

DEVON COUNTY LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Presentation evening and AGM, Devon LTA
held on Wednesday 25th January 2017

at Buckerell Lodge, Exeter at 7.00 pm

Justin thanks everyone for attending AGM and presentation, welcomes Sir Simon Day and thanks him for attending.

This year, we are starting with the awards, there will then be a buffet and the AGM will follow thereafter.

PRESENTATION OF DEVON LTA COUNTY AWARDS 2016

The awards below are presented by Sir Simon Day.

10U Player of the Year – Jessica Johnson (Exmouth Tennis and Fitness Centre) Julian Hayter (ARC)

Junior Player of the Year – Pierce Widdecombe (Millfield School) Ben Johnson (Exmouth Tennis and Fitness Centre)

Senior Player of the Year – Emma Hurst (Seaton & Bath Uni) Sue Doncaster (ARC)

Young Coach of the Year – Tom Vinall (ARC)

Coach of the Year* – Ricky Palmer (St Budeaux TC)

Community Venue Award* – Tarka Tennis Centre Okehampton TC

Education Award* – Atlantic Coast Co-operative Trust

Young Volunteer of the Year* – Charlotte Koval (ARC) Roxanne Marshall (Hill Lane JTC)

Junior Volunteer of the Year – Beth Groves (St Budeaux TC)

Volunteer of the Year* – David Vinall (ARC & County) Andy Malcolm (Willand & County) Sarah Powell (ARC) Robert Richards (Okehampton TC) ARC Davis Cup Trophy Tour Committee

The Award for Outstanding Achievement* – Jon Triggs (ARC)

Club of the Year* – Hill Lane Junior Tennis Club

On Emma Hurst's behalf: Emma has always put Devon high on her list of priorities. Emma has always been very committed and is doing very well at university. Played this year in France. Thanks for the award (from Emma).

Sir John Barter Trophy – this is to mark the achievements of the Devon team in 1994/95 and is presented by Mrs Connie Barter. Many of the players are still playing for Devon today and this trophy recognises the work that John Barter did as captain. The trophy is awarded to Linden Hardisty, captain of the over 45s and 50s, and Justin collects it on his behalf. Justin reports that Linden was delighted to have been nominated and apologises for not being able to attend. Over the years, he has captained over 45s, enjoyed substantial success, and also played with the younger players in the winter. He was disappointed that he could not attend.

Full information on all winners and nominees available [here](#)

Justin has one further award. Many of the people present attended Davis Cup Trophy Tour in the summer. It was a fantastic day all round so, as a committee, we created an award for the ARC team for such a great event. A huge amount of work was done by the club's committee in order to ensure the day was a success.

Justin presents the award to Tom Vinall.

Upon accepting the award, Tom says that the club has grown very fast and he is the only person at the club who is in a paid role. He mentions the huge amount of support from members and adds that 130 club members turned out on the day to volunteer and that lots of people put in a huge amount of time. Tom is very proud to be part of the club.

Winners in the Aegon British Tennis Award categories (*) will go forward to the LTA regional judging panel.

Justin adds that the hard work of volunteers does get noticed and is very much appreciated. He would like to see a lot more nominations as it is great opportunity to give volunteers a 'pat on the back'. He thanks all of the volunteers.

Justin thanks Sir Simon for presenting the trophies.

DEVON COUNTY LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Devon LTA, AGM
held on Wednesday 25th January 2017
at Buckerell Lodge, Exeter at 7.00 pm

Justin Kraushar (Chairman) welcomes everyone to the meeting and thanked Chris Bawden (Tennis Coordinator) for organising the evening.

PRESENT

See Annex 1

1. APOLOGIES

See Annex 1

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM on Wednesday 27 January 2016

There were two minor amendments to the minutes. These will be implemented by the secretary and the minutes will be re-circulated.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016

The Chairman's Report is accessible via the Devon LTA website [here](#) and taken as read. There were no questions. Ashley proposed, Steve Hitch seconded and it was unanimously agreed.

Justin adds that tennis is currently going through a very successful and positive period in general at the moment and long may this continue.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer's Report is accessible via the Devon LTA website [here](#) and taken as read. Paper copies of the report are provided at the meeting.

