

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2018 AT 7:15PM

PRESENT: Mr. W. Fannin; Mr. P Friel; Mr. K Manro; Ms. H. Nicolson (Chairman); Ms. J. Wadey; Ms. C. Wu, Mr. M. Boovanahalli.
Mr. L. Clements (Club Operations Manager) for items 222/18(B) to 224/18(B)
Neil Baldwin (Board Representative)
Nicky Sands for items 226/18(B)
Session Representatives for item 225/18 (B): A Representative (Abdul Malique), B+ Representative (Peter Friel), B Representative (Peter Paul), C+ Representative (Sergio Di Nardo), C Representative (Philippa Gardner) and, Friday Open Session (Andy Shoesmith).

APOLOGIES: Mr. R. Debidin, Mr. R Wheeler and Mr. B. Beckman (Head of Badminton)

222/18(B) MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS: Minutes of the meeting 7 November 2018 were confirmed approved. It was reconfirmed that any amendments to minutes were to be emailed to CW (if CW responsible for minutes). MB advised he would wish to have session statistics inserted going forward and JW advised would provide statistics from sessions to CW.

ACTION: JW to send session statistics to CW

223/18(B) BOARD

- a) **GYM FLOOR:** NB advised gym will be looking to put in a new gym floor.
- b) **2019 PLAN FOR COMMITTEES:** NB advised that Board will request in 2019 the Committee (and other club committees) to provide Board with forecast of their activities and funding required. Format to be confirmed by the Board and Board will liaise with Committees. Possible budget to be provided to the Committees also.
- c) **MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:** NB noted that membership has decreased by approximately 6% to 8% (to a total of approximately 1220-1230 members). Further analysis will be done by the Board. Part of the reason of the decrease may be due to the new computer system. Unfortunately, the club's budget has been affected but the Board will discuss how to attract new members.

224/18(B) MANAGERS' REPORT:

- a) **DATA PROTECTION FOR TEAMS:** LC confirmed that for the league teams, the principle of "legitimate interest" shall be applied for contact purposes. LC noted that during the last elections, using personal information to canvass for candidates wouldn't fall under the GDPR and therefore an item members will need to be mindful of.
- b) **SCREEN AT RECEPTION:** LC to confirm whether the screen at reception will be returned so that members will be able to view which court they have booked.
ACTION: LC to confirm screen use
- c) **SOCIAL EVENTS:** LC noted the upcoming social events: Christmas Party, Pickleball and Comedy Night (January)
- d) **STATISTICS FROM GEORGINA REGARDING JUNIORS:** HN confirmed that statistics provided by Georgina were appreciated but not the ones required.
ACTION: HN to request the required statistics on Performance Session attendance numbers.
- e) **BREAKING IN CARPARK:** LC noted that there have been break-ins and to be cautious of valuable possessions
- f) **MINUTES FROM BOARD:** It was noted that the Board posted minutes recently on website for members to see.
- g) **REPLACEMENT FROM GEORGE MAXWELL (GM):** Currently GM's marketing role is being reviewed and how best to structure the role in the future. Roles remains vacant in the interim.

225/18(B) MEETING THE SESSION REPRESENTATIVES

The session representatives were requested to attend the Committee meeting to provide feedback on the session and to note any concerns. A summary of the session representative's comments as follows:

C session representative commented as follows:

- Small session - use of 2 courts and 3 ladies only.
- C+ has attended sessions to make additional numbers.
- Session has lost several members as not happy with the split from the C+ session.
- Members very happy with club coach Chris Richards now regularly attending the sessions.
- Session members have organized group lesson with Khalid on Sundays so that they can further improve their tactics, defense of play and other items that were not of focus in the beginner's course.
- Concern raised that if new beginners join the session, the new members may cause disparity in level.

ACTION: NB noted the need for a procedure for contacting beginner course attendees post course, to encourage more attendees joining the club as members. NB to consider.

