

STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE 2017 AGM **accepted at 2018 AGM**

(www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk)

Held at The Three Horseshoes, 102 Norton Road, Letchworth Garden City SG6 1AG
on Monday 12th June 2017 at 8.00pm.

*Attendance: 13 (10 voting) including three committee members. (Apologies/Non attendees: **Chris Bullock (Committee member), and Saracens and Stevenage.**)*

Papers available; attendance sheet, agenda, balance sheet, Ladies Section, league tables etc.

1. Apologies. As above.
2. Opening address and 2016 AGM minutes. Jan Macfarlane thanked all those present for attending and their work as organisers/fixture secretaries during the season. As usual the 2016 AGM draft minutes had been available on the SBL website since last year. **The 2016 AGM minutes were accepted.**
3. Treasurer's Report. Ian reported on the distributed information which showed a total season surplus of £75.92* and a closing balance of £849.07. (*2017 AGM attendees were enjoying a 'free drink' so balance at the start of the 2017/18 season would be reduced (by £42.35) accordingly. **The balance sheet was accepted. [NB for 2017/18 fees SEE P3 below.]**
4. Fixtures and 5. Results. Jan reported on the distributed information - Divisions 1 & 2 both consisted of 6 teams, Division 3 originally had 5 teams, but Icarus withdrew at the start of the season without playing a match, leaving only 4 teams. (This compared to 3 divisions of 6 teams in 2015/16.) There was only one conceded match, but as it could have affected the final league positions the average system was used to determine final positions in Division 2 (with Cam Gears B in 4th position and Academy C in 5th and Saracens 6th).
Full honours as shown on the website;-
Winners D1: St Johns A, **Runners Up:** Masters; **Winners D2:** Norton and Baldock, **Runners Up:** Stevenage; **Winners D3:** Redhoods, **Runners Up:** Knebworth B.
SBL Cup: Winners: Masters, Runners Up: Academy A. (Sadly there was an injury to George Geary of Academy - he was wished a speedy recovery.)
Plate: Winners: Norton and Baldock; Runners Up, Academy C.
Presentations of Trophies and medals were made at the AGM to winners and runners-up representatives accordingly.
6. Ladies Section. Jan reported on another successful (24th) and enjoyable season with eight squads playing seven matches each. Matches were played over 7 Saturdays at Barnwell School. Annie's Lassies won the league with Double Trouble as runners-up. Full results and 2017/18 entry forms will be on the website.
All ladies section players must be registered through their SBL (mixed team) captain BEFORE the first matches due in the 2017/18 season.
7. Mens Section. Jan reported that securing teams of 3 men had been difficult for a number of matches on a series of Saturdays so a Tournament was arranged in October. **The winners were St Johns Red, with Knebworth close runners-up.**
8. SBL CUP and Plate. Jan reported. As in the previous year **12 teams** entered and they were seeded and split into Cup and Plate groups of 6 teams each. The fixtures were incorporated into the league fixtures so all league and cup dates were sent out at the start of the season to assist clubs/teams. There were 2 groups of 3 teams in both Cup and Plate but Icarus dropping out prior to playing a match disrupted the Plate format. However group winners played in the finals with results shown in 4 above.

9. Tournaments. Jan reported on a tenth successful Junior Tournament with 3 boys' groups and 1 girls' group. The **Denise Peat Prize** was awarded to **Ziggy Lyall** for his overall effort and sportsmanship. Although Mens and Mixed Tournaments were scheduled, not enough entries were received prior to the 'closing date' so to avoid losing SBL money the courts and thus the tournament/s were cancelled.
10. 2017/18 Committee. **Jan, Chris, Trevor and Ian agreed to continue**. Matt Glew thanked committee members and the meeting showed appreciation as well.
11. 2017/18 League format and divisions, Cup and Plate. Jan reported that Icarus are likely to rejoin the SBL for 2017/18. A request had previously been put to the SBL committee by one of the SBL clubs to consider changing the format of the SBL matches from Mixed 6s to Medley 4s. Although the committee had been told that Icarus were likely to rejoin the SBL for the 2017-18 season, the committee knew of one or two other clubs/teams who were likely to leave the SBL, either because they would prefer to play in a Medley format, or were simply having problems finding four men for each match. This situation could, therefore, possibly leave the SBL with only around fourteen clubs rejoining. All the clubs had been asked for their views regarding changing format or running an additional format (Medley 4s) prior to the AGM. About 50% of clubs wished to remain with a Mixed 6s format and about 50% of the clubs said they would like to see a Medley 4s element added to the SBL, so the committee felt it was the right thing to trial Medley 4s for the 2017-18 season. Discussion included all issues of a new Medley 4s section including cost to the players. **IT WAS AGREED to trial a Medley 4s section alongside the original Mixed 6s**. It was hoped that there would be enough teams in both sections to give teams a reasonable number of games, and some clubs said they would probably enter teams in both sections.

Entry forms for both the Mixed 6s and Medley 4s were given out. The original date for the forms to be returned was 10th July. However, Simon Carter had advised the meeting that the future of the Letchworth League (whose AGM was scheduled for the 11th July) was in doubt. This outcome of this could affect what teams clubs decided to enter into the SBL.

Jan said therefore that the deadline for the **return of entries to the SBL would be extended to the 14th of July**, but asked that all clubs concerned decide on two scenarios before the Letchworth AGM – what they would do if the Letchworth League continued and what they would do if it did not – so that they could then fill out the forms appropriately and send them in immediately after the Letchworth AGM with no further delay. Elaine Drury also asked that clubs get their entries in to the SBL on time as she needed the SBL Fixtures to be done as soon as possible to enable her to begin the Biggleswade Fixtures around the 1st August. Elaine needs the SBL fixtures to avoid unnecessary clashes of dates.

It was noted that should the medley format be included for SBL matches in 2017/18, the rules will need to be amended accordingly which SBL Committee will address.

Regarding **Cup and Plate**, it was decided to wait until the season was underway with the two formats/sections in place and then the committee would look at whether it was possible to run both the Cup and Plate – maybe with a different format – over the coming season. Some clubs expressed disappointment if there were was not a Cup/Plate competition; others felt there would be enough matches without it. The same applied **to the Mens Section**.

12. Shuttles. The sponsorship offer from Nick Goode was discussed but the Mavis 600 was preferred. Clubs were generally not keen on the shuttles offered by Nick and it was too late in the season to trial them. **IT WAS AGREED** that when stocks of Mavis 370s were used up by clubs, the SBL league (plastic) shuttle would be the Mavis 600 – colour either yellow or white but blue/medium speed.

13. Close. There being no further business, **PRE-SEASON ENTRY FORMS* (PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTS FOR 2016/17 TEAMS WHO WERE AGM ATTENDEES AND ‘SECOND/ADDITIONAL TEAMS’) WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE PRESENT (FOR RETURN WITH FEES BY MONDAY 10TH JULY 2017 (extended to 14th July as per Item 11 above). Other forms etc will be available on the website.**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

ISM 30/6/18

*[*2017/18 fees - £30 per team or £25 for existing teams attending AGM and £10 per team for second and subsequent teams from the same club. Cup, £10 per team but subsequently no cup competition in 2017/18.]*