

STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE 2022 AGM

(Accepted at AGM 5/6/23)

(www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk)

Held at The Three Horseshoes, Baldock Lane, Willian, SG6 2AE

on Wednesday 29th June 2022 at 8.00pm.

Attendance: 8 (all voting) including two committee members.

(Apologies/Non attendees: Trevor Bird (Committee member), and Academy, Kites and What A Racket.

Papers available; attendance sheet, agenda, balance sheets.

1. Apologies. As above.
2. Opening address and 2019 AGM minutes. Jan Macfarlane thanked all those present for attending and their work as organisers/fixture secretaries during the season. As usual the 2019 AGM draft minutes had been available on the SBL website since last year. **The 2019 AGM minutes were accepted.**

Matters Arising – (i) per Item 13, Proposed rule change “teams must endeavour to use substitute players of a broadly similar playing standard to the player being substituted” had been included in SBL rules (8.f) for 2019/2020 and is current.

3. 2019/20 Season*. Jan confirmed that the season had effectively been completed prior to covid 19 restrictions with all matches (including Ladies Section Saturday afternoons) played, except one Mixed 6s.

The average system operated where necessary. **Mixed 6s** D1 Winners: Masters; D2 Winners:

Redhoods. **Medley4s** D1 Winners Academy A; D2 Winners Icarus.

4. 2020/21 Season*. Because of the continuation of the covid 19 pandemic, no matches were played. *(* There were no 2020 or 2021 AGMs but end of season emails and information including finances were circulated to SBL clubs on 13th July 2020 and 25th July 2021.)*

5. Treasurer’s Report. Ian Macfarlane confirmed that the Season 2018/19 finances were on the SBL website and showing a closing balance of £696.17 within the SBL accounts held with NatWest Bank and Nationwide Building Society. With the email as above, dated 13th July 2020 Season 2019/20 finances showed a closing balance of £741.27. This figure did not include expenditure for end of season trophies/engraving for £197. Ian referred to the finances available this evening, **(i) Season 2019/20 (incl 2021 items)** – Income of £1,180.86 and Expenditure of £1,372.11 = deficit of £191.25. Major expenditure included insurance (£363.34), Ladies Section venue hire (Kingshott School, £660) and the trophy engraving (£197). The closing balance was £504.92.

(ii) Season 2021/22. Reduced league fees and no insurance costs because all SBL matches were required to only include Badminton England registered players thus including insurance through that registration. League insurance was not required because there were no additional events/tournaments/Ladies Section matches scheduled. Total in come of £90.07 and expenditure of

£160.46 = deficit of £70.39 and closing balance (at **28/6/22**) of £434.53 in the SBL NatWest and Nationwide accounts. [NB Notice received from Nationwide that all Treasurers accounts are to be closed so Ian will transfer the Nationwide monies to NatWest in due course.] **The balance sheet/s were accepted.**

[POST MEETING NOTE: Regarding SBL subscriptions, the 2021/22 subs were reduced from previous years to £10 per team plus £5 for second teams from the same club; in order to get closer to break even for 2022/23, the subscriptions are likely to increase, probably to £15 plus £5.]

6. 2021/22 Season. Jan reported that badminton matches were played again but because there was so much uncertainty within clubs to begin with, league matches could not commence until later than a 'normal' season. In the **Mixed 6s** there were originally 7 teams and when asked, teams stated a preference for 1 match only against other teams which would have meant 7 teams having 6 matches. But after fixture dates had been published and the season started, Masters regretfully felt that had to withdraw, which meant 6 teams only having 5 matches per team. Lower ranked teams (previously in Division 2) were given home match preferences.

In the **Medley 4s** there were 5 teams, each team playing other teams twice so 8 matches played per team. All fixtures were played. Results: Mixed 6s Winners: Norton and Baldock, Runners-Up: Cam Gears; Medley 4s Winners: Cam Gears, Runners-Up: Couzens. In order to be more 'eco-friendly' and saving expenditure, certificates replaced medals for this season and divisional trophies and certificates were awarded to Chris Boar for Norton and Baldock, Elaine Drury for Cam Gears and Martin Cleaves for Couzens

7. 2022/23 Committee. **Jan, Ian and Trevor agreed to continue.**

8. 2022/2023 League Format and Divisions. Jan asked those present for their thoughts about the coming season and all indicated likely to be similar to the 2021/22 season with Mixed 6s and Medley 4s. Other clubs were mentioned who had previously played in the SBL – Saracens, Strings and Stevenage BC. Regarding Saracens, Ian advised the meeting that sadly Rob Sewell who had been a player for many years had passed away. Jan said she would arrange fixtures according to the number of entries. Entry forms will be circulated to clubs with request for return by end of July.

9. Ladies Section. Jan reminded the meeting that SBL insurance cover had previously been in place, particularly for tournaments and Ladies Section matches which were played at venues requiring liability insurance to be in place for the organisers, ie the SBL Committee. Without those events, and with the requirement that all players in SBL matches were Badminton England registered there was no need for insurance expenditure. Discussions included how much the ladies had enjoyed the 20+ years of their matches on Saturday afternoons but there had been difficulties in recent years securing full teams and often on the Friday nights before, much effort required to ensure full teams for the next day. It was unlikely to return to the past format of teams playing at in one venue once a month but

Jan suggested ladies teams could be formed as previously by ladies from different clubs joining up and playing at SBL club venues ie single matches on different evenings. This could mean playing on club nights and may lead to difficulties with court time and availability. **Jan agreed to contact the previous Ladies Section captains for their views in order to see what might be possible for 2022/23.**

10. Shuttles. SBL rule 6. *The home team will supply the shuttles – either plastic or feathers. If plastic shuttles are used, they must be MAVIS 600s. (Teams may use Mavis 370s until their stock runs out.) Teams must state at the start of the season which shuttles will be used and inform the Committee and opposing teams beforehand if there is any change during the season.*

Couzens use feathers and others were having difficulty obtaining Mavis 600s with Kites having had poor experience recently of playing with Mavis 600s. After brief discussion it was agreed that Mavis 600s would remain the SBL plastic shuttle.

11. Close. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

The intention is for Pre-Season entry forms for the Mixed 6s and Medley 4s to be available shortly, for completion and return by the end of July so fixtures can be arranged for circulation as soon as possible after that and matches to commence in October, with the 2022/23 season through to April 2023.

ISM 20/7/22