C+ session representative commented as follows:

- The majority of session members thanked Committee for agreeing to a dedicated C+ session.
- Session members however expressed low morale due to recent upgrades which resulted in a drop of numbers and standards in the session.
- Upgrades should not have taken place prior to general downgrading/re-grading.
- More B players attended session prior to recent upgrades when session was stronger.
- The session would benefit from a regular coach in attendance, as introduced in C session.
- Requested a meeting between session members and Committee so all sessions members can express their views.

B session representative commented as follows:

- General feeling that session has been "diluted" now and the session standard has diminished significantly following recent upgrades.
- Members wanted that the session representative convey to the Committee that they are desirous of a better standard session and that members are more prone to favour playing in private sessions now due to the drop in standard and disparity in level of the session.
- It was requested that the allocation of courts should be reassessed if a session is not using all.

B+ session representative commented as follows:

- Generally members are happy with the session and the regrade has had a positive effect on the session.
- 25 to 30 people on average.
- During winter session, members tends to be happy.
- During Summer session shuttle allocation can create issues with members.

A session representative commented as follows:

- Lowest numbers in attendance is approximately 12-13 members, but numbers slowly improving.
- In general, members are happy to have visitors, following the introduction of the new visitor incentive. (HN noted that promotion of visitor incentive should also be done through social media).

Friday open session representative commented as follows:

- Session composition has changed. Previously attendees from more mixed grades, then last year shifted to majority being B grades and below.
- The social element of the session has diminished – previously, after session, many would attend the bar.

- The variance in the grades attending has caused members from higher grades to not attend, as it was challenging achieving balanced games.

HN confirmed that the general feedback from Session Representatives was a wish for stronger sessions.

PF noted that he will be a Session Representative from the Badminton Committee and as such liaise accordingly with session representatives. PF noted that he is a grade 2 badminton coach and happy to assist with C/C+ session if required.

HN confirmed options for complimentary refreshments to sessions in the week before Christmas, as previously emailed to session reps.

226/18(B) SOCIAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITY PRESENTATION

Nicky Sands attended the Committee meeting to discuss a potential opportunity for increasing the social media presence of the club.

Background: Squash has a good relationship with University of Roehampton. Santander previously sponsored an intern student from University of Roehampton student to help with the club promoting itself through social media. The intern assisted with promoting Wimbledon Cup and it was noted that this was met with good success in promoting the event. After this, Santander offered that they would pay 50% of the fees for the intern (the club would pay remaining 50%) for 350 hours for a year. It was noted that the intern could be used across the club (ie: squash, badminton, gym and club in general). A first focus could be a content calendar so that Committees could promote their upcoming events. NS advised that a representative from each committee could be used to present ideas and liaise with intern and herself as required.

It was noted:

- Purpose of the intern would be used for general promotion of club and events/ key dates and promotion through social channels (not necessarily increase members and not intended to tie in KPIs).
- It is to be confirmed whether the intern would assist for the academic year or calendar year.
- Board sign-off pending.
- Content should be presented to the intern in a more “copy and paste” style.
- Representative from the Committee is required to discuss content to be posted and to assist with process in general. Initial time commitment may be more intensive.
- The Committee unanimously agreed that this would be a benefit to the Club.

ACTION: Committee to elect a representative for above initiative.

HN and CW to create a breakdown of events from January to June 2019 which includes upgrades of sessions, tournaments, club champs, courses etc... pre June 2019 and send to NS.

227/18(B) REPORTS FROM MATCH SECRETARY AND HEAD OF BADMINTON

a) MATCH SECRETARY:

Surrey League

Matches played: 39 Won: 23 / Lost: 13 (3 results pending)

The wins include a Senior Hybrid Cup Match which puts Wimbledon into the semi-final

Sutton and District

Matches played: 4 Won: 2 / Lost: 1 / Drawn: 1

HEAD OF BADMINTON: Report received from BB was noted and discussed. High level summary of BB's report as follows:

