

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

PRESENT: Ms. M. Eyles (Chairman); Mr. M. Boovanahalli; Mr. R. Debidin Mr. W. Fannin; Mr. K Manro; Ms. H. Nicolson; Mr. J. Sheikh (until 8:30pm); Ms. J. Wadey; Ms. C. Wu
Mr. B. Beckman (Head of Badminton) in part due to team trials
Mr. L. Clements (Club Operations Manager) for items 170/18(B) to 172/18(B)
Mr. G. Maxwell (Club Development Manager for items 170/18(B) to 172/18(B))

APOLOGIES: Nil.

170/18(B) MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting 14 August 2018 were read and approved subject to the following minor amendments:

- a) 154/18(B) h) VISITOR'S FEES: Clarification required regarding Committee's involvement in visitor's fees in noted section below:

“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.”

It was agreed to amend the above to clarify visitor's fees are decided by the Board and it was noted that the Committee is not required to be involved.

- b) 154/18(B) (g) A SESSION / TEAMS

HN referenced decision that Board disagreed with providing A Teams with incentives based on common practice with other clubs. HN requested insertion in minutes to include action point that LC raises with Board that A Teams be considered for incentives as representing the club. HN noted that although other clubs do not provide incentives for their A Teams, this shouldn't be reason that the club exclude considering this option.

ACTION: LC to raise with Board the proposal for A Team incentives again.

ACTION: Minutes of August 2018 to be amended as per section 152/18(B).

171/18(B) BOARD: Nil.

172/18(B) MANAGERS' REPORT:

- a) A SESSION/ TEAMS

Since the Board has agreed to allowing non-members of high standard (invitation only) to play in the A session, HN asked LC if the incentive to boost the A session could be implemented with immediate effect. LC confirmed that this would be fine but that we would need to agree on a reasonable session fee for the non-members. It was decided that the players should pay visitor fees of £8 for playing in the A session and that this should be trialed over the winter season.

Action BB: To inform and invite relevant players.

Discussion on whether an allocated A+ session should be created as part of the existing A session continued. MB considered that this would be necessary in order to draw in desirable strong players, including some who have left the club and are currently playing elsewhere. BB estimated, from feedback received by Aaron Cheng, that 5 – 8 strong players would be interested in coming to an A session with an allocated A+ section. BB further estimated that 4 existing A players would be able to join the A+ section. Some

members of the Committee were concerned about how to ensure that the invited non-members will benefit the A session and join in with existing A players following the proposed separate part of the session. It was decided that BB should discuss with existing members of the A session their views as to how to improve the A session, including the view as to splitting the A session between A/A+ during allocated time of the session. BB to report back to Committee. **ACTION BB.**

BB reported that 2 of our talented juniors attended the A session of last week and enjoyed it.

BB to play in the A team home matches to help boost results for the team.

KM raised sponsorship point for 1st A team. Although the Board is not willing to allocate a budget to support the 1st A team, KM suggested that the club should look at promoting a new sponsorship programme as an alternative. This should be specifically developed for support of the clubs' 1st teams only. LC estimate £4000 of sponsorship money to be target in order to support the teams. Discussion followed as to whether incentives should be provided based on games won. MB proposed establishing a designated budget for the Committee going forward. It was proposed that LC discuss this with the Board and suggest 30% of profits raised by the badminton section should be allocated as budget to the Committee.

It was further decided that money from the allocation of the £1,500 for the proposed shuttle machine should instead be used towards the incentive for A first team players, by supporting payment of fees.

ACTION GM: To alter sponsorship offerings to specifically target support for First Ladies, Mixed and Men's First Teams.

ACTION LC: To ask Board that A-grade First Team members have no match fees.

To propose to Board that 30% of profits from Badminton section be allocated as a general budget for Badminton to use.

- b) **VISTORS' FEES:** GM advised fees to be £8 effective from 1 September 2018 and to increase yearly for following 2 consecutive years. WF raised concerns that this is not strategic and may cause issues with other members (ie: A members) as it is more cost efficient to play in A session as a visitor rather than a member.
- c) **PICKLEBALL:** 30 individuals took part in a successful event. Winners were Phil Rushworth and Jeff Chapman.
- d) **REGRADING:** Complaints received by Board regarding regrading but club managers confirmed that Board agrees with the principle of regrade. Decision will stand that regrade will continue and that no session fees will be applicable to those who have been regraded in the August 2018 initial regrade. It was noted that positive comments and emails had also been received by Committee.

ACTION: GM to report how many complaints were received by the Board as these appear to not all have been forwarded to the Committee.

