

MINUTES

Buxton Tennis Club Committee Meeting

12th February 2025, 7.30pm

1. Apologies – Allan Ramsay, Mike Badman
2. Present – Carol Taylor, Carol Bassett, Cath Reeds, Dan Osborne, Tracey Ellis, and Sue Turnbull.
Sue agreed to take the minutes.
3. Approval of previous minutes – approved
4. Matters arising (not covered by meeting agenda): Action points from the previous meeting:
 - More light tokens have been purchased by Dan and this has been useful
 - More moss and weedkiller and a backpack sprayer have been bought. No lockable box for the chemicals yet so in the meantime the weedkiller is being kept securely off site with Mike and Julie Meaton. Sprayer has helped. It was proposed that we probably need a maintenance contract to tackle professional jet washing and moss killing properly at the start of the season and then we keep on top of it ourselves after that (more on this below)
 - Grant application – Our application for a SUEZ grant was made for court resurfacing and new fencing but unfortunately was unsuccessful this time. No reasons were given other than that SUEZ receive a great many worthy applications.
5. AGM Preparation
 - 2025 membership fee proposals. In recent years we have benefitted from a reduced annual management charge to the main BCBLT club as a result of a government Covid grant. As anticipated at the 2024 AGM, the annual management charge we need to pay has increased for 2025 by £500 to £2,500. It is anticipated to rise again for 2026 by a further £500 to £3,000. (For context the charge pre-Covid was £2,710 for 2019). The increase is also necessary due to all costs rising. Our membership fees have not been increased since 2023, and bearing in mind the increase in the management charge, it was unanimously agreed to propose an increase in membership fees by about 10% (keeping round figures) which will at least cover the increase in this charge.

New membership rates for the 2025 –26 year would therefore be:

Adult £125 (£115 if paid by 30 th April)	New Adult £55
Family £250 (£230 if paid by 30 th April)	New family £110
Concession £55 (£50 if paid by 30 th April)	
Junior (Primary school age) £20	
Junior (Secondary school age) £30	
Country (live more than 10 miles away) £70 (£65 if paid by 30 th April)	
Visitors £10 per visit per court	
Guests (playing with members) £5 per visit	

- Committee nominations. Good governance suggests that all committee members should step down each year and then if they wish they can put themselves up for re-election together with any new nominees. **CT will send details out with the formal AGM notice asking if anyone else would like to put their names forward and saying which of the current committee are also willing to re-stand (CT)**. Catherine is not standing again for Welfare Officer, and the committee thanked her for her valuable contribution. Mike Badman is also standing down for reasons of health and the committee thanked him in his absence also.
- Court resurfacing. The committee agrees unanimously that this needs to be done, ideally this year. The courts were resurfaced in 2001 (24 years ago) and were expected to last 20 years. Carol T and Paul Swain have met and discussed the options with three recommended companies. The committee has looked into the detail and has decided to recommend the middle-priced quote from Sport Surfacing Solutions, for the following reasons: they offered the best drainage solution, the best value maintenance package, New Mills used them for their resurfacing and have recommended them and Carol and Paul were particularly impressed with them at their meeting. The committee also recommends we take an annual maintenance package from them once the courts have been done to keep them in good condition, and then we can supplement this with any additional moss spraying sessions we might need ourselves as and when. We have enough money in the bank to do this now, although not enough to do the fencing. As the sums of money are significant these recommendations will be put to the AGM.
- Constitution. Carol T and Allan have looked into this and have found that the wording needs to be tidied up in some areas. **They are continuing to work on this (CT and AR)**

6. Key areas brief updates:

- Membership update (ST). Numbers have increased a little. Currently 109 adult members (+2 on pause for this year due to health), and 51 juniors.
- Treasurer update (DO). Dan confirmed we have enough money set aside in the accounts for the court resurfacing. We have been putting £7,500 aside each year for a number of years for this purpose and he proposed (and it was agreed) we continue to do that this year. He said we may be able to reduce the figure in future as we start to build up the court resurfacing fund again. Visitor income was higher this year than last due to the Italian school visitors who hired the courts for a week in the summer.
- Safeguarding (CR). Nothing to report
- Management Committee update (CT). Trees – Carol and Bob Marsden have been in discussion, and Bob has had confirmation from the council that the diseased trees will be

taken down. He has also requested on the tennis section's behalf that the large one that overlooks the tennis courts be pollarded. Bob has also agreed that he will not do anything without discussion to the space where the large tree near the courts fell down last year as the tennis club may wish to utilise this space in the future.

- Teams (CT). Carol T has had discussions with the team captains and it has been decided to field one men's and one women's team for the main Summer League. Jordan Grocott will captain the men's in Div1 and the players have been named. The standard of this tennis is a great advertisement for the club and Carol B recommended that members should come and watch the team play in some of their home matches. Sally Gould has indicated that she will be happy to continue to captain the Ladies team for another season. We will need to decide what combination of teams to enter for the Late Summer Leagues nearer the time to ensure we can meet all our fixtures and provide competitive opportunities for as many members as are keen.
- Club sessions and coaching. Club sessions are going well, though we could do with finding a better solution for the storing of tennis balls for these. Balls are currently stored by Cath and Liz who bring them down to club sessions. Coaching is also going well. Pete Ledbetter wants to do a drive with the schools this year, and he may be adding an extra coach to his team to provide more opportunities for coaching. It was noted that accessing coaching through Matchpoint is working well.
- Club maintenance. Carol T would like to have a person responsible for organising maintenance and will **ask for nominations for this in the pre AGM email (CT)**. In terms of club communication the combination of emails and WhatsApp seems to be working, and we can build on WhatsApp.
- Events and tournaments. The committee volunteered Allan (in his absence!) to run his usual **opening season tournament (AR)**.
Tracey is going to come up with some ideas for socials using the Clubhouse (TE).
Carol will do a start of season newsletter (CT)
- Club development and the possibility of a new pavilion is a mid-term goal rather than a short-term one, and so we have not moved forward on that.
- AOB. The committee wanted its thanks to Cath Reeds and Mike Badman recorded as they both now step down from the committee.