

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON THURSDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Mr. W. Fannin; Mr. P. Friel; Ms H. Nicolson (Chairman); Ms. J. Wadey; Mr.R. Wheeler; Mr. R. Debidin.
Mr. L. Clements (Operations Manager) for item 015/19 to item 023/19.
Mr. N. Baldwin (Board Representative) for item 015/19 to item 023/19b.
Mr. B. Beckman (Head of Badminton) for item 015/19 to item 023/19.

APOLOGIES: Ms. C. Wu; Mr. K. Manro; Ms. C. Baker (new Club Manager).

015/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 9th JANUARY: Minutes of the meeting of 9th January 2019 were confirmed approved.

016/19 REPORT FROM OPERATIONS MANAGER:

- a) Badminton section figures for the financial year 2017-2018 have been given to HN in order that the committee can start analysing the profit/loss figures of the sessions and events for which it is responsible. Jackie Aquah to provide the figures moving forwards. BC to meet with Jackie and discuss what is needed. NB noted that the Board is to apply a special committee rate for courts and shuttles moving forwards. HN noted that a large sum appeared to be missing from the income figures for the graded sessions of the winter season (2017-2018). **ACTION:** LC to investigate this and provide the correct figures. **ACTION:** HN to discuss figures required, moving forwards, with Jackie.
- b) Discrepancies reported in the previous number of members lost. WF asked LC if he was able to provide accurate figures to ascertain from which sections members had been lost. LC was not able to supply such figures, due to difficulties acquiring the necessary data from the computer system.
- c) Booking screen/monitor: LC reported that he could now confirm that new GDPR regulations do not allow for the club to reinstate the booking screen in the reception area.

017/19 REPORT FROM BOARD:

- a) Chairs of the three committees invited to attend Board meeting on January 30th and report from their committees. This was successful and will continue, moving forwards. The committees can decide whether they would still like a Board representative to attend their committee meetings, as this may no longer be deemed necessary.
- b) Next Board Meeting set for 6th March.
- c) Provisional date for AGM is 27th March, but may likely need to be moved to early April for sufficient time in between Board meeting and AGM.
- d) Audited Accounts due before end of February.
- e) Ernesto Pinto, Chair of the gym committee, has been co-opted onto the Board. EP will have to re-stand for election at the AGM and will also step down as Chair of the gym committee whilst acting as a director.

- f) Roles have been allocated individual Directors as follows: RH; Policies and compliance, JJ; Health and Safety, AM; Finance and Legal, PG; HR and Development, VT; Strategy and Policy, NB; Operations.
- g) A suggested resolution for Proportional Representation on the Board has been presented to the Board by a group of members. JW noted that she would like to see more squash members on the Board. A discussion ensued on whether we as club should differentiate between members participating in our two racket sports and/or primarily using the gym. Some members of the committee felt that this would be difficult and wrong given that membership is non-specific with members being equally entitled to use all of the club facilities. NB noted that with the new club structure now in place, which empowers the committees to run their sports, equal representation on the Board is less important now as the Board is mainly dealing with legal and operational issues, rather than the running of the sports.
- h) Two new duty managers are to be recruited to assist the club manager and ensure that there is always a manager/duty manager on site. There are also plans to employ a separate marketing manager.
- i) Potential increase in court fees: NB asked whether the committee would consider it more reasonable to members to increase the court fees rather than the membership fee. The committee considered this to be the case. RD noted that the membership fee should pay somewhat towards the courts and that therefore the club cannot match too closely the commercial rate of leisure centres and other non-member centres.

018/19

Report from Match Secretary: Matches played to 31/01/19:

- a) Surrey League: Played 57; won 34 and lost 23. A Mixed 1st team, A Mens' team and B+ Ladies team are doing well;
 - A Mixed 1st team has played 5 and won 5.
 - A Mens' team has played 6 and won 6.
 - B+ Ladies has played 6 and won 6.
- b) Sutton and District: Played 7; won 2, lost 4, drew 1.
- c) Two B+ Ladies matches postponed due to the weather and to be rearranged.

019/19

Report from Head of Badminton: Report received from BB was noted and discussed. High level Summary as follows:

- Upgrades: The first week up the upgrades is complete and the new procedure seems to have worked well, although it needs to be decided how to work around some issues, such as lateness and injuries/postponements. Overall, the upgrades so far have been a success. Two candidates from B, and 4 candidates from C, have passed the 1st week trials. Others have been unsuccessful.
- Regrading: BB has been observing the graded sessions and identified a few members who will need to be considered. BB to consult the members concerned by early March, offering advice. **ACTION BB.** BB noted that not many members will be affected as generally the sessions are looking healthy and in a position to grow and build.
- Beginners' Course: Only 4 people signed up for the Beginners' Course, so courts have been reduced to 1. Four female attendees of reasonably good level, so hopefully

potential new C or C+ members. Attendees of the previous course run have been contacted to encourage further interest, but little response received.

