



BTC News
Mar 20, 2020

This newsletter is being sent to all 2020 BTC members on behalf of the BTC Board:

COVID-19

Effective March 17, the Town of Bracebridge has closed all public offices indefinitely, including the Sportsplex and Arena, due to COVID-19. It's unclear how long current social distancing recommendations will be in place, and how the virus could affect the 2020 Tennis season. We will be guided by the Town as we move forward, and keep you informed. Presently, our plan is to proceed with the 2020 season as planned, but this could change quickly.

Opening Day

Opening day is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd from 9 am – Noon at the Kelvin Grove Courts. Rain date is Saturday, May 9th.

Annual General Meeting/ Social

The AGM/Social is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2020 at Kerr Park. We'll have a new format this year – a little tennis and social time, followed by the AGM and dinner. We've rented the Chalet for this event. Many thanks to Virginia Watts, who has volunteered to help me organize the AGM as this is a new format. If you're interested in volunteering to help in any capacity, please let me know!

Kerr Park Update

We are continuing to work with the Town on the potential relocation to Kerr Park. Our discussions are on hold while the Town deals with the COVID-19 crisis, and we'll keep you informed.

Mixers

The Board will set tentative dates for the 2020 Mixers at our meeting at the end of April. If you are interested in organizing a mixer, please let me know! It's easy, we have a format for you to follow, and are here to support you.

Host a Guest Day

One of the suggestions from the 2019 AGM was to have a Member-Guest day. The Board has tentatively scheduled Saturday, June 27, 2020 as a day members can bring guests to Show Up 'n Play to introduce them to BTC. BTC will waive the guest fee for that event.

Field House Update

As many of you know, The Town of Bracebridge has developed comprehensive plans to replace the Town's 70-year-old Memorial Arena and 111-year-old Public Library with a much needed regional community hub, which, in addition to the arena, community hall and library replacements, will include a multi-sport field house (double sized gymnasium with track).

Many BTC members attended a community engagement session in early February to express the need for indoor tennis in Muskoka, include indoor courts as part of the multi-sport field house.

The Town has created this public engagement platform <https://engagebracebridge.ca/> where you can go for information and register to give your feedback as the project moves forward.

Board Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in actively shaping the future of BTC and tennis in Bracebridge? Do you wish you had more of a voice in the Club's activities? Are you looking for a fun way to give back to your community? We're always looking for new Directors to bring new ideas and perspective. Join the team and make a difference!

OTA Rep/ IT – need vol, thank Jan

2019 AGM – Start-Stop-Continue Summary

Part of the 2019 AGM was a Start-Stop-Continue exercise designed to get feedback about the Club. Here is a summary of your suggestions, and the Board's response:

Start	Board's Response
Have mixers during their court times in shoulder season (May/June and Sept/Oct)	If members are interested in organizing additional mixers, the Board will support this.
3 groups for Ladies Doubles playing M-W-F from 8:30 – 10, 10 – 11:30, 11:30 – 1	The Ladies groups Ladies groups will review and bring a recommendation to the Board pending Kerr Par move.
Be able to book court time during day	There is open club time currently: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 6 – 9 PM• Wednesday 1 – 3 PM• Friday 1 – 3 PM Sign-up sheets were posted at the courts, but weren't being used. The Board will review the schedule, and ensure time is set aside for matches, and repost the sign-up sheet in the 2020 season pending move to Kerr Park.
Member/guest event once a season	The Board has tentatively scheduled Saturday, June 27, 2020 as a day members can bring guests to Show Up 'n Play to introduce them to BTC, and waive the guest fee.
Move AGM to August and have BBQ at Kerr Park	Done! The Board has tentatively scheduled the 2020 AGM at Kerr Park on August 27, 2020.
2-hour time slot for Mens Advanced	Some groups have 2-hour time slots; others have just 90-minutes. The Board will review the schedule pending decision to move to Kerr Park
Show Up 'n Play by level	No, this defeats the purpose of Show Up 'n Play.
Indoor tennis for offseason	See Newsletter item: Field House Update
Indoor tennis at Zellers	See Newsletter item: Field House Update
Have interclub meets and tournaments (Gravenhurst, Huntsville, Orillia, etc.)	If members are interested in organizing, this would be a great idea.
Develop a junior program	BTC and the Town have discussed this. At this point there is little interest in the community for youth tennis. If a member would like to come forward and champion this, that would be great.

Continue	Action Plan
Being inclusive to all levels	Agree.
Having clinics with pros	Margaret will investigate
Give members \$10 towards AGM as BTC used to	We have heard from members that the AGM should be self-funded and are reviewing the format of the AGM to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• make it more relaxed and cost-effective,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• time it so seasonal members can attend,• combine it with the tennis social.
The wonderful newsletters and emails	Thank you!
More tournaments	If a member is interested in running additional tournaments contact Paula King.
Very reasonable membership rates	Membership rates will continue to be set based on operating expenses.

Note: There were no suggestions as to what BTC should “stop” doing.

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Margaret Gallant
Secretary, Bracebridge Tennis Club