

WRFC MEETING OF THE BADMINTON COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7.30PM

PRESENT: Ms. H. Nicolson; Ms. K. Herrity; Mr. R. Debidin; Mr. R. Wheeler, Mr. C. Richards; Mr. S. Wardell; Mr. B. Wadling (Assistant Club Manager) for items 17/21-22/21; Ms. J. Acquah (staff member) for items 17/21-19/21; and Ms. C. Wu (safeguarding officer).

APOLOGIES: Mr. W. Fannin.

Minutes of meeting of 2nd June 2021: Minutes have been circulated and are pending approval by the 16th July. Action points checked for completion.

17/21 **Management report/update:**

- a) Membership numbers: Current active members = 875. A good month with numbers still steadily rising. Lock down drop in membership was steeper than originally thought but we now have more realistic numbers. 'Preferred' sport noted with new members joining. The one month 'taster' membership has not been as popular as expected but overall positive growth.
- b) Covid policy: Email notice to go out to members following lifting of government restrictions. Likely no further restrictions to be in place at the club, with facemasks voluntary.
- c) Court Utilisation: Badminton courts are busy with a high demand.
- d) Session Data: A financial breakdown of session figures for the month of June, circulated in advance of the meeting, was discussed. Figures show a good growth of income and profits from badminton sessions overall, with main profits coming from the junior section as expected.

Some discrepancies in data were discussed and the committee noted need for updating information and for a more clear and concise presentation of data.

It was noted that Saturday coaches are signing in their hours using the visitors book, rather than a designated coaches' book, making it difficult to cross reference and keep track of hours.

ACTION BW: Arrange for coaches' book to be re-introduced.

Further discussions ensued on the need for detailed monthly reports containing reliable session data, including attendance numbers and stats, in order to successfully plan the badminton session programme. It was noted that the live sheets, although could potentially be useful as basic guide, do not provide reliable or sufficient data. A sample spreadsheet for collating data has been created by KH and shared with management team, but BW noted the system would not be able to collate all the info requested and that this would likely have to rely upon manual input by staff as in the past. **ACTION BW** to look into this for a solution so useful and reliable data can be collated.

- e) Elite vouchers: Regular Elite weekly voucher system to be reintroduced for court usage. **ACTION SW.**

- f) Club opening times: Plans for a return to full opening times from 19th July.
- d) Facilities: Issues with card machines were noted but being resolved. Club bar/café reopening on the 19th July for drinks and bar snacks only to start with. Provision of food still to be decided.

18/21

Session reviews: Sunday ‘Beginners and Improvers’ and ‘Thursday Intermediate’ sessions are back to full capacity, seeing numbers matching pre-lock down times. Graded summer season sessions seeing good numbers in some, but more inconsistent and with numbers struggling particularly in the A session. The peg board system has now been re-introduced with reception team replacing the missing pegs. With restrictions lifted and sessions back to normal the committee is hoping to see more members return for the winter season sessions starting in September.

SW confirmed Academy holiday camps are organised for all three ability groups, starting 2nd August for 5 weeks running during the school holidays. Saturday Junior sessions to continue as normal throughout the summer, but on a pay and play basis until September. Aside from J4 all junior sessions are well attended. J3 and J4 has been merged until J4 numbers grow.

19/21

Communication with members: Winner boards needing updating/adding of missing results. The committee discussed options for relocating/replacing winner boards which are full. Options being considered for decision at next meeting.

A member has raised the issue of low numbers of women in the graded sessions as well as membership in general. Discussions ensued on how to attract more women to the club and to the sessions and the possibility of trialling a women’s only session in the new season. Concerns were raised about finding court space and determining player standard for such a session. TBC. Management encouraged to consider ways of targeting women more in marketing of club.

20/21

BE Step 4 from July 19th; session planning for upcoming season: The committee discussed plans for the upcoming winter season: Graded sessions winter season to commence 6th September and run for duration of 31 weeks, ending 15th April 2022. Session fees set at £125 (A,B+ and B) and £110 (C/C+ and Friday Open). Visitor rules for graded sessions to be reinstated from September with all visitors to be vouched for by session reps or Stuart Wardell (Head Coach). Visitor fee £16 regular/£10 for 1st and 2nd team county players visiting A session. **ACTION HN:** confirm details with Michael Caley (reception).

Joyce Wadey has confirmed the match season is expected to go ahead in the coming season and has agreed to act as match secretary for another year with assistance from Daniel Christopher. Match season to commence from 2nd week of October. It has been agreed to enter only 1 team per event each grade (no 2nd teams) and for home matches to start at 8pm on week-nights to free up courts for private bookings from 7-8pm. Team selection dates to be confirmed at next BC meeting.

Other club sessions to continue as usual. SW to plan the term time academy sessions for the coming season. Introduction of additional sessions and beginners’ course to be decided in August.

21/21

Safeguarding report: Safeguarding officer Christine Wu confirmed she will be stepping down from post following the AGM in August. It was noted a confidential matter had been dealt with

and that SW has recently emailed a safeguarding reminder to all the WRFC coaches. Christine has been working with HR on creating an isolated safeguarding page for the club website and employee handbook and has requested the Board make a HR handbook, to include safeguarding information, available to all employees. The committee thanked Christine for her time and considerable efforts as club safeguarding officer over the past years.

22/21

Diary/Events:

-Summer Teams Tournament planned for 17/18th July now moved to 7/8th August due to government restrictions being extended.

-Surrey Masters Team Tournament planned for 28/29th August.

-Surrey Restricted Tournament planned for 25/26th September.

Action HN: Draft an event schedule for the upcoming season, including regular club events.

HN noted plans for some photo shoot sessions with elite and Academy players post Olympics, to provide new material for the club website and other usage.

23/21

AGM August 10th 2021: The planned AGM for July 1st has been postponed to August 10th due to the extension of government covid-19 restrictions. A session to be cancelled on the night and B+ session to run upstairs as AGM to be held in old hall.

All BC members present have confirmed they would like to continue as members of the badminton committee.

24/21

Confidential matters: None.

25/21

A.O.B: None.