

## WRFC MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE

### Minutes of zoom meeting on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 AT 7.30PM

**PRESENT:** Ms. H. Nicolson; Ms. K. Herrity; Mr. R. Debidin; Mr. R. Wheeler, Mr. C. Richards; Mr. K. Manro; Mr. S. Wardell (Head of Academy); Ms. A. Ball (Assistant Club Manager) for items 12/20 to 16/20 and Ms C. Wu (Wrfc Safeguarding Officer) for item 15/20.

**APOLOGIES:** Mr. W. Fannin and Mr. F. Birks.

**10/20** Minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020: The minutes of the September meeting were approved prior to the AGM and have been posted on the club website.

**11/20** **Election of Badminton Committee Chairman:** Ms Helle Nicolson was elected chairman and agreed to continue in post.

**12/20** **Report with management:**

- a) A number of issues relating to facilities were raised and discussed including; phone system, faulty heaters and lighting in the new hall. AB confirmed that these were all being looked into and management are working to resolve.
- b) Membership numbers: Current active members = 907 in total. Discussion ensued on membership loss as result of London entering covid tier 2 level. AB noted approximately 100 members had frozen their memberships since tier 2 restrictions were introduced. RW requested breakdown of membership numbers in the different membership categories. **ACTION AB:** To provide breakdown of membership numbers.
- c) Staff communication: It was noted that communication with reception staff needed to be improved to ensure all staff have up to date information and are able to communicate accurate information in response to enquiries from members and potential visitors. AB confirmed management were working on improving communication with staff.
- d) Communication with membership: RW reported that many members would like to receive more frequent email communication/updates from the club management and suggested this could potentially help retain more members while opportunities for play are restricted due to covid. It was noted that brief weekly communication to keep in touch would be more appreciated than infrequent lengthy updates. AB noted and will consult with Manager.
- d) Coaching book/register: It was agreed to introduce a system for all session coaches (Paye and self-employed) to sign in/register for their sessions in order to provide a record of attendance for cross reference and to assist with payroll **-ACTION AB.**

**13/20** **Autumn session review and session figures:**

- The committee discussed the effect of the tier two covid restrictions on the badminton session programme and court utilisation. With tier two restrictions in place all adult sessions have had

to be cancelled with only junior and disability sessions able to continue until further notice. HN noted that all the relevant session coaches have been informed.

- The committee reviewed the session figures for the sessions re-introduced in September, including Sat junior, Academy, Graded sessions and Sunday B&I. Most sessions have been building gradually and covering cost, despite restrictions and reduced participation numbers. RD and CR did not think the Sat junior attendance numbers were accurate and shared concern that reception is not taking payments for all juniors attending. **ACTION RD:** To speak to receptionist for accurate registers. It was decided to reduce the Saturday J4 session to one coach and 2 courts in view of very low attendance. The Academy sessions are flourishing and continue to bring in solid profits and the committee discussed the possibility of introducing additional sparring sessions and/or junior tournaments, while court utilisation is low due to tier two restrictions on adult play. **ACTION SW:** To consider and check on player interest for potential sparring session. SW noted that junior age group nationals are planned to take place in January.
- Graded Sessions: It was agreed to revert to drop-in fees only, if the graded sessions would be able to restart before Christmas.
- Communication with BE: SW has been in communication with Adrian Christy (BE) about impact of tier two restrictions on clubs and possibilities for lobbying government to ease restrictions on adult play in tier two in order to also help retain memberships and improve court utilisation. BE has confirmed they will be lobbying for rule of six to remain in tier two areas to allow adult participation to continue.

**14/20**

**Court utilisation during Tier 2 restrictions:** In order to help boost court utilisation during current restrictions, the committee has agreed to allow coaches to offer private coaching to non-members at the club, subject to normal visitors fees being paid in addition to the court fees and subject to change as soon as restrictions are eased. The Committee further agreed to put forward a suggestion to the Board of temporarily allowing non-members of same household/support bubble to book courts from 7pm when courts are empty (again subject to visitor fees being paid upfront). **ACTION RD:** Draft proposal.

**15/20**

**Safeguarding report (Christine Wu):**

All information on club Safeguarding policy is available via link on the junior page of the club website, including how to contact safeguarding officers and updated email addresses. CW informed the BC of her intention to retire from the position as safeguarding officer by the end of the year and the need to find someone to replace her in the role. The role does not require a vast amount of work but some preliminary training is required. **ACTION ALL:** To consider possible candidates to replace Christine.

**16/20**

**Communication with members:** See 12/20/d re suggestion for more frequent communication to help engage and retain members.

**17/20**

**Tournaments and Events:**

With club under tier two government restrictions no adult tournaments or events will be able to take place before the end of the year. **Senior Gold:** HN noted that the Senior Gold was still scheduled for January 2021 and that a decision needed to be made on whether to continue with

the planning for this event. It was noted that even if able to go ahead the format would be restricted to a limited entry for singles events only, as per recent communication from BE tournament manager. Considering all the restrictions and uncertainties involved it was agreed to cancel the event. **ACTION HN:** Confirm cancellation of event with organisers.

**18/20**

**AGM 2020:** The annual general meeting of September 16<sup>th</sup> was discussed including the financial position of the club and the challenges faced. It was noted that the Board is preparing a Sport England funding application as advised by BE on potential funding opportunities for clubs struggling in face of the pandemic.

HN confirmed there had been no applications from potential BC candidates and so no election to take place.

**19/20**

**Confidential matters:** None.

**20/20**

**Any other business:** SW noted that enquiry should be made as to intentions for the Yonex kit in the club shop so as not to waste all the kit of this season before obsolete. It was suggested that kit could be advertised with special deals to encourage sale before end of season. Management/Board to be consulted.

Date of next committee meeting: To be decided depending on developments/changes to tier system and BE guidelines for play.