

STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE 2019 AGM

www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk

Held at The Three Horseshoes, Baldock Lane, Willian, SG6 2AE
on Wednesday 26th June 2019 at 8.00pm.

Attendance: 16 (12 voting) including three committee members.

*(Apologies/Non attendees: **Chris Bullock (Committee member), and Saracens.***

Chris Boar, Norton & Baldock was briefly in attendance at the beginning to sign in (only))

Papers available; attendance sheet, agenda, balance sheet, league tables and 2019/2020 SBL entry forms etc.

1. Apologies. As above.
2. Opening address and 2018 AGM minutes. Ian Macfarlane thanked all those present for attending and their work as organisers/fixture secretaries during the season. As usual the 2018 AGM draft minutes had been available on the SBL website since last year. **The 2018 AGM minutes were accepted.**
Matters Arising – (i) per Item 11 last year, shuttles, Ian advised he had not written to the manufacturer because after using the Mavis 600 shuttles for a while they could be classed as ‘satisfactory’. However, the meeting felt that because they did not last as long as the Mavis 370s, more of the 600s had to be purchased for use during a season, thus increasing expenditure.
(ii) per item 13, new/proposed serving rule – the meeting was unaware of any change to the previous/existing serving rule.
3. Treasurer’s Report. Ian reported on the distributed information which showed a total season deficit of £27.83 (2018, deficit £82.92) and a closing balance of £696 (2018, £724). Committee expenses were as the previous season. There was no indication of an increase for 2019/20 SBL fees. **The balance sheet was accepted.**
4. Fixtures and 5. Results. Jan reported on the distributed information for both the Mixed 6s and the Medley 4s. As for 2017/18, Divisions 1 & 2 of the Mixed league consisted of 6 and 5 teams respectively and the Medley league had 2 divisions of 5 teams each. There was one conceded match. Full honours will be shown on the website (currently undergoing maintenance);-
Winners MIXED 6s D1: Academy A, Runners Up: Masters; Winners MIXED D2: Knebworth B, Runners Up: Cam Gears; Winners MEDLEY D1: Academy A, Runners Up: Couzens; Winners MEDLEY 4s D2: Knebworth, Runners Up: Cam Gears.
Presentations of Trophies and medals were made at the AGM to winners and runners-up representatives accordingly. There were no SBL Cup or Plate events this year.
6. Ladies Section. Jan reported on another successful (26th) and enjoyable season with seven squads playing six matches each. Matches were played over 7 Saturdays at Barnwell School and the winners were not decided until the final Saturday. Enigma won the league with Funky Monkeys coming runners-up. Full results and 2019/20 entry forms will be on the website. *(See item 9 regarding 2019-2020 venue.)*
All ladies section players must be registered with the SBL BEFORE playing in the Ladies Section.
7. Tournaments. Jan reported on a 13th successful Junior Tournament with 2 boys’ groups and 1 girls’ group. The **Denise Peat Prize** was awarded to **Neha Kubair** for her overall effort and good sportsmanship. There were no other tournaments in 2018/19.
8. SBL CUP. Jan reported at the 2018 AGM that it was proposed *to have an SBL Cup played for on one afternoon. It will be a team event, not a knockout tournament.* Unfortunately, although there were a number of teams keen to play, it was one less than required to make it viable so it was cancelled shortly before the due date of Saturday 26th January 2019 at Barnwell.

9. **Additional Item - Barnwell.** Jan confirmed that the operation of Barnwell was switching from the school to a commercial organisation (SSL). The new organiser's aim was for greater profit from larger events and contact from them advised that although bookings can be made, they would not be guaranteed and so could be cancelled at short notice. This was not acceptable for SBL events, in particular the Ladies Section. St Johns and Strings were aware of the change but more inclined to 'hope for the best', even though costs were increasing fairly substantially. (For SBL, Ladies Section from £6ph to £10ph.). Good responses came to Jan when she had previously advised SBL clubs of the situation at Barnwell and asked for any possible alternatives. Hitchin Girls School and Kingshott School were suggested and in particular Martin Cleaves advised the meeting that Couzens had moved to Kingshott and after some initial teething problems, the venue is well regarded by Couzens. Jan said she and Ian would be visiting soon and subject to all being well, confirm provisional 2019/20 Ladies Section dates. A possible difficulty on Ladies Section afternoons was if large all-day events took all/majority of car park spaces. It is hoped that any other events clashing with Ladies Section may be forewarned and/or none or few in number. The meeting was positive about Kingshott.
10. **2019/20 Committee.** Jan, Chris, Trevor and Ian agreed to continue.
11. **2019/20 Tournaments.** Jan confirmed there would not be a Junior Tournament (usually in the Autumn). Due to the loss of Barnwell and the effect on St Johns with Rob Wade losing court time for his juniors, and doubt over the future of Knebworth juniors, it would be more difficult next season to organise a Junior Tournament. No other tournaments are planned.
12. **2019/2020 League Format and Divisions.** Jan hoped that the same number of teams would enter both formats next season ie 21 teams involved in Mixed 6s and Medley 4s continuing. **Entry forms** for both the Mixed 6s and Medley 4s were given out. Jan stressed the need for **completed forms to be returned by the stated date of FRIDAY 12th JULY** so that fixtures can be completed as soon as possible and to assist other local leagues. It was advised that the Letchworth league may have a fixtures' meeting when all next season's matches will be arranged at a meeting of all Letchworth league representatives.
13. **Proposed rule change.** Jan said that she had received feedback over recent seasons that particularly strong substitute/s had played against one specific team only and no other teams had faced the same strength of opposition throughout the season, therefore potentially disadvantaging one team. Various options and proposals were discussed. It was agreed to keep rules simple; Andy Jones suggested that a new rule be added: "teams must endeavour to use substitute players of a broadly similar playing standard to the player being substituted". **A vote was taken resulting in eight FOR, none AGAINST, 2 ABSTENTIONS – the AGREED new rule will be included in the 2019/20 SBL rules.**
14. **Close.** There being no further business, **PRE-SEASON ENTRY FORMS (PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTS FOR 2018/19 TEAMS WHO WERE AGM ATTENDEES AND THOSE CLUBS WITH 'SECOND/ADDITIONAL TEAMS') WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE PRESENT (FOR RETURN WITH FEES BY FRIDAY 12TH JULY 2019. Other forms etc will be available on the website.**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

ISM 9/2/20