Andy Malcolm: This is our second year in a row of making a loss. It is clear that we cannot carry on making a loss; we have to maximise resources so that we can carry on providing support. Our losses are mainly due to Chris' wages but, in reality, without Chris much of the work would simply not get done. Expenditure is roughly the same as last year. Affiliation fees have gone up but this is nothing to do with the County and is set by central LTA. We have no say in the rate that is set but we can add a top up if we like. We are not going to do so this year. Small losses have also been caused by Devon Academy which was set up to help juniors and run by local coaches; we also contribute to Whirlwind tennis tour, helping youngsters play in the county and also against Cornwall. We gave out £2,000 in grants and £6,000 in loans to clubs this year. We would like to use more reserves; grants are not available at the moment but loans are. Clubs should get in touch with Chris, Andy or David if they would like to apply for a loan.

There were no questions. Andy Malcolm, Treasurer, proposed the following, seconded by Catriona, and it was unanimously agreed to:

- Accept the annual accounts.
- Patrons' fee to remain at £60.
- County Leagues' affiliation fee to remain at £25 per league.

There was a suggestion regarding the above, that the league fee could actually be increased. Andy responds that we don't want to effectively take money from the clubs. We need the nominal amount to provide a 'connection' but the amount does not need to rise.

- Re-elect the auditors, Francis Clarke.

David Vinall, on behalf of Devon LTA, thanks Andy Malcolm, for all the work he has done this year.

Break for buffet

David asks that as many people as possible stay for the AGM as it is a momentous meeting this time.

6. CAPTAINS' REPORTS

Captains' reports are accessible via the Devon LTA website [here](#). The Chairman thanks the captains for their reports. There were no questions. Sir Simon proposes, Ashley seconds and they were unanimously agreed.

Justin mentions veteran men's coaching at the Devonshire – details will be sent out if you haven't received them yet.

7. COUNTY PLAN

Led by David Vinall and John Allen – see PowerPoint presentation (distributed with agenda)

David Vinall: In 2014, the LTA reorganisation took staff away from the counties and the LTA was regionalised. We now have Bristol and Portsmouth offices. At that time, Devon LTA had become very reliant on the LTA professionals and we were left wondering who could make things happen and the answer was... volunteers and clubs. However, we need a *County plan* to figure out exactly what we need to do, i.e. a strategic plan for Devon Tennis. David will now talk about rationale behind the plan.

David presents the DLTA strategic plan – see PowerPoint presentation

Stage one – brand is to become Devon Tennis as public don't always know who LTA is. LTA has been rebranded as British Tennis so new name is next step for us.

Strategic plan for DEVON TENNIS – there will be an overall vote to adopt proposals at the end of the discussion.

John Allen – restructuring the council as it stands. The list of councillors from 5 or 10 years ago is probably more or less the same people as today. There's been no churn of councillors over the years. It's time to move the council forward as part of process. One of the problems has been the fact that leagues nominate two councillors per league and those leagues are affiliated organisations. Potentially there are 8 councillors nominated by associate organisations. Also, there is the 'Torbay problem', i.e. there are some clubs in the Torbay area but no Torbay league so no representation for them. We need to find a different way to appoint councillors. We need to make sure members are effective in their roles. Proposal – move appointment to being directly elected by clubs. Club can nominate a member for DLTA Council as a councillor. Councillors must be active; they must serve the clubs. We are asking for club nominations for people who will step up and help.

There needs to be proper representation without too much complexity. We need clubs to step up and put people forward.

David Vinall – we also need to talk about paid staff. Chris is Tennis Coordinator – she is the ‘glue’ that holds Devon Tennis together. There is a limit to what volunteers can do and that is why we need Chris. The plan is to retain the role of Chris but we also need to expand. The plan is to appoint a Performance Coordinator by spring. At the moment, nobody focuses on performance. There is plenty of good work going on promoting juniors but there’s no coordinating role to bring juniors into County and County teams. The pipeline of players is therefore drying up. The Performance Coordinator will visit clubs, coaches etc and identify children who we should be talent spotting and bringing into the County. The County is first step on performance ladder. It is a key role. That’s why we need to implement this spring, i.e. immediately.

One other paid role – by spring next year, a County Tournament Coordinator will be appointed to oversee all County competitions.

Devon Tennis plan – there are seven elements (see plan)

Coaching – key to tennis. Clubs tend to work in isolation. There will be a coaching working group and Devon Coaches Association to bring coaches together.

Performance – already covered. Will have Performance Working Group and need volunteers to help formulate performance plan.

Contact David if you’re interested in volunteering.

Competition – already covered. We are going to go back to tournament committee for County Closed. There is currently a lack of focus on the players’ experience and this needs to be considered. Please contact David if you’re interested.

