

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2018 AT 7.15PM

PRESENT: Ms. M. Eyles (Chairman); Mr. M. Boovanahalli; Mr. R. Debidin; Mr. W. Fannin; Ms. H. Nicolson; Mr. K. Manro; Mr. J. Sheikh; Ms. C. Wu; Ms. J. Wadey
Mr. B. Chant (Board) for items **65/18(B) to 67/18(B)**
Mr. L. Clements (Club Operations Manager) for items **65/18(B) to 69/18(B)**

65/18(B) APOLOGIES: Mr. B. Beckman (Head of Badminton)

66/18(B) MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting on 12 March 2018 were read and approved.

67/18(B) BOARD: BC reported that the Board had held a special meeting to interview the two members involved in the issue regarding juniors playing in the C+ session. The matter was now considered to be closed. The Club's Rules and Regulations are to be updated. This might take some time to achieve. The Board would have to ensure that WRFC would comply with new General Data Protection Regulations. David Tourle, Chairman of the Club Development Working Party had attended a Board meeting to report on the progress of the group in the last two months.

68/18(B) MANAGERS' REPORT: LC reported as follows:-

- a)MEMBERSHIP: Membership at the end of March totalled 1331 including 642 Badminton (Adults – 453; Juniors – 189).
- b)COURT USAGE: Badminton court usage was 65.4 in March 2018 compared with 64.1 in March 2017 (+1.3).
- c)SPINNING STUDIO: Going well and appears to be on target financially to cover the cost of the set-up (conversion of the snooker room) in the time specified by the Club.
- d)CLUB SHOP: The All England Yonex order has been received – new racquets and clothing ranges. LC made the point that whilst Club prices are higher than Internet prices the Club Shop is a facility for members and is not intended to make vast profits. Also the Club wishes to maintain its good relationship with Yonex.
- e)VISITORS' FEES: New higher visitors' fees were introduced from 1 April. Statistics would be kept. LC reported on the complaint he had received from a member about the plan to raise the visitors' fees (already circulated to Committee members). He had spoken to the member, who regularly invites several visitors to play in a group, and had asked why these visitors did not consider joining the Club and perhaps a session but had been told that they did not live near enough. LC had also tried to encourage the member to join a session.

After discussion the Committee unanimously agreed that regular visitors do not benefit the Club and therefore the member who had complained should be advised that the Badminton Committee supports the new policy re. visitors' fees.

f)EQUIPMENT: A vending machine will be installed in the reception foyer area for use by members when the Bar/Catering is not open.

g)MATTERS RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- 1)BADMINTON COMMITTEE E-MAIL: Members of the Committee raised concerns that they were not adequately informed about complaints and matters raised by members to the Badminton Committee via the official BC E-mail account. After discussion it was agreed that there should be E-mail changes as below:-

The existing E-mail address - badminton.committee@wimbledonclub.co.uk - should be retained and available for Committee members to access on a 'read only' basis.

There should also be an E-mail for access only by the Chairperson of the Badminton Committee. JS stated that it would be technically possible to set this up and he

undertook to discuss this further with GM.

It was agreed that a new set-up would have to be explained to members by E-mail and on the Club's website. Also a list of Badminton Committee members should be on the website.

ACTION: JS

2)CLOCKS: RD reported that one clock was not working but the rest now seemed to have been synchronised. LC undertook to check this report.

3)BOILER: WF expressed concern about the slow progress of the installation of the new boiler system and asked whether a timescale had been agreed for the work. LC stated that no timescale had been agreed but the installation was a very large job that would take a considerable time. WF also reported concern about the state of the men's showers. LC stated that improving the men's showers would be carried out immediately after the boiler installation had been completed.

69/18(B) HEAD OF BADMINTON'S REPORT: BB had submitted a report as follows:-

a)CLUB MARK: WRFC's Club Mark status has now been renewed. BB recently completed the UK Level 1 Safeguarding with Children course and has since put up posters highlighting the fact that he is the Welfare Officer for Badminton at the Club. C. Wu is in the process of training to join him on this. BB & CW have discussed how they will move forward in this capacity. An initial plan may be to have a password protected dropbox where they can upload any issues and keep in contact with each other, working together to ensure that the proper procedures & guidelines are followed.

b)JUNIORS: BB has E-mailed all coaches to tell them to be more vigilant regarding the safeguarding of the juniors. The weekday sessions have a two week break for Easter. Some holiday training has been arranged for the developing and emerging group. Some sessions have also been arranged for the youngest group (Raw) run by TS. This holiday it is being run as a private group session but official sessions will be organised in the summer holidays. BB is in the process of organising the summer term of sessions and summer holiday training. Letters regarding summer sessions will be sent out within a few days.

c)ADULTS: BB has re-contacted the coaches who initially showed interest in coaching at the Adult sessions. Unfortunately two of the three are no longer available. Only BB and GB are available on a regular basis.

