

A Brief History of the LRTA

The idea of a Ladies' Real Tennis Association was conceived during a conversation outside a rain sodden marquee at the Moreton Morrell Tennis Club in May 1981. Alan Lovell, Chairman of the T&RA Tennis Committee, turned to Lesley Ronaldson, British Ladies Champion, and said: "Have you thought of starting a Ladies' Association? You would have the blessing of the T&RA."

Lesley, Ladies Champion in 1979-81, 1987, needed no further encouragement. A draft Constitution, based on that of the Professionals, was presented for discussion at a meeting on 31st October 1981 at Moreton Morrell during the British Ladies Singles Handicap Tournament. That Constitution was adopted unanimously. The LRTA was on its way.

Nominations for the officers were requested for the next meeting, during the first British Ladies Doubles Tournament at Hampton Court on 16th January, 1982. Lesley Ronaldson was elected Chairman, Viv Dawes Honorary Secretary and Alex Warren-Piper, now Garside, Honorary Treasurer; and at the invitation of the T&RA for an LRTA member to sit on the Tennis Sub-Committee Sheila Macintosh was elected.

The number of lady players continued to grow steadily, and the first lady Professionals appeared on the scene in the 1980s: Lesley Ronaldson in England and Helen Mursell in Australia. In 1998 the T&RA decided to invite the LRTA Chairman to be a Member of the Council by right, and in 2009 the Council also co-opted Sarah McGivern to the Council.

The names of those first Committee Members will be forever remembered for their invaluable and tireless work for the Association. Their professionalism and extensive knowledge has ensured the continuity of the high standards that evolved from those small beginnings outside a rain sodden marquee.

Current Committee Members

Alex Garside (Chairman)
 Sarah McGivern (Treasurer)
 Lucy Hutchinson (Secretary)
 Viv Dawes
 Chantelle Harding
 Sheila Macintosh
 Katy Weston
 Sarah Whittaker

Club	Telephone	Professional	LRTA Contact
Bristol & Bath Tennis Club	01179 733444	Kevin King Kieron Jones	
Cambridge University Tennis Court	01223 357 106	Kees Ludekens Peter Paterson Scott Blaber	Fiona Brown
Canford School	01202 881 232	Steve Ronaldson	Margaret Wareing
Falkland Palace Royal Tennis Club	01337 857 098	Bob Hammond	
Hardwick House	01635 201356		Katy Weston
Hatfield House Tennis Club	01707 273 391	Jon Dawes Will Burns	Liz Fisher
Holyport Grange Tennis Club	01628 673964	Angus Williams	Jill Newby
Hyde Tennis Club	01308 420 777	Ben Ronaldson Adam Barrett	Ros Clark
Jesmond Dene Tennis Club	0191 281 6854	Paul Hetherington	Michelle Mackie
Leamington Tennis Court Club	01926 424 977	Kevin Sheldon Marc Seigneur	
Manchester Tennis & Racquet Club	0161 834 0616	Steve Brockenshaw Craig Greenhalgh	Stella Heap
MCC (Lords)	020 7616 8685	Adam Phillips Mark Ryan Chris Swallow	
Middlesex University Real Tennis Club	020 8411 6768	Gerard Eden Matt Ronaldson	Frederika Adam
Moreton Morrell Tennis Court Club	01926 651 229	Tom Granville Nick Jury	Jo Miller
Newmarket Real Tennis Club	01638 666 612	Andrew Knibbs Mark Hobbs	Hazel Dunn
Oratory School	01491 681 303	Mark Eadle Ross Brown	Sarah Whittaker
Oxford University Tennis Court	01865 244 212	Alan Oliver Andrew Davis	Lesley Smith
Petworth House Tennis Court	01798 343 527	Chris Bray Tom Durack	Jenny Curtis
Prested Hall Racket Club	01376 570 220	Ricardo Smith	Jo Bartholomew
Queen's Club	020 7386 3405	David Johnson Andrew Lyons Howard Angus	
Radley College Tennis Club	01235 543 176	Chris Ronaldson John Lumley	
Royal Tennis Court (Hampton Court)	020 8977 3015	Nick Wood Stefan King Chris Chapman Lesley Ronaldson	Gitte Dunkley
Seacourt Tennis Club	023 9246 6122	Danny Jones Adam Player	Jenny Paterson

Ladies Real Tennis Association

Membership Application Form

Name: Title:

Address:

.....

