorsed this change of status.

Alan asked the meeting's permission to progress this.

All Agreed

8 **Any Other Business**

David Taylor from The Connaught Club asked the following questions:

1. Are all clubs playing in Essex leagues/competitions covered under the LTA insurance and safeguarding provisions? - answered as a yes.
2. In local leagues, where there could well be clubs playing that aren't LTA registered, then is the statement still true? - to which the answer was no.

As this emanated into a complex discussion it was decided to address the matter after further investigation by Essex Tennis. This will be conveyed to clubs and published on the Essex Tennis website as soon as possible.

Steve Wynn addressed the meeting with regard to their club Wimbledon ticket allocations and how successful they had been for volunteers being offered tickets. Juliet O Mahony from Billericay TC made comment that none of their volunteers they had put on their club list got offered any tickets. In reply Paul Marks reported that the LTA had formed a working party following Wimbledon 22 and had listened to the counties' comments. Mike made comment that there is a meeting planned in February for counties to meet the new LTA President. Richard Lehman thanked the Essex Wimbledon Team for their continued efforts to raise funds through the Wimbledon Partnership Scheme.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm. Date of next AGM Wednesday 17 January 2024

Signed: _____
Alan Rayner. Chair

Dated: _____

Celine Rogers 10/1/23