

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2018 AT 7.15PM

PRESENT: Ms. M. Eyles (Chairman); Mr. M. Boovanahalli; Mr. R. Debidin; Mr. W. Fannin;
Ms. H. Nicolson; Ms. C. Wu; Ms. J. Wadey
Mr. B. Beckman (Head of Badminton) for items **112/18(B) to 121/18(B)**
Mr. L. Clements (Club Operations Manager) for items **112/18(B) to 115/18(B)**
Mr. G. Maxwell (Club Development Manager) for items **112/18(B) to 115/18(B)**
Mr. B. Chant (Board) for items **112/18(B) to 114/18(B)**

112/18(B) APOLOGIES: Mr. J. Sheikh;

113/18(B) MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting on 16 May 2018 were read and approved subject to amendments to items **93/18(B) MATTER RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER** and **100/18(B) GRADED EVENING SESSIONS: REGRADING/DOWNGRADING:**

114/18(B) BOARD: BC reported as follows:-

- 1) **REGRADING/DOWNGRADING:** The Board appreciates that this is a difficult scenario for the Badminton Committee.
- 2) **ADULT SESSIONS/SHUTTLES:** BC suggested that session representatives should be reminded that used shuttles in a reasonable condition should be collected at the end of sessions for return to reception for possible use by Junior sessions. They should not be taken by session members.
The Committee agreed that an E-mail should be sent to session representatives on this issue and they should be informed that if they are unable to attend a session or stay to the end they should arrange for another member to undertake this role. ACTION: ME
- 3) **AGM:** The date of the Club's annual AGM will soon be announced. The date originally proposed had been postponed as an issue had recently been raised that needed time for consideration before the AGM.
- 4) **CHILD WELFARE OFFICER:** BC asked CW about her progress regarding her offer to be nominated as one of the Badminton Committee's 2 Child Welfare Officers. *CW reported that she had recently completed a 'Child Protection Course' and is waiting for the Club to arrange for a DBS application to be sent to her. She will be raising some issues re. the Club's practices (ie: change room policy). GM & CW to discuss further.*
- 5) **MATTERS RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**
 - 1) CW asked BC about the Confirmation Statement on Companies House regarding the Club's accounts. LC undertook to check the confirmation statement.

115/18(B) MANAGERS' REPORT: GM & LC reported as follows:-

- a) **CLUB DEVELOPMENT:** There had been a reasonable response from members to the request for feedback regarding the options outlined recently by the Club Development Working Party. A further reminder would be sent to members. The Working Party would then assess the feedback and follow up with more research. It was probable that the outcome would eventually be presented to members at an AGM.
MB undertook to E-mail his views regarding possible fundraising such as loans, lottery grants, sponsorship.
- b) **MEMBERSHIP:** Membership at the end of May totalled 1320 including 652 Badminton (Adults – 457; Juniors – 195).
- c) **MAINTENANCE:** Several quotes are being obtained for improving the men's showers.
- d) **SOCIAL:** The Pickleball event on Saturday 23 June has been postponed.
- e) **EQUIPMENT:** New computer software from a company called 'Legend' is being

installed. Staff have received some training already. There will be advantages for members. It should be possible for all Club events to be organised through the new website. Processes should be speeded up. Electronic vouchers will be available. The Club Credit process will be changing – members will get a discount which non-members will not. All will be explained to members by E-mail eventually. The reception gate will be reconfigured with a way-in and separate way-out.

f)TEAM INCENTIVES: Members who played in 6 or more matches for their teams during the last winter season will receive a small reward of Club Credit in the near future.

g)MATTERS RAISED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1)DATA PROTECTION: JW asked how the new Data Protection regulations would be met as regards the need for team captains to have contact details of potential team players. LC explained that members would be asked to opt in to allow contact details to be released for this purpose.

116/18(B) ‘JOINT RACQUETS’ GROUP/CHARITY COMMITTEE: Nil to report.

117/18(B) SESSION REPRESENTATIVES: Session representatives had been invited to visit the meeting and/or send in their comments/suggestions for discussion. Except for John Baulkwill, C+ Deputy Session Representative, no other session representatives attended, nor did they submit any comments or queries.

John Baulkwill reported that some of the C graded players were apprehensive about the plan to have separate sessions for C and C+ members from the beginning of the Winter season. However it was confirmed that BB is planning dates to visit the C+/C summer sessions to consider requests from C grade players for regrading before the Winter season. JB was also informed that there are plans for coaches to attend some adult sessions in future, possibly twice a month.

JB reported that C+ members are not very enthusiastic about having an Electronic Peg Board.

118/18(B) HEAD OF BADMINTON’S REPORT: BB had submitted a report as follows:

a)JUNIORS: The Monday Emerging Session has been reduced from 2 courts to 1 court due to the low attendance. BB E-mailed everyone about half term training and also asked about commitment to the emerging sessions. The main response was either injury or exams with exams being the most numerous reason. This has always been the case. He will work with GB to get a core group for the new season in September. Following on from this he is working on an idea involving 2 coaches over 2 courts (3 if it gets busy) that could attract players in and will discuss this idea with SP. GB would be in charge of the girls/younger boys. GW (Raw player) has been invited to become a Raw+ player so that he can train with the older players on Tuesdays. BB has also spoken with the Saturday coaches about broaching the subject of the weekday sessions to certain parents of players in the J1 & J2 Saturday performance group.

