



ESSEX TENNIS

ESSEX COUNTY LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT REDBRIDGE SPORTS CENTRE, BARKINGSIDE ON WEDNESDAY, 17th JANUARY 2024

Representatives from the following clubs:

Billericay: Lester Galley, Isobel Holmes, Pauline Lehman, Richard Lehman (Council),
Brentwood Lawn: Peter Cook **Castle Hedingham:** Wendy Taylor (Council) **Chingford School of Tennis:** Hilary McDowell **Cranbrook Castle:** Trevor Gallant, Sammy Twitchett
Danbury Tennis Club: Phil Sanson **Dunmow Tennis Club:** Catherine Karr **Elm Park Tennis Club:** Juliet O'Mahony (Council) **Raphaels Park:** Mike Jones (Council)
Rayleigh: John Blewett (Council) **Redbridge:** Gemma Wiggs **Thorpe Bay:** Paul Marks (Council) Alan Rayner (Council), Craig Jones **Westcliffe Lawn Tennis Club:** Steve Wynn (Council) **Essex Tennis:** Menisha Narberam, Nigel Parsons, Clive Rippon, Celine Rogers, Joanne White

- 1 **Apologies for absence**
Hamptons, Hylands, David Harston
- 2 **To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held 6th January 2023 and matters arising**

The minutes were approved and adopted
Proposer: Alan Rayner, Seconder: Peter Cook
- 3a **Essex Tennis County Reports comprising:**
Chair/Advantage Essex/LTA Registration/Safeguarding/Coaching/Inclusivity/Essex and LTA Awards/Partners/Patrons/Essex Tennis Parents and Friends Association (ETPFA)/Essex Tennis Social Media
All were agreed
Proposer: John Blewett, Seconder: Craig Jones
- 3b **Essex Competition Reports Comprising:**
Play your Way to Wimbledon Organiser/Mens and Ladies Captains/Mens and Ladies Seniors Coordinators/Performance
All were agreed
Proposer: Lester Galley, Seconder: Juliet O'Mahony
- 3c **LTA Tennis Awards – Essex Nominations 2024**
Paul Marks provided a brief overview of the awards. Alan Rayner explained that the Essex Winners would go forward to the Regional Awards. The winners of the Regional Awards would then go forward to the National Awards which are held at Wimbledon. The Essex Winners were:
 - Club of the Year: Hadleigh Park LTC
 - Development Coach: Andrew Dowsett
 - Performance Coach: Helen Parish
 - Parks Award: Valentines Park
 - Competition: Essex Padel Championships
 - Tennis for All: Greenhouse Sports
 - School: Sarah Bonnell School
 - Life Time Achievement Award: Michael Baggs
 - Official: Graham Boosey
 - Volunteer: Juliet O'Mahony

- Rising Star: Heidi Cornwall
- President's: tbd by the LTA President
- Essex Tennis Special Award: Oliver Toms

4a **To agree and adopt the Treasurers Report the profit and loss account, balance sheet 22/23 and Independent Review of Accounts**

Mike Jones provided an overview of the accounts and reported that it had been a good financial year, with cash reserves in a very healthy position and that the "future looked good".

Mike stated the aim is for Essex Tennis to have its own Tennis Centre, and that facilities would have to be replaced within the next 30 years.

Mike explained that County Associations now receive grants from the LTA rather than registration fees paid by members. These grants are determined by the number of people who play tennis in the county, the availability of Park Tennis Schemes, Junior Performance Tennis, Disability/ Inclusive Tennis and Padel/Pickleball.

The figures were reviewed by the Chartered Accountant and given a glowing review. Mike expressed his thanks to Joanne White.

The reports were approved and adopted
 Proposer: Mike Jones, Seconder: Juliet O'Mahony

4b **To agree that the Essex Tennis will appoint an appropriate individual and/or corporate body to undertake a review of the accounts, who shall not be a member of the Organisation**

This was agreed
 Proposer: Mike Jones, Seconder: Craig Jones
 All in Favour

4c **To seek approval to invest up to a further £200,000 into the markets**

Mike Jones explained that Essex Tennis currently was investing £600,000 in the stock market, managed by Crocus Wealth, our professional financial advisor. Mike asked for approval to invest a further £200,000.

This was agreed
 Proposer: Mike Jones, Seconder: Richard Lehman
 All in favour

5 **To discuss the update in respect of the already agreed changes to a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation" (CIO)**

Paul Marks provided an update on "Our move to CIO status in 2024"

- April 2024 – Application/Constitution submitted to Charities Commission
- September 2024 – EGM to Finalise CIO status with members
- Up till October 1st – Essex Tennis will continue to operate in the same way
- October 1st 2024 – Move to new trustee status (following the LTA funding model) – this model is being used by a large number of other councils/counties.
- As Trustees cannot sit on the council for more than 9 years a plan is in place to ensure the necessary rotation
- January 2025 – will be the final AGM following the old structure
- January 2026 will be the first AGM of the new structure

Alan Rayner expressed the hard work and hours that had gone into this change and thanked Mike Jones, Paul Marks, Juliet O'Mahony and Clive Rippon for their contributions. He then asked for any comments. There were no comments.

6 **To Agree, subject to the agreement of the Charities Commission, the Constitution of the ESSEX TENNIS CIO to be ratified at an EGM in September 2024 with implementation to take place on October 1st 2024**

This was agreed

Proposer: Paul Marks, Seconder: Mike Jones

All in favour

7 **To elect Officers**

These were all approved and adopted en bloc

Proposer: Peter Cook

All in favour

8 **Any Other Business**

Alan Rayner made reference to the incorrect spelling of David Harston's name in the Constitution. He then read out a statement from David Harston in his absence, which thanked all for the honour of being appointed as the new President of Essex Tennis.

Alan Rayner thanked Richard Lehman, who is stepping down as President of Essex Tennis, after 22 years of service on the council. (Life Vice President since 2014 and President since 2018)

Richard Lehman then spoke about his time on the council, how it has evolved, and how hard the team work. Richard thanked Clive Rippon for all his support and assistance over the years. He is delighted that Dave Harston is the incoming President and that Mike Baggs was awarded the lifetime achievement award.

He wished the Essex Tennis staff, and Council, club representatives and clubs, all tennis players the very best for the future.

There was no other business. Alan Rayner thanked the clubs for attending

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm. Date of next AGM Wednesday XXX January 2025

Signed: _____
Alan Rayner. Chair

Dated: _____