

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

PRESENT: Mr. R. Debidin Mr. W. Fannin; Mr. P Friel Mr. K Manro; Ms. H. Nicolson (Chairman); Ms. J. Wadey; Mr. R Wheeler Ms. C. Wu Mr. B. Beckman (Head of Badminton)
Mr. L. Clements (Club Operations Manager) for items 207/18(B) to 211/18(B)
Mr. G. Maxwell (Club Development Manager for items 207/18(B) to 211/18(B)
Sam Phillips for items 211/18(B)
Stuart Wardell for items 211/18(B)

APOLOGIES: Mr. M. Boovanahalli

207/18(B) WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER: RW was welcomed into the Committee.

208/18(B) MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS: Minutes of the meeting 3 October 2018 were confirmed approved.

209/18(B) BOARD: Nil.

210/18(B) MANAGERS' REPORT:

- a) **CHRISTMAS PARTY:** LC advised Christmas party would be £15 pounds and includes 2 drinks.
- b) **DWP:** DWP has not met since AGM therefore nothing to report.
- c) **LIGHTS IN COURT 4:** HN reported lights on court 4 need to be checked.
ACTION: Managers to follow-up regarding lights on court 4.
- d) **DATA PROTECTION:** The approach regarding sharing personal information for teams was discussed. Questions arisen regarding "legitimate interest" under General Data Protection Regulation. LC to consider approach as to how to handle personal information sharing for teams. KM note that club needs to ensure that individuals have the ability to opt-out. HN noted in addition that members have requested their personal data to be updated (ie: emails) but the club has not updated.
ACTION: LC to follow-up regarding personal data approach in general
- e) **CLUB CREDIT REFUND:** Noted that a member requested refund and action.
- f) **RESIGNATION:** GM announced his resignation from the club and noted Alice Turner's resignation also.
- g) **VETS SESSION:** It was noted that the new Vets session should be added to the website. The Committee agreed to review whether the session should be opened to visitors after the trial period.
- h) **C SESSION:** LC asked whether court allocation of 2 courts still required.
ACTION: HN to review but considered two courts necessary.

211/18(B) A GRADE SESSION: The Committee invited SP and SW to discuss A Session and opinions as to how to improve the session.

Summary of comments provided by SP:

- to attract top players, WRFC must open the club also to non-members
- costs are prohibitive to individuals if membership needs to be paid also
- it is not necessary to split the players in the A session as players are likely to attend regardless of split in session or not
- if not opening the sessions to guests, then need to look at regrading because many A players no longer play

Summary of comments provided by SW:

- if the session is split, it likely will create issue for those that are in the middle of the grade as most effected
- players that are of the lower standard in the session will unlikely be affected

- if wanting to attract people from other clubs, WRFC will need to provide incentive
- it is of utmost importance to keep the integrity of the session – elite players tend to “come and go”
- issue is also with branding – high standard individuals won’t be attracted to attend A session if the A-session team is not in first division
- the club should focus on the interest of members

Comments by BB:

- agree that there is no need to split the session it’s not a county session but a club session (as per comments in the survey)
- agrees that costs in being members is prohibitive to individuals joining session
- splits occur naturally within a session anyways

The Committee discussed the matter further and agreed to:

- email members advising of decision to open the A session to appropriate level guests trial for the winter session
- no split of A session (ie: A/ A+ session)
- guest fees to be £10 (winter session pricing trial) offer to apply to visitors of: 1st / 2nd Surrey Team County Standard and subject to Head of Badminton’s approval
- WRFC must ensure session members get suffice number of games (ie: ensure that there are not so many guests that session members have a high level of waiting time and not enough games during their session)
- promotion of A session to be done by SP, SW, BB (by contacting and informing relevant players) and through social media (ie: Facebook and website).

