

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2019 AT 7.15PM

**PRESENT:** Ms H. Nicolson; Mr. Freddy Birks; Mr. R. Debidin; Mr. S. di Nardo; Mr. W. Fannin; Mr. K. Manro; Mr. R. Wheeler; Ms. C. Wu; and Mr. B. Beckman

**APOLOGIES:** Ms. J. Wadey; Ms. C. Baker (Club Manager).

**051/19** **Minutes of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> April:** The minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were approved.

**052/19** **Report from Manager: Email Report received as follows:**

- The Computer system Legend is still causing problems and being looked into. *WF queried who had been responsible for spending £40,000 on a computer system that still doesn't work, and at what point would the club have to decide to replace it.*
- Shuttle collection for juniors: Shuttles are being collected but quality is not great as the shuttles are being re-used for weekly several sessions.
- Better communication still needed between coaches to ensure enough turn up to cover Saturday junior sessions.
- Friday daytime session very poorly attended. Need to consider whether to discontinue this session.
- Online system for Club Champs entries to be looked into. CB suggested liaising with squash organiser to see if badminton can use same system.

**053/19** **Report from Match Secretary:**

- Results of the Hybrid Cup finals: Our B+ team received a walkover for the Junior Hybrid Cup final V. SHB. We had a good team ready to play, but JW was informed that SHB were unable to field a team. Our Senior Hybrid Cup Team played their final V. Coulsdon and Purley 1 at Ebbisham and lost 4-5 in a close game that could have gone either way. Results can be seen on the Surrey website. JW would like to thank Tracy Dineen for organising this team throughout the season, as well as our A Mixed 1st team which won division 1 very convincingly. Our A men's 1<sup>st</sup> team won division 2 very convincingly, winning all 10 games, and therefore should be promoted back into division 1.
- Complete (end of season) match report ready to be posted on website and noticeboards soon (see noticeboard and website).
- Entry forms for next season's Surrey League and cup teams received. The BC needs to consider and decide which teams to enter. JW suggests same teams as this season. A discussion ensued on whether it would be feasible to enter combined C+/B ladies and/or Mixed Teams next season. **ACTION BB:** BB to speak to session members and see if any interest.

- RW suggested creating an A/B+ men's team to allow more A players to play in teams, while boosting the B+ team and help it stay in higher division. RD considered that this would upset B+ players who would not be chosen to play teams, and that our teams are *session teams* as supposed to *club teams*. A discussion ensued on whether the priority with teams should be to have session teams, allowing session members to represent their sessions, or to have club teams (not defined by grade) in strongest divisions possible. Following some discussion, it was decided to stay with the session teams. **ACTION JW:** to complete entry form for next season's Surrey League and Cup teams (Same teams as last year and consider adding combined C+/B ladies and mixed teams, If any interest).

**054/19**

**Report from Disability Section:** Email Report received from Lorraine Brydie. Summary as follows:

- a) Half the funding came through from BE to launch the new Disability project at WRFC at Redhill. LD sessions continue to run every Saturday 5-6.30pm, with new PD sessions running every other Saturday 6.30-8pm. Attendance has been encouraging and the second half of the funding should be in place to continue sessions in September until December.
- b) An Inclusive Badminton Singles Tournament was run on the first day of the project launch. Jack Unwin won the shield this year, with Jonny Pugh as runner up. B Singles was won by David Tamblyn, with Ade Ijaluwoye as runner up. Most improved player went to Amelia Solari.
- c) A disability Coaching Workshop at Redhill was attended by coaches and volunteers, who were given an opportunity to learn about different classifications of wheelchair players and the challenges they face.
- d) A grant of £540 was received by the LTA Foundation and earmarked to purchase new racquets only.
- e) LB and Marion Eyles travelled with 4 young LD players to a special Olympics Badminton Doubles Tournament in Ipswich. David Tamblyn and Jack Unwin won Gold, and Jonny Pugh and Ahmed Dhoda took silver in their division. LB is exploring possibility of joining forces with Surrey SO and add badminton to their programme, in order for events such as this to be run closer to home.
- f) LB has been liaising with Nicky Sands about creating a social media feature on the LD and PD sessions.

