



BLT&SRC Council Meeting

Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Clubhouse

MINUTES

Attendees: John Shaw (JS), Phil Trimmer (PT), Adam Suggett (AS), Tracey Mackey (TM), Matt Markwort (MM), Vicky Pudney (VP), Mark Shattock, (MS), Susannah Crowther (SC), Pete Walker (PW)

Apologies: Phil Trimmer (PT)

1. Intro and update from Chair

JS started the meeting by acknowledging a lot had happened since the last Council meeting January. The departure of Tyrell, the move to the new management system for the 2026/2027 renewal season to mention a couple.

2. Head Coach Recruitment

AS gave an update on where the recruitment process for the Head Tennis Coach position had got to. The email that has gone to members, advising on the process is designed to be transparent to members so they are aware that a thorough and professional process is in place. The position has been advertised on the LTA website – with a closing date of 2nd March. A short list of applicants has been made. The applicants all bring something different to the table. Olly Culwick and Josh Sapwell will be Joint Interim Head Coach until an appointment is made.

There is a selection committee consisting of AS, MM & TM.

With the departure of TDS, JS has been **locking up** on alternate Sundays (with John Lee doing the alternate one). JS is keen to outsource this. The office will follow up with our current keyholders, Black & White, to see if this is something they can do.

ACTION: OFFICE

After advising he is looking to step down from the **monthly reconciliation of the coaches' pay**, Michael Beavis has now agreed to continue. He requests that there is some system of cross checking in place to check they're doing the hours they're claiming and that they're not doing private lessons off the book.

3. Exiting the Elite Club Management System

Elite Sport (Jenny Stokes) has, for many years, provided the club's website, database, subscriptions, email distribution, and box leagues. A transition is now well underway to the new service providers.

Box Leagues: Both Racketball and Squash Leagues have already moved to **Squash Levels**. The transition of tennis singles leagues to the **LTA system** will start from the next round (starting imminently). Doubles tennis has been on the LTA system since Bobby took over the admin.

Management Database: We have gone live with **Manage My Match (MMM)** for the subs renewal for 2026/2027. It is early days, but is going well. It has been a big change for the office as well as for members,

but is Subs received by 10th March are pretty much in line with the same time last year, despite going live a week later than we usually do for renewal. £127k received vs £130k LY.

Payments through MMM will come via a **Stripe** account. There is the facility to take payment outside of MMM should members prefer to pay by BACS or card.

MMM uses **Mailchimp** for email communication. We are optimistic that this will vastly improve our communication with members. The old system was fraught with many glitches, and emails often did not reach all members. In addition, Mailchimp has the facility to vastly improve the look of the emails sent to members.

Website: We have developed a new website in conjunction with **Indigo Tree**. This is ready to go live when we switch to the new systems.

4. AGM Follow Up

- **Pickleball:** Pickleball was a big talking point at the AGM. The Tennis Committee had (after much consideration) decided to proceed with marking ITC court 4 with Pickleball lines. The AGM threw up a lot of discussion on this point. In AS's absence, JS fielded questions from members.

The outcome of this was for JS and Tennis Committee to review the situation.

ACTION: JS & AS

- **ITC Court Fees:** AS and the Tennis Committee are keen to increase the usage of the indoor courts. AS, along with Wal Mackay, has undertaken a review of court usage and come up with a proposal of reduced rates.
- **Solar Panels:** Club member, Dan Jay, has approached Council to see if the solar panel usage can be increased at the club. We currently have solar panels for both electricity and hot water. The size of our roof means that we could potentially increase the number of solar panels that we have. This will be discussed further when PT is back from his holiday.

5. Padel Approaches from BFC and others

JS advised that he gets approached by various Padel companies almost weekly.

Most recently he, along with trustee Mike Hawkes have met with the **football club/Glencar** with a proposal for a joint venture to potentially develop court 6b and part of the football club car park to two Padel courts. This would be a Pay & Play format. JS has circulated the minutes from the meeting to Council and Trustees. It was decided that whilst it might not initially appear an attractive proposition, it is probably worth further investigation with the football club and Glencar, and to float the idea past members.

6. Volunteer Succession

Welfare Officer: After being in the role for a number of years, Sarah Markwort has advised that she wishes to step down from the position. She has recently started a new job and no longer feels she has the time to do the role justice. Communication has gone to members regarding the opportunity. One person has put their name forward and this will be followed up.

Treasurer: After being in the role for upwards of 20 years, Phil Trimmer has decided that the time is right for him to step down from the role of Treasurer at the club. There is one person who has expressed a possible interest in taking over. JS to follow up.

7. Section Reports:

- **Tennis:**

AS reported that the **Ladies Ladder** has now launched and has been very well received. Scoring etc is being done via GoogleSheets and is working well. AS wanted to give special mention to **Joanne Lloyd Evans** who has taken this on and got it off the ground.

The various **social sessions** are all well attended, although the weather through February did result in a lot of cancellations.

The **gate** at the pedestrian entrance now has a slam plate so the gate now only opens outwards. This stops the gate swinging as well as hitting the path when pushed inwards.

The work changing the **floodlights** to LEDs on courts 1 – 3 and 6a is now complete.

The **Annual Tournament** has now been launched and, so far, has received a lot of entries. There is a working committee of AS, Olly Culwick, Josh Sapwell and Scott Cartwright who will be organising the admin.

AS also advised that the Saturday afternoon kids' session (**SKIDS**) will be starting up again.

- **Squash:**

Kev Spratt and Pete Littlejohn have recently hung the **honours boards**. These have moved to behind the squash seating area following the change of courts 3 & 4 to glass backs.

There is a **Berko School Old Boys** fixture at the club on 22nd March. This will be on a smaller scale than the one last year.

We will be hosting the **Racketball Intercounties**. And the Squash & Racketball **annual tournaments** are both well under way.

PW did note that club member Gavin Roger-Lund and his wife have managed to increase the **female membership** at Chesham 1869. This activity is run as a loss leader to get the players on board.

It was noted that **Ali Coker** has recently become the O45 British National Champion – without losing a game! Well done Ali!!

- **Social:**

MM gave an **update** on the social/bar/catering side of the club. He will arrange a meeting with Isalie to review the contract and performance. This is part of the terms of the contract.

Tennis member, Lindsay O'Mahoney, and her band, **Honey Ryder**, will be doing an acoustic set at the club on Sunday 10th May.

- **Office**

S&V provided an update on how the **migration** to the new systems was going.

It was decided that the provisional dates for the two **Open Days** this year were Sunday 17th May & Sunday 20th September.

8. AOB

JS reminded Council that the **BSGCA Sporting Excellence Awards** were taking place again this year. Final submission date for candidates is 10th April.

It was agreed to pay Shane Waterton £3k in advance to purchase materials for the **guttering** work which will take place in April.

Next meeting: Tuesday 9th June 2026 7.30pm