

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON THURSDAY 12 JULY 2018 AT 7.15PM

PRESENT: Ms. M. Eyles (Chairman); Mr. M. Boovanahalli; Mr. R. Debidin; Mr. W. Fannin; Mr. K. Manro; Ms. H. Nicolson; Ms. J. Wadey
Mr. L. Clements (Club Operations Manager) for items **132/18(B) to 134/18(B)**
Mr. B. Chant (Board) for items **132/18(B) to 134/18(B)** 1) to 8)

132/18(B) APOLOGIES: Ms. C. Wu; Mr. J. Sheikh; Mr. B. Beckman

133/18(B) MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting on 13 June 2018 were read and approved.

134/18(B) BOARD/MANAGERS' REPORT: BC and LC reported as follows:-

- 1)SOFTWARE SYSTEM: LC reported that a new software system would be implemented into the Club on 30 July. An E-mail had been sent to all members to let them know of some of the changes that would occur and the benefits to membership.
- 2)MAINTENANCE: 3/4 quotes had been received for improving the men's showers. It is hoped to finalise an order soon and for work to commence in the near future. An area of Bar floor, that had been damaged by water leakage beneath, would be replaced through the Club's insurance. Consideration is being given to providing a new floor for the Gym. The timing of the work, which will probably involve a short closure of the Gym, is a factor to be agreed.
- 3)MEMBERSHIP: The Club is advertising extensively at present, including in Sainsburys and local summer fairs.
- 4)AGM: BC suggested that the Badminton and Squash Committees should publicise that their section AGMs would follow the main Club AGM on the same evening – date still to be announced.
- 5)SOCIAL: Planning will soon start for the Xmas party. Feedback after last year's party appeared to favour a similar informal Friday evening gathering with a buffet.
Committee members made some suggestions including holding the party on Saturday evening rather than on a Friday; combining it with a fun tournament and providing various games at the party for member participation as at previous events.
LC pointed out that this might increase the cost of the event.
- 6)TEAM INCENTIVES: Members who played in 6 or more matches for their teams during the last winter season had now received the reward of some additional Club Credit and had been notified by E-mail.
- 7)VISITORS' FEES: LC circulated some figures showing the fees received from Squash and Badminton visitors from April to June, after the increase, compared with the fees received at the old rate during January to March. There had been a reduction for both sports but the Badminton figure had reduced by £304 compared with the Squash figure of £209. LC undertook to produce figures for the same periods in 2017. An E-mail had been circulated from a member expressing the view that the Club is now charging unreasonable visitors' fees. This member had been inviting friends to visit Wimbledon regularly in order to get strong competitive practice and may now consider not rejoining the Club. *A lengthy discussion ensued and it was agreed that the Committee will urgently review their recommendation to the Board regarding visitors' fees after receipt of the figures to be provided by LC.*
Arising from this discussion it was also reported that some A standard players were considering leaving the Club because of the drop in the standard of A session. It was suggested that BB should get the top coaches in the Club together to discuss this problem with a view to approaching high standard players to join the Club and A session.

8)SPONSORSHIP: BC reported that he is considering various ideas for obtaining sponsorship for Badminton at the Club similar to that obtained for Squash. *Committee members referred to the WRFC Partnership Brochure published for the 2016/17 season with Gold, Silver and Bronze Packages and asked whether this could be sent out again. They are particularly keen to obtain sponsorship for the A session men's and ladies' teams.*

ACTION: GM & BC

BC undertook to look into this. He also agreed to query whether money is available from the Board for the Badminton Committee.

9)ADULT SESSIONS: LC reported that there had been some problems for the staff because some session players had not been finishing playing at 10.30pm. He had therefore sent an E-mail to all session members asking them to respect the staff and finish at the agreed time.

135/18(B) 'JOINT RACQUETS' GROUP/CHARITY COMMITTEE: Nil to report.

136/18(B) HEAD OF BADMINTON'S REPORT: BB had submitted a report as follows:

- a)BADMINTON ENGLAND FUNDING: The last funding received from BE was in January 2016 for £3000. Initially this was to be for psychology sessions, fitness and screening and to help BB develop as a coach. Unfortunately these sessions fell through. Some fitness testing for the elite and emerging players was done. Some money was used on buying new hire racquets and a few new pieces of training equipment. A small amount enabled BB to attend Milton Keynes a few times to witness the coaches training there. BB will check with GM whether there is any of this money left and if so it will be used for the new project of off court training. BE lost all their funding early in 2017 and has not contacted BB regarding any further funding opportunities. **ACTION: BB & GM**
- b)OFF COURT TRAINING: JC has put together programmes for players aged 10-14 and 14+. GM is setting up a test page on the website and JC will create a PDF for the website with relevant links. Hopefully it will be in place for September and BB will inform parents and players of these ideas.
- c)JUNIOR SESSIONS: All junior sessions have a few more weeks before finishing for the summer. The emerging+ session may be stopped as all the available players are now off school and training during the day making the session not worthwhile. All parents have been notified on multiple occasions about summer training. Sign-ups have been slow. BB will remind all parents every week. Handouts have been made and will be handed out at the relevant sessions.
- d)ADULT SESSIONS: About 7 players have signed up from C grade for the upgrade in August. An E-mail had been sent to all C session members and posters put up by the front entrance and Badminton court 3. The potential downgrading/regrading protocol has been circulated. BB does not feel that any changes should be made to the way that upgrades are done. He considers that face to face meetings are not practical especially if there are over 10 people to grade which is usual in almost all grades. Members can arrange for a face to face discussion if they wish. The coaches do still arrange games if they feel necessary but don't do it if not. Session reps, especially Wednesday, were very happy with this as it doesn't disrupt the session. Also the coaches are looking at how members perform and integrate into a session and this can't be done when just sticking to one court.
- e)SHUTTLE MACHINE TEST: Only ME attended.
HN expressed her opposition to money being spent on this machine and considers that the money could be better spent in other ways unless there is general consensus amongst the coaches that it would be of value. RD suggested that a Speedgun would be

a better investment. Members asked whether all the coaches had been consulted and how many had expressed interest in using such a machine and where it would be stored. ME did not think that storage would be a problem. It was suggested that BB should seek the views of other coaches re. the need for a shuttle machine.

