



Chair's Report of 2025/2026 season

Dear members

I'm pleased to present my second annual report as chair – the AGM does seem to come around again quickly!

New Courts!

The big story of the year is of course the successful resurfacing of our courts, giving us a fabulous playing surface for the next 20 years or so, if we look after them. The work was carried out efficiently by our contractors, who did a sterling job of fitting in with our timings so that the disruption to junior coaching and matches was minimised as much as possible. Although we were not successful in obtaining a grant for the work, astute financial planning in previous years meant that the club could pay for them out of our own funds. The courts are draining well and look great.

Membership and visitors

Over the year we welcomed a steady flow of new members who have added to the vibrancy of the club. Membership currently stands at 128 adults and 68 juniors. We also continue to welcome occasional visitors.

Our WhatsApp Community and sub-groups are working well at keeping members informed and connected. Whilst we continue to send out all important information by e-mail, we would encourage members to be part of the Community and stay in touch with all that's going on.

Big thanks to our membership secretary Sue Turnbull for keeping on top of the membership lists and welcoming new members and visitors.

Club sessions and tournaments

Our regular club sessions have run on Saturday mornings and Monday evenings, and both have been very well attended all year, with a good atmosphere and some great tennis. Liz and Richard Blyth have continued to host the Monday night session and we thank them for their time and dedication in doing this. We also successfully introduced a new Thursday morning club session by popular demand. This is also going well, with two to three courts usually in use. It has been run using a host rota; many thanks to all those who have volunteered. It really does encourage people to come down and helps to get the session established if they know there will definitely be someone there, come drizzle or shine.

Our season opening social tournament was put back to mid-May so that we could play it on the newly resurfaced courts and was enjoyed by all who made it, thanks to Allan Ramsay for organising. Plans for another social tournament didn't come off this year but we hope to organise more next year. If anyone is willing to organise a tournament, we'd be happy for volunteers!

Coaching

Pete Ledbetter and the team at Matchpoint have done a great job of delivering coaching for both adults and juniors, with first Sheetal and more recently Ryan joining Pete this season. A good number of members have taken advantage of the group or 1-1 coaching that has been offered. Junior coaching is now moving from Sunday mornings to late afternoon/early evening on Tuesday/Wednesday to fit with coach availability. There will inevitably be a period of adjustment as juniors adapt to the new timings, but Matchpoint are advertising the sessions and hopefully numbers will continue to be good. Adult group coaching will remain on Tuesday evenings.

Teams

Buxton continued to show an increased presence in the Sheffield and District LTA Leagues this year, with some notable successes.

In the summer leagues the Summer Men's team, captained by Jordan Grocott, won Division 1 and brought a handsome trophy to Buxton for the first time. Jordan successfully brought in new members to the club for the season to build the team up and it was great to be able to witness such a high standard of play on our courts.

The Summer Ladies team, captained by Sally Gould, played superbly in Division 3 finishing 3rd, just short of promotion to Division 2. Sally has captained the women's team for many years and as she passes on the baton for the upcoming season we thank her for the hours of time she has given to the club.

In an exciting development that shows the increased interest in match play amongst members, we successfully entered three teams for the Late Summer Leagues this season, two Ladies and one Men's.

Our Late Summer Ladies A team finished second in Division 3, earning promotion to Division 2, while our newly formed B team, captained by Lesley Montgomery-White finished a creditable 5th in Division 5. A number of our women played their first matches in this team, and it was great to see people out there and enjoying playing for the club. Thanks also due to Lesley for organising regular Wednesday night sessions for women aspiring to play for the teams. These sessions are switching to Thursday evenings from next week.

The Late Summer Men's team, captained by Chris Grubb and Matt Barlow, also attracted new match players and finished 3rd in Division 5. It was slightly frustrating for the team as there were only 6 teams entered in the Division and a number of games were cancelled by opposing teams but a good experience for the club in fielding a team, nonetheless.

Finally, to the Winter League Mixed team captained by Liz Blyth— this time last year we reported sitting top of division 6 with one match remaining; we eventually finished top of the division and brought another cup back to Buxton. Continuing that success, we are again sitting at the top of Division 5 with one match to play and assured promotion. Player availability has been very good this year and we can consider fielding a second team next year.

Many thanks to all who have captained, played and supported the league matches this year.

Club Maintenance and Development

Following the resurfacing and as agreed at the AGM, we have signed a 3-year maintenance contract with the contractors SSS to jet clean and moss kill the courts once a year. The first maintenance visit is planned for Autumn 2026.

As well as the resurfacing, we had a new drain fitted at the top of the slope to reduce water and mud flow onto the courts, which has been effective in some very heavy rainfall this winter.

The Working Parties sub-group have kept the court surrounds looking good and many thanks to all those who have given some time to this, please consider joining the group if you have a little time to spare.

Replacing the fencing will need to be the next priority. We will again look to trying to get funding for this.

A small pavilion by the courts remains an aspiration for the club.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to the committee for their support throughout the year, to everyone who has volunteered in any way and to all the members for making the club what it is. Here's to the 2026/27 season!



Carol Taylor - Chair