

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th JUNE 2019 AT 7.15PM

PRESENT: Ms H. Nicolson; Mr. Freddy Birks; Mr. R. Debidin; Mr. S. di Nardo; Mr. W. Fannin; Ms. J. Wadey; Mr. R. Wheeler; Ms. C. Wu; and Ms. C. Baker (Club Manager) for items 063/19 to item 065/19.

APOLOGIES: Mr. B. Beckman and Mr. K. Manro.

063/19 Minutes of the meeting of 22nd May to be approved: The minutes of 22th May are to be reviewed by BC members and approval pending prior to publication. Action Points: The action points of the previous meeting were discussed, and progress/completion noted.

064/19 Report from Manager:

- a) Yonex Sponsorship agreement: CB advised that the Yonex sponsorship agreement has expired. CW pointed to a clause in the contract stating it will automatically renew unless notice given in writing. **Action: HN** to contact Yonex and clarify status of agreement.
- b) Entry Gate at reception: CB advised of plans to fix the entry gate and that the cost will be approximately £1,300.
- c) Men's Toilets: CB noted that the collapsed pipe causing issues with the men's urinals will be fixed next week at a cost of £2,000 to £3,000 approx.
- d) Computers system: CB noted that progress is being made with the computer system and the situation is gradually improving, with the system freezing less frequently. The age of the club PCs could be part of the problem.
- e) Two Recommended Surrey Players: CB reported that coach Sam Phillips had noted that two England Junior Programme players, who qualifies for the junior funding criteria, were interested in joining the club if welcome. The BC confirmed to be happy to welcome the players to the club, and was pleased that the new junior funding criteria is attracting players.

065/19 Head of Badminton: Report received via email. Summary as follows:

- a) BB has received enough interest from C+ and B grade members to constitute combined ladies and mixed doubles teams for these grades next season.
- b) Yonex Demo Day: It was agreed by the BC that a date to coincide with the Hiro Yamamoto tournament or Surrey Restricted tournament would be desirable if possible.
- c) Academy: Parents of children attending the PC sessions have been forwarded the letter from HN with information on the new Academy. BB reported that overall parents are excited.
- d) Weekday junior sessions: Overall well attended, apart from the emerging group. However, BB noted that this is usually the case during exam times. A few players are also absent due to injuries.
- e) Results: Some excellent results achieved recently by WRFC players, with Toby Penty in the Spanish Open Final, Georgina Bland reaching the semi-final of the Latvian

International and Ella Soderstrom reaching the semi-final of the German Future Series. Some of our Juniors have taken part in successful Surrey teams.

- f) New potential Saturday coaches: BB has spoken to parents interested in coaching within the club and helping out on Saturdays during the junior sessions. *A discussion ensued on ensuring the suitability of coaches and implementing a vetting system in consultation with Board HR representative.*
- g) Feedback from session members: Positive feedback received from session members on recent A and A/B+ summer session nights. Sessions have been busy and a good mix.

ACTION: HN to advise BB about potential Yonex Demo dates. SDN noted that there should be more publicity within the club, on the badminton successes of players (such as Toby Penty) and general celebration of achievements of players of all ages and levels. The committee discussed introducing a special noticeboard for this purpose.

066/19 **Report from Match Secretary:** Nothing to report.

067/19 **General Topics:**

- a) Academy Update: HN reported that a meeting was held with the current PC coaches on Monday the 10th June. All coaches currently involved with the weekday PC sessions were invited to the meeting, which was attended by 6 coaches and 3 BC members. The attendees were given a presentation on how the Academy fits in with a greater vision for the development of the club, and with plans to invest in the sport and in our future. The draft job specification for the new professional role (to be advertised), was presented and comments/feedback invited. The Job spec was well received, and the coaches were invited to share their thoughts on the existing PC set-up, in order to help shape the new Academy by building on their experiences. A discussion followed on goals and expectations of the Academy and how to ensure we achieve/fulfil these to our full potential. The meeting was extremely positive, and a lot of valuable feedback and suggestions were received and discussed on subjects such as; structure, criteria, implementation, communication, coach development opportunities and much more. *Notes from the meeting were taken and are available to anyone interested.

The new Head of Academy role has now been advertised and parents have also been advised. Interviews are to be arranged as soon as possible following the deadline for applications. An Academy support booklet is work in progress and further information will be given to parent and players as appropriate. The existing Performance Centre sessions will continue as usual until the end of term, with the new Academy to be launched in early September, following the school summer holidays. It was noted that a lot of positive feedback has been received from parents, with the vast majority being excited about the changes. **ACTION: HN** to discuss with Toby Penty his availability for potential dates for launch party in September.

- a) Coach Development Funding Scheme: The Coach Development Funding Scheme draft was circulated prior to the meeting. The BC discussed additional amendments to be made. It was reinforced that safeguarding and DBS checks should be considered prior to supporting coaches. The hours that are to be returned to the club in consideration of supporting the coaching fees are to be discussed by HN and CW further. **ACTION: HN and CW** to discuss.

