

BUCS TENNIS LMC - MINUTES

Date 04/12/2025
Time 10:00 – 12:00
Location Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Dan Roberts (DR)
Sophie Kitson (SK)
Richard Joyner (RJ)
Matt Wildt (MW)
Gareth Weaver-Tyler (GWT)
Amy Lees (AL)
Scott MacAulay (SMA)
Ian MacDonald (IM)
Steve McLoughlin (SML)
Luke Degun (LD)

APOLOGIES

Alistair Higham (AH)
Tom Kisiel (TK)
Cath Harvey (CH)

ORGANISATION

BUCS
BUCS
LTA
Nottingham
Durham
Durham
Stirling
Bath
Leeds Beckett
Imperial

ORGANISATION

LTA
Loughborough
Loughborough

Item	Action*
1. Welcome Dan Roberts chaired the meeting. <u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Alistair Higham, Tom Kisiel & Cath Harvey. <u>Minutes from the previous meeting</u> SK reviewed the actions arising from the previous meeting. SK noted that that the Student Rep role recruitment had been unsuccessful since the last meeting, this will be re-shared again and institutions are encouraged to share this with their students. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record. Action: SK to share Student Representative job descriptions with the group.	SK

2. BUCS Update

SK provided an update from BUCS:

- BUCS Doubles:
 - Overall, event was good. New venue was positive with increase in courts and layout of venue. Highest entry numbers in recent years. Consolation draw was very well received, some coaches mentioned that this drove the increase in entries.
 - Feedback from TK was around the guaranteed entry numbers and that allowing 1 per institution means that the best players are not playing the event as they don't get in.
 - If we went down route of going by the best get in, some smaller institutions would be forced out of the draw. Guaranteeing a certain number of entries per institutions is the norm across the BUCS programme.
 - RJ – could there be a WTN cut off?
 - Some potential ideas to explore from the SAG were: changing the format of earlier rounds, a staggered draw or a qualifying event in some form.
 - Qualifying – open entries in September? North/South qualifying. Could face issues of pairings being incorrect by main draw.
 - IM – could you make event 3 days with qualifying on the Friday, box draw format?
- Audits:
 - SK reported that the initial audit process is progressing well, with several institutions already visited and close to completing their audits. The remaining tasks include an online meeting with Loughborough and Durham, as well as a site visit and meeting at Stirling scheduled for January.
 - Once all site visits and scoring are finalised, each institution will receive their scores along with a short report. This report will highlight positive findings and outline any recommended areas for improvement.
- World Tennis Number (WTN):
 - SK reminded institutions that for any international students competing within BUCS, they will need to contact the LTA's Customer Support Team through the [Enquiry Form](#) to ensure their WTN from the ITF or main WTN website is linked with their LTA profile. This is important as a number of players within National League currently show as WTNs of 40.9 (the worst) or have no WTN linked on their profile. As soon as the Online League Planner (OLP) is live and for any of the BUCS events that show on the LTA website this will affect anyone they play and may have a significant impact on their WTN and potentially their ability to enter British Tours etc. that rely on this metric.

Action: Institutions/International Students to contact the LTA to link their WTNs.

3. SAG Update

- As previously mentioned, BUCS Doubles was overall a success. The group plan on looking at how this may be further improved, taking into consideration the potential for qualifiers and looking at guaranteed entries. RJ agreed that the event was a success, especially with the introduction of the consolation draw.
- MW provided a short update on behalf of AH in his absence:
 - Master'U BNP Paribas 2025
 - Fly out Tuesday 02 December, event is Friday 05 – Sunday 07 December
 - Team announcement can be viewed here: [BUCS Team GB Students Head to Master'U 2025](#), 2/6 players are from British universities + Loughborough coach, Tom Kiesel, attending in Barry Scollo's place alongside AH
 - National League
 - Data collected shows that:
 - 71% of Men competing have either competed in Division 1 NCAA or hold an ATP ranking
 - 45% of Women competing have either competed in Division 1 NCAA or hold a WTA ranking
 - University Tennis Funding Review
 - Recently had a positive meeting with Directors/Heads of Sport at the National Tennis Centre
 - 15% increase on previous funding cycle
 - Tiered system will change to 'partner universities' with the aim to increase the number of universities the LTA work with
- BUCS Big Wednesday Schedule
 - SK shared the proposed schedule with the SAG and asked for feedback on the new format that mirrors that of the new Super Weekend format
 - The group agreed to the new proposed format which will come into effect for BBW 2026 with the introduction of the National Vase into the event

4. Super Weekend 2 (SW2) Schedule

SK shared the proposed schedule with the group for SW2.

General feedback included:

- The group agreed that the new format as trialled in SW1 of the 2-round model was a success and appreciated that this would continue for SW2, noting that it will look slightly different with the pro-training blocks to work around.
- SMA requested that the Sunday schedule was reconsidered as with current format, Stirling would not arrive home until around 3am Monday morning being in the middle session.
- AL requested that the schedule of being 3rd & 1st on for Durham was reconsidered.
- BUCS said that both of these requests would be taken into consideration and the group was advised to hold off booking accommodation until schedule is finalised.
- DR noted that the NTC has been a tricky venue in terms of planning, primarily due to the uncertainty around the confirmed date for SW2 until September, as well as the constraints posed by pro-training schedules. The question was posed as to whether the NTC is still of value as a venue – in terms of profile yes, it is, however in terms of planning it is a little more difficult.
 - IM suggested that alternative venues could be looked at including Bath, where you could have up to 8 courts, meaning the days would be shorter for everyone involved.
 - MW also suggested that SW could move around, say one year at Nottingham, then Bath, then Stirling etc. - consideration would have to be taken into the suitability of each venue and whether they have enough courts and whether they would be able to provide them for the whole weekend – this would save on travel & accommodation costs for the home institution.
- SK also shared that BUCS are looking at hosting an alumni event to celebrate 10 years of the league and also looking to invite some local county juniors down to see what British University tennis is like.

