

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th December 2019 AT 7.15PM

PRESENT: Ms. H. Nicolson; Mr. F. Birks; Mr. R. Debidin; Mr. S. di Nardo; Mr. R. Wheeler and Mr. W. Fannin.

APOLOGIES: Ms. K. Herrity; Mr. K. Manro and Ms B. Marett (Membership & Development Manager).

131/19 Minutes of the meeting of 13th November to be approved: Extended to Sunday 15th. Status of action points were noted including long term actions relating to a) Tournament marketing plan; b) Team selection protocol; b) Lower grade session reviews. All to be actioned in 2020.

132/19 Management: Management not present but HN reported progress on the following:

- a) Affiliations: BE affiliations required for the second instalment of the junior investment funding grant have been completed, and the extended target met to the deadline in November.
- b) Payment issues: Issues regarding academy juniors attending training sessions without making payment at reception has been resolved by HOA and management.
- c) Updating of Website: Progress has been made on updating the website. HN met with Jerry Cheng and went through the badminton section of the site to remove outdated information and update necessary info and links. The new coaches' profiles have also been added for the registered coaches. HN noted that the website could be much further improved on, and a lot more information added, but that this was a big task. Discussion ensued on the need for someone to be responsible for regularly updating and producing content for the website.
- d) Club information leaflet: Information required to update club leaflets kept at reception has been provided to management. **Action BM:** Ensure leaflets are updated.
- e) Time and Leisure advert: BM is working on an advert for the Time and Leisure magazine (January issue) and HN has forwarded some suggestions for badminton content. However, the feature was now likely to be smaller than originally intended, but perhaps with a larger feature to follow later in the year.
- f) Christmas event: A poster advertising the club Christmas party has been circulated. **ACTION ALL: To promote the event.** Catering arrangements has been arranged for end of year graded sessions.

133/19 Report on Board Meeting (with Committee chairs) of 4th December: HN

- a) New Chairman of directors: Peter Friel introduced himself as Chairman of directors until the next AGM. PF noted his commitment to the direction of travel under the previous Chairman and board elected at the last AGM and to continue the work that was in progress.
- b) Board member resignation: Roy Coutinho has stood down as director and was thanked for his valuable contributions since joining the Board.
- c) New Board member and financial assistance: The Chairman introduced new director Richard Egan, to be tasked with HR. The Chairman noted that the board had also approached a member from the squash section, Geoff Chapman, who will be providing some assistance with finance, but has declined an invitation to join the board due to other commitments.
- d) Committee chair reports: The chairs of the committees reported on the sports, and the Chair of the DWP on their work and progress. HN reported to the board on her meeting with BE

relationships manager Chris Evans who had confirmed that the junior membership targets required for the second instalment of the funding grant had been successfully met. Manager was to confirm that the grant had been received in full. HN had circulated and presented the badminton section figures for the financial year 2018-19 and these had been received well. HN had asked for approval of BC proposed changes to payment structure for coaches, in time for these to be implemented from January 2020. A breakdown of the cost of increasing Saturday coaching rates had been presented to the Board.

- e) Membership Procedure and Policy: The new Membership Procedure and Policy (previously circulated) is to be introduced. A new coaching membership fee will not be introduced at this stage.
- f) Sponsorship: The Yonex sponsorship agreement has been finalised and signed. Detailed agreement to be circulated. New Kit had been ordered for the shop.
- g) Next board meeting with committee chairs attending: The 8th January 2020.

134/19

Development:

- **BE funding grant**: HN has met with BE relationships manager Chris Evans and could confirm that junior targets has been met and that the second instalment of the funding grant had been approved.
- **Section finances and investment plans**: The committee discussed the section figures of 2018-19 and how best to invest profits earned (and funding) back into the sport, once a forecast for 2019-20 has been completed. HN noted that small investments could be agreed by the BC while larger investments could be suggested to the Board for consideration. Discussion ensued on how to make small investments which would have the most impact and benefit to members and sessions. It was agreed that main aim should be to improve the quality and experience of sessions and build on the social side to build community and encourage more participation from members also in club tournaments and events. Suggestions included introducing and part funding new social events, session coaches, increasing tournament prizes, providing team shirts to the league teams in the coming season and many more. RD suggested running an inter surrey club tournament, introducing a new trophy and significant prize fund. **ACTION RD**: To investigate possibilities. On the junior side HN noted plans to organise a group trip to the Aros cup international tournament with a team of Academy players. Another investment considered was a projector which would enable the coaches to use video analysis as a coaching tool in the Academy.
- **Session review**: The committee agreed to change the Saturday Veterans session to an open 'Social Session'. Flat rate of £7 for members and friends (visitors). No visitor's fee. No beginners. RD to act as session rep during trial period. **ACTION HN**: To inform manager and staff.
- **Coaching matters/rates**: New agreed rates for Saturday coaches have been presented to the Board for approval. The committee discussed and agreed on new set rates for all other club run sessions in order to simplify the structure and ensure coaches of same level received equal pay when running the same sessions. **ACTION HN**: To inform coaches and management of the new pay rates to be implemented from January. It was noted that Luke Pearce had been helpful lately in covering the Sunday 'Beginners and Improvers' session when necessary, and that it was good to allow coaches to gain experience with different sessions.

- **Court utilisation and teams/matches -planning ahead:** It was noted the limited court availability during peak hours over the winter season was causing issues partly due to the volume and timing of matches held. It was suggested to change the timing of matches next season, so all matches start at 8pm, in order to allow for members to book private courts from 7-8pm. Currently often the courts are empty from 7 to 7.30pm as members tend not to make half hour court bookings.
- Match fees for juniors: Upon request from the Match secretary, the committee agreed to introduce a half price match fee for juniors playing in the league teams.

135/19

Tournaments and Event Planning:

- a) BC meeting with Squash and Board: The date for a 'Meeting with the Badminton Committee' was provisionally set for 22nd January 2020. Meeting to be directly followed by BC meeting.
Action HN: To invite the squash committee and the Board.
- b) The Devlin handicapped Mixed doubles tournament: To be held Sunday 9th of February 2020. Prize money was agreed with increase from previous years to see if this would encourage a larger number of entries. SdN volunteered to develop a poster to advertise the event - **ACTION SdN.** Volunteers will be needed to organise draw and run event on the day. To be confirmed at the next meeting.
- c) Club Championships/other: HN suggested running a separate age group event for the juniors, with finals still to be played on the club finals day. The possibility of running a separate veteran event was also discussed. Both to be decided at the next meeting.

136/19

Communication with members: Following a court booking compensation issue it was agreed that advance booking privileges should not be offered as way of compensation, as this affects the rights of other members and the equal opportunity to book courts.

137/19

Confidential Matters: A confidential matter was discussed.

138/19

Additional Action points for club managers/board: Amendments to session information on club leaflets. Implement pricing changes to relevant sessions.

139/19

Any other business: None.

The next committee meeting was set for 22nd January 2019.