All the performance coaches have been contacted about the idea of their attending tournaments. They all seemed positive to the idea and BB will be looking into funding options for this. From initial discussions certain tournaments would be selected where a coach would be present with the thought of a team of coaches being in attendance at the National Championships.

BB has recently had a meeting with Jerry Cheng (Club Fitness Instructor) to discuss the idea of an off court programme for the performance players. JC is now in the process of writing some basic templates for programmes that will be aimed at players aged 10-14 (home based) and 14+ (home & gym based). They discussed the physical testing of players and a few other things. BB has also discussed with GM (Manager) the creation of an online platform through the website for juniors/parents to access to get their programmes. A

further meeting will be arranged when a prototype of the webpage will be discussed. The aim for this project is for it to be in place in September 2018.

Fontaine Wright has stopped coaching the Wednesday Raw session to take up a teaching job. Aripin Marhadi will take over when he returns from Indonesia. Meanwhile Tom Saunders will cover. All parents have been informed.

Planning of the junior summer training is almost complete. BB is waiting on finalising the coaches availability. An initial E-mail has been sent to the parents and a good response received so far. All training has been opened up to players outside Wimbledon and a few players from nearby counties might be attending the sessions.

b)ELITE PLAY: Luke Pearce is now ranked inside the top 10. This allows him access to Gold sponsorship which he is now on. GB is in talks with George Bevan about some crossover sessions with the top girls at High Wycombe.

c)ADULTS: Potential Grading Protocol – Upgrades and Downgrades – also circulated.

Some C grade members wish to be regraded before the separation of the C & C+ sessions in September. This is because a few had not applied for upgrade as it did not affect their Winter session. BB has discussed this with RM (C+ Session rep.) who has suggested two nights – one in July and one in August. However BB considers that a 2 weeks process in August will be sufficient as it is still close to the Winter upgrades in October for any unsuccessful players.

BB has E-mailed the coaches interested in coaching at the evening sessions for some trials. All have been asked to give 2 dates each in the school summer holidays when they could be at a session between 7-9pm.

d)SHUTTLE MACHINE TEST: Tuesday 26th June at 6.00pm.

119/18(B) MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT: JW reported that all matches had now been completed except for the Senior Hybrid Cup Final that would be played between Wimbledon and Coulsdon & Purley teams on Sunday 17 June at Coulsdon & Purley at 7.00pm. Wimbledon had won the Junior Hybrid Cup Final against King Penguins 2 by 9-0. 117 matches had been played in the Surrey Leagues & Cups – 66 won; 51 lost and 1 match conceded. The C+ Mens 4s team had played 12 matches in the Sutton & District League, Mens 4s Division 2 – won 4; drew 1; lost 7. The Committee agreed that the same teams should be entered in the Surrey and Sutton Leagues for the 2018/2019 Winter season

120/18(B) BADMINTON FOR THE DISABLED AT WRFC: LB had submitted a report as follows:-

a)ANDERS FOUNDATION: Monthly Talent Spotting Sessions to give the most promising players of 8-18 years intensive coaching will take place on 17 June; 15 July and 12 August. 7 more promising players from the Disability Badminton Session were invited to the TS session on 20 May. These players, in the main, have learning difficulties. They worked on their movement and full court singles with CB & KB.

b)WHEELCHAIR BADMINTON: LB and CB visited the wheelchair Tennis sessions at Roehampton on 22 May and discussed with the Advisor who runs those sessions how to entice wheelchair players to WRFC. A taster session will be run at the Club on a Saturday in September and the Roehampton tennis players will be invited. LB will also approach Sutton who run a very similar tennis session. Para tennis has a huge following and LB wants to capitalise on this and raise the profile of para Badminton.

c)PLAYERS: Emma Stoner represented Kingston in the London Youth Games. They came second in their pool and progressed to the quarter finals. Temi Johnson is joining the Club as a full member and wants more 1:1 coaching and competition.

d)EVENTS: It is hoped that a friendly with Bournemouth Club through Active Dorset will

take place in September. This will be for players with a Learning Disability. The inclusive Club Annual Tournament will take place on 30 June. A fun family Tournament will take place on the last session on 14 July.

121/18(B) PERFORMANCE CENTRE: See Head of Badminton's report.

Following discussions at the last meeting, HN raised concerns about the health and status of the Performance Centre which she considers is no longer living up to its reputation of the past but is struggling to compete with the top centres now on the junior tournament circuits. HN noted as examples also the cancellation of the Sunday sparring session, the low attendance at the Emerging session and the failure to attract funding opportunities recently bestowed on other centres by BE. HN considered that the Club is underestimating the importance of a strong PC and elite section and how a strong reputation from these will translate into success in other areas of the club, such as strong healthy club sessions and club teams (where at the moment the club is facing considerable challenges).

