

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON TUESDAY 14 AUGUST 2018 AT 7.15PM

PRESENT: Ms. M. Eyles (Chairman); Mr. M. Boovanahalli; Mr. W. Fannin; Ms. H. Nicolson;
Ms. J. Wadey; Ms. C. Wu from 9.40pm
Mr. B. Beckman (Head of Badminton)
Ms. G. Bland (Badminton Junior Assistant) for items **152/18(B) to 154/18(B)**
Mr. L. Clements (Club Operations Manager) for items **152/18(B) to 153/18(B)**
Mr. G. Maxwell (Club Development Manager) for items **152/18(B) to 153/18(B)**

APOLOGIES: Mr. R. Debidin; Mr. J. Sheikh;

152/18(B) MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting on 12 July 2018 were read and approved subject to a minor addition to item **136/18(B)e)**

153/18(B) BOARD: Nil.

154/18(B) MANAGERS' REPORT:

- a) **MEMBERSHIP:** Current membership totals 1310 including 645 Badminton (Adults - 448; Juniors – 197). The Club will intensify its advertising campaign in September.
- b) **AGM:** The Club's annual AGM will be on Wednesday 19 September 2018.
- c) **SOCIAL:** Pickleball event/Bingo night will be on Saturday 8 September. It is hoped that 16 players from each sport will form Pickleball teams.
- d) **MAINTENANCE:** Work should soon commence on improving the men's showers. WF suggested that a timescale should be agreed with the contractors.
- e) **CLUB SAFEGUARDING:** C.Wu and some Club staff will be attending special courses.
- f) **CLUB TOURNAMENT 2019:** It has been agreed with the Squash Committee that Finals Day will be on Saturday 18 May 2019 to avoid a clash with a major Badminton event elsewhere which prevents many of the 'A' players from participating in our event.
- g) **A SESSION/A TEAMS:** LC reported that he had raised with the Board the concerns of the Badminton Committee regarding incentives to attract new A standard players to join the Club and A session, and payments for A team players, existing members and new members. The Board was not in favour of payments for A team players similar to those paid to the top Squash team players on the grounds that this is a practice amongst Squash clubs but not in Badminton clubs. The Board had suggested that an elite A+ group should be formed to play at the same time as the A session at the beginning of the evening and possibly join the other A players later. The Board had approved the invitation of some of the top junior members to play in A session free of charge. *The Committee did not consider that the formation of an A+ session was practicable. They proposed that BB and GB should approach possible A standard players to enquire whether they would be prepared to join the Club and A session if they were not required to pay a session fee. Another possible idea suggested was that potential A grade players could be offered a reduced membership fee for the first year. MB reported that following discussions with AC it had been suggested that visitor passes could be available to entice A grade visitors in the hope that, in time, Club membership might become attractive to them.*
LC undertook to refer the issue back to the Board by the end of the following week

depending on the outcome of BB's and GB's enquiries.

h)VISITORS' FEES: LC reported that the Board had been concerned to hear that the Badminton Committee wished to review the new higher non-member visitors' fees that had been introduced from 1 April 2018 - £6 to £12. Statistics showed that there had been a sizeable reduction in the income from Badminton visitors since the increase and some members had raised objection to the increase.

The Committee expressed the view that the increase had been too steep.

LC suggested that perhaps an increase from £6 to £8 would have been more appropriate and undertook to convey this suggestion to the Board. **ACTION: LC**

i)BADMINTON COMMITTEE E-MAILS: Comments by LC – confidential item.

j)MATTERS RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1)RECEPTION: HN expressed concern that the screen for court availability/booking was not currently functioning at reception. LC stated that this was because there were 'teething problems' with the new computer software system. Work was still in progress and the screen would be replaced as soon as possible. Any inconvenience at present was regretted.

