

Buxton Tennis Club AGM

Cavendish Golf Club, 7:00pm, 22 February 2024

Present: Allan Ramsay, Catherine Reeds, Wendy Solman, Glenda Hunter, Sue Turnbull, Carol Taylor, Kate Tagg, Carol Bassett, Steve Thompson, Lesley Montgomery-White, Anne Thompson, Dan Osborne, Richard Blyth, Rob Turnbull, Mike Meaton, Julie Meaton, Mark Edwards, Mike Badman, Tracey Ellis

Apologies: Caireen Hargreaves, Pete Salt, Pauline Salt, Liz Blyth, Paul Swain, James Stewart

Minutes of the previous meeting (available on the club website): accepted, with no actions arising.

Financial report

Dan Osborne presented the accounts, which were accepted by the meeting. Major points were as follows:

- Income from membership fees increased by £1K from previous year.
- The management charge paid to the joint Buxton Cricket, Bowls and Tennis Club was held at the reduced sum of £1000 for the year, following subsidies and grants gained to help sports clubs survive during COVID. This charge will increase to £2000 for the year 2024 and current indications are that this is likely to increase again to £2500 for 2025. This represents an incremental rise towards the pre-Covid charge of £3000 per annum.
- £7.5K was put aside for the resurfacing fund. This now stands at around £40K which is approaching the level required. The meeting noted that the idea of having a sinking fund had originally been proposed by Jek Jacob.
- Just over £500 interest gained this year due to increased interest rates. £600 for repairs to the floodlights, arising from a lightning strike.
- £500 more spent on tennis balls this year than last, because last year we had a stock of balls left over from the previous year.

In brief, our finances are fairly healthy.

Rob Turnbull asked how much resurfacing would cost? The last quote we had was for around £40K, but that was a couple of years ago and costs of all such work have risen substantially since then. It was last done around 20 years ago. The meeting noted that in the meantime courts maintenance would need to continue with regular moss and weed-killer applications. Mark Edwards asked whether we should consider changing the surface (e.g., to artificial grass) when resurfacing happens. Dan Osborne (and others) noted that artificial grass can actually require more maintenance than hard courts, but it is something we should think about at the time.

Julie Meaton suggested that more people might be willing to be involved in maintenance working parties if there was a general call out to membership.

Membership

Anne Thompson reported that we now have 100 adult members, but fewer juniors than 9 years ago when she took on the role of membership secretary. This is at least partly because of the difficulty we have had recruiting and retaining a reliable coach, and it is hoped that the current arrangement with Matchpoint Management will remedy this.

Safeguarding

Catherine Reeds reported that we had had no safeguarding issues, and that all the paperwork, policies and training for committee members required by the LTA were in place. Steve Thompson

noted that complying with the LTA requirements, even when there are no actual issues, was a substantial task and thanked Catherine for her work in this area.

Chair's report

Steve Thompson noted that the club was running fairly smoothly and welcomed the increase in adult membership, but raised a number of issues:

- although we have at times had a reasonable number of junior members, we do not have a good record of junior members turning into adult members. This is at least partly because at around the point where they would start paying an adult fee a lot of juniors move away (e.g., to university), but it would be good if at least a few of the better juniors joined in club sessions, as has happened in the past.
- as always, it is hard to get a regular maintenance schedule planned and actually executed. We have had *ad hoc* groups carrying out specific tasks, but it would be good if this could be made more systematic.
- at last year's AGM Anne Thompson reported that the local authority planning office had indicated informally that they would accept a wooden building as a new pavilion, but this is apparently no longer acceptable to the authority. It was noted that the cricket section are planning a rebuild of the pavilion (which they have to in order to meet modern standards and in particular to facilitate women's cricket, which has grown massively over the last few years). We will need to continue close liaison with the Cricket Club to ensure that the plans will meet our needs going forward.

There was some discussion of the relationship between the clubs and the role of the overall joint management committee. This is a perennial issue and will be addressed by the incoming committee.

Election of officers

Steve and Anne Thompson are retiring as chair and membership secretary.

Steve asked whether the other officers are prepared to continue, i.e., Allan Ramsay as secretary, Dan Osborne as treasurer, and Catherine Reeds as welfare officer. Allan and Dan both felt that replacing two officers would be hard enough and trying to recruit a new secretary and treasurer at the same time would be a huge challenge, and that it was probably sensible to retain some continuity, and hence agreed to continue. Catherine also agreed to continue in her role.

Sue Turnbull was proposed as membership secretary and Carol Taylor as chair, and both were elected unanimously.

At this point Carol Taylor, as chair elect, took over chairing the meeting.

There was some discussion of the make-up of the committee. Allan was asked to check the constitution to see how many people should be on the committee. It was noted that it would be good if someone could undertake the task (mentioned in the chair's report) of **managing** a maintenance programme, but it was felt that this did not need to be someone on the committee. It was also felt that we may not need a coaching officer if Matchpoint do continue to run the coaching programme.

The meeting agreed that, provided this number was in keeping with the constitution and those not present agreed to stay on, Carol Bassett, Mike Badman, Tracey Ellis and Sally Gould should be on the committee for 2024, in addition to the above named officers.

Fee levels: The committee proposed keeping the fee levels at 2023 levels and this was agreed. There was some discussion of the definition of the class referred to on the website as "Concession".

The meeting agreed that the wording “young person under 23 or full-time student”, as proposed by Glenda Hunter, fitted what we were trying to achieve.

Coaching

Pete Ledbetter of Matchpoint Management will run sessions on Sunday morning for juniors and Tuesday evening for adults. Rob Turnbull and Lesley Montgomery-White floated the idea of adults running volunteer sessions for juniors: it was noted that volunteers for such sessions **must** be DB checked, though this is free for volunteers.

Teams

None of the 2023 team captains was present (apologies received from Liz Blyth). Liz Blyth had indicated she was willing to continue as Winter League captain, but given that the other captains were not present it was agreed that a decision on who should captain the other teams for the coming season could not be made at the meeting. There was some discussion of the fact that the winter league team had been very successful in providing competitive opportunities to players who were not members of the current men's team, and it was felt that it would be good for the development of the club if the same approach could be taken to the summer mixed league.

Winter league captain: Liz Blyth

Ladies captain: TBA

Men's captain: TBA

Summer mixed captain: TBA

Club Sessions

The meeting expressed thanks to Liz & Richard Blyth for running the Monday night club sessions.

AOB

Steve Thompson reported that Bob Marsden (Cricket Club Chair) was doing what he could to get the bench damaged by one of his club members repaired, but this was taking far longer than it should have done. Tracey Ellis suggested that, as a next step, the club should get an estimate for having repair done ourselves and ask for this to be paid by the concerned party.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Steve and Anne Thompson for all the work they have done for the club over the years and presented them with a bottle of wine as a small token of thanks.