

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th March 2019 AT 7.15PM

PRESENT: Mr. W. Fannin; Mr. P. Friel; Ms H. Nicolson (Chairman); Ms. J. Wadey; Mr.R. Wheeler; Mr. R. Debidin; Ms C. Wu; Mr. K. Manro from item 033/19.
Ms. C. Baker (Club Manager) for items 027/19 to item 036/19.
Mr. B. Beckman (Head of Badminton) for items 026/19 to 036/19.

APOLOGIES: None

026/19 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 7th FEBRUARY:** Minutes of the meeting of 7th February 2019 were confirmed approved.

027/19 **REPORT FROM MANAGER:**

- a. Cranbrook Singles: It was noted that the number of entries has decreased in recent years and that the club should try to encourage more entries. **ACTION: BB** to encourage members to enter and assist CB with emails and advertising.
- b. Emails to Club Members: CB is investigating why many members are still not receiving club emails.
- c. Senior Gold (April 6th and 7th): Event organised by Judith Fisher and Jenny Lacey. Committee members needed to assist on April 6th. Ways of advertising and creating interest in the event to draw in spectators, were discussed. **ACTION: BB** to make posters to help advertise the event.
- d. Session Night Courtesy: It was noted that some session members may need to be reminded to vacate courts at 10:30pm on session nights. Staff has been experiencing problems on Tuesday nights, in particular.
- e. Court Cleanliness: Coaches to be reminded to assist in keeping courts clean and presentable, by removing rubbish after sessions and lessons.
- f. Health and Safety: Shuttle-boxes were requested to be stored in a manner that will not cause health and safety concerns. **ACTION BB** to communicate with coaches on appropriate storage. CB considering alternative storage locations.
- g. Social Member: It was noted that on Sunday night a social member did not pay their visitor fee, and this should be addressed. **ACTION CB** to discuss with the member.

028/19 **SUMMER SESSION FEES:** The draft Summer Session Season application form was approved. The Summer Season Sessions will run from 20th May until 30th August 2019 (15 weeks). Application forms to be available at reception from 22nd April. Pay and play charge to continue as £8 per session for non-session members. See item 033/19 f, for note on court and shuttle allocation.

029/19 **Report from Match Secretary:** Matches played to 28/02/19:
Surrey League: Played 74; won 45 and lost 29. A Mixed 1st team, A Men's team and B+ Ladies team are still doing well. A Mixed 1st team has played 6 and won six and received one walkover. A Men's team has played 8 and won 8. B+ Ladies team has played 9, won 8 and lost 1. Sutton and District: Played 9; won 4, lost 4 and drew 1.

030/19 **Report from Head of Badminton:** Report received from BB was noted and discussed. High level Summary as follows:

- a) February Upgrades: BB reported that the trial of the new protocol went well and no complaints were received. Some minor adjustments to the protocol were suggested. Only one member was successful (from B to B+).
- b) Coaches Meeting: BB confirmed that a meeting had been held with the coaches working with the Saturday Junior sessions to discuss the issues with managing these busy sessions. The main issue was found to be coach/player ratio and the need for more coaches to help manage numbers effectively. The need for better communication between coaches to ensure sufficient cover each week was also noted. The BC noted that although coaches of the sessions can participate in finding cover this must be confirmed by BB, as ultimately the responsibility of HOB. BB confirmed that he will start this week by contacting potential coaches who could help with the sessions, and that he will also be creating a whatsapp group to improve communication between coaches. BB also to ensure that all new coaches have the relevant insurance and DBS checks. **ACTION BB**
HN noted that there should be regular meetings/workshops with the coaches to update skills and ensure continuity and common coaching goals.
- c) Easter Training Camps: Easter holiday training camps are being planned for the PC juniors. BB and Georgina are looking into costs and planning to add some off-court training to these sessions. On discussing pay, it was noted by HN that pay for coaches should remain consistent with their pay for regular sessions run.
- d) Regrading: BB has yet to consult the members potentially affected, but intends to do so before end of March. BB feels only very few members should be moved. In addition, two other members have offered to move themselves into a lower grade. **ACTION BB**
- e) Elite Funding Criteria: Need for updating, adding criteria for Doubles/Mixed players and juniors. (HN noted this will be added to the agenda for the April meeting)
- f) Club Accreditation: Up for renewal. BB is looking into this and will inform BC one completed. **ACTION BB**
- g) Yonex Sponsorship: BB did not get a chance to speak to the representative at the All England, but has made contact to arrange a phone call to discuss how WRFC and Yonex can best work together for the remainder of 2019. HN noted that previously Yonex has provided goods to the club which were used as prizes at the Club Championships and that we should explore this possibility. **ACTION: BB** to liaise with Yonex and cc in HN
- h) Vet Session: BB reported that he has been in communication with Chris Ramjeeawon, who is keen to grow the session and draw in top vets county players. While this is great, it was noted that we must also consider our club players who are of varying standards.
- i) Summer season invitations to A session: BB is considering who should be invited.