- C/C+ sessions: Feedback from session members show a split feeling regarding the separation of the sessions.
- Beginners Course ending 9th December: Seven people were graded C. Two could not be graded. Promotional offers for joining the club and the c session were given to all attending the course. The next course is scheduled to start on the 20th of January.
- Junior Sessions: The junior sessions continue to run well. Emerging+ is low, but understandably so as only two potential players at that level. A spreadsheet with precise figures for all the junior sessions should be available for the committee meeting. The Raw session may be boosted by new players from the Saturday J1/J2 sessions, joining it in the new Year. Dates for next terms' sessions have been set.
- Session review: Initial observations have been made. In January BB will be attending more sessions and start speaking to members who may be affected.
- A session: Surrey selectors Stuart, Sam and Karen Beckman have been asked to spread the word about the new A-session initiative. Visitors who have previously attended the session has also been approached. When fully recovered from injury BB intends to attend whenever able.
- Sessions that will run through the Christmas/New Year period have been decided.
- Cover for the Vets session will be needed for the last two sessions before Christmas.
- BB has been unable to play any matches due to a hamstring injury, but has informed all captains that he will be available in the New Year.

228/18(B) OTHER MAIN TOPICS AND PRIORTIES

- a) **UPGRADING PROCEDURE REVIEW:** It was discussed that the following points should be considered for a new upgrading policy:
- probation period
 - standard criteria to be strictly adhered to
 - 2 coaches at the same time (in past, there were 2 coaches used and should be reintroduced)
 - Ensure that individuals know when they are being watched
 - Over a period of 2 weeks (current grade and the upper grade)
 - Communication to be better – Both verbal and written
 - Scheduling

KM volunteered to create a first draft of a policy. It was noted that Stuart Wardell should be used as resource given his experience.

ACTION: KM to present in January meeting the draft proposal. KM to provide a draft of proposal prior to discussions.

- b) **REGRADING / SESSION REVIEW:** As above. Regrading and upgrading should be considered together.
- c) **VETERAN SESSION:** It was decided to continue the session in the new year and allow visitors to attend for £10 per session. The session will be reviewed in March.

ACTION: HN to speak to LC regarding website promotion.

- d) **POTENTIAL NEW FITNESS SESSION:** HN presented a suggestion for introducing a badminton focused fitness session in the new year. It was decided to trial a six week course at £30 for the course. Course to start beginning of January and run on Sundays from 11am -12.

ACTION: HN to organize and create promotional poster.

229/18(B) COMPLAINTS AND COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

230/18(B) UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS / EVENTS

- a) CRANBROOK SINGLES: BB to confirm dates
- b) DEVLIN TOURNAMENT (10 February 2019): It was noted volunteers are required. Confirmed tournament fees £18.

ACTION: HN to create poster
HN to communicate with LC for prizes

231/18(B) BC ORGANISATION

- Match Secretary: JW
- Chair and Junior Representative: HN
- Charity/Joint Rackets as well as Session Rep Representative: PF
- Social Media: (to be confirmed)
- Finance: RD and KM
- Research: KM and CW
- Sponsorship: TBD – joint

HN noted to be in discussion with a member potentially interested in providing sponsorship. Member to be invited to next BC meeting.

232/18(B) ACTION POINTS FOR CLUB MANAGERS/ BOARD/ OTHER PENDING

- a) SHUTTLE MASTER: NB working on a design.
- b) LIGHTING: Discussion regarding the improvement of lighting on courts.
ACTION: HN to discuss with managers and members with relevant experience.
- c) COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIP: NB to take discussion to Board regarding suggestions for complimentary memberships.

233/18(B) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS/ ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Confidential discussion regarding a Committee Member.
- b) Next meeting confirmed as 9 January 2019.
- c) Session numbers for the Winter Sessions 2018/2019 were reported as follows:

WINTER SESSIONS 2018/2019

SESSION NUMBERS: Numbers were reported as below:-

	12/12/18	10/1/18	9/1/17	14/1/16	7/1/15	6/1/14	15/1/13	10/1/12
Mon B	34	33	45	35	38	40	38	53
Tues B+	41	37	45	49	51	59	56	55
Wed C+	29	42	40	49	45	42	40	39
Wed C	8							
Thur A	17	26	32	28	32	28	29	33
Fri Open (only)	4	3	2	2	9	4	3	2
Fri 2nd sess.	19	22	22	26	21	22	16	39
Fri 3rd sess	2							
TOTAL	154	163	186	189	196	195	182	221