

Buxton Tennis Club AGM, 3rd March 2022

Present: Steve Thompson (ST) (chair), Allan Ramsay (secretary), Dan Osborne (treasurer), Anne Thompson (AT) (membership secretary), Kate Tagg, Sue Turnbull, Mike Badman (MB), Sally Gould (SG), Carol Bassett (CB), Catherine Reeds (CR), Jill Nicholls (JN), Greg Love-Jones

Apologies: Wendy Solman, Rob Turnbull, Joy White, James Stuart, Carol Taylor, Jonathan Faulkner, Simon Bradbury

Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The minutes had been posted on the club website shortly after the last AGM. They were approved as a true record of that meeting. There were no matters arising that were not dealt with later in the meeting.

Treasurer's report

The accounts for 2021-2022 had been circulated by email prior to the meeting, and hard copies were also available at the meeting. The two major variances from the previous year were that income from membership fees had risen from £5570 to £7330, and that the club paid no management charge, compared to £2710 in the previous year. The first of these is a welcome change that the club should aim to maintain. The second arose because of a number of grants obtained to help protect clubs against the financial impact of Covid and will not be repeated. The management charge for the current year is £1000 and the charge for subsequent years cannot be predicted.

The outcome of these variances is that the club now has a balance of £33390.11. It was agreed that the line in the accounts for a sinking fund for eventual resurfacing should be increased to £25000. There was some discussion of the anticipated cost of resurfacing and of the timescale for doing so, but we do not have any reliable estimates and it is hard to tell how soon it will need to be done.

Membership secretary's report

We currently have 87 adult members, of whom 15 joined during the year. There are 8 associate members, i.e. people who joined in order to play with their children and who do not play at other times. We have 47 juniors, mainly in the lower age groups. Both of these are encouraging figures, and are noticeably up from a few years ago.

The secretary had nothing significant to report.

Management committee

ST reported on matters relating to the overall management committee:

- A new 50 year lease has been agreed with the council. The terms of this lease are that there will be a review of the rent every five years, with increases in line with inflation but capped at 3% pa. This is a significant step forwards: it makes it much easier to submit funding bids, since there is much more certainty about the clubs' tenure of the site, and it is also an excellent financial deal. Most of the work was done by Will Annison and Bob Marsden, whose efforts should be appreciated. The true level of the management fee taking into account all the outgoings of the umbrella club would be around £3K pa, in line with the level pre-pandemic. This was waived last year, as reported above, and is limited to £1K this year, but is likely to revert to nearer the true figure in future.
- The cricket club has ambitious plans for the pavilion. These have been costed at £650K, which makes it seem unlikely that they will be carried out in the near future, but the club should monitor the situation since any major redevelopment of the main pavilion may make it harder for the club to obtain funds for a modest tennis pavilion nearer the courts.

ST expressed the view that it would be good if more people could find the time to attend meetings of the management committee as the tennis club is often outnumbered at these and hence it can be difficult to make our case strongly.

Election of officers

The chair, treasurer, membership secretary and secretary all indicated that they were prepared to continue in their roles. No-one expressed a wish to take over any of these roles, so the existing officers were re-elected unopposed. Several of the officers have held their posts for a number of years, and it would be healthy for the club if there could be some rotation of these posts.

Subscriptions

There was some discussion of whether the standard adult fee should remain at £100 or whether an incremental change to £105 to prevent future larger increases should be made. The meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of leaving the fee at £100. AT proposed removing the reduced fee paid by juniors who have one parent who is a full adult member. This affects a very small number of people and can lead to confusion. The meeting agreed to this proposal. AT also suggested that junior membership should be split into under- and over-13s, in line with the existing rule that under-13s can only play with an appropriate adult present and over-13s can play unaccompanied. The meeting agreed to this proposal. There was some discussion of the date at which this should apply.

It subsequently turned out that the existing rule referred to children of secondary school age rather than to over-13s [[minutes 2021-09-23](#)], so it makes sense for the change in fee level to apply to children of secondary school age.

Teams

Because of Covid restrictions the various summer leagues were run with two pairs rather than the usual three, and results were not supposed to count when allocating teams to divisions for the coming year. The club generally managed to put out teams, though a number of regular

team players were not keen given the restrictions. The two winter league teams are doing well in their respective divisions. The men's and mixed leagues will revert to three pairs this year; the ladies' teams will remain with two pairs. The club has entered one team in each of the ladies', mixed and men's leagues for this year. Team captains will be Sally Gould (ladies'), Andy Storer (men's), Kate Tagg (mixed). We expect to enter two teams in the winter league, with Sally and Kate as captains. The meeting expressed its delight that Kate expects to be able to play tennis again by the time the leagues start.

Coaching

CR reported that junior coaching has gone well over the year, with 12 participants attending the session for over-11s and around 10 attending the under-11s in the summer (numbers for under-11s have been lower over the winter). Shaun is trying to get schools (primary and secondary) involved. He would also like to enter teams in the junior leagues, but this has proved challenging because of the need for parents to provide transport and support, which is difficult with so many matches an hour or more away. He therefore plans to organise informal matches against local clubs, for which it may be easier to get parental support. It was agreed at a committee meeting on 23/09/2021 that "there should always be two adults present in any vehicle transporting children to external events (excepting, of course, where a parent is transporting their own children)", and this rule obviously applies to matches with other clubs.

The senior coaching has been well received. It would be good to run sessions for beginners/returners, but Shaun has not expressed an interest in this and it will therefore be difficult to arrange.

Safeguarding and diversity

CR has attended a number of relevant courses and has carried out detailed risk assessments. The members of the committee completed an online awareness course provided by British Tennis. No specific issues have been raised with CR.

Tournaments, club play and social events

It was agreed that the club should run regular tournaments. AR agreed to organise one for 24 April, to mark the start of the season and to coincide with the date for renewing membership. It was suggested that tournaments be held every fourth Sunday after that, but no specific dates were agreed.

Club play on Saturdays is reasonably well-attended, but Monday evening sessions and the Sunday afternoon social sessions. It was agreed that the Monday evening sessions would be republicised before the clocks go forward and that MB and CT would restart the Sunday social sessions at the same time. MB and CT aim for the Sunday social sessions to become self-organising, and to that end a WhatsApp group of participants will be created.

A small number of people went for a Christmas meal, organised by MB, which is reported to have been a good night out.

SG and CB have invited a group from PT Corner to attend a session on March 30th. It is hoped that this might lead to a small number of new members (basically people who have played before and might be inspired to take it up again).

Club development and court maintenance

There was some discussion of the long-standing wish to build a modest clubhouse nearer to the courts. AT is to have an informal meeting with the High Peak planning committee to determine what kind of development would be acceptable, since there is no point in talking to architects and builders unless we know that what we are planning is at least feasible. A very rough estimate is that such a clubhouse would cost around £40K (£20K for the building and £20K for the associated groundwork). ST will investigate possible sources of funding – while the club does have over £30K in the bank this is ring-fenced for resurfacing.

MB has organised work parties to trim the hedge, sweep the courts, do some weeding. It is hoped that volunteers for ongoing maintenance will continue to come forward.

JN suggested that the club should buy wind nets to cut down the problems caused by the exposed nature of the site, AT undertook to investigate this, and to organise the purchase of at least one (it was believed that nets cost around £80).