- e) **RELATIONSHIP WITH HEADS OF SPORTS:** Board proposed to review how the committees works together with the Heads of Sports and would like to implement a 50/50 equal vote. As such, in a situation where the Committee and Head of Badminton have different views, then the Board will be called on to mediate and both the Committee and Head of Badminton can present their views to them. The Committee raised concerns

regarding one individual being able to outweigh the whole badminton committee and this would be undermining of the Committee. KM: Raised issue would create disparity as 7 elected members agree on a decision unanimously yet the Head of Badminton's decision could prevail. Should the reasoning of the Board proposing this be for conflict management, there are other alternatives which includes accessing the badminton community's views.

ACTION: GM to report comments to Board regarding equal voting; each individual should be weighted equally (ie: Head of Sports' 1 vote should not override whole committee's votes).

f) OTHER ISSUES:

i) **REGRADING POLICY.** Regrading Policy was alleged by a board member to be age discriminatory. GM to raise accusation to the Board as this is a serious allegation to be addressed and considered very inappropriate.

ACTION: GM to discuss with Board above issue.

ii) **SYSTEM ISSUE.** HN requested update from LC on the possible reinstatement of the booking screen previously located on Reception desk for members to view court bookings. LC replied that he was looking into this but was not sure whether there really was a demand for this amongst members. Members of the Committee were of the opinion that there was a demand and that it would be beneficial to members to provide this service. It was also noted that some off-peak members had been able to book peak time courts. LC agreed to look into this.

ACTION: LC consider screen to be reinstated and to review bookings as above.

iii) **MEN'S SHOWERS.** WF queried when men's showers are to be finished. GM advised in the next two weeks.

173/18(B) HEAD OF BADMINTON'S REPORT: BB submitted the report as follows:

a) **JUNIORS.** Two emerging sessions had 8 and 9 attendees. Wednesday Raw session low and therefore younger players from holiday sessions invited to join.

b) **OFF COURT TRAINING.** Letter re off-court training with Jerry Cheng has been finalized and will be sent out shortly.

c) **TEAM TRIALS.** Team trials have started and there has been a good response to teams. The B grade participation was lower than anticipated but having spoken to a member, additional interest will hopefully be created.

ACTION: BB to discuss with members to increase A session team interest.

d) **COURT MIRRORS.** Discussion between BE and ME regarding mirrors on court 1, 2, 3 and 4 has been undertaken. Any insurance issue to be reviewed.

ACTION: BB to report whether any insurance issue exists with mirrors therefore if not, can progress with proposal.

e) **REGRADES.** Confidential comments made by BB.

f) **COACHES IN GRADED SESSIONS.** Arif, Georgina and Sam P have noted their interest. Board approved idea. After team trials, coaches will be in attendance as follows – once a month in B+, B and C+, and twice a month in C-grade.

g) **PREVIOUS ACTION POINTS.**

i) **A SESSION.** It was requested that BB follow up from July meeting point to meet with specified coaches regarding how to increase A session attendance.

ACTION: BB to discuss with coaches in accordance with July action point.

ii) **FUNDING.** HN requested update in regards to the expenditure and remains of the previous funding received by BE, as mentioned in a previous report. BB reported that there was no funding left from this pot and that it was uncertain exactly how the funds had been used.

iii) **FUNDING:** HN requested update also on communication with BE regarding possible future funding opportunities for the club. BB reported that he had not yet been in contact with the relevant persons, but that he will aim to arrange a meeting within the next couple of weeks. Action BB.

174/18(B) MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT: JW reported that all Surrey & Sutton & District Badminton fixtures had been completed and fixtures lists had been put up on the Match Notice Board. It was agreed that match fees should remain as last season, viz.:
A Mixed 2 £7.50; B+, B and C+ Men £7.50; B+ Ladies £6.50; B+ Mixed £7.
A Men, A Ladies and A Mixed 1 teams - nil (£1,500 funding in lieu of shuttle machine funding).

175/18(B) BADMINTON FOR THE DISABLED AT WRFC:

No report received

176/18(B) GRADING PROTOCOL/REGRAIDING:

Committee received a complaint regarding the protocol on 12 September 2018. Email to be raised in the Badminton AGM. Clarification by the Committee that the adult graded sessions are not social sessions and that the grading criteria applied. It was noted that the grading criteria is on display for members in the old hall and serves as a reference and guideline for standards in the sessions.

Discussion on what to be done when a regraded member attends an incorrect session. BB to discuss with individuals concerned.

It was decided that the members who were regraded in August 2018 shall be provided option of whether they wish to have free session nights in their new grade or in the Friday open night.

It was decided that the session review period would be 29 October 2018 onwards. BB to email members in due course.