ACTION:

- i) HN to inform session members and A session rep of the decision (including that guests are limited to session and not able to use the WRFC facilities
- ii) HN to email AC informing of decision
- iii) GM to promote on social media the A session

212/18(B) MATCH SECRETARY AND HEAD OF BADMINTON:

- a) MATCH SECRETARY: Match Secretary Report as follows:
Surrey League: Played 13, Won 7, Lost 6 (1 result pending)
Sutton District: Played 1, Lost 1 (1 results pending)
- b) HEAD OF BADMINTON: BB’s report was noted and discussed. High level summary of report as follows:
 - Mirrors: review on how to incorporate mirrors on certain badminton courts will be done with attention to health and safety risks
 - Vets Session: feedback from the session has been positive despite attendance being effected by the Hiro tournament and Bonfire Night
 - Off-Court Sessions Development: BB looking to continue working with Developing and Emerging Groups in off-court sessions and liaising with others to achieve this
 - Sponsor for 1st Team: it was noted that external sponsors would be required to sponsor 1st team. BB commented that the WR&FC should consider organizing a tournament with high prize money to attract top players and older players
 - Beginner Course: course has commenced
 - Upgrades and C Sessions: Discussed in section below
 - Badminton Board: BB advised he will be updating the badminton boards

213/18(B) COMMITTEE FOCUS:

- a) UPGRADES: Discussion regarding upgrading and complaints received were raised by Committee members. BB reported no complaints were made in his report. A number of complaints had been received by the Committee. It was noted a session representative had raised concerns that members are complaining that individuals being upgraded are not of the session standard. It was noted that 6 individuals had been upgraded from C+ to the B grade. Concerns raised include:
- general concerns regarding the standard within the sessions
 - individuals are upgraded but not of the session standard
 - the upgrades were not in accordance with the upgrade criteria
 - whether more than one coach should be involved in the upgrade process
 - individuals were put in a graded session above their grade prior to the upgrade review
 - a coach assisting in the upgrade was not aware of the grading criteria yet participated in upgrading

It was noted that probation periods should be used for upgraded individuals as this would allow opportunity to receive feedback from players and ensure the upgrades are correct. KN raised issues that B grade is suffering and the difference in standard between the top and bottom level of the session is now extreme since upgrades, to the point where games are not at all competitive. PF noted that the session representatives lacked engagement regarding the upgrade pre and post the upgrade and session representatives should be used as a resource. The BC agreed that going forward every player upgraded should always be on probation and that BB should review the B session and players upgraded but will allow the current upgrades to remain if player was moved without probation.

ACTION: i) Committee to review the upgrading process

ii) BB to review the B session that was recently upgraded and Committee to discuss further next steps

- b) REGRADE/ SESSION REVIEW: As above. Potential appeal process raised. The Committee agreed there is to be no formal appeal process but to ensure proper regrading process and deal with complaints as arise. BB advised that he is looking at different session grades for the purposes of regrading.
- c) C GRADE SESSION: It was noted there are only 7 C session members which included only 3 ladies. Potential incentives for players on the beginners course to join the C session were discussed. WF proposed incentive that beginners that participate in the course would have their course fee reflect against their membership fee. HN advised that club coach Chris Richards would be willing to join in the C Session on a weekly basis from 7-9pm, to play with the members and offer advice.

ACTION: HN to talk to LC regarding course fee offsetting membership fee and organise for coach Chris Richards to start attending the C session.

- d) SESSION REPRESENTATIVES: HN commented that session representatives should be invited to the Committee and be more interactive with the Committee. PF noted that he will get in contact with the other representatives. PF also agreed to discuss shuttle usage with the session reps. It was noted that representatives should enforce that members should be permitted 1 shuttle per game (and given replacement as required).

ACTION: i) HN to invite session representatives to December meeting.

ii) PF informally to reach out to other session representatives.

- e) VETERANS: As discussed previously.

214/18(B) COMPLAINTS AND COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS: It was noted that a member has not been responded to by BB. Concerns were raised. HN would follow-up.