031/19

Report received from Marion Eyles on the **Annual RAF Match** and the **WRFC All England Trip**. M.E reported that the annual RAF match; Wimbledon Ladies V RAF Ladies, took place on Friday the 22nd February and was the 70th anniversary of the match. The RAF came with a strong team and won 5-4. The Wimbledon Men's team

won their match against the RAF Men's team on this 10th anniversary of the Men's match. Seventy-four club members and friends bought **All England** tickets from the WRFC group booking. Everyone had an excellent time at the championships!

032/19

Disability Badminton: Summary of report received from Lorraine Brydie as follows: LB has successfully secured BE funding for 12 new PD sessions, for the physically disabled and wheelchair players, to be run at WRFC on alternate Saturdays from 6.30pm-8pm starting end of April. This is part of a shared project with East Surrey YMCA, where additional sessions will take place. The PD sessions will need to be run on two courts in the old hall, for easy access to changing room facilities and wet room. This will cause some interference with the Vets session currently run in the old hall. The disability section is looking for more volunteers and will be providing free training for all coaches and helpers.

It was noted at the meeting that the Committee is happy to accommodate the new PD sessions and will work around court allocation in order to continue to also accommodate the Vets Session. On occasion, when there is a club event/ tournament, both sessions may need to be cancelled with advance notice.

033/19

Main Topics:

- a) **New Upgrading Protocol:** Potential revisions, following the trial at the February upgrades, were discussed and some minor changes were agreed to the original wording. The new protocol was well received by members (see HOB report).
- b) **Regrading:** Potentially affected members should now have been consulted. Please see HOB report. BB to action asap and report to committee. **ACTION BB**
- c) **Vets Session:** Changes to accommodate the new PD disability session were discussed (see above under 032/19). HN to discuss court allocation with Chris Ramjeeawon. **ACTION HN**
- d) **New 'No Strings' Badminton Sessions:** Intended to begin on April 28th. RD to organize, including advertising. **ACTION RD**
- e) **Saturday Junior Sessions; growing our coaching team for the present and the future:** Sustaining a strong workforce for our Saturday Junior sessions requires long-term thinking. HN emphasised the need to ensure that the club has a good pool of coaches available in order to continue to run these sessions successfully into the future. As well as introducing new families and young members to the club and to the sport, these sessions provide an invaluable source of funds to support other areas of the badminton section. HN reported that on attending recent BE volunteering conference, she learned that there are funding schemes available from BE to help clubs develop coaches and that we as a club should work towards creating a programme for this and advertise. **ACTION: HN** to contact and discuss with BE Relationships Manager Chris Evans. **BB** to help encourage interest amongst members.
- f) **B+ session: Summer season issue:** PF noted that in 2018 there were complaints regarding the disparity in shuttle allocation between the B+ and A grade sessions, considering the vast difference in number of attendees (on average, 40 in the B+ session and 10-15 in the A session). PF reported that some members are unhappy that despite paying same fees, the A session is allocated comparatively more resources. It was agreed that all Summer Session court and shuttle

