

## **Minutes of the Buxton Tennis Club Committee Meeting: 7:00pm, 19th October, 2023**

**Apologies:** Sally Gould, Mike Badman, Catherine Reeds, Carol Bassett

**Present:** Allan Ramsay, Steve Thompson, Anne Thompson, Dan Osborne, Carol Taylor

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

ST reported that Buxton Pickleball had not taken up the offer of using one of the courts for pickleball, most likely because the weather deteriorated around the time that the offer was made. It was agreed that we would probably agree to make the same offer next year if BP come back asking for it, but no commitment was made.

### **Safeguarding**

CR had asked, prior to the meeting, for the committee to consider three issues:

**LTA's revised code of conduct on safeguarding:** the LTA has produced a revised code of conduct, which was distributed before the meeting and introduced by ST at the meeting. The LTA code aims to cover every situation that might arise, and as such it deals with a number of issues that are only relevant to much larger clubs. Nonetheless, designing a new document specifically to cover issues that are actually likely to arise at Buxton Tennis Club, or amending the LTA template to suit BTC, were deemed to be both risky, in that we would be in a difficult situation if something arose which we had not covered but which the LTA document had, and unnecessary. It was therefore agreed that we would accept the LTA template unchanged.

**LTA template for procedures to handle safeguarding issues:** again, the committee felt that producing our own set of procedures was inappropriate. However, the LTA template mentions officers and committees that we simply do not have, and AR agreed to try to produce a way of interpreting the LTA proposals that matches our actual situation, with help from CR as required.

**Deputy safeguarding officer:** the LTA guidelines strongly suggest that clubs should have a deputy safeguarding officer. The committee recommended that Sally Gould be approached to fill this role.

**Courts and surrounds:** there was an extended discussion of the condition of the courts and surrounds (particularly the steps down from the car parking area to the courts). Liz Blyth had forwarded a letter relating to this, noting that concerns had been raised about these issues, but the problems of court maintenance are perennial and the topic was already on the agenda for the meeting.

The position of the courts, in particular the proximity of several large trees, makes them prone to moss. The current state is as follows:

Court 1 is usually in the best condition, partly because it is furthest from the trees and partly because it the one that gets played on most. This court does have a certain amount of live moss on it at the moment, and it was agreed that AR, CT, DO and AT would apply moss killer to this court over the next few weeks. This will kill the moss, but it will leave us with dead moss on this court.

Court 2 has recently been treated with moss killer by Roger Hardman. This has worked well, in the sense that the moss is all dead, but again we are left with dead moss on the court.

Court 3 has been treated with moss killer and cleaned by Rob and Sue Turnbull, and is currently in good condition, though the leaves will have to be swept from it over the next few weeks to ensure that it stays that way.

There was extensive discussion of how to deal with the dead moss on Court 2 and potentially on Court 1. Trying to brush it off is counter-productive, because you have to scrub so hard that you will damage the underlying surface. Using a domestic pressure washer is also not advised, for the same reason. AT undertook to investigate the cost of getting it done professionally, as we did a few years ago – there are specialist pressure washers that will do the job without damaging the surface, but this is quite expensive.

MB had reported that it was better to leave cutting the hedge till later in the year, so that is what we will do. The committee also suggested asking him about what to do about the top step – we have attempted to deal with it by concreting over the section just before the step, but this has not dealt with the problem. AT suggested that shovelling the mud away is about as good a solution as any, so we should get a shovel to be left just inside the courts for people to use for this. It was also suggested that laying down a layer of gravel over the approach to the steps might prove effective, since it would help with

the fact that the top step is slightly lower than the surrounding turf and hence water and mud leach onto the step from the surrounds.

AR proposed to raise the need for club members in general to help with court maintenance.

ST reported that he had had repeated assurances that the cricket club member who had caused the bench to be broken would fix it. Bob Marsden (Cricket Club chair and Management Committee chair) will chase this up.

### **Coaching**

CT reported that the new coaching team were doing a good job – popular with people who had been coached, enthusiastic and innovative about building up coaching sessions. AT is happy with the procedures for making sure that anyone who is attending sessions is a club member.

LB had asked to have access to the keys for the lighting controls, so that tokens can be recycled during the Monday night sessions rather than her having to go to DO to get tokens which he then has to take out of the boxes and account for separately from other tokens. It was agreed that this would be sensible for the Monday night sessions, but that managing use of the lights for matches should continue as before.

### **AOB**

CT raised the fact that we only have two keys to the main pavilion. It was agreed that we would get more cut, but that they would not be freely distributed and that a record of who has a key would be kept (as requested by Bob Marsden, but it's sensible anyway). There was some discussion of how well keeping a key in the shed fitted with the idea that keys should only be issued to named individuals, but it was agreed that this is essential if people are to be able to use the pavilion (particularly the toilets) when no key holder is present. Given that this key is only accessible to people who have the code for the padlock on the shed (and indeed to people who know there is a key there at all), this seemed an acceptable way to proceed.

AR agreed to run a Christmas Tournament at a date (near Christmas) to be determined.

The meeting closed at 8:30PM.