215/18(B) UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS/ EVENTS:

- a) YONEX SINGLES TOURNAMENTS: BB to confirm dates

- b) CRANBROOK SINGLES: BB to confirm dates
- c) DEVLIN TOURNAMENT: It was noted that volunteers are required in due course
- d) U 19 TOURNAMENT: It was reported that the Wimbledon U19 Gold was, once again a very successful tournament and the sponsor, Heather Neilsen of the Anders Foundation, was pleased with the event. The event itself saw Harry Huang take three titles and a total prize money of £800 after winning the Men's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles. Surrey was represented in both the Women's Singles final through Alexandra Oprisan and the Men's Doubles with Will Jones. Unfortunately neither was successful but both matches were keenly and closely contested. Only two of the donors of trophies were available to present them, ie Dave Hutchinson (Men's Doubles) and myself, Val Andrews, (Mixed Doubles). The Committee noted in the future the Head of Badminton should be in attendance where possible.
- e) HIRO TOURNAMENT: It was noted that the Hiro Tournament was well attended. Winners were Phil Hector and Richard Southward in the men's' event and Katy-Ann Jennings and Surabi Taori in the ladies' event.

216/18(B) UPDATES FOR SURREY BA COUNCIL AND DISABILITY:

- a) BA COUNCIL: Report received from Marion Eyles as follows:

European Seniors Championships

Christina Davies	Over 60s Ladies Doubles	Bronze medal
Brenda Creasey	Over 65s Ladies Singles	Bronze medal
	Over 65s Ladies Doubles	Bronze medal

Surrey Restricted

Luke Pearce	Men's Singles	Winner
Aaron Cheng	Men's Doubles	Winner
	Mixed Doubles	Winner
Mike Cooper	Men's Doubles	Runner-up
Richard Southward	Men's Doubles	Runner-up

- b) DISABILITY BADMINTON: Lorraine Brydie reported the following via email:

Emma Stoner SL4 player 13 yrs played in her first Senior International event - BWF European Para Badminton Championships, Rodez, Paris, 30 October - 3 November.

1 December - Bournemouth and District Special Olympics are hosting a Singles only event for players with a Learning Disability. Jonny Pugh, Ahmed Dhoda and Ronan Tofts will represent the club at this event.

Talent spotting monthly sessions and weekly disability badminton sessions are growing in numbers. Badminton England are inviting clubs and disability groups to apply for a grant through a Disability Investment Fund, which has been made available, to further increase the number of disabled players in England. BE wants to create 6 Disability hubs to propel disability badminton leading up to Tokyo 2020 and beyond. Lorraine Brydie to meet with our Relationship Manager, Chris Evans on 14 November to put together our application.

217/18(B) BC ORGANIZATION: HN raised issue of allocation/ sharing of roles between the different members in the Committee so to engage Committee members and allow for better participation and organization within the Committee. Example of roles include: Finance, Advertising/Social Media, Sponsorship, Research, Match Secretary, Session Representative Coordinator

- ACTION:**
- i) HN to email the Committee and engage in further discussion
 - ii) PF to be Session Representative Coordinator

218/18(B) PROPOSAL OF MEMBERSHIP: The contribution of a long standing member of club was noted. It was unanimously agreed, that it would be proposed that the member be given complimentary membership to the club.

ACTION: HN to discuss with LC

219/18(B) CLUB MANAGERS/ BOARD/ PENDING ACTIONS:

- a) PA SYSTEM. It was noted that a new PA system would be beneficial given the poor quality of the current system.

ACTION: HN to raise with managers

- b) NEW HALL MONITOR DURING TOURNAMENT. It was suggested that during tournaments, there should be a way to monitor use of new hall courts.

ACTION: HN to raise with managers

- c) RECEPTION SCREEN. As per previous minutes.

ACTION: HN to raise with managers

220/18(B) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS: None.

221/18(B) ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) COMMITTEE MEMBER PHOTOS: HN advised she would like to post photos of Committee members on the Committee notice board and asked Committee members to provide a suitable photo if they agree. The Committee agreed to this.
- b) NEXT MEETING: Date of next meeting confirmed as 12th December 2018 7:15pm