**055/19**

**Report from Head of Badminton:** Report received from BB. Summary as follows:

- a) Our Clubmark status has been successfully renewed for another year. Certificate requested and awaited.
- b) U13 Nationals: Oliver Wu won silver in the boy's doubles event at the U15 Nationals. An excellent result for Oliver, who only lost the final in 3 very close games.
- c) Other Results: Will Jones won the men's doubles at the Hampshire Gold Tournament, and former WRFC member Sam Lyle won the men's singles. Ella Soderstrom got to the semis of the ladies singles event at the German Future Series. Toby Penty and Ksenia Polikarpova are currently in China for the Sudirman Cup and performing well.

- d) Regrades: BB has spoken to all the members affected. BB regraded 1 member. 3 members have downgraded themselves. *BC members were concerned that B session members are still unhappy about the strength of the session and may have been expecting more players be regraded. ACTION BB: to review B and C+ and report on how to improve these grades more effectively.*
- e) Saturday Coaches: BB has been in contact with a few members who are currently taking qualifications and would like to take on coaching roles on Saturdays.
- f) BB is making provisional plans for summer camps, and has booked in the regular pc sessions until the end of the school term as a precaution, until we have confirmation of potential changes to the pc sessions.
- g) Junior Emerging sessions are low on numbers, due to exam season, and will be reduced to one court.
- h) A Session invitations: BB is as yet undecided on any B+ players to be invited to the A session for the summer season, but feels there are no standout players who should be invited.

**056/19      General Topics:**

- A) **Club Championship Review:** It was noted that the club championships went well, with a very successful Finals day, and only a few issues and complaints. It was noted that the BC was unhappy about the delay in results and draws being published on the website, and would like to see this improved in future. It was decided to look into suitable online tournament software for better management of entries.
- **Refunds:** Clarification required on the managing of refunds. It was agreed that after the initial draw, no refunds will be given to players, unless the event has been cancelled. It should be noted also that any refunds pending will be made after the end of the tournament. **ACTION BB:** To contact members who have refunds to collect from club champs.
- **Juniors:** Clarification required on which events juniors are permitted to enter for the club championships, and that junior gradings (doubles and singles) will need to be reviewed prior to entry. **ACTION HN:** to update rules/entry information regarding refunds and juniors.
- **Prizes:** The Committee was disappointed with the cash prize envelopes presented on finals day. Feedback suggested that participants would prefer medals and trophies rather than cash. The committee decided to offer trophy prizes next year.
- **Microphone:** It was noted that use of a microphone would be of benefit on finals day.
- **Handicap for the veterans:** Handicaps were discussed and feedback from participants considered in relation to starting points. It was noted that players prefer to start in negative numbers, as this allows for more of a “chance to catch-up” to opponents during games, where there is a large handicap involved.
- **Low entry for A players:** The low entry for A events was discussed and reasons considered. It was decided that B+ winners should be added to the honours Board, where no A events have taken place, and that these should be backdated to complete the missing entries on the honours board from recent year’s tournaments. **ACTION HN** to forward list of winners to CB. **ACTION CB:** To arrange for names to be added to honours board.