- b) Summer Session Numbers and Shuttle Allocation: RW reported of complaints at the B+/B Tuesday session just passed, due to waiting time in between games. Members, as well as a visitor, had complained about waiting time of 35 minutes. The pros and cons of different options to address the issue were debated, such as; not allowing visitors, capping session numbers or taking a court from the less attended A session. The committee was generally not in favour of any of these options but considered there could be better communication between session reps, with view to release courts when appropriate. The committee considered that changing the night of the A summer session from next year, would be a favourable option, in order to avoid hosting two sessions on the night of the busiest (B/B+) session. **ACTION: FB** to survey which alternative night would best suit the A members (Monday or Wednesday).

It was further noted that shuttle allocation rules were unclear, and miscommunication may have been made with session representatives previously. **ACTION: RD** to clarify to session reps the rules on shuttle allocation.

- c) Event Calendar and Winter Season Dates: A draft calendar of events for the upcoming season was presented and discussed. A few events and dates are as yet to be confirmed, but dates have been set for most of the regular events. It was noted that the club championships finals day for 2020 needs to be agreed in order for the winter season session dates to be confirmed and application forms finalised. **ACTION: JW** to consider options and report back to the BC.
- d) Yonex Sponsorship Agreement and Demo Day: As discussed above. **ACTION HN** to contact Yonex.
- e) Club Champs "Trophy sponsorship": The committee discussed an idea for members to sponsor trophies and prizes for individual events of the Club Championships. Different possibilities were discussed. **ACTION: SN** to formulate a draft proposal to members.
- f) Club Champs tournament software: The Board has asked the BC to liaise with Geoff Chapman (squash) about tournament software used by squash during club championships, in order to see whether the software could be of assistance to badminton also. **ACTION: RW** to discuss with JC.
- g) A session review: FB advised that there is likely more interest in a seasonal singles session, rather than a league. FB to speak to Richard Egan about potentially leading a proposed session. FB also noted that the A session in general has been improving and the numbers have increased. **ACTION: FB** to discuss with Richard Egan the singles session/ league. **ACTION: RW** to speak to BB about allowing two strong B+ juniors to play up into the A summer session for the duration of the summer season.

068/019 **Complaints and Communication with Members:** No complaints received. It was noted that much positive feedback had been received on plans for the Academy.

069/019 **Tournaments and Events Coming Up:**

- a) Summer Teams Tournaments July 20th and 21st: Organised by Tracy Dineen. BC assistance required on the Saturday and Sunday.

- b) Fun Teams Tournament 7th September: Theme agreed as “Out of a Hat”; Pairings to be drawn out of a hat on the day. Level doubles to be played (regardless of gender combinations). Handicaps to apply. Prize, promotion and other details to be agreed at next meeting.

070/ 019 BC Focus:

- a) Report on Board Meeting of 3rd June (HN):
- Membership figures: 1212 members
 - New Chairmanship rule: It was agreed that the chairman would be re-elected every 3 months to ensure that any chairman would not exceed their welcome period.
 - Strategy was discussed at length with four Key target areas of focus; organization, membership, finance and sports excellence.
 - It was reported that the squash section has secured a sponsorship deal with Dunlop.
 - Routine Maintenance: BC to produce a list of routine maintenance requirements of the badminton section, including frequency. Discussion ensued on various issues including cleaning of courts, reliable clocks, management of condensation issues in upstairs hall and checking/replacing equipment. **ACTION:** WF and SDN to create a list for the Board prior to Board meeting on 3rd July 2019.
 - Desirable Improvements: It was noted that at the August meeting the Board would require the above list to be followed up by a list of desirable improvements. SND reported that the gym and squash committees have proposed items that they request attention to. The BC discussed issues including resolving condensation issue in new hall, replacement of canvass dividers which have holes and improving lighting in the old hall.
 - Next Board meeting is 3rd July 2019. **ACTION:** SDN to bring BC discussion points to the DWP.
- b) Badminton Section Finance Report: Figures not received, so item referred to next meeting. Desired frequency of obtaining figures was discussed, with BC members preferring monthly figures rather than quarterly. **ACTION:** CB to consult with Jackie Aquah regarding possibility of presenting monthly figures.
- c) BC Photos: HN reminded that BC members needed to provide photos.

071/ 019 Confidential Matters: Confidential matters were discussed.

072/ 019 Action Points for Club Managers/ Board/Others Pending: Request for club website to be made mobile friendly so all content is visible to mobile visitors.

073/ 019 Any Other Business: Logos for the Academy: SDN presented logo samples for the Academy as well as a representation of how a logo could be used to embellish the outside of the building. Creation of an Academy logo design was discussed and how to engage the membership with choosing/finalizing a design. **ACTION:** CW and SDN to organise member engagement.

- a) Next Meeting: The next committee meeting will be on 24 July 2019.