Publicity and Media – how to communicate with the public at large. Talking to Marjon about students on journalism course working with us. There will be another working group for this.

County awards – merges with publicity and media. It is such a shame when there are so many good people out there and we get so few nominations for awards. There are loads of people worthy of a nomination but we just don’t get them. This group will work on this issue.

Club support – how you can access funding, support, etc. in a club? This is all about helping clubs and understanding club challenges.

Sponsorship and fundraising – we are running at a deficit. We need money to ensure these working groups are effective. Have to consider how we’re going to finance the plan. Without money, none of this will happen.

Structure – see plan overview in presentation.

Sponsorship – we NEED to raise money! Now is a great time to be trying to raise sponsorship, with all of our fantastic players at the moment raising the profile of tennis. We need to utilise this high profile now.

The idea is as follows: there is an allocation of Wimbledon tickets to clubs and the County gets a discretionary allocation. We currently receive 143 pairs of tickets for the County. We need to use these tickets to raise sponsorship. We can’t sell them as that’s against the rules but we can add the tickets into the sponsorship packages. They can be used as a reward to encourage sponsors.

At the moment, each council member can apply for a pair of tickets plus patrons can all apply for tickets. Patron scheme is to be frozen as of tonight. We will take tickets away from discretionary pool so tickets for patrons will reduce. For the specific figures regarding tickets – see plan. Thirty-five counties already do this and we are working closely with Bucks in this context. Andrew Petherick (from Bucks) chairs sponsorship group at LTA and is helping Devon. This could generate substantial income (see plan). This hugely increases cash that is currently generated by patrons. We don’t want to lose all patrons so some tickets will still be available. Some patrons have been around for many years. If we don’t do this we will ultimately cease to exist once reserves are used up.

How to generate sponsors – see plan. Use personal contacts; everyone can think about who they could talk to. Current patrons could convert to sponsors. Could also use an agency but this is not preferred option as sponsors can be remote. This year, Bucks has agreed to help us find sponsors. £25k has already been raised for Devon Tennis.

Questions from the floor

- If we approach a sponsor and they offer money, what do they get in return (for 5k)? They get approx. 2 pairs of tickets in second week. 3 or 4 pairs in first week. Sponsor would give 5 times face value of a ticket (roughly). Contact David or Andy for further details.
- Are we intending to sell tickets to patrons for face value?
Yes
- Are councillors going to give up their tickets?
There will be fewer councillors anyway. Many don't draw their tickets anyway. Some councillors will give up but we won't ask them to give up tickets. Councillors have to pay face value.
- When it comes to sponsorship – what do the sponsors get?
The package is being assembled at the moment. It's all about County teams, training etc etc. They'll be invited to County events, there could be a County day at tournament, etc. Suggestion – publicity could be offered for the sponsor's business by means of a poster at clubs, for example. That is an attractive option and will be covered by the working group.
- What if nobody volunteers?
Volunteers are hard to come by but we will approach people and ask them directly. We need names of suitable people for these groups. David hopes to visit clubs and talk about Devon Tennis and volunteering. There needs to be a sense of *contribution* to meetings, rather than just attending. The working groups require people to roll up their sleeves and get stuck in. We are starting with three working groups but this is an ongoing development process.

8. RULE CHANGES FOR DEVON LTA

John Allen – revised rules have been sent out to all clubs with changes highlighted in red. Main changes – branding (see above) and election of councillors. All detailed on page 3 of document. In addition, we want and need *active* councillors so volunteers need to be prepared to work on groups and make a contribution. Last appendix – needs to be clear that associate organisations don't have voting rights per se.

Questions from the floor

- How many clubs do you need to vote – AGMs 75% of present have to approve. Each club has one vote, councillors have independent vote (don't have two votes).
- Paragraph 7d part 3 states “vacating office if you are or may be suffering from any mental disorder”. This is very antiquated (and not very PC) and should be rewritten. John says that this should have been suggested before the meeting, not now. The rule will be rewritten for next AGM as it cannot be struck out now.

Voting tickets are handed out to ensure nobody has two votes.

Motion to adopt Devon Plan and rule changes

Proposed by: David Vinall

Seconded by: Ashley Scott

For 22

Against 0

Abstentions 0

Justin offers huge thanks to all involved in the plan. David, Chris and John have all worked exceptionally hard.

NB: rule changes cannot be adopted immediately as of the AGM. Suggestion is that they apply as of October. Leagues can nominate 2 councillors to council for this year. For 2018 AGM, all changes will be implemented.