- HN noted that she had contacted Yonex to see if they would sponsor small tournament prizes for the tournament, but that she had received no reply.
- b) **Sponsorship:** Sponsorship, and potential opportunities to be explored, were discussed, including how to approach appropriate companies and individuals. SD presented a discussion paper/spreadsheet for sponsorship, which proposed offerings that the club could provide to sponsors for different levels of sponsorship. **ACTION FB:** To consider and approach, on a preliminary basis, a few suitable companies on sponsorship of the club and/or for other potential business relationship. **ACTION SD:** To continue working on the sponsorship proposals and formulate package deals (large and small). **ACTION HN:** To obtain from the Board the current contract/sponsorship agreement with Yonex, for consideration.
- c) **A Session Review:** It was discussed how to increase A session membership and participation, including better marketing and “spreading the word” to build the session, as well as ideas for a potential new university tournament, and changes to pricing of the session. Different strategies to attract new members were discussed, including reduced introductory membership fees and marketing campaigns to target young players. Suggestions to be made to the Board, in regards to membership fees in general, and special reduced introductory offers to attract new members (**ACTION HN**). Committee member and A session member FB will discuss with other A players regarding how to increase attendance in A session (**ACTION FB**). Feedback received from an A session member was considered and discussed, including visitors’ fees and retaining membership privileges.
- d) **Promotion of New Sessions:** Promotion of sessions required. **ACTION BB:** To advertise Friday daytime session and Veteran session on website and via emails and notices to members. **ACTION KM and RD:** To promote the No Strings Session. **ACTION HN:** to promote the Sunday Circuits (Fitness Session) with a new “bring a friend” incentive (non members welcome).
- e) **Elite and new Junior Funding Criteria:** HN circulated the proposed criteria for review and discussion. It was agreed that the Junior section should not be finalised until developments regarding the proposed new Academy could be confirmed.
- f) **Coach Development Funding Scheme:** It was discussed what due diligence procedures the club uses to ensure coaches are appropriate. It was agreed to formalise a BC funding scheme to encourage members wishing to acquire coaching qualifications. Through the funding scheme the BC can fund course fees, in return for hours paid back through coaching within club sessions. An objective and formal approach should be taken. BB advised Surrey has an application process which could be useful as guidance. **ACTION HN:** To speak to Board for guidance from Board regarding an element of appropriateness of being a WRFC coach. **ACTION BB:** To send Surrey application form for coach funding to CW. **ACTION CW:** To create an application form for funding scheme and circulate to BC.
- g) **Summer Sessions Shuttle Allocation:** To be reviewed at next meeting.
- h) **Regrading Protocol:** Discussion took place, referring to earlier discussions during meeting. There was concern that many members feel that the re-grading process is not complete and more action needs to be taken. **ACTION KM:** To draft email for communication with members.

**057/19 Complaints and Communication with Members:** Feedback and suggestions received from a member were discussed in confidence, including the potential introduction of a singles session or singles league. **ACTION FB:** To gauge interest among A session players for singles league/singles session.

**058/19 Tournaments and Events Coming Up:**

- a) Summer Team Tournaments: No action required by BC, but will support as required.
- b) Fun Team Sessions: To be discussed at next meeting.
- c) Tournament Dates: Upcoming dates need to be confirmed. **ACTION CW:** To discuss with JW potential dates and compile a calendar of events.

**059/19 BC Focus**

- a) Board Meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> May:
  - Expert Groups: The Board is looking to form various expert groups, where members can offer their skillsets to assist the Board. Posters to advertise this and attract interest, have gone up around the club.
  - Vision Statement: The Board is working on formulating a vision statement for the club and a special group has been set up for this purpose.
  - Additional Funding: Potential donation of £500 to be received by BC from charity. The BC is to propose how finances are best used.
  - Academy: BC still awaiting confirmation on how to proceed.
- b) Review of BC members' role: It was noted that BC members' photos for website would be appreciated, so that members of the club can identify/recognize BC members. BC members' focus roles were confirmed as follows:
  - HN: Chair, Finance and Junior Rep.
  - FB: Marketing and Sponsorship.
  - RD: Session Representative Liaison.
  - SD: Marketing and Sponsorship.
  - WF: Facilities & Maintenance.
  - KM: Development and Implementation.
  - CW: Welfare Officer (pending) and general support.
  - JW: Match Secretary.
  - RW: Tournament Representative & Members' Voice.

**060/19 Confidential Matters:** Matters were stated under confidentiality.

**061/19 Action Points for Club Managers/ Board/ Other Pending**

**Action CB:** Add club championships winners to the honours board, adding B+ winners where no A events took place. Backdate this also to ensure any B+ winners are represented where no A events were held in previous years.

**062/19 Any Other Business:** Next BC meeting set for 19 June 2019 at 7:15pm.