

Buxton Tennis Club: Minutes of Committee Meeting, 29 July 2021

Present: Carol Basset, Carol Taylor, Sally Gould, Dan Osborne, Kate Tagg, Anne Thompson, Steve Thompson, Allan Ramsay, Mike Badman

Apologies: Catherine Reeds

1.1 Tournaments: organization, format & dates

It was agreed that tournaments form an important opportunity for people to mix, and that running a modest number of part social/part competitive tournaments each year was to be encouraged. The

recent tournament run by Shaun Murray had a fixed algorithm for organising matches which required a fixed number of people (the algorithm required a maximum of 16 participants, and didn't work all that well with fewer people, and there was a risk that people might have to sit out for long periods of time).. Allan Ramsay's (AR) more casual tournaments had worked well with a varied number of people, though the final scoring had been rather haphazard, and Allan's commitments meant that he was not in a position to commit to running tournaments at this time. It was suggested that as club coach Shaun be invited to run the next tournament, with a strong recommendation that pairs play four games rather than eight and that he should be asked whether he can be more flexible about the number of people. Carol Taylor (CT) volunteered to manage a tournament along Allan's lines if Shaun was unwilling to make the suggested changes to the format.

1.2 Club play sessions

Following a suggestion by Catherine Reeds (CR), Steve Thompson (ST) asked whether the club should introduce midweek open morning sessions. There was some discussion of the club's other open sessions. CT noted that the Sunday sessions had had good attendance when they started, but that this had now decreased, which could possibly be taken as an indication of success in that people who had been attending them were now playing at other times with people from the Sunday sessions. It was agreed that the bookings for Sundays be amended to two courts, but it was felt that these sessions were providing a useful function. Monday evening sessions are not currently all that well attended, but there was no suggestion that they should be changed. Saturday morning sessions are well established, and while some long standing members now play more regularly midweek the Saturday session is believed to be very healthy. Given the decline in attendance at the Sunday and Monday sessions, there was some doubt about the likely numbers who would attend a midweek morning session. It was agreed that ST would contact CR to get more information about this. If it seems that there is indeed a significant interest a slot on Tuesday or Thursday morning will be reserved, with players signing up in advance so that people will know whether there is going to be anyone there (this was previously done for the other open sessions, and was helpful in getting them established).

1.3 Membership

Anne Thompson (AT) noted that membership was currently healthy, with only 11 non-renewals (this was encouraging, since we recruited a significant number of new players over lockdown, and the likelihood that these new members would not renew was quite high). The new "associate member" status has also proved attractive, and we have 46 junior members, a recovery from the fall in junior membership when the previous coach left.

1.4 Teams

There was some discussion of whether the leagues will be run with three pairs (as in previous years) or will continue with two, as introduced during the COVID restrictions. The Buxton team captains were unanimous in the view that two pairs was preferable to three, and reported

that this feeling appears to be widespread across the clubs. AT reported that mixed B are struggling to find enough male players to get out a team. CT suggested reconvening members about whether they would like to play in matches. This question could be combined with one about whether people would want to attend the midweek session suggested above, and could possibly be part of a wider consultation with the membership.

It was agreed that the club will enter two teams in the winter league, despite the risk that we will again find it hard to find enough players.

1.5 Coaching: junior & senior

The junior sessions are working well, and Shaun is collecting and passing on the £2 contribution to the club from non-members.. Senior coaching is also working fine for club members, but Shaun is not keen to run open coaching sessions for non/new members. It was noted that open sessions for non-members are a significant route for new members, and Sally Gould agreed to run an open day next year, making more use of social media than the club has done hitherto.

1.6 Court and grounds maintenance, including litter, weeding and fencing repairs

Mike Badman agreed to organise a working party in the autumn (weeding, moss, bit of hedge).

1.7 Pavilion/clubhouse developments

ST noted that cricket club have ambitions to significantly develop the club house, but none have come fruition because of the need for funds. ST discussed the fact that we would like a small clubhouse, but again there are no funds for this. ST will continue to liaise with the cricket club over their plans.

2.1 Any other business

It was agreed that the padlock for the gate in the south east corner should remain locked for the time being, but that the code should be made available to team captains.

AR was asked to get the clubhouse keys back from Lin Robinson and Wendy Solman.

CT offered to put bin bags in shed to clear stuff off the courts. It was noted that the main clubhouse is currently being better looked after than in recent years.

CR is now welfare officer (and is properly accredited).

ST will ask the cricket club to remind players to give due warning when sixes are hit.