

Buxton Tennis Club: Minutes of Committee Meeting, 25 September 2021

Present: Allan Ramsay (AMR), Anne Thompson (AT), Carol Bassett (CB), Carol Taylor (CT), Catherine Reeds (CR), Dan Osborne (DO), Kate Tagg (KT), Mike Badman (MB), Sally Gould (SG), Steve Thompson (ST)

1.0 Apologies: none (the entire committee was present!)

2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and were accepted by the meeting (AMR had not collected the keys from Lin Robinson and Wendy Solman, so that is an ongoing action)

3.0 BCBLT developments:

ST reported on recent discussions with the Main Club Management Committee (MCMC). The cricket club have obtained funding for a defibrillator (which has been purchased) and a cabinet so it can be easily accessed when the clubhouse is locked (funded from the moneys made available to a local councillor but not yet purchased). The cabinet will be installed by the bowls clubhouse, which should be close enough to the tennis courts to serve for any incidents that occur there. It was suggested that it would be a good idea for some members of the committee to undergo the relevant training, though SG and CR noted that the instructions that come with it are clear and easy to follow.

The MCMC has obtained a substantial grant (via the cricket section?) which may mean that the current holiday from each section paying a management fee may be able to continue for a number of years. The fireworks display will take place on Sunday November 7th: the tennis section plan to provide light refreshments (tea, coffee, other things that do not require a hygiene qualification) from the clubhouse: volunteers welcome.

4.0 Safeguarding (CR):

CR had met with the County Safeguarding Officer and had filled in a lengthy questionnaire, and had asked the committee to view the LTA video before the meeting since viewing it at the meeting was infeasible. The people present (i.e. the full committee) had viewed it, and CR also gave a quick run through of its contents. The committee felt that the information given in the video was clear and useful. There was little that was contentious or that required a great deal of discussion, and the meeting moved to consider the two issues that required attention.

Age of independent play: the LTA's recommends that children under the age of 13 should not play without suitable adult supervision, but leaves the decision to clubs, many of whom have chosen to set secondary school age as the threshold. The meeting agreed that this was a reasonable level, given that secondary school children typically travel to and from school unsupervised. There was some further discussion of children under that age playing with older siblings, and it was agreed that children of primary school age would be allowed to play with a close family member (sibling, parent, guardian) over the age of 16.

Travel to competitions: while we do not currently have juniors taking part in external competitions, it was felt that it would be sensible to decide on a policy for this at the meeting rather than waiting till it did become an issue and making an ad hoc decision at the time. SG and CR noted that when schools transport children to external events they typically require two adults to be present, even when that involves making convoluted arrangements between families who at other times mix freely. It was agreed that the club should follow this practice, and 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).

The meeting discussed the LTA's recommended policies on safeguarding and diversity. While it was felt that the LTA policies covered matters that were extremely unlikely to be relevant to the club, it would be better to accept them as they stand rather than trying to cherry pick the parts that seemed relevant and delete the ones that did not. The meeting therefore agreed to adopt the LTA policies. It was agreed that a report from the safeguarding officer would be a standing item on the agenda for future meetings, and that the policies would be reviewed after two years.

5.0 Club tournaments: feedback and future (CT)

The club had planned a social tournament for Sunday September 19th, to be run by the club coach Shaun Murray. The weather on that day was very poor, and while Shaun did turn up for the junior coaching session he cancelled this because of the weather (thus following the element of the safeguarding policy that says that children should not be expected to train in excessively poor weather). There was a gap of a couple of hours before the tournament, and given the weather it made sense for Shaun to go home and for CT to contact the people who had said they would be coming if the weather improved.

CT did run the tournament, mixing and matching partners (with help from MB and CR) so that everyone got a reasonable set of games, and reported that it had gone well, to the point that people sent her emails following the event saying how much they had enjoyed it. It was agreed that we should run further events, and that we would invite Shaun to get involved later on as and when that seemed appropriate for the club and for Shaun. CT and SG agreed to run tournaments on 31 October and 02 January, to be publicised now and two weeks before the event.

6.0 Working party (MB)

There will be a working party on 8 October, starting at 1:00, to trim the hedge, weed the surrounds of the courts, clear moss from court 3, anything else that needs to be done. The tensioning wire round the netting needs attention -- MB will try to get advice on what should be done from local fencing companies.

7.0 Club teams

The mixed B team has struggled to put out a team because there are not enough male players who want to play matches. At the previous meeting it was agreed that we would enter two teams in the winter league, and following some discussion subsequent to the meeting we did enter two teams. The problems that the mixed B team had encountered were again considered, and it was agreed that SG and KT would undertake to run both teams, rotating men between the two. It was considered that this would be feasible, given that the mixed A team had generally managed to field three men, with a couple of juniors as reserves. It was noted that the winter B team had been placed in division 5, which may be a lower standard than our better male players are used to, but given that we have chosen to enter two teams we have to do the best we can to fulfil our commitments.

8.0 AOB

ST noted that as the evenings get darker people will be using the lights more. He therefore requested that committee members, particularly people who attend club sessions, carry a stock of tokens so that members can actually get hold of them. It was noted that tokens are very small and easy to lose, so people are advised to have a container (spice jar, tobacco tin, ...) to keep them in.

There was an extensive discussion of the fact that the balls that are intended for use at club sessions are frequently used for private play and are even subsequently taken home. Balls for club play have been kept in a box which is clearly marked "Balls for club play", so there is no question that the people using them are unaware of the situation. Various suggestions were considered, but it was

agreed that it was infeasible to keep the balls in a locked or otherwise inaccessible place, because then they would be unavailable for club sessions unless someone with access was present. It was agreed that the club captains would place the balls from home matches in the box on the Friday evening following their matches, which should mean that there is less time for them to disappear before the Saturday club session; that the wording on the box would be checked to ensure that there is no possibility of an innocent misunderstanding; and that the issue would be flagged in the next general email to members.