BB noted that the low attendance was mainly due to the exam period. This was backed up by E-mails received from parents when asked about attendance. BB also noted that he felt the PC has progressed in its structure and what it offers but that it needs to continue to develop and evolve. Some ideas for this are highlighted in his Committee report.

HN suggested that more effort should be placed on improving the PC and reviewing the setup in comparison to the successful leading centres which have recently been selected for funding. Initial suggestions for improvement included utilising the more experienced and established coaches available and being careful not to rely primarily on young coaches whose focus is still on their own playing careers. HN also noted that all PC session coaches should be willing to attend at least some age group tournaments each season, including the National tournaments, in order to support the juniors and help develop appropriate goals for individual junior players as well as for the progress of the PC in general. She reported that other competing clubs and centres are well represented by their coaches at BE tournaments and really outshine WRFC in that respect.

BB reported that he is happy with the current PC set up and the coaches within the sessions as they are all working hard and are highly motivated to help and improve the players. BB also reported that he is looking into potential funding for coaches to attend tournaments for the 2018/19 season (see BB's Committee report for more details).

HN asked BB if he could look into any available funding opportunities that WRFC may have missed. BB replied that he was not aware of other centres receiving funding, and that he was not certain who would be the appropriate person to contact at BE about this at the moment. He agreed to see if he could find out more.

122/18(B) ELECTRONIC PEGBOARD: The feedback from members had been circulated. It was agreed that the amount of feedback had been poor and that it would be hard to make a decision on the varied comments received. After discussion it was agreed that the Electronic Pegboard should be trialled in every session for 3 months, starting as soon as possible, and further feedback obtained afterwards, perhaps by Committee members visiting sessions and asking members to decide for or against. It was also agreed that the screen must be hung on the wall.

123/18(B) GRADED EVENING SESSIONS: REGRADING/DOWNGRADING: A WRFC Grading Protocol – Upgrades and Downgrades – Moving Forward – drafted by BB had been circulated. As regards unsuccessful applicants for upgrading HN & CW expressed a preference for the decisions to be made face to face immediately after the decision had been made rather than by E-mail next day. However this view was not supported by the majority of other Committee members who considered that would not be practicable. Another view expressed was that coaches should arrange games for upgrading applicants. MB suggested that the criteria for downgrading should be clarified. It was agreed that a face to face discussion with a coach might be more appropriate if downgrading is proposed. Perhaps the decision could be softened for the 1st group of those to be regraded with the offer of half the session fee of the session below for one year. It was agreed that a further meeting on this issue was necessary when BB could be present.

124/18(B) WINTER SESSIONS 2018/2019: The Winter season will start on Monday 3 September but the end date and the dates of the Club Tournament have still to be agreed. ME reported that the decision that Finals Day would always be on the second Saturday in May might have to be reconsidered because there would again be a clash with the Hampshire Gold Tournament which might affect the entry for the A grade events as happened this last season.

125/18(B) SUMMER SESSIONS 2018:

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

	11/6/18	23/5/17	1/6/16	27/5/15	9/6/14	22/7/13	19/7/12/	4/7/11
A grade	20	17	26	20	21	23	21	22
B+ grade	29	28	25	31	30	32	38	32
B grade	26	26	38	28	31	28	29	34
C+ grade	30	18	31	30	26	24	33	23
C grade	15	5	7	10	9	7	8	3
Fri/3 rd sess.	19	28	20	24	21	25	30	31
TOTAL	139	122	147	143	138	139	159	145

Attendance and shuttle usage figures since the beginning of the summer season were available.

b)TUESDAY SESSIONS: Arising from the report of a recent Tuesday evening when B+/B players had requested to overspill onto courts in the New Hall in use by the summer A session, ME explained that in the 2017 summer season the numbers in the Tuesday B+/B session had been high and the A session numbers quite low and it had therefore been agreed that if there were fewer than 14 A players present and more than 40 B+/B players, a court could be released in the New Hall for the B+/B players. This had been implemented last year as a guideline rather than a permanent rule. It was agreed that the 3 B+ graded players invited to play in the Tuesday A session should not be allowed to transfer to the B+/B session if the A session finished early. Session representatives to be informed of this decision.

ACTION: ME

126/18(B) TOURNAMENTS/EVENTS:

- a)SUMMER TEAMS TOURNAMENT: Sat/Sun 21 & 22 July 2018: 2 teams have entered so far; TH hopes for 11/12 eventually.
- 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 20 & 21 October
- e)CRANBROOK SINGLES & WIMBLEDON GOLD TOURNAMENT: Feb. 2019:
- f)V4U SRI LANKAN CHARITY TOURNAMENT: Sun 9 December

127/18(B) MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: It was agreed to refund a summer session fee to a member on payment of a visitors fee for two sessions already attended.

128/18(B) SCBA COUNCIL: Nil to report.

129/18(B) SAFETY ITEMS: Nil.

130/18(B) ACTION POINTS FOR CLUB MANAGERS/BOARD: Nil.

131/18(B) WRFC AGM: Postponed. New date not yet known.

132/18(B) CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS: Nil.

133/18(B) DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 11 July 2018 at 7.15pm

