

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 JANUARY 2019 AT 7.15PM

PRESENT: Mr. W. Fannin; Mr. P. Friel; Mr. K. Manro; Ms H. Nicolson (Chairman); Ms. J. Wadey; Mr.R. Wheeler; Mr. R. Debidin.
Mr. L. Clements (Club Operations Manager) for items 001/19 to 009/19.
Mr. N. Baldwin (Board Representative)
Mr. B. Beckman (Head of Badminton) for items 001/19 to 011/19.
Mr. J.Y. Lim (Member) for item 008/19 only.

APOLOGIES: Ms. C. Wu and Mr. M. Boovanahalli who tendered his resignation from the committee. The Committee would like to thank Mr. M. Boovanahalli for his time and efforts on the Badminton Committee.

001/19 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12th DECEMBER:** Minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2018 were confirmed approved.

002/19 **REPORT FROM BOARD:**

- a) A new Club Structure has been agreed, giving the sports committees responsibility for the running of their sports and more financial control, including own budgets. Money generated in each sector is to be reinvested into the sport. The Board will take more of an overseeing role. Finance representatives from committees to look at section results with management and shadow in preparation for next financial year.
- b) Development Working Party (DWP) to be reinvigorated and meet on 10th January. The DWP will be reaching out to include construction professionals for specialist input. There is also the intention to form new working parties such as for marketing.
- c) Chair of BC to attend Board meetings and report from BC as of from next Board meeting, 30th January.
- d) BC plan for 2019 (to be presented to the Board at the next board meeting) to include a list of suggested updates/improvements to club facilities for the DWP.
- e) Design for new shuttle masters completed and ready to order from metalworker.
- f) Honorary membership issue discussed. Board considering issuing annually one per sport. Committees to put forward two potential recipients.

003/19 **REPORT FROM MANAGER:**

- A) Discrepancies reported in the previous number of members lost. WF asked for accurate figures in time for next BC meeting. **Action:** L.C.
- B) Phone System: Members are having problems getting through on the phonenumber. LC reported he was to propose upgrade of phone system to the board.
- C) No joining fee in January.
- D) Beginners course starting soon.

- E) Reinstatement of Friday afternoon session. Discussion on how to prevent repeat of previous issues, which caused the session to be cancelled. It was decided to trial a member-led session with an *intermediate* criteria for players.
- F) Bernard Chant to bring over team from Switzerland for friendly match on 29th March.

004/19 Report from Charity/Sports Committee (PF):

- a) Two charities chosen for 2019: The Anders Foundation and the Neil Desai foundation. Any profit from social events is to be given to the charities, including profits from the Christmas party. Social media intern to help promote events.
- b) Pickleball event in December was low in numbers, but a nice event. The inter club quiz night is confirmed for April 13th.
- c) New Committee Members: Emma Perham and Helle Nicolson (BC chair) has joined the Charity/Sports committee.

005/19 Report from Match Secretary: All England have given WRFC 20 tickets to give to juniors. Otherwise nil to report.

006/19 Report from Head of Badminton: Report received from BB was noted and discussed. Summary as follows:

- Juniors: Weekday sessions have commenced, with no movement between sessions since last term. Profit and loss spreadsheets have been completed for last term.
- Underage Member (15 years old) has completed the beginners' course and would like to join the C session. C session Rep. has been consulted and the junior has been invited to try the session on occasion to see how she gets on.
- Beginners' Course: The next beginners' Course is due to start on 20th January. Only one person has signed up so far, but BB will contact those who attended the previous course to see if any more interest. Some attendees from the previous course have been coming to the Sunday open session and may consider joining the club. **ACTION:** BB
- Final data from regrading feedback to be supplied to a member, as requested, this week.
- All England Tickets for the PC: BE has offered some All England tickets for the Juniors. Details to be confirmed.
- Yonex Singles Tournament: No date has been set yet, but BB to chase up with Yonex Rep. to arrange. **ACTION:** BB
- Cranbrook Singles: Date set for Tuesday 2nd April, the week of the Wimbledon Gold.
- Coach Insurance Checks/DBS: All coaches within the club have been checked. 4 coaches needed to update their registrations, but all are in progress.
- C+ Session Coach: The Board has approved funding of coach for C+ session.
- Upgrades: Posters informing members of the upcoming upgrades will be going up soon. **ACTION:** BB

007/19 Disability Badminton: Summary of email Report received from Lorraine Brydie:

- Disability Sessions to resume on 12th January.

- The Anders Foundation will continue to fund the Talent Spotting Sessions.
- Emma Stoner has received a £500 grant from European Badminton to help her travel and compete abroad, after seeing her potential in the European Championships recently played in France.
- Dates have been scheduled for six sessions with The Oak Lodge School for the Deaf.

008/19

Sponsorship Proposal: Member Jin Yee Lim visiting to discuss sponsorship proposal.

J.L. proposes that he sponsors kit for our teams as well as for the general membership through sub-site of a commercial sports-kit website. All kit to include his company logo, WRFC logo and to be personalised to members' wishes. Discussion ensued on detail of how this would work and whether the club would need to change supplier to the club shop. L.C expressed concerns about costs and whether there might be more cost-effective options for the members. HN noted that BE has strict rules for lettering on junior shirts worn at tournaments and to be aware of these.