ACTION: ME to respond to the complaint.

BB to discuss with individuals who are attending incorrect grades.

BB to email members regarding the session review period.

177/18(B) VETERANS SESSION

Committee analyzed information regarding questionnaire sent for a veteran's night. 40 individuals responded.

- Day Preference:

Slight majority noted their preference in a Sunday evening session.

- Frequency Preference:

Majority noted the preference in a weekly attendance.

- Food Preference:

Majority noted preference towards a discounted meal after the session (similar to Thursday morning sessions).

It was considered that a coach would need to be present in order for this session to run successfully.

It was decided that in view of regular court bookings as well as the Beginners Course on Sunday evenings, the new Veterans Session (+40) will be Saturday 6 – 8 pm commencing 20 October 2018. It will be an open session for all grades, hopefully with a coach in attendance to organize games. BB will review.

ACTION : BB to email coaches regarding coach availability. BB to review veteran session after launch.

178/18(B) COACHING WITHIN SESSIONS

To commence following team trials. B+ downwards once a month. C session twice a month.

179/18(B) CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

It was decided over the Christmas and New Year period the following dates will be open sessions:

- 27th and 28th December 2018
- 2nd, 3rd and 4th January 2019

180/18(B) TOURNAMENTS

- a) **SURREY COUNTY BA MASTERS TEAMS TOURNAMENT:** Sat/Sun 25 & 26 August 2018.

9 teams took part. Each team played 4 matches of 9 rubbers on Saturday and 2 matches on Sunday. The Club chefs provided a delicious 2-course meal on Saturday evening, and there was live musical entertainment to follow.

- b) **SUMMER HANDICAP TEAMS TOURNAMENT:** Mid-September. Delayed due to Pickleball event on Saturday 8 September.

- c) **WIMBLEDON U/19 TOURNAMENT:** Sat/Sun 13 & 14 October 2018

Val Andrews reported through an email that the Wimbledon U19 shall take place 13 and 14 October 2018 this year as there has been a conflict of dates with other junior events in the UK, Europe and worldwide in September. Notifications has been sent to Denmark and India via Aarhus and Vimal Kumar. It would assist to have English player rankings to draw other players but currently this is not the case.

The Anders Foundation was noted and thanked for its continued support. A prize money will be available this year and should encourage badminton.

- d) **HIRO YAMAMOTO TOURNAMENT:** Sun 4 November 2018

HN and CW volunteer to organize tournament

ACTION: HN and CW organize tournament

- e) **V4U SRI LANKAN CHARITY TOURNAMENT:** Sun 9 December 2018

- f) **YONEX SINGLES TOURNAMENT:** Date to be arranged.

ACTION: BB to confirm date

- g) **CRANBROOK SINGLES & WIMBLEDON GOLD TOURNAMENT:** Sat/Sun 2 & 3 February 2019

- h) **DEVLIN TOURNAMENT:** Sun 10 February 2019

181/18(B) MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:

No refunds requested

Complaints as discussed above

HN: requested information from BB to provide information as to who complained about regrading to the Board and numbers of complaints received.

ACTION: BB to receive information from Board regarding regrading complaints so that Committee can action off accordingly.

182/18(B) SURREY COUNTY BA COUNCIL

Meeting of SF& GP Committee of SCBA held on 18th September. Next Council meeting on Thursday 4th October.

183/18(B) ALL ENGLAND BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS (MARCH 2019)

ME confirmed that payment for all tickets had been completed; 69 members and friends have booked tickets.

184/18(B) SAFETY ITEMS/ACTION POINTS FOR MANAGERS

A) LIGHTS IN THE NEW HALL: WF reported that lights in the New Hall required repair.

B) RESETTING OF CLOCKS: Resetting of clocks in halls required and should be checked regularly.

C) BETTER PUBLICITY OF WRFC BADMINTON WINS AND EVENTS

- Toby Penty won Gold in the Men's Singles event at the recent National Championships.
- Georgina Bland reached the final and gained a silver medal at the Ladies Singles event of the National Championships.
- Tracy Dineen has organised yet another successful Summer Teams Tournament.

ACTION: GM to raise awareness by publicizing above information on the website/

185/18(B) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – AGENDA ITEMS; COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

JS has decided that he does not wish to seek re-election to the Committee.

Another member does not wish to seek re-election to the Committee – this was noted but is to be announced at the AGM (therefore confidential at the time of this meeting).

186/18(B) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Re-election to Badminton Committee (as in 185/18 above).

187/18(B) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JW requested that, in future, Badminton Committee minutes should be taken by another member of the Committee. JW is happy to continue as Match Secretary.