ACTION: BB

137/18(B) MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT: JW referred to LC's report **134/18(B)6) TEAM INCENTIVES:** Some Club Credit awarded to team players who played 6 or more matches for their team

138/18(B) BADMINTON FOR THE DISABLED AT WRFC: Nil to report.

139/18(B) WEEKDAY EVENING SESSIONS: The standard of, and attendance at, the A grade session has been a matter of concern and various options to improve matters were suggested and discussed:-

- A new member, graded A by Ben, should be encouraged to play in the sessions and session teams, and offered half price membership for their first year; they would be required to pay the session fees
- In-house 'Elite' players/coaches and selected junior members should be encouraged to attend the sessions, but would not be required to pay a session fee
- Ben to discuss the session with other coaches (Sam P, Georgina, Stuart, etc.) and formulate a list of non-members who might be invited to attend the session

Discussion on these options should continue at the next meeting in conjunction with BB and Club management. The Committee is aware of the sensitive nature of introducing such incentives but hopes that existing members will support this as a means of improving the session for all concerned.

Committee members also discussed the fact that non-members who attend the Sunday evening session with a view to being graded do not always become Club members; they wonder if there is any follow-up communication with these applicants and wish to know the reasons why they decide not to join the Club.

ACTION: BB & GM

140/18(B) GRADING PROTOCOL/REGRAIDING: A 2nd draft of the final page (Potential change... downgrades) of the WRFC Grading Protocol document prepared by BB was circulated. Further amendments were discussed and ME undertook to redraft the page.

ACTION: ME

141/18(B) WINTER SESSIONS 2018/2019: The Winter season will start on Monday 3 September. Decision re the end date and the dates of the Club Tournament deferred pending further consideration and discussion with the Squash Committee about possibly changing the date of Finals Day to Saturday 18 May 2019 to avoid a clash with the Hampshire Gold Tournament.

142/18(B) SUMMER SESSIONS 2018:

a)NUMBERS: Numbers as on 11 July 2018 were available:-

	11/7/18	7/8/17	8/8/16	10/8/15	9/6/14	22/7/13	19/7/12	4/7/11
A grade	21	21	28	20	21	23	21	22
B+ grade	32	38	27	33	30	32	38	32
B grade	26	30	41	31	31	28	29	34
C+ grade	32	20	31	32	26	24	33	23
C grade	15	9	7	10	9	7	8	3
Fri/3 rd sess.	20	30	26	26	21	25	30	31

TOTAL 146 148 160 152 138 139 159 145
Attendance and shuttle usage figures since the beginning of the summer season were available.

b) **TUESDAY SESSIONS:** The Badminton Committee reviewed its decision regarding the 3 B+ graded players who had been invited to play in the Tuesday A session for the summer season and decided to permit them to transfer to the B+/B session if the A session finished early (say 9.00pm); and some of the A session shuttles should be transferred to the B+/B session which should be allowed to use a court in the New Hall. The Committee was concerned that this decision should not impact on the B grade players' games. The session rep. should be informed of this change of decision and be asked to keep a close eye on this aspect.

143/18(B) TOURNAMENTS/EVENTS:

- a) **SUMMER TEAMS TOURNAMENT:** Sat/Sun 21 & 22 July 2018: ME reported that JS had offered to help TH on Saturday. MB hoped to be playing but would help as much as possible. KM offered to help on the Sunday.
- b) **SURREY COUNTY BA MASTERS TEAMS TOURNAMENT:** Sat/Sun 25 & 26 August.
- c) **SUMMER HANDICAP TEAMS TOURNAMENT:** ? mid-September:
- d) **WIMBLEDON U/19 TOURNAMENT:** Sat/Sun 13 & 14 October
- e) **HIRO YAMAMOTO TOURNAMENT:** Sun 4 November 2018:
- f) **V4U SRI LANKAN CHARITY TOURNAMENT:** Sun 9 December 2018:
- g) **YONEX SINGLES TOURNAMENT:** Date to be arranged.
- h) **CRANBROOK SINGLES & WIMBLEDON GOLD TOURNAMENT:** Sat/Sun 2 & 3 February 2019:
- i) **DEVLIN TOURNAMENT:** Sun 10 February 2019:

144/18(B) MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: Nil.

145/18(B) SCBA AGM: ME & JW attended the AGM on Thursday 21 June and JW received the Senior & Junior Hybrid Cups won by Wimbledon.

146/18(B) All ENGLAND BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019 : ME reported that she had booked tickets and hotel accommodation for next year's event and LC had E-mailed members to invite applications for tickets.

147/18(B) SAFETY ITEMS: Nil.

148/18(B) ACTION POINTS FOR CLUB MANAGERS/BOARD:

- 1) **VISITORS' FEES:** Provide information regarding Adult visitors' fees received in 2017.
- 2) **SPONSORSHIP:** Revive WRFC Partnership Brochure and actively pursue possible sponsorship for Badminton for the forthcoming season.

149/18(B) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS: Nil.

150/18(B) ANY OTHER BUSINESS: WF commented that one member of the Committee was a very irregular attender at Committee meetings. ME undertook to speak to the member concerned.

151/18(B) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 15 August 2018 at 7.15pm

