

MINUTES Buxton Tennis Club AGM

Cavendish Golf Club 7pm 5th March 2025

Present: Carol Taylor, Sue Turnbull, Glenda Hunter, Steve Thompson, Sylvia Swain, Rob Turnbull, Richard Blyth, Liz Blyth, Paul Swain, Chris Grubb, Tracey Ellis, Carol Bassett, Dan Osborne, Sophie Lavy, Anne Thompson, Harriet Grubb, Lesley Montgomery-White.

Apologies: Mike and Julie Meaton, Pauline Salt, Pete Coward, Cath Reeds, Allan Ramsay, Wendy Solman, Mike Badman, Sally Gould. Minutes to be taken by Sue Turnbull in Allan's absence

Minutes of 2024 AGM approved: Proposed by Steve Thompson and seconded by Rob Turnbull

Chair's report: Carol Taylor made a full report on the past year's activities with particular reference to membership, club sessions and tournaments, coaching, teams, club maintenance and development (full report attached). She thanked Andy Storer who is stepping down as captain of the men's first team after many years of successfully building it up, Cath Reeds for her work as Welfare Officer who is now stepping down from this post, Mike Badman who is also stepping down from the committee after many years support, and Richard and Liz Blyth who continue to run Monday night club sessions so successfully. Bottles of wine were presented as tokens of the club's thanks and appreciation.

Presentation and approval of 2024's accounts: Dan Osborne explained the income and expenditure account for 2024, and showed the club has £47,500 set aside for the purpose of resurfacing the courts. The courts were last resurfaced in 2001 (24 years ago) and were expected to last 20 years. The accounts were accepted. (Proposed by Richard Blyth and seconded by Paul Swain). It was agreed now was the time to spend our reserve on the resurfacing and drainage. (More on this as an agenda item below)

Setting of subscriptions for 2025-26: Carol Taylor said fees had been discussed at the last committee meeting and the committee had agreed to propose that membership fees should be increased this year due to increased costs generally, an increase in the management charge the club has to pay to the main BCBLT club, and the fact that our membership fees weren't increased last year. Carol therefore proposed the increase which was seconded by Carol Bassett and agreed by the meeting. Membership fees for 2025 –2026 year will therefore now be:

Standard adult £125 (£115 if paid by 30.04.25) New adult member £55

Family £250 (£230 if paid by 30.04.25) New family £110

Concession £55 (£50 if paid by 30.04.25)

Junior (primary school age) £20 (Parents of primary school age children who want to play just with their children can also join for £20 "Associate")

Junior (secondary school age) £30

Country £70 (£65 if paid by 30.04.25)

Visitors £10 per court (max 4 visits)

Guests (playing with members) £5 per court (max 4 visits)

Election of officers and committee for 2025: The current members of the committee who were prepared to re-stand were Carol Taylor (chair), Allan Ramsay (Hon Secretary), Dan Osborne (Hon Treasurer), Sue Turnbull (Membership secretary) and Carol Bassett, Tracey Ellis and Sally Gould. All were proposed and seconded by Liz Blyth and Glenda Hunter. Harriet Grubb was proposed by Carol Bassett for the Welfare Officer role (seconded by Tracey Ellis) and Lesley Montgomery-White was also proposed and seconded as a new general member on the committee by Carol B and Tracey.

Trustees: Carol Taylor explained the club needs to have legally recognised trustees as the “club” itself is unable to hold property etc. She reported that the current trustees were appointed so long ago that no one knows who they are any more. The purpose of looking at this now is to appoint trustees who are relevant to the club now, and to set a system in place so that trustees remain updated as time goes by. Carol proposed doing this by:

- (a) Resolution to remove all existing trustees in accordance with section 10.6 of the club’s constitution
- (b) Nomination of new trustees. Carol proposed that each of the 3 club positions of Chairperson, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer takes on the role of a trustee. Then when someone new takes over one of these committee roles they also take on being a trustee for as long as they remain in office. This will mean trustees will always be kept up to date and be known. This is in line with how the main BCBLT club committee appoints their trustees.
- (c) Indemnity insurance. Carol has looked into this and can confirm that as we are an LTA registered venue all officers, trustees and club members are covered by the LTA’s Indemnity insurance.

These proposals were accepted unanimously. Carol Taylor, Dan Osborne and Allan Ramsay were therefore nominated to be trustees by Paul Swain and seconded by Steve Thompson, with the proviso that Carol will check that Allan is amenable to his nomination as he was not able to attend the meeting. (We need 2-4 trustees)

Teams for 2025 season. The following have agreed to captain teams:

Men's summer team – Jordan Grocott

Ladies summer team – Sally Gould

Late summer team – TBA later in season

Winter team – Liz Blyth

Update on constitution review: Carol T, Dan and Allan have investigated the history of this and Allan and Dan have confirmed that the latest version is the one that was agreed at the AGM on 15.01.2013. The constitution will now be added to the website.

Club development:

- (a) Court resurfacing, drainage on Court 1, and fencing.

Quotes were obtained from 3 companies. Unfortunately, as our application for a SUEZ grant was unsuccessful, we only have enough money to do the resurfacing and drainage at the moment. Paul Swain and Carol T were most impressed by Sport Surfacing Solutions who provided the mid-price quote and had the most thorough drainage solution. This company was recommended by New Mills Tennis Club who used them to resurface their courts a year ago. The cost will be £45,774 incl VAT, and includes new net post sockets and fixed mid court net hooks.

The proposal is to start the work on April 7th this year (awaiting confirmation of start date). The courts will be out of action for three weeks. The advantage of this date is that there are no junior coaching or league matches scheduled. We will then be able to play on the courts with temporary white lines while the surface finishes curing for a further three weeks or so. After that the permanent anti-slip paint will be applied and that will mean one last week without being able to use the courts. So, for a total of four weeks out of use, we will have brand new courts all ready for the new season and the next 20 years.

Discussion took place on best paint colour (green was agreed), and applying for other grants for the fencing once we have paid for the resurfacing and reduced our bank balance. Harriet Grubb suggested The Bingham Trust.

The meeting was unanimous in approving the £45,774 expense, and also in approving setting up a maintenance contract with Sport Surfacing Solutions which would include an annual professional jet wash and moss kill of the courts for £1200 - £1500 + vat pa. It was agreed that any additional moss killing that might be needed would be done by our own working parties.

(b) Pavilion. There has been no progress here. Although obtaining a small pavilion near the tennis courts remains a mid-term objective for the club, the resurfacing of the courts is the first priority.

Any other business.

*The death in January of Leo Barbero was announced. Wendy Solman sent a message that Leo had been a talented enthusiastic club member for many years, winning many tournaments and still playing well into his eighties. He used to enjoy coming down to watch the home matches even in his last year.

* The Club has been contacted by relatives of Bertha Steedman who won the All-England Championships several times in Buxton and Wimbledon in the 1890s, and who wondered if we would like the silver tea service that had been presented to her. It was agreed that as we have nowhere safe to display it Carol will suggest they contact Buxton Museum and the Visitor Experience.

* Glenda Hunter proposed a vote of thanks for Carol Taylor for all her hard work over the year.