The Committee expressed disappointment that more coaches were not interested. LC confirmed that coaches would be paid for this work – possibly 2 ½ hours per session, once a month. He undertook to discuss this further with BB. ME will also do so. It was agreed that the aim should be to start this coaching facility in summer sessions after the Club Tournament. JS undertook to ask AM if he would be interested.

ACTION: ME & JS

d)SHUTTLE MASTERS: BB has had no success so far looking online for manufacturers of shuttle masters.

HN suggested that the sticker on the existing machine might give manufacturers' details. ME reported that a date for a demonstration of the Shuttle Firing Machine had not yet been arranged as BB had not had a full response from Committee members re. their availability. It was suggested that he should go ahead and fix a date and as many Committee members as possible should attend.

e)DOWNGRADING/REGRADING: BB has read all the responses from members to the E-mail asking for their views on downgrading or regrading and it will take longer to give his full thoughts on this issue. He wishes to go on record that there is no favouritism in the upgrade process. Players are graded on their abilities on court. The only other factor he considers is if they will continue to try to improve or not.

70/18(B) 'JOINT RACQUETS' GROUP/CHARITY COMMITTEE: Nil to report.

71/18(B) MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT: JW reported that to date 99 matches had been played in the Surrey Leagues – 57 won; 42 lost. 11 matches had been postponed. 14 matches had still to be played. It was already known that the B Men's team had won Division 5. The C+ Men's team had played 12 matches in the Sutton & District League – Mens 4s Division 2 – 3 won; 8 lost; 1 drawn. 1 match had been rearranged during the season.

72/18(B) BADMINTON FOR THE DISABLED AT WRFC: LB had submitted a report as follows:-

- a) **ANDERS FOUNDATION FUNDING:** Monthly Talent Spotting Sessions to give the most promising players of 8-18 years intensive coaching. 6th year of sessions at the Club for Oak Lodge School for the Deaf. Sessions started on Wednesday 21 February for 6 weeks. In addition there were 2 sessions for 4 weeks for the younger pupils. The 4th Surrey County Bronze Para-badminton Tournament was sadly cancelled due to lack of entries. LB has contacted BE to try to find a solution for the future. In place of this event an Inclusive Club Handicap Singles Tournament was run – Winner – Oscar Warr; Runner-up – Temi Johnson, in a very closely contested Final.
- b) **DEAF BADMINTON:** It is hoped to run some sessions at the Club from May to July assisted by funding from BE but Surbiton Deaf Club need to affiliate to BE first.
- c) **WHEELCHAIR BADMINTON:** LB & CB are to visit the wheelchair Tennis sessions at Roehampton. A potential wheelchair player has visited the Club and has been invited to come again to try out the chair before committing to join the Club.
- d) **PLAYERS:** LB will be encouraging 3 players to enter their first Four Nations event. She has been in talks with the Special Olympics organising team to arrange a friendly match between WRFC and a Bournemouth Club – the only other club registered SO. This would be for players with a Learning Disability.

73/18(B) GRADED EVENING SESSIONS: REGRADING/DOWNGRADING: All the feedback so far received from members regarding the disparity in the standard within sessions and the Committee's proposal to consider the possible regrading/downgrading of members in an attempt to improve the situation, had been circulated to the Committee before the meeting. Some Committee members expressed the view that the Committee should know the names of the members who had sent their views. ME reported that the E-mail that had been sent out to all adult members had asked them to contact her (in confidence). A draft of the proposed E-mail had been sent to Committee members beforehand and had been approved by all. She did not feel that she could now breach the trust of those members who had replied by identifying the names of the senders. Other members suggested that the response would not have been as good if not 'in confidence' and also that knowledge of names might influence the Committee's consideration of the views expressed. It was agreed after discussion that the members' response was overwhelmingly positive for some form of regrading/downgrading and that the upgrading procedure also needs to be reviewed and possibly tightened up. In advance of decisions regarding the A, B+ and B sessions it was agreed that next winter season there should be separate sessions for C and C+ members – C+ to continue on Wednesdays on courts 1 – 4 and C also on Wednesdays on courts 5 – 7. ME undertook to ask for a breakdown of the numbers of C and C+ members in order to assess court requirements. Beginners' courses, when held, would probably have to take place on Sundays either from 3 – 5pm or from 7 – 9pm instead of on Wednesdays. Further discussion regarding other sessions to take place after the Club Tournament.