Action: BUCS to take feedback on SW2 schedule away and share finalised schedule as soon as possible.

BUCS

Action: SK to share plan of alumni event with institutions once confirmed.

SK

5. Calendar Feedback

DR asked the group for feedback on the changes made to this season's calendar and whether these have been beneficial.

General feedback included:

- TK had noted that the calendar was a lot more compact and that a more even split across Term 1 & 2 would be helpful.
- MW noted that for Nottingham with SW2 being confirmed as slightly later they had managed to have a more even split pre- & post-Christmas.
- With the aim to miss the pro-block of tournaments in October, the question was raised as to what impact this had actually had and whether more players were playing these events. It appears this may have benefitted the Men's side more.
 - MW noted that avoiding the pro-block won't necessarily be of benefit to all players now, but is important for the future of the league and the players and opportunities they are provided through BUCS competition. So, working more closely with these events in mind, is important.
- RJ noted that the only original clash with the BUCS calendar was Scottish National Doubles, however, Tennis Scotland managed to change this date to accommodate the dates of the BUCS leagues. Tennis Scotland are very keen to avoid clashes and as long as they have the BUCS dates early, will work to avoid these. SMA also noted that with the BUCS season starting later, students should be encouraged to take advantage of some of the Tennis Scotland events in Sept-Oct as these are a very good level of event.
- RJ noted that as Winter County Cup will no longer be continuing, this weekend will now also be available in November that hasn't been previously – especially in indoor tennis centres.
- It was noted that a season planning meeting would be beneficial and should be included in the next LMC, with all teams bringing dates they know they need to avoid to the meeting. RJ noted that we should work off the previous year's pro-calendar as these date blocks don't tend to change massively.

All

Action: Season planning to be added to next LMC agenda, with all teams + RJ requested to bring dates to avoid to meeting.

6. Minimum Operating Standards (MOS) & Behaviour/Conduct

- MOS – IM noted that matching kit really does make the league look good on court.
- DR noted that there had been some behaviour issues at SW1.
- Teams agreed that the captains/coaches briefing had been beneficial but felt that this may be good to expand to include all players so they know who the referee & court supervisors are and what they can/can't do when observing their matches. Standards of behaviour and respect of officials should also be outlined.
- Teams also suggested that officials could be stricter and give out code violations for racket abuse etc. as this would help quash some of the issues that have been observed.
 - RJ informed the group that code violations code be recorded through TTP, would just need players LTA Advantage Membership numbers – which are now available on the BUCS ranking lists.
- Some good practice from institutions when dealing with behaviour included:
 - Stirling – introduced internal consequences for behaviour
 - Leeds Beckett – have started to include the MOS & subsequent fines as part of their induction presentation for national league teams, therefore showing what consequence students' actions would have on them and their wider team/institution
- Overall, it was felt that behaviour has improved generally in the league, but more consequences for instances of poor behaviour from officials would help the students and their coaches.

Action: SK/RJ to look to introduce all player briefing for SW2 and look to tighten up on behaviour at Super Weekend's.

SK/RJ

7. AOB

- A question was posed as to what to do with instances of poor behaviour with no referee present. RJ suggested that this would be dependent on the extent of the poor behaviour, he noted an example of an LTA league match where no referee was present where a player had thrown a racket and it had ended up going through the wall of a bubble – in this instance it could be given to the venue to take action as this is a case of ‘wilful damage’, any damage to courts could also be considered in this way. From a BUCS perspective, the route of [BUCS Reg 5](#) could be taken in serious cases and breaches of the MOS would also be considered. For any concerns, institutions are encouraged to email Sophie/Dan or the BUCS Discipline Team: discipline@bucs.org.uk.
- A discussion about ranking lists was also raised. Questions included:
 - How they are done by institutions?
 - What are the criteria?
 - As WTN isn’t 100% reliable, is there measurable rationale?
 - How can they be challenged?
 - Could there be a ‘jury of peers’ for national league teams?
- MW noted that the SAG have looked at these on multiple occasions and have yet to come to a conclusive solution on how these could be improved.
- It was noted that the top 4 on the ranking list being locked to the 1st team is healthy.
- Some suggestions as to how these could be changed included:
 - Having a BUCS ranking system
 - Locking the top 4 to the 1st team, but only having a set number 1 player, with 2-4 being interchangeable in terms of rank – currently teams can’t factor in playing form on a week-to-week basis
- SK will take this away and invite the SAG & LMC to a meeting to discuss just ranking lists and how these may be improved in the future.

Action: SK to invite SAG & LMC to meeting to discuss ranking lists.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 05 March 2026 – 10:00am-12:00pm