- Saturday Junior Sessions: All sessions continue to be very busy. 2 parents have expressed concerns about numbers being too high. BB is in consultation with the coaches involved on potential solutions and will arrange a meeting to discuss:
ACTION BB.
- Yonex Singles Tournament: The tournament has been postponed for now. Yonex is busy in the build up to the All England but BB has arranged to meet with Steven Chappell from Yonex UK at the All England, to discuss opportunities for more involvement at the club, including potential involvement with the club championships. **ACTION**: BB to report after meeting.
- Social Media: The new social media incentive has worked well, with features added on a variety of club events and tournaments. BB will be emailing parents of junior members, encouraging them to forward photos and notable tournament results to be added to a monthly round up on our social media platforms.
- New Hall Roof to be considered priority for the DWP as poses insurance risk.
- C+ coach: Aripin has started attending the C+ session to offer coaching and advice to the session members from 7pm-8.30pm. Aripin has been liaising with the session rep on how to make the most of his attendance for the benefit of the session members.

020/19 **Disability Badminton:** Nil to report.

021/19 **Main Topics:**

- a) Upgrades: Update on this weeks' upgrading sessions. As noted above in the HOB report, first week of upgrades went well. No complaints received following the introduction of the new procedure. It was decided that if a member is injured they should be refunded the upgrading fee. No rescheduling can be offered if a member turn up late or doesn't show. HN asked BB to ensure that all coaches involved in upgrading are informed to be strict on referring to the session criteria so we can build strong sessions.
- b) Regrading/Session Review: BB in process of reviewing sessions. Potentially affected members to be consulted beginning of March (see HOB report above).
ACTION: KM to produce a revised future protocol.
ACTION: BB to report back to BC on potential members affected and consult the individual members as soon as possible.
- c) Badminton Fitness Course: Continued as 'drop in' session priced £5.00 per session. Advertised as "Sunday Circuits" and encouraging all members to join in.
- d) Beginners' Course: The committee discussed alternative options for trying to attract new members, as the Beginners Course is low in numbers and few participants join the club following the course. The Committee decided to introduce a weekly No-Strings Badminton session (in accordance with BE scheme) after the Easter holidays and see if this could be a popular alternative. BE will supply promotional material and add the session to the No-Strings database. The session will require an accredited coordinator to run it. The sessions are to be run on Sundays from 7pm to 9pm in the New Hall (current time of the Beginners session). RD will be responsible for organising and running the sessions. **ACTION: RD.**

- e) Saturday Junior Session Review: Sessions continue to be very busy and the coaches are finding it challenging dealing with the high numbers, especially on weeks where there is a shortage of coaches available. BB has suggested a meeting with the coaches involved to consider potential solutions. HN noted the need for membership data on the juniors attending, in order to be able to consider any potential options for limiting/controlling numbers. HN expressed concern about how to ensure a sufficiently large pool of coaches not only for the present but also for the future of these sessions. It was agreed that the BC should start looking into ways of growing the coaching team.

ACTION: HN to obtain relevant junior membership data.

022/19 **Complaints and Communication with members**: No complaints received. Very positive feedback received from C+ session rep on the introduction of coach within the session.

023/19 **Upcoming Tournaments**:

- a) Devlin Tournament 10th Feb: Draw for the tournament was done at the meeting, following the 8pm deadline for entries. H.N. confirmed that prizes were ready.
- b) Cranbrook singles: Confirmed for Tuesday 2nd April.
- c) Wimbledon Gold: Confirmed for 6th & 7th April.
- d) Club Championships: To Start Tuesday 30th April. Finals day set for 18th May.
- e) Yonex Singles: Cancelled. To be reinstated in December as traditionally held in previous years.

024/19 **BC Focus**:

- a) Report on Board meeting (HN): HN attended the Board meeting on January 30th to report on the work and progress of the committee over the past few months, including; the allocation of roles to BC members, the review of upgrading/regrading procedures and other session developments/incentives. HN also presented the BC plans for 2019, including the BC Vision and the restructuring proposal for the badminton section, with view to drive the club forwards. The plans were well received and the proposal received full support from the Board of Directors. HN was asked to proceed in producing in addition a financial plan for the proposal to the members of the Board for approval. Finally, a list of suggestions for improvements to facilities were presented to the Board and for the DWP, with the priority being to resolve the condensation issue in the New Hall.
- b) Restructuring of the badminton section: Refer to point a) above. Next steps: Supply financial plan to support proposal. **ACTION: HN**. Arrange meeting with HOB to share thoughts and discuss next steps. **ACTION HN**.
- c) Finance: Badminton Section figures. Discussion on financial section figures. As the figures provided were deemed inaccurate, it was decided to delay further discussion until the next meeting when accurate figures have been obtained.

025/19 **Confidential Matters/Any Other Business**: None.

Next meeting confirmed for Wednesday the 13th March 2019 at 7.15pm.