155/18(B) HEAD OF BADMINTON'S REPORT: BB and GB had submitted a joint report as follows:-

a)GOFEST: On the weekend of 21/22 July GB & KB went to Surrey Sports Park in Guildford, as representatives of WRFC, to take part in GoFest – “The family festival of sport, dance, health and fitness”. They provided Badminton taster sessions to the participants of the festival, whose ages ranged from 5 to 60 years, with the aim to get them interested in playing Badminton. The sessions were 45 mins long and they ran 3 sessions each day. The weekend was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Information was provided about WRFC but sadly the Club was too far away for the majority of participants. Future thoughts: Try and find a similar event closer to Wimbledon, if one exists, potential to get new members.

b)JUNIOR SUMMER TRAINING SESSIONS:

1)There are both Developing and Raw summer junior training sessions – Developing have 3 sessions per week on Mon, Wed and Fri from 2.30-5.00pm and Raw have 2 sessions per week on Tues and Thurs from 1.30-4.00pm. After a slow start both sessions are now progressing well.

2)Suggestions for future holiday sessions: have both Developing & Raw sessions on the same day to help parents with children in both sessions; have a siblings discount; ask parents for feedback after these summer sessions are over.

c)WEEKDAY JUNIOR PC SESSIONS: WINTER TERM: Cost will stay the same as last term with a 20% discount if all sessions paid for in advance. All sessions except for the Emerging and Emerging+ will run throughout the October half-term; those usually attending the Emerging sessions will join in the elite daytime sessions. GB is preparing a letter to send out to parents hopefully within the next week. A meeting with the PC coaches will be arranged to discuss the PC sessions from September to December. BB is working with GM re the funding from BE to establish how much is left and how this could be used for the PC.

d)WEIGHTS/GYM PROGRAMME FOR JUNIORS: JC has agreed to write gym programmes for all juniors attending the weekday performance sessions. The Club will provide a link to his own website for his personal training from the Club's website. The juniors will be given log-in details to access their gym programmes/ videos helping to explain specific exercises and can contact JC for advice. He will update the programmes when necessary. Details of the cost have not yet been

received. Early in September it is planned that JC will attend the weekday sessions to test all the juniors so as to give them personally tailored programmes. A letter to parents with appropriate information about JC's off court programme will be prepared and a meeting with JC about his role has been arranged.

e)ADULT EVENING GRADED SESSIONS- COACHING: GB & AM have carried out trial runs at Tuesday B/B+ and Wednesday C/C+ sessions. They considered that these trial runs were a great success. Members were interested, enthusiastic and thankful for the advice given. Positive feedback has been received about coaches attending sessions. It might be necessary to have a sign up sheet for future sessions so that numbers to be watched per session can be controlled. GB suggested that 2 sessions per month should be arranged for C+ session if possible but perhaps only 1 session per month for B session.

f)ADULTS: Upgrade dates have been set for the weeks commencing 8th and 15th October. A poster has been made and will be put up next week. At the next meeting with coaches BB will mention the idea of WRFC coaches attending A session and get their thoughts on that. BB will also discuss with GM new ideas for using money from the Board. He now considers that perhaps a shuttle machine would not be the best investment. Interest sheets for teams will soon be put up. JW confirmed that the same teams as last season had already been entered in the Surrey and Sutton Leagues.

g)MATTERS RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1)MIRRORS: HN asked BB to follow up a suggestion from TP that there should be mirrors on the back walls of some of Badminton courts 1-4 for players to see their strokes. It was agreed that they could be covered if found to be distracting. WF said that he could probably source suitable equipment. BB will follow up this idea.

ACTION: BB

156/18(B) MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT: JW reported that she had already begun match fixtures for next season and would be attending the main Surrey fixtures meeting later in the week. The Committee agreed to continue the incentive for Club members to earn Club Credit for commitment to Badminton teams in the winter season 2018/2019:-

£10	for	players	who	play	in	6/7	matches	for	a	team
£15	“	“	“	“	“	8/9	“	“	“	“
£20	“	“	“	“	“	10	“	“	“	“

157/18(B) BADMINTON FOR THE DISABLED AT WRFC: ME reported that Emma Stoner had been invited to attend a recent BE Para-Badminton training session in Sheffield.