ACTION: ME

74/18(B) ELECTRONIC PEGBOARD: ME reported that trials of the electronic pegboard would be held during each graded session next week. She asked JS, MB and BB to assist the session reps.

75/18(B) CLUB TOURNAMENT: 24 April to Saturday 12 May 2018: ME reported that there had been very few entries to date. She would ask LC to send out another E-mail encouraging entries. The closing date would be Monday 16 April at 5.00pm. The Draw would be done on Friday 20 April. Trophies had been ordered. ME undertook to draw up a rota of Committee duties throughout the Tournament.

76/18(B) WINTER SESSIONS 2017/2018:

a)SESSION NUMBERS: Numbers as on 4 April 2018 were available:-

	4/4/18	14/3/17	9/3/16	10/3/15	19/2/14	15/1/13	13/3/12	21/3/11
Mon B	33	45	37	39	41	38	53	46
Tues B+	40	45	51	53	59	56	54	49
Wed C+	41	41	50	44	43	40	40	28
Thur A	26	32	28	32	28	29	36	33
Fri B/C	3	2		6	4	3	3	3
2 nd session	23	22	26	20	21	16	39	29
TOTAL	166	187	192	194	196	182	225	188

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

77/18(B) SUMMER SESSIONS: Monday 14 May to Friday 31 August (16 weeks): No sessions on Bank Holiday Mondays 28 May and 27 August.

78/18(B) TOURNAMENTS/EVENTS:

a)SUMMER TEAMS TOURNAMENT: Sat/Sun 21 & 22 July 2018:

b)SURREY COUNTY BA MASTERS TEAMS TOURNAMENT: Sat/Sun 25 & 26 August:

c)SUMMER HANDICAP TEAMS TOURNAMENT: ? September.

d)WIMBLEDON U/19 TOURNAMENT: Sat/Sun 20 & 21 October

e)CRANBROOK SINGLES & WIMBLEDON GOLD TOURNAMENT:

f)V4U SRI LANKAN CHARITY TOURNAMENT: Sun 9 December

79/18(B) VISIT TO ALL ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIIPS: ME reported that this had gone well.

80/18(B) MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: Nil.

81/18(B) SCBA COUNCIL: Nil to report.

82/18(B) SAFETY ITEMS: Nil.

83/18(B) ACTION POINTS FOR CLUB MANAGERS:

a)E-MAILS: Make Badminton Committee E-mail changes as requested by the

Committee and enter a list of Badminton Committee members on the Club's website.

b)CLOCKS: Check the report that one clock is not working.

84/18(B) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

a)CONSTITUTION OF BADMINTON COMMITTEE: Comments received from a

member regarding the constitution of the Badminton Committee had been circulated.

It was agreed that this should be discussed fully at the next meeting.

- b)ELITE PLAYER AT WRFC: JW expressed surprise and concern that the Committee had not been notified that Fontaine Chapman had retired from the elite training programme for which she had been receiving a level of assistance at WRFC. Some other members of the Committee also did not seem to be aware of this. HN noted that she and others, including BB, were aware of Fontaine's situation and that the Committee should respect that this has probably been a difficult decision and a difficult time for Fontaine, who is still coaching junior performance sessions and contributing positively to the Club.
- c)COMPLAINT RE. MEMBER'S BEHAVIOUR: Details had also been circulated. ME will await a full response from the member involved and will then attempt to resolve the matter between both members with the assistance of the Managers.

ACTION: ME

85/18(B) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS: 84/18(B)c) COMPLAINT RE. MEMBER'S BEHAVIOUR.

86/18(B) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 16 May 2018 at 7.15pm