.....

Telephone: H: B:

Handicap: Club:

Email address:

Date of Birth:/...../..... (for age related tournaments)

I have no objection to my membership details being stored on computer or in some other form of automatic retrieval system, nor to my name, contact details & handicap being in the Members' Handbook.

Signature: Date:/...../.....

Membership Categories

Full (without Standing Order) £25.00
Full (via Standing Order) & Overseas £20.00
Social & 21 to 27 years £10.00
Under 21 years £5.00

(Please circle appropriate amount.)

Note: Annual membership payable January 1st

*Return to: Mrs Sarah McGivern, c/o Seacourt Tennis Club,
Victoria Avenue, Hayling Island, PO11 9AJ*

✂
(Please send this section to your bank)

Standing Order Mandate

To: Bank plc

Address:

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Please pay Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 12 Swan Street, Warwick CV34 4BJ
(Sort Code: 30-99-15) for the credit of the Ladies Real Tennis
Association (Account Number 00087208)

the sum of £..... commencing 1st January 200..... And thereafter
every 1st January until you receive further notice from me/us in writing
and debit my/our account accordingly. Name and Number of Account
to be debited:

Name: No:

This instruction cancels any previous order in favour of the Ladies
Real Tennis Association.

Signature(s): Date/...../.....

What do I gain by joining?

- **The opportunity to participate in a wide range of ladies' tournaments run by the LRTA**
 - *British Open Singles*
 - *British Open Doubles*
 - *LRTA International*
 - *British Handicaps Singles & Doubles (2 divisions)*
 - *British Masters (Over 40s)*
 - *Billy Ross Skinner Invitation Mixed Doubles*
 - *Mothers and Daughters Doubles*
 - *Under 18 (age) Handicap*
 - *Handicap Mixed Doubles*
 - *A large number of inter-club matches (representing the LRTA)*
- **Concessionary T&RA subscription rates**
- **Receive information and services**
 - *Regular newsletter keeping members abreast of current issues as well as an up to date Rankings List of international players*
 - *Members' Handbook showing fixtures, names, contact details and handicaps of all members, together with a current listing of all clubs, their contacts and telephone numbers*
 - *Central assistance with organisation of trips abroad (on request)*
 - *Official LRTA clothing available for purchase*
 - *LRTA website: www.lrta.org.uk*
- **Social opportunities**
 - *Meeting and travelling to tournaments with other members, both nationally and around the world*
 - *Attending tournament dinners and the Annual Association Dinner*
- **A chance to be heard**
 - *each club has an LRTA representative*
 - *"have your say" - we provide a forum for your ideas and concerns to be voiced*
 - *be a part of the continuing development of ladies' real tennis, not only in the UK but Worldwide*

Do we need the Association?

ABSOLUTELY!

The LRTA plays a vital role in the progress of ladies' real tennis in the United Kingdom by its activities and by having representation on the Council and on the Tennis Committee of the Tennis and Rackets Association (the UK Governing Body). In addition, the LRTA is an affiliated Member of the T&RA.

The LRTA also provides

- *representation on T&RA Sub-Committees such as Handicaps & Rankings and Tournaments & Fixtures*
- *liaison with International Clubs on issues relating to ladies' tennis. As a part of this role, we arrange and co-ordinate the Ladies' World Championship Tournaments when held in the United Kingdom*
- *encouragement to junior members by offering bursaries to promising young women players, group junior coaching and a free lesson on joining*
- *specific rules governing LRTA tournaments*

Join Now!

For further information
visit www.lrta.org.uk