Buxton Tennis Club Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 15th 2026, 7.30pm

Present: Carol Taylor (chair), Allan Ramsay (secretary), Richard Blyth (treasurer), Sue Turnbull (membership secretary), Harriet Grubb (welfare officer) Tracey Ellis, Lesley Montgomery White.

Apologies: Carol Bassett

Approval of previous minutes The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record of that meeting, and there were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda. AR acknowledged the help of other members of the committee in writing these minutes.

Key areas brief updates

Chair update: Nothing to update not otherwise included on the agenda

Membership update: the club currently has 120 adult and 65 junior members, which is the highest numbers that it has had for some years. The discussion of introducing new classes of membership was postponed to the pre-AGM committee meeting.

Treasurer update: RB presented three views of the club's accounts. The club currently has £29,819 in the bank, of which £9,226 is earmarked for future expenditure (i.e. is the 'sinking fund' to be built up against the need to resurface the courts in 10-15 years time and other long term expenditure). In the current accounting year up to 13 October the club's income was £15,011 and outgoings were £3,960, meaning that its 'profit' over this period was £11,601. This is a healthy position, but the club does face a number of likely expenses, including a contribution of £600 to the updating of the electrics and approx.. £1500 for court maintenance clean, booked for 2nd November. The full accounts will be presented at the AGM, but it is not anticipated that there will be major changes before then.

RB has been looking into better ways of distributing tokens, but it was agreed that this matter should be held back until after the resolution of the BCBLT discussions. He has also been working to get a second account for the club, partly to manage the distinction between day-to-day income and expenditure and long-term planning and enable internet banking to make payments for expenses easier.

Safeguarding: Following an incident that has been satisfactorily resolved, HG has sought guidance from the LTA regarding the use of WhatsApp groups and junior members. The advice is that junior members (U18s) should not be included on such groups, and that if they want to make use of the information that is made available through them this should be done via the parents/guardians. ST will do another check to ensure no junior members are on the WhatsApp groups. It was noted that junior members do attend club sessions, and there was some discussion of whether this meant that all such sessions require a dedicated leader with appropriate clearance. This is infeasible for the Saturday morning session, since this is run informally, without any specific person being 'in charge', and it was agreed that the most appropriate way forward is to encourage as many people as possible

to view the LTA safeguarding video. There is usually at least one committee member present, and all committee members have viewed this video, but given that there is no guarantee that any particular individual will always be present it would be good for other people also to view it.

HG also presented the club's safeguarding policies, which are based on templates provided by the LTA. These were accepted by the meeting.

Teams: the summer league teams were all successful in their divisions, with the men's team only just missing promotion, and the late summer mixed team did gain promotion. We have entered one team in the winter mixed league, as there did not seem to be the required number of men willing to play for us to enter two teams. There are, however, quite a number of women looking for competitive play, and Liz Blyth and LMW are in the process of arranging friendly matches with neighbouring clubs. It was also agreed that a new Thursday evening ladies' session should be introduced, to be generally hosted by LMW and with tokens provided by the club.

Club sessions and coaching: club sessions are well attended, and coaching is running smoothly.

Club affiliations, policies: nothing to report

BCBLT matters: CT presented a draft agreement proposed by the BCBLT subcommittee for clarifying the relationships between the three sections and equitably apportioning current shared costs. CT reported that this document was more-or-less ready for presentation to the three sections' AGMs and then to the main club AGM, with a few matters relating to the requirements of the bowls section still to be settled. The key issue for the tennis section concerns the proposed usage agreement for the pavilion (see documents presented at the meeting). It was agreed that the draft agreement provided a more transparent way of dealing with the costs incurred by the three sections individually and through shared facilities, and that while it may only lead to a modest reduction in the tennis section's outgoings it will provide a more transparent and fairer view of the costs. The meeting thanked CT for her work and agreed that a final version of the proposal should be taken either to the AGM, which would have to be held earlier than usual, or an EGM (this is not the preferred option).

Club Maintenance

a. CT has obtained quotes for replacing the fencing round the court, and has submitted a grant application to Tarmac for help with this. The result of this application will be known before Christmas.
b. CT has discussed the issue of cricket balls being hit into the tennis courts with Bob Marsden (chair of the cricket section and of the overall committee). She has obtained quotes for extending the new fencing to deal with this, but this appears to be an expensive option. Informal research has suggested that installing free standing netting on the cricket side of the hedge may be cheaper. CT has asked BM if he can look into this and whether the cricket section may be able to access funding from ECB, and is awaiting his response. This is a significant issue, since there are more incidents of this nature now than in recent years. Members are to be asked to report incidents next season. HG will add an incident recording book to the shed and the message will go out at the time of membership renewals.

Events & Tournaments: the club held a very successful social evening on 9 October (thanks in particular to Nic Granger and Lou Whitehouse for running the bar), and Tracey Ellis is organising a Christmas party for 10 December. This is more social events than the club has held for many years, and shows the growing community of members, rather than just people who play tennis.

Club Development: nothing to report

A.O.B. The meeting was reminded that AR is standing down as secretary. CT suggested that splitting the post in two might help with recruitment.