ACTION: JL to contact relevant companies to compare prices/costs and report back to BC.

009/19

Main Topics:

- a) Upgrading Procedure: BC finalising new protocol to be published prior to February upgrades. KM presented draft protocol for formalised upgrading procedure. HOB raised issue of numbers and suggested additional court to be booked upstairs when necessary, to limit disruption to sessions. It was decided that Fitness be added to upgrade criteria and for initial verbal feedback on the night to be restricted to five minutes maximum.

ACTION: KM to revise and re-draft the principles into a separate document for distribution to the membership [Final documents to be posted on notice Boards].

- b) Regrading/Session Review: BB in process of reviewing sessions. Potentially affected members to be consulted by the end of the winter season (Post Club Champs end of April).

ACTION: KM to review protocol for regrading and present revised protocol to BC in February/early March.

ACTION: BB to report back to BC on potential members affected.

- c) Friday afternoon session: Following request of members, it was decided to reinstate the Friday afternoon open session. Session to be member led and *intermediate* criteria to be introduced. To be reviewed.

- d) Updates on Veteran Session/Fitness Course and C+ session:

- Veteran session is now open to visitors at £10 per session.
- Fitness Course has 10 people signed up for the full 6 weeks course. An additional 4 members paid on the day to join in the first session, taking session to max capacity of 14 people. HN noted first session was a great success.

- C+ session: The BC is still hoping to be able to supply a coach to join the session for the remainder of the season.
ACTION: BB to consult potential coaches.
- e) Members' request for 3 months advance block bookings of Sunday courts for privately run session: A request to allow group of members to pre-book desired courts 3 month in advance for regular private group session was discussed and declined. The Committee did not consider such arrangement would be fair to other members and maintain that all members, including new, should have equal opportunity to book private courts.
- f) BC nominations for complimentary memberships: The BC nominated two members for honorary membership.

010/19 **Complaints and Communication with members:** Nil to report.

011/19 **Upcoming Tournaments:**

- a) Devlin Tournament 10th Feb: Deadline for entries Thursday 7th Feb at 8pm. PF, WF and RD to co-ordinate and run tournament.
ACTION: HN to communicate with LC regarding prizes.
- b) Cranbrook singles: Confirmed for Tuesday 2nd April.
- c) Wimbledon Gold: Confirmed 6th & 7th April.
- d) Club Championships: To Start 30th April. Finals day set for 18th May.

012/19 **BC Focus & Organisation:**

- a) Roles and responsibilities confirmed:
 - Joyce Wadey: Match Secretary.
 - Helle Nicolson: Chair, Junior Representative and Social Media Rep.
 - Christine Wu: Deputy chair and Research.
 - Peter Friel: Session Rep. Representative and Charity/Joint Sports Rep.
 - Kavita Manro: Finance and Research.
 - Raj Debidin: Finance.
 - William Fannin: Facilities
 - Robert Wheeler: Social Media Assistant.
- b) Report on meeting with Badminton England Representatives: HN met with two BE representatives to build new relationships and gain understanding of their view on our performance centre, as well as learn about any potential funding opportunities. Directors Vincent Tam and Neil Baldwin also attended. BE Head of Pathway Graham Hurrell, expressed concerns that our Performance centre is no longer living up to its potential and is falling behind other centres with more limited facilities. A long discussion ensued on what BE expects from their top centres and on how to improve as a Performance Centre. GH confirmed that there is not a lot of funding available, but that currently BE supports two centres who have been granted ETC (England

Training Centre) status. These are High Wycombe (Middlesex) and Westgate (Winchester). BE has very close relationships with these. HN requested the criteria for becoming an ETC, which was received and shared with the Committee. On a positive note, GH expressed confidence in the potential of the club, and offered support and guidance if there was a commitment to improve.

c) Plans and visions for 2019, to be presented to the Board, were discussed, including;

- Draft Vision Statement from BC. To be posted in full when finalised. Founded on belief that as a centre of excellence with a strong reputation, success will translate into all areas of club life, encouraging a growing membership and enjoyment of everyone, being part of a vibrant and successful club.
- Restructuring Proposal for badminton section: A proposal, forming part of a larger vision for the club, to restructure the badminton section in order to improve all areas/sectors of badminton within the club (adult, junior, performance, elite, social etc.) was discussed. The proposal involves separating responsibilities for the club sector and what we now understand as the performance sector, and creating a Performance Academy, aligned with BE recommendations, to be developed with the aim of acquiring ETC status for the club in the future. The BC would be looking to appoint another professional from within the club to be tasked specifically with developing and managing the Academy, while allowing the Head of Badminton more focus on improving all areas of the club side.

ACTION: BC special meeting agreed for 16th January to discuss further the restructuring proposal. If agreed, proposal is to be discussed with HOB and presented to the Board at the next Board meeting 30th January as part of BC plan and vision for 2019. Documents to be posted when finalised.

013/19 Action Points for Club managers/Board/Other Pending: Repeat request for the booking Screen to be replaced/reintroduced in the reception area.

014/19 Confidential Matters/ Any Other Business: Next meeting confirmed for Thursday 7th February.