



BLT&SRC Council Meeting

Monday 27th July 2026 at 8pm in the Clubhouse

MINUTES

Attendees: John Shaw (JS), Tracey Mackey (TM), Matt Markwort (MM), Vicky Pudney (VP), Mark Shattock, (MS), Susannah Crowther (SC) Pete Walker (PW), Wal Mackey (WM)

Apologies: Adam Suggett (AS)

1. Intro and update from Chair

JS started the meeting by welcoming Wal Mackey and Debbie Hawkes and the new Treasurer and Welfare Officer respectively. Wal joins Club Council; Debbie will be invited to attend if/when there is a welfare or safeguarding agenda item.

There is no issue constitutionally for two members of the same family to sit on Club Council, although JS has prepared some updates to make this explicit and address any potential conflict of interest scenarios. These have been agreed by the trustees and the updated version is now on the club website. It will be proposed at the AGM for ratification.

2. Update on club expansion / padel

JS/AS/WM and Mike Hawkes have been working together to progress discussions with the Football Club on the details of the potential expansion and padel plan. A draft briefing note was circulated to Council prior to the meeting, which will be issued to members in due course ahead of an SGM.

BFC have acknowledged that there is not enough space for 3 padel courts when LTA-recommended side access widths are added to the court dimensions. Moreover, we need to ensure that we retain sufficient space both to (a) convert our current car park to a tennis court that can be twinned with 6a, and (b) have an access route to/from the expansion area for a new car park.

The Option Agreement on the expansion area still needs to be negotiated with Berkhamsted Sports Grounds. It is the potential for expansion (with the development of that area funded by the padel revenue: Council agreed that padel income will be ringfenced to build back a 13th tennis court and a bigger var park)) that unifies our governing committees in recommending the proposition to members. We want to advance the likelihood of the option before we call the SGM.

3. Update on 2026 projects

The squash court ceiling work has now been completed. The outside work is almost finished. The driveway looks good, as does the new brickwork alongside the back of courts 10-12. The resin path cannot be completed until cooler weather comes.

Moving onto court booking with MMM. This is now progressing with MMM, Kingson (ethernet cabling) and Equity (network connectivity) working together on putting the hardware in place for the court booking system and its integration with court lighting: court clocks, court fob units for top-ups, new kiosk; and, in due course, the door and car park entry.

At this stage, JS is looking to have the court booking ready to launch by end of September, and club access by the end of the year. We are arranging a meeting with MMM to agree the implementation plan. Termination notice will need to be given to Payne Automation, whose contract would otherwise renew at the start of 2027. It will be a big change for members but the club managers will be clearly communicating the changes and offering support for anyone who needs it.

4. Junior cups: Lidderdale Cup for tennis and Ryder Cup for squash

The recipients of both the Ryder Cup (Squash) and Lidderdale Cup (Tennis) have now been announced.

- Ryder Cup 2025 – George Ogden
- Ryder Cup 2026 – Cristian Law
- Lidderdale Cup 2026 – Oscar Markwort

The club has been awarding £100 for the Ryder cup winners since Alan Ryder's family put this in place. They donated £1000 for this purpose. This has now been used up with the 2025 award, but the Council has decided to continue with the payments from club funds commencing from 2026. They also agreed that the winner of the Lidderdale Cup should also benefit from the same financial award, also commencing from 2026.

Well done to the winners!

5. Photos and bios on website (and entrance lobby?) so we're not faceless

AS has suggested, and JS agreed, that the Club Council should not be "faceless" to club members, particularly with the SGM and associated member consultations in mind. Therefore all Council members are requested to forward a short biography and photos to the office to be included on the club website.

6. AOB

WM provided an update on the work he has been doing to move the reporting forward on the club accounts, both monthly management reporting and year end.

Next meeting: To be a week following the SGM, to have a 'wash-up' on how it went and take forward the outcomes from the meeting.