9. ELECTIONS

Management committee stays as per current structure.

Committee

- Chairman – Justin Kraushar
- Vice chairman – John Allen
- Treasurer - Andy Malcolm
- LTA Representative – David Vinall
- Hon Secretary – Nicky Ormshaw

Proposed by: Ashley Scott

Seconded by: Catriona Batty

Vote: All in favour

Rest of councillors – elected en bloque – all existing councillors to continue

| | | |
|----------|----------|---|
| John | Allen | Vice Chairman |
| Catriona | Batty | Exeter District Rep & Ladies Vets Capt |
| Kate | Brown | Ladies Captain |
| Jackie | Clarke | East Devon Rep |
| Steve | Hitch | Plymouth District Rep |
| Ken | Jones | Mens Vets Captain |
| Justin | Kraushar | Chairman/Mens Captain |
| Andy | Malcolm | Exeter District Rep /County Treasurer |
| Frankie | Peroni | East Devon Rep |
| Ashley | Scott | Co-opted Member |
| Gary | Tovey | North Devon Rep/Club Strategies Advisor |
| David | Vinall | LTA Councillor |
| Laurence | Webster | Torbay District Rep |
| Peter | Wilson | Tournament officer (co-opted) |
| Nicky | Ormshaw | Hon. Secretary |
| Chris | Bawden | Tennis Co-ordinator |
| David | Kirkness | Hon Vice President |
| Penny | Pullen | Hon.Vice President |
| Sir | Day | President |

| | | |
|--------|-----------|------------------|
| Simon | | |
| | | |
| Bud | O'Connell | Hon. Life Member |
| Peter | Bayliss | Hon.VP |
| Mary | Bayliss | Hon Life Member |
| Sheila | Thomas | Hon Life Member |

Proposer: Barry Rodgers

Secunder: Jane Wilson

The following are willing to continue in their roles:

- President - Sir Simon Day
- Hon Vice-Presidents – Peter Bayliss, Penny Pullen and Bud O'Connell

10. AOB

Justin thanks Connie Barter for presenting trophy, Sir Simon Day for presenting trophies too.

David Vinall – Vernon Weaver trophy: this year's tournament for the winners of division 1 of the Exeter and District, Plymouth and District, North Devon and East Devon Leagues will be at Ivybridge on Sun 9th April. If you know winners in your leagues, please tell Marian this evening.

Justin thanks all for attending and everyone for volunteering.

The meeting closes at 9.04 pm

ANNEX 1**APOLOGIES**

Lawrence Webster
 Ken Jones
 Park Lane TC
 Ottery St Mary TC
 Torquay TC
 Lympstone TC
 Sampford Peverell
 Victoria Park

Devon LTA Councillor
 Virgin Active/ Devon LTA Councillor

PRESENT

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Justin Kraushar | Chairman / Victoria Park |
| David Vinall | LTA Councillor |
| John Allen | Vice Chair |
| Andy Malcolm | Treasurer / Willand |
| Nicky Ormshaw | Secretary / Plympton TC |
| David Kirkness | Hon VP |
| Kate Brown | Ladies Capt |
| Ashley Scott | Councillor / David Lloyd |
| Jackie Clarke | Councillor / Woodbury |
| Catriona Batty | Vets Sec / Exeter G & CC |
| Steve Hitch | Councillor / Ivybridge TC |
| Peter Wilson | Councillor / Plympton TC |
| Penny Pullen | Hon VP / Exeter G & CC |
| Sir Simon Day | President |
| Chris Bawden | Tennis Co-ordinator |
| | |
| Teresa Poole | Braunton TC & NDLTA |
| James Temple | Exeter Golf & Country Club |
| Jane Wilson | Plympton TC |
| Barry Rodgers | Hill Lane Junior TC |
| Chris Shorter | Mannamead |
| Chris Gill | Tarka Tennis Centre |
| Chris Laycock | Bovey Tracey TC |
| Peter Fung | Sidmouth TC |
| Pat Browne | Woodbury |
| Charlotte Wallace | Exeter Tennis Centre |
| Kevin Davis | Exeter Tennis Centre |
| Bill Williams | Cary Park TC |
| Paula Hill | Cary Park TC |
| Laura Leigh | Newton St Cyres |
| | |
| Marian Vinall | ARC |
| Tom Vinall | ARC |

Connie Barter
Howard Scott

Exeter Tennis Centre