allocation will initially be based upon numbers signed up before the beginning of the season. The allocation will be adjusted during the season as necessary. Session representatives to inform their session members and encourage members to sign up in advance. Also to be noted on Summer Season application forms. **ACTION HN and PF**

g) Session shuttle misuse: The issue was raised that some individuals appear to take leftover shuttles for own personal use. PF to email session representatives and ensure sessions self-report on the approximate number of shuttles used on session nights. **ACTION PF**

h) Compliance: Safeguarding: The committee discussed safeguarding in general. It was noted that the policies are on the website and members can refer to the policies there. The Badminton Welfare Officer is BB. BB confirmed that all coaches are DBS checked.

034/19 **Complaints and Communication with members:** Court Conditions. BB to communicate with coaches on keeping courts clean. **ACTION BB.**

035/19 **TOURNAMENTS/EVENTS:**

- **Report on the Devlin Tournament.** P.F. reported that the Devlin Tournament was a successful event, with positive feedback received. 12 pairs took part and the winners were Anna Kondratieva and Stewart Fautly. The only Issue was that the winners were unable to receive change for purchases using the club vouchers. It was suggested that in the future Club Credit vouchers should be used to address this issue.
- **Cranbrook Singles confirmed for 2nd April. Cash prizes to be arranged.**
- **Wimbledon Gold confirmed for 6th & 7th April.** Assistance required from BC members. BB to advertise event as noted above.
- **Club Championships starting 30th April (Finals 18th May):** A proposed schedule of events was presented by HN. Some amendments were made as per suggestion of JW. Entry fee was decided to be £9 per event, per person. Deadline for entry (all events) set as April 23rd at 8pm. Draw to be done on the 24th April. Due to the many errors from the online entries last year, it was decided to stick to paper entry forms this year. Prizes: Club credit vouchers for winners and runners up. **New Rule:** It was decided that members who wish to play up into a higher grade, must play that same event in their own grade also.

ACTIONS:

- Update schedule of events, entry form and rules. **HN**
- Session Representatives to help promote. **PF**
- Make posters to advertise. **CW**
- Organise prizes for junior events. **JW**

036/19 BC FOCUS:

- 1) **Report on Board meeting of 6th February.** HN reported that the AGM is now set for 3rd April 2019. Richard Hunter has resigned as chairman of the Board and will not be re-standing as director. Paul Garret will not be re-standing as director either. The Squash Committee has proposed adding glass backs to squash courts 5 and 6 and having building works done to create a spectator area to replace the old washrooms and utilise this area. The Gym Committee has had a proposal for a new floor approved.

- 2) **Restructuring and Academy update:** Financial planning for the Academy was presented to the Board and agreed, by unanimous vote in favour. A Job description for the new professional role was presented upon request of the Board. HN reported that she remains in contact with BE representatives, who continue to offer advice and support. The governing body of our sport fully supports the plans to restructure. The Committee is now waiting for final confirmation from the Board in order to proceed.
- 3) **Finance: Badminton Section Figures:** Revised section figures for 2017-2018 have been obtained and shared with BC members prior to the meeting. HN met with Jackie to discuss which figures will be needed moving forwards on a quarterly basis. The figures are to include all the relevant sessions/activities for which the committee is responsible. The committee will be analysing separate areas carefully, looking at areas to improve, to ensure that funds are managed effectively.
- 4) **AGM preparations:** All BC members present at the meeting confirmed their intention to restand.

037/19 Action Points for Club managers/Board/Other Pending: Regular website updating.

038/19 Confidential Matters/Any Other Business:

Next meeting confirmed for Wednesday the 17th April 2019 at 7.15pm.