

Buxton Cricket, Bowls and Tennis Club AGM

7:00, 26th January 2024

Present: Bob Marsden (cricket, chair), Phil Slater (cricket, treasurer), Allan Ramsay (tennis, secretary), Steve Thompson (tennis), Anne Thompson (tennis), Peter Freeman (bowls) and Eddie Henshall (bowls)

Apologies: Tim Budd, Will Annison

Minutes: the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, with no matters arising

Section reports

Bowls: membership of the bowls section is healthy. The new seating on the south side of the green has improved the appearance, utility and safety of the site: the development was funded through the landfill fund, for which the bowls section is grateful.

Tennis: adult membership has increased in the last year, but there has been a fall in junior membership. It is hoped that the more reliable coaching service provided by Matchpoint Clubs will help improve this. It was noted that council has expressed the view that any new pavilion close to the courts should be a stone-built structure, in contrast with the previous informal discussions which suggested that a wooden structure would be acceptable. This makes it more difficult for any such development to take place.

Cricket: the cricket section now runs 5 Men's teams, 5 Women's teams and 4 junior teams. Four teams gained promotion over the season. This situation is welcome, but it does produce pressure on facilities in the pavilion, particularly on female changing rooms. Bob Marsden gave an overview of the cricket section's plans for redevelopment of the pavilion.

Electricity

The cost of providing electricity remains very high. To some extent this just mirrors the general increase in energy costs, but it seems that even when everything in the pavilion is turned off energy is still being consumed. The wiring in the pavilion is extremely complex, and it is hard to isolate sections to see where power is being used. Bob Marsden will appoint an electrician to look at the electric supply to the pavilion, partly in order to see whether there are any inefficiencies that can be remedied but also to certify the system (which is a legal requirement).

Section charges

Phil Slater presented the accounts, which showed that the club cannot survive on the current level of contributions from the sections. The club has benefited from a number of measures relating to the difficulty of supporting sports clubs during COVID, and has charged the section reduced/zero contributions for the past few years. These measures have now run out, and it was proposed that the contributions should return to the £2000/section from before COVID. This was agreed by the meeting, with the observation that this may need to be reviewed next year.

Fireworks

Bob Marsden reported that the total income and benefit for the club was £3000 and some minor repairs. The organisation have promised to provide the club with a copy of the accounts for the event.

Pavilion

The pavilion has been redecorated, and new chairs have been provided, thanks to a grant from the English Cricket Board. These are welcome upgrades to the current provision.

Bob Marsden presented the meeting with copies of the current plans for redeveloping the pavilion. These plans are driven by the need to improve the facilities in general, but in particular by the fact that the current facilities are no longer fit for the considerable increase in women's cricket, with the changing rooms in particular not being up to the required standard. The plans have been scaled back slightly, because the original estimates of the cost were prohibitive: the current estimate is around £750K, which the cricket section believe is more achievable. The meeting expressed the view that the redevelopment would improve the facilities and expressed its support for the cricket section's ambitions.

AOB

Bob Marsden has a verbal agreement with the council for the removal of the diseased lime trees.

Steve Thompson asked whether the council could be approached to extend the width of the white line across the entrance to the site, since access can become very cramped when cars are parked very close to the entrance.