158/18(B) GRADING PROTOCOL/REGRADING: A 3rd draft of the final page (Potential change...downgrades) of the WRFC Grading Protocol document prepared by BB was circulated. Further amendments were discussed including a suggestion that members should be asked how they would like to be informed if selected for regrading. A final version will be prepared. However it was agreed that urgent action should be taken before the start of the Winter season to notify members of the B+ and B sessions, already identified as no longer of their sessions standard, that they have been regraded. BB undertook to draft an E-mail to the members concerned notifying them of this decision and giving them the opportunity to meet with Committee members on Monday 20 August between 7-8pm to discuss this decision and voice any opinions they may have. The E-mail would offer them half price session fees for the coming winter season. The E-mail will be circulated to Committee members for approval before it is sent. The WRFC Grading Protocol document will be held back until this initial regrade has been

done. At this point in time it was agreed to take no action regarding A session in view of the other problems facing that session.

159/18(B) WINTER SESSIONS 2018/2019

- a) DATES: Monday 3 September 2018 to Monday 29 April 2019 (34 weeks) – one week longer than last season so the fee will potentially be slightly higher.
- b) FEES: Still to be decided as a result of the decision to extend the winter session by one week.
- c) CLUB TOURNAMENT: Tuesday 30 April 2019 to Saturday 18 May 2019:

160/18(B) SUMMER SESSIONS 2018:

- a) NUMBERS: Numbers as on 14 August 2018 were available:-

	14/8/18	7/8/17	8/8/16	10/8/15	9/6/14	22/7/13	19/7/12/	4/7/11
A grade	21	21	28	20	21	23	21	22
B+ grade	32	38	27	33	30	32	38	32
B grade	26	30	41	31	31	28	29	34
C+ grade	32	20	31	32	26	24	33	23
C grade	15	9	7	10	9	7	8	3
Fri/3 rd sess.	20	30	26	26	21	25	30	31
TOTAL	146	148	160	152	138	139	159	145

Attendance and shuttle usage figures since the beginning of the summer season were available

- b) BANK HOLIDAY: MONDAY 27 AUGUST: The Club will probably be open from 10.00am to 6.00pm - to be confirmed.

161/18(B) TOURNAMENTS/EVENTS:

- a) SUMMER TEAMS TOURNAMENT: Sat/Sun 21 & 22 July 2018: Report to come.
- b) SURREY COUNTY BA MASTERS TEAMS TOURNAMENT: Sat/Sun 25 & 26 August 2018:
- c) SUMMER HANDICAP TEAMS TOURNAMENT: ? mid-September – delayed because of Pickleball event on Saturday 8 September.
- d) WIMBLEDON U/19 TOURNAMENT: Sat/Sun 13 & 14 October 2018
- e) HIRO YAMAMOTO TOURNAMENT: Sun 4 November 2018
- f) V4U SRI LANKAN CHARITY TOURNAMENT: Sun 9 December 2018:
- g) YONEX SINGLES TOURNAMENT: Date to be arranged.
- h) CRANBROOK SINGLES & WIMBLEDON GOLD TOURNAMENT: Sat/Sun 2 & 3 February 2019:
- i) DEVLIN TOURNAMENT: Sun 10 February 2019:

162/18(B) MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: Nil.

163/18(B) SCBA COUNCIL: Nil to report.

164/18(B) VISIT TO ALL ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019: ME reported that tickets are on sale. 60 members have signed up so far.

165/18(B) SAFETY ITEMS: Nil.

166/18(B) ACTION POINTS FOR CLUB MANAGERS:

a)MEMBERSHIP/VISITORS' FEES: Consult Board re. possible reduced initial membership fee for potential A grade players and reduction of visitors' fee to £8.

167/18(B) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS: 153/18(B)BOARD/MANAGERS' REPORT: i)
BADMINTON COMMITTEE E-MAILS: .

168/18(B) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

169/18(B) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 12 September 2018 at 7.15pm