

## STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE 2023 AGM

[www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk](http://www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk)

Held at The Three Horseshoes, Baldock Lane, Willian, SG6 2AE  
on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 8.15pm.

*Attendance: 14 (10 voting) including two committee members.*

*(Apologies/Non attendees: Strings BC and Saracens BC (both previous SBL Clubs))*

1. **Apologies** As above.
2. **Opening address** Ian Macfarlane confirmed that his wife Jan Macfarlane had passed away in February with over 200 people attending/viewing the funeral in March and many afterwards at Knebworth House. Ian confirmed that the family's chosen charities will be receiving in excess of £1,000 each and Ian thanked all those who sent not only donations but cards and messages including those who left 'memory cards' on the day of the funeral, read by Ian and daughters Heather and Helen on Jan's birthday, 12<sup>th</sup> May. Ian made available the order of service from Jan's funeral and a set of badminton pictures featuring Jan, provided by the Bartletts. Ian paid tribute to his wife Jan including personal history of their past time at school together and then meeting at Twenty BC in Potters Bar before marrying in 1978. Jan and Ian joined what was then the Stevenage Mini Badminton League committee for the 1988-89 season. John and Sue Searle and John and Denise Peat had been previous committee members and the Macfarlanes with Gill and Dave Bartlett and (3?) others from Gosling BC became the SMBL committee. The SMBL then SBL had over 30 teams in 4 divisions in the 1980s with annual tournaments, including Juniors and in excess of 100 attendees at end of season events, separately from then combined with the Letchworth league. Jan, a qualified badminton coach, had also run the North Herts Village League and for many years she was the SBL driving force on the committee which included Chris Bullock who with Jan kept the very successful Ladies Section running for over 20 years. Jan was disappointed that she didn't play so much in recent seasons but she continued to support Codicote BC and of course the SBL by organising fixtures, being fixtures secretary and match secretary. Jan's final season has just concluded and Ian asked those present to raise their glasses 'in memory of Jan'!
3. **2022 Minutes** Ian confirmed these had been on the SBL website since last year and referred to Item 10. Shuttles – "Mavis 600s would remain the SBL plastic shuttle". *[Confirming that the 2022 Minutes indicated a continuation of Mixed 6s and Medley 4s, but 2022/23 had two divisions of Medley 4s. Also, Jan did make attempts to progress a 'Ladies Section' event and although a number of clubs/ladies were contacted, no SBL ladies event took place in 2022/23.]*

**The 2022 AGM Minutes were accepted.**

- 4 (i). **2022/23 Season - finances** Ian reported on the finances that showed a closing balance of £531.81, being a surplus of £97.28 for 2022/23 so far. Expenditure still to come is trophy engraving. Ian reminded the meeting that a substantial balance had been in place because of insurance costs when

tournaments were taking place and until recently not all SBL clubs had been Badminton England registered. **The finances were accepted.**

Referring to previous situations when an SBL player had passed away, Ian reminded those present that he had sent an email indicating a possible donation from the SBL to charities indicated on the SBL website in memory of Jan Macfarlane. After a brief discussion Martin Cleaves suggested a £50 donation from SBL, split 50/50 between those 2 charities; **the meeting agreed the SBL £50 donation.**

4 (ii). **2022/23 Season – fixtures and results** Ian reported that all matches except one were played and that did not cause the ‘average system’ to be used to determine league positions. The season’s format was **Medley 4s** with 2 divisions of 5 teams in each, so 8 matches played per team. Results: D1 Winners: Kites A, Runners-Up: Norton and Baldock; D2 Winners: Academy, Runners-Up Kites B. As last year, in order to be more ‘eco-friendly’ and saving expenditure, certificates replaced medals for this season and divisional trophies and certificates were awarded to Kat Aresti for Kites A and B, Chris Boar for Norton and Baldock, and Robert Tucker for Academy.

5. **2023/24** Ian indicated that he may be willing to remain as a committee member and treasurer but wanted to see what clubs/teams would be re/joining the SBL and offered those present the opportunity to join the committee. The following indications were offered by those present: - Kites – 2 teams, Norton and Baldock – 1, Redhoods – 2, Couzens – 1, Cam Gears – possibly 2 (up from 1 in 2022/23), Academy – 1, Icarus – 1, What A Racquet – 0 (*subsequently Marleen indicated that she would ask her club members about continuing*). In addition, Ian advised that his contacts with previous SBL clubs, including Strings and Saracens had resulted in possibility of a return to SBL. Trevor Bird also indicated his willingness to continue as an SBL Committee member, supporting Ian as he had supported Jan and Ian previously. **Ian and Trevor to continue as SBL Committee members for 2023/24.**

The above indicated possibly 10 teams playing in two divisions in the (2 men, 2 ladies) Medley format for the forthcoming season and Ian indicated his willingness to continue on the committee BUT not to arrange fixtures. Ian suggested as per other leagues, notably the Hertford Area, that an evening could be arranged for all clubs/teams to meet and arrange fixtures themselves. **The meeting agreed and the AGM venue was booked again, for an SBL fixtures meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September.**

6. **AOB** Elaine was concerned about the lack of volunteers to assist with keeping local leagues going and hoped more would be forthcoming in the future. Ian thanked those present for their SBL support and indications of intention to continue for the 2023/24 season.

7. **Close** Ian advised that he would send **Medley 4 forms by email shortly with a completion/return date for entry forms of Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> July.** The SBL Annual subs will continue as **£15 per team plus £5\* for second/additional teams ie 2 SBL teams = £15 + £5 = £20.** (\* Not £10 as indicated at the AGM.). There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm. ISM 30/6/23