



Press Release

Monday 24th February 2020

Embargoed until 12:00 noon

LTA and Tennis Scotland agree £12million funding agreement to grow tennis in Scotland

The LTA and Tennis Scotland have announced a new and unprecedented £12million funding agreement for tennis in Scotland to help grow the sport and open it up to more people, a legacy that would be befitting of the success of Scotland's three Grand Slam champions in Andy Murray, Jamie Murray and Gordon Reid.

The new arrangement, which covers the entirety of the LTA's investment in tennis in Scotland, builds on progress made in recent years and represents a record investment, with a substantial increase in funding to deliver and develop tennis in Scotland over and above spending committed to new indoor tennis facilities.

As part of the agreement, the LTA will fund Tennis Scotland's operational delivery including a number of new roles, as well as investing in a range of activities that encourage more people to play tennis and an international and national tournament calendar that will help to increase the year-round visibility of the sport.

This will strengthen activity and infrastructure across the country from grassroots participation to elite talent development, including the National Tennis Academy at the University of Stirling. This has been built upon an aligned strategic approach developed by the LTA for tennis in Britain.

The funding provided also incorporates investment from the LTA that is already in place such as through the Transforming Scottish Indoor Tennis fund, which is on track to see a number of new indoor facilities beginning construction in 2020. This fund, with matched investment from sportscotland, has been set aside for the construction of much needed indoor facilities. Building on the significant LTA investment, Tennis Scotland, in partnership with the LTA and sportscotland, have secured further



partner funding from projects across Scotland that will help raise the investment in tennis facilities even further.

This new agreement means that investment in delivering and developing tennis in Scotland is aligned behind the LTA's five-year strategic plan, with the unprecedented funding providing a strong platform to drive greater visibility of and engagement in tennis, with everyone working together to achieve our ultimate goal of getting more people playing the game.

LTA Chief Executive Scott Lloyd said "Our strategy is underpinned by investing resources where there is greatest opportunity to deliver impact and drive participation in tennis. Over the last decade, Scottish tennis players have excelled and captivated the nation – the progress made through the work of Tennis Scotland and other delivery partners in recent years towards capitalising on that to grow the sport, has now created this opportunity for us to take it to a new level."

Tennis Scotland Chief Executive Blane Dodds said "This is a hugely exciting time for tennis in Scotland and we are grateful for the renewed commitment shown by the LTA. This historic investment will enable us to open up tennis to more people nationwide, to work closer with established and emerging tennis communities across Scotland, deliver more facilities and help grow the game further so that more people in Scotland and enjoy and benefit from our sport. It's also a great example of partnership working, with LTA and **sportscotland's** match funding programme well under way to delivering 10 new indoor tennis facilities across Scotland."

Sportscotland Chief Executive Stewart Harris said, "This is a great opportunity to further develop the sport of tennis in Scotland. We know that working together can deliver the greatest impact which is why we are delighted that this partnership with the LTA and Tennis Scotland will make the best use of the available investment, facilities and people across Scotland. By working together we can make tennis more accessible and create opportunities for everyone to take part at the level they choose."

Tennis Coach Judy Murray said, "This is great news for tennis in Scotland and I'm delighted to see the LTA making this commitment to investing in the sport over the next couple of years that will build stronger foundations to grow the game, providing more opportunities and places to play tennis."

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- **The new agreement will see the LTA's funding for tennis in Scotland invested in five key areas:**
 - **Operational Delivery:**



The new agreement will see the LTA fund the operational delivery and associated overheads needed by Tennis Scotland, including required technology and hardware and new dedicated roles to support the delivery of tennis to the grass roots of the sport in Scotland, for example covering safeguarding and disability tennis. This will enable Tennis Scotland to focus on their delivery of activity to grow the sport in Scotland with sufficient resources and a vision that aligns with the LTA's strategy.

– **Activities that encourage more people to play tennis:**

From supporting tennis in schools and making tennis more accessible to people with disabilities, to County Cup competitions that enable players of all ages to compete, have fun and improve their game, the agreement provides the funding required to deliver a range of national programmes and activity in Scotland.

A further new fund will be available to support delivering activity as part of future programmes and bespoke activity specific to Scotland.

– **International and national tournament calendar:**

Continuing to stage the Murray Trophy in Glasgow and hosting other events such as the LTA Glasgow Pro-Series that inspire more people in Scotland to enjoy and get into tennis, by growing visibility and providing opportunities to engage communities.

– **Facility Investment:**

Funding to build and improve existing tennis infrastructure in Scotland is already committed with a £7.5m investment in the Transforming Scottish Indoor Tennis programme, a figure matched by sportscotland. This programme is building between 40 and 50 new indoor courts across a dozen locations across Scotland – more than doubling the current number of existing indoor courts. A number of projects are already going through the approval process, with building work on the ground for the first of the new facilities expected to start in early 2020.

– **Talent Development:**

Supporting the LTA's existing performance pathway and the development of talented players. This will continue to include support and expert coaching at Local and Regional Player Development Centres through to operating and managing the National Academy in Stirling and the LTA's Pro-Scholarship Programme. The new funding will also develop support for Scottish talent across disability pathways.

Tennis Scotland Strategy:

- **Vision:** Tennis Opened up to deliver the legacy in Scotland
- **Mission:** To grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable:
 - To build stronger venues at the heart of our community making tennis accessible
 - To build a world class player development pathway
 - To develop a range of facilities and venues fit for the future of our sport making tennis relevant
 - To grow and develop a world class workforce
 - To deliver a range of Events and Competitions to experience and showcase tennis



- making tennis enjoyable and welcoming
- To grow and develop resources to deliver an effective new organisation

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ABOUT THE LTA:

The LTA is the National Governing Body of tennis in Great Britain. We are here to govern and grow tennis, from grassroots participation through to the professional game. Our vision is “Tennis Opened Up” and we’re on a mission to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. We work with schools, with volunteers, with coaches and with venues across the whole country. We also represent the interests of over 685,000 Members, men and women, girls and boys, playing on more than 23,000 courts. The LTA runs and supports a network of 11,500 approved tournaments for players of all ages, the four corner-stones of which are the premier grass-court events leading up to The Championships, Wimbledon: the Nature Valley Open (at Nottingham), the Nature Valley Classic (at Birmingham), the Fever-Tree Championships (at The Queen’s Club, London) and the Nature Valley International (at Eastbourne). For further information about the LTA and tennis in Britain, visit www.lta.org.uk or follow us on Twitter @the_LTA

