

STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE 2014 AGM

[ACCEPTED AT 2014 AGM]

(www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk)

Held at The Orange Tree, Norton Road, Baldock SG7 5AW
on Monday 9th June 2014 at 8.00pm.

Attendance: 17 (15 voting) including three committee members.

(Apologies/Non attendees: Ken Abbott, Couzens, Lingwood, Masters, Saracens, Vauxhall and Whitwell.)

Papers available; attendance sheet, agenda, 2013 draft minutes, balance sheet, Ladies Section, Mens Section, league tables etc.

1. Apologies, As above.
2. Opening address and 2013 AGM minutes Jan Macfarlane thanked all those present for attending and their work as organisers/fixture secretaries during the season. As usual the 2013 AGM draft minutes had been available on the SBL website since last year. **The 2013 AGM minutes were accepted.**
3. Treasurer's Report. Ian reported on the distributed information which this year included the Presentation as it had taken place the previous Saturday. The Presentation made a profit and the income v expenditure for 2013/14 produced a surplus. A one-off 'donation' had been received from Nationwide as a goodwill gesture/apology for inconvenience regarding the SBL Nationwide account. David Rowe commented on the surplus and suggested a review of the surplus in case the SBL bank balances/surpluses are seen as excessive. Ian indicated that currently the SBL finances are in good shape but with the possibility of less income because of fewer teams going forward and constant expenses it is unlikely that funds will continue to rise at any substantial rates. **The balance sheet was accepted. No changes to 2013/14 subscriptions for 2014/15.**
4. Fixtures and 5. Results Jan reported on the distributed information (4 divisions, of 24 teams compared to 3 divisions of 22 teams in 2012/13.) Clubs were thanked for confirming matches which greatly assisted with little/no backlog of matches this season. The loss of Lingwood half-way during the season was a great disappointment and meant that following discussion by Committee, an average system was introduced and advised to D3 teams soon after Lingwood's withdrawal and well before the end of season. This matter resulted in some discussion and following Kevin Meakin's query Jan said that after this AGM she would confirm the Committee decision and the possible alternatives which were rejected and the reasons why*. Jan confirmed (per SBL rules) that when matches have to be postponed a new date has to be arranged within 3 weeks of the original match date. Jan also confirmed that fixtures are circulated with April usually the latest month for scheduled matches – May with 2 bank holidays is not a good month to try to play any matches. [**POST MEETING NOTE: Jan emailed Kevin on 10th June 2014.*]

Full divisional honours as shown on the website;-

Winners D1: Cam Gears A, Runners Up: St Johns A; Winners D2: Norton and Baldock, Runners Up: Academy A; Winners D3: Saracens, Runners Up: Knebworth A.

Winners D4: Academy B, Runners Up: Stevenage AS A.

6. Ladies Section Chris Bullock reported another successful (21st?) and enjoyable season with seven squads playing six matches each with at least 55 ladies playing during the season over a number of Saturdays at Barnwell School. Faye's Birds won the league with Annie's Lassies as runners-up. There was no end of season tournament this year. Rob Wade/St Johns was thanked for his assistance on Saturday mornings at Shephall prior to Ladies Section matches. Chris hoped another team would enter to make 8 for 2014/15. Full results and 2014/15 entry forms (teams with up to 7 ladies) will be on the website.
- The forms should be completed and returned with ladies' nominations to be with Chris by 1st September.** The rules will be on the website and the **monthly match fees will remain as £ 4 but the squad entry fee is reducing from £20 to £15 for 2014/15.**
- All ladies must be registered through their SBL (mixed team) captain BEFORE the first matches due on Saturday 27th September 2014.**
7. Mens Section Jan reported on the fifth season of these Saturday afternoon matches which were matches consisting of a singles and a doubles. There were 7 teams in a single division with 2 matches per afternoon. The winners were St Johns White who just beat runners-up St Johns Red. Full results on the website. As usual the format for next season will depend on entries. Jan confirmed that for 2014/15 it was likely that there would be 3 players per team. Jan advised that she would be in contact with all teams in due course to discuss possible format/s for next season.
8. Plate, SBL CUP & TALOR CUP.
Jan advised the meeting of Ken Abbott's report. There were **19 teams** (up 3 from 16 the previous season) entered in the SBL Cup with first round defeated teams entering the Plate competition. The first round was 'seeded'. Finals results confirmed:- Plate, Academy B beat Stevenage All Strings A 8-7 on games (Rubbers, 3-3); SBL Cup St Johns A beat Cam Gears A 4-2. The Taylor Trophy match was not played for this season.
There was discussion about the possibility of having 'set dates' rather than leaving clubs to arrange matches themselves and also possibly having the first round matches at the same venue on the same day.
9. Tournaments. Jan reported on a seventh successful Junior Tournament and that the **Denise Peat Prize** was awarded to **Rishi Sangane** for his overall effort and sportsmanship. Also a special award was presented to Will Davies.
Two successful tournaments took place - Mens doubles in November 2013 and Mixed doubles in February 2014.
10. Inter-league match – Marshall Trophy. This is not currently played for and although a tournament event took place in 2012/13 both the Letchworth and District Badminton League and SBL committees have agreed not to continue this currently.
11. Presentation Evening. This took place on Saturday 7th June at the St Johns Community Centre, Hitchin and followed the format of the previous year – FUN GAMES. These were devised by committee members of both the Letchworth and Stevenage leagues and it was an enjoyable evening for those attending.

12. 2014/15 Committee. Ian indicated that the Committee agreed to continue and it was **agreed that Ian, Jan, Chris Bullock and Ken Abbott would remain the SBL Committee.**
13. 2014/15 divisions. With Lingwood dropping out during this season and possible loss of other teams including Vauxhall, 4 divisions might be unlikely. **The ‘usual 2 up, 2 down’ (and number of teams in each division) cannot be decided until the number of teams entering the SBL was known.**
 There was discussion about changing the format and number of rubbers. The formats of other leagues including Letchworth, Biggleswade and Hertford Area were mentioned but any change by a particular league was likely to have an effect on other leagues so SBL will continue with 4 men and 2 ladies with 2 rubbers each for 2014/15.
14. Any Other Business
- (i) Time wasting on court was raised and briefly discussed. This was felt to be discourteous at the very least and in some cases could be regarded as ‘gamesmanship’ by breaking up the expected continuity of games etc. Teams/players are encouraged to behave respectfully towards their opponents and in particular regarding this issue.
 - (ii) Scoring by home teams was briefly discussed and consistency in stating the score was important – perhaps agree who would score prior to starting a game/match?
 - (iii) ‘Poaching’ of players by clubs involving encouraging players to leave one club for another was not well regarded and there is a rule
9. k) All players and substitutes must be bona fide members of the club they are representing, and may represent only one club in the league.
 - (iv) After a brief discussion it was agreed that If plastic shuttles are used they must be MAVIS 370 and the SBL Rules 2014/15 will confirm.
15. Close. There being no further business, **PRE-SEASON ENTRY FORMS (PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTS FOR 2013/14 TEAMS WHO WERE AGM ATTENDEES AND ‘SECOND/ADDITIONAL TEAMS’) WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE PRESENT (FOR RETURN WITH FEES BY MONDAY 7TH JULY 2014. Ladies Section forms were also available**

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

ISM 4/11/14