

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE OF THE WIMBLEDON RACQUETS & FITNESS CLUB HELD ON THURSDAY 23rd JANUARY 2019 AT 7.15PM

*(*The meeting was preceded by a BC presentation of the WR&FC Badminton Programme to members of the squash committee and board of directors and so was a shorter meeting than usual.)*

PRESENT: Ms. H. Nicolson; Ms. K. Herrity; Mr. K. Manro; Mr. R. Debidin; Mr. S. di Nardo; Mr. R. Wheeler; Mr. N. Baldwin (director) and Mr. S. Shields (director).

APOLOGIES: Mr. F. Birks; Mr. W. Fannin and Ms. B. Marett (Membership & Development Manager).

140/19 Minutes of the meeting of 11th December to be approved: The minutes were approved. Status of action points were noted. No outstanding actions apart from long-term plans. In regards to action on tournament marketing plan KM suggested that tournament entry/registration flyers could be handed out to session members 4-6 weeks in advance of club tournaments to encourage interest and participation. The committee was in favour of this suggestion. Discussion followed on the use of a potential tournament app and digital display screens used for advertising/information as well as keeping scores. **Action KM:** To investigate tournament apps and display screens and to also revisit the idea of electronic pegboards and whether this is something still worth considering for the graded sessions.

141/19 Report from Board: NB reported as follows:

- a) The facilities and operations manager Mark Atkins has left his post and the Board is considering management options.
- b) The Constant Contact emailing system used to communicate with the membership is to be potentially replaced by an add-on to the Legend system.
- c) A lot of work is being done with the IT system in order to switch away from the existing servers which cause problems with Legend. Generally, the Legend system has been working much better with less complaints and problems reported by staff, but still more inhouse training needed.
- d) Receptionist Angharad Ball is now working full time for the club and has taken over management of the booking system.
- e) Beatrice Marett (Membership and Development Manager) is currently on holiday and Angharad will be point of contact for BC while Beatrice is away. It was advised that the committee support Angharad in doublechecking system bookings during this time.
- f) Managers have confirmed that the BE funding grant for the development of the junior section has been received in full.

142/19 Development:

- **Session review/matters:**
 - Prizing changes for relevant sessions have been implemented and information updated on website and club leaflets.
 - The new Saturday Social session has been introduced and is off to a good start with healthy numbers in the first sessions.

- Graded sessions member figures: Total session members (paid up front) =143. A = 19; B+ =29; B =37; C+ =21; C =8; Friday Open =29. Average weekly No Strings attendants to C session = 7.
Discussion ensued on how to improve the sessions and whether there was still a need to regrade. It was suggested that regrading could be introduced as long term plan, allowing members 2 years advance notice of complete regrade/reorganisation of sessions. HN suggested a solid proposal to be put forward, for the committee to consider and decide. KM offered to work on proposal if there was serious consideration and the committee voted in favour. **Action KM:** To put forward a proposal.
Other suggestions for improving session experience included introduction of a ladder system and potentially introducing more 'pay and play' in sessions. Concerns however were expressed as to how 'pay and play' would affect membership numbers.
 - RD raised a potential payment issue with players attending the C session/No Strings. **ACTION HN:** To try to get updated list of names of session members/players attending.
 - Saturday junior session numbers reached 60 in J1 session last week and receptionist had to be told to not allow any more juniors in. RD suggested a cap be introduced at 56 maximum (8 players per court). The committee was in agreement.
 - Academy numbers currently counting 56 players in total attending the Academy sessions, with new players joining from neighbouring counties.
 - Plans for a new Beginners course to start following the end of the match season were discussed.
- **Coaching matters:** HN reported that the new coaching rates have been implemented with additional lunch offer for Saturday coaches as agreed by BC prior to Christmas. Feedback has been very positive. A BE level 2 coaching course is currently being hosted by the club and two WR&FC coaches are taking the course and being sponsored by the committee. It was also reported that Ben Hunt (elite player WR&FC Performance cell) has registered for private coaching and his profile been added to the coaches display board. It was noted that there was a lack of female coaches and HN noted that Georgina Bland had been invited again to join but had declined due to an already full schedule.
 - **Investment plans:** Further discussions on small scale investments from profits and funding gained. HN presented plans and quotation for photoshoot with professional sports photographer to build stock photos for website and for promotional/informative material for Academy and club. Plans for photoshoot to be arranged prior to the Easter break. Further details to be discussed and confirmed. Discussions on prizes for club championships ensued. To be decided at next BC meeting along with suggestions to improve graded session experience.

143/19

Tournaments and Event Planning:

- a) Senior Gold -summary of report received from Judith Fisher: *This year's event was a great success with the players and the January date, which brought in a good entry for the tournament. Harry Huang, seeded 5/8, was in great form taking out the No ¾ seed, then the No 2, before beating Ethan Rose, the No 1 seed, in the final. There were many long and torrid games*

in the men's singles event. In the women's singles event the No 1 seed Pamela Reyes beat the No 2 seed Amy Hayhoe in the final. The unseeded pair of Dean George and Jonty Russ won the Men's doubles event, taking out the No 1 seeds, Ollie Baczala and Rob Golding, in the semis and the No 2 seeds, Will Jones and Brandon Yap, in the final. No surprise to us oldies as Dean George was and still is a class player. The women's doubles saw the unseeded and junior -but very impressive pair of Abbygail Harris and Estelle Van Leeuwen run out worthy winners against Molly Chapman and Fee Ten Liew, the No 1 seeds. The mixed doubles went the way of the No 1 seeds, Matthew Clare and Viki Williams, defeating the No 2 seeds, Ollie Baczala and Annie Lado in the final. Judith Fisher expressed her thanks to the reception and catering staff, as well as to committee members, who assisted on the day of the event. Issues were raised regarding the tannoy system and lack of chairs for spectators on the finals day. Special thanks extended to Jenny Lacey (tournament secretary) and to John Herdman for help with the draw and tournament software.

- b) Upgrading trials -3rd to 13th February: HN reported that Stuart W, Sam P and Luke P have all agreed to run the upgrading trials again and have been informed as necessary. Stuart W has agreed to manage the trials and the coaches' rota and report back to the BC. RD noted that coaches should also seek some feedback/advice from longstanding session members when considering candidates for upgrades. **ACTION HN:** To advise coaches.
- c) The Devlin handicapped mixed doubles tournament: To be held Sunday 9th of February 2020. Posters are up and entries are open. WF has volunteered to run the event on the day. Draw to be done on Friday 7th February by available BC members. **ACTION HN:** To organise prizes and print the draw.

144/19 **Confidential Matters:** None.

145/19 **Action points for club managers/board:** It was noted that a name had been misspelt on the Club Championship honours board. **Action HN:** To notify management/sign writer.

146/19 **Any other business:** None.

The next committee meeting was set for 19th February 2020.