

STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE 2009 AGM – accepted at
2010 AGM

www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk

Held at Paynes Park Social Club, Hitchin

on Monday 15th June 2009 at 8.00pm.

Attendance: 24 (18) including three committee members and 1 representing St Johns A and B, 1 representing Norton Baldock A and B, 1 representing Vauxhall A and B, 1 representing Academy A and B and 1 representing Knebworth A and B.

(Non attendees: Broadway, Icarus, Saracens and Whitwell.)

Papers available; attendance sheet, agenda, 2008 extract minutes, 2008 draft minutes, balance sheet, Presentation figures etc, Marshall Trophy figures etc and Ladies Section, league tables.

1. Apologies, Chris Bullock (Committee member), **Icarus, Saracens and Whitwell.**
(Broadway are unlikely to be re-entering the SBL for 2009-10.)
2. Opening address and 2008 AGM minutes Jan Macfarlane **thanked all those present** for attending and their work as organisers/fixture secretaries during the season., Ian read a letter he had written on behalf of the SBL and advised (as per 2008 AGM POST MEETING NOTE) that he had sent a **donation to Imperial College Trust in memory of Carl Couzens**, who had sadly passed away before the 2008 AGM. Ian asked for the meeting's approval for reimbursement of the donation and this was readily agreed. **The 2008 AGM minutes were accepted.**
3. Treasurer's Report. Ian reported on the distributed information which as usual includes income and expenditure for the complete (2008/9) season although this year the final adjustments relating to the previous week-end's Presentation and Marshall Trophy were included in 'outstanding amounts'. Surplus £91.53 and closing balance £933.99. Ian referred to work performed by committee members and in particular the commitment of Chris Bullock to ensure each Saturday's Ladies section is a success. The **surplus** was mainly due to the very good attendance at the annual Presentation Quiz Night. Because of the surplus and credit balance Ian did not recommend any changes for subscriptions for 2009/10.
The balance sheet(s) were approved. No changes to 2008/9 subscriptions for 2009/10.
4. Fixtures and 5. Results Jan reported on the distributed information (4 divisions, of 28 teams, 2 more than 2007/8 when there were also 4 divisions). There were **no conceded SBL league matches.**
Full divisional honours as shown on the website:-
Winners D1: Masters, Runners Up: Cam Gears A; Winners D2: Cam Gears B, Runners Up: Purwell; Winners D3: Academy A, Runners Up: Onyx; Winners D4: St Johns B, Runners Up: Academy B.
6. Ladies Section In Chris Bullock's absence, Jan read out Chris' short report confirming the **continuing success of these** monthly matches throughout the season with the Henriksson Tournament on the final afternoon. Eradicators (Icarus/Cam Gears) won the league and Henriksson Trophy and there was a new squad entering from Academy. Full results on the website. Chris is happy to continue in her role and asked for suggestions regarding improvement or variation of the Ladies Section.

7. Plate, SBL CUP & TALOR CUP.
 Ken Abbott advised that **18 teams** (down 1 from 19 the previous season) entered in the SBL Cup with first round defeated teams entering the Plate competition. One team (and visiting opposition) played a match incorrectly under 'Letchworth rules' – no deciding game after playing a 1-1 rubber! The opposition did not challenge the situation and the final result was not affected.
 There was confusion over substitution rules and Ken confirmed that all substitutes must be registered SBL players, can only substitute if registered for a lower team or as a club substitute and can only substitute twice for a team in combined Cup/Plate run. This does not apply to the Taylor Cup match. Rules are on the website. Good sportsmanship during the competitions and high standard of play particularly in the finals were again evident. Finals results confirmed:- Plate, Strings beat Academy A 4-2; SBL Cup Cam Gears A beat Norton and Baldock A 4-2; Taylor Trophy Masters (Holders) beat Cam Gears A 6-0.
8. Tournaments. Jan reported on a third successful Junior Tournament at which the **Denise Peat Prize** was awarded to Luke Bird for his good-natured enthusiasm and effort. Over 30 youngsters competed in the tournament held in October 2008. Thanks as usual to Gabor, Rob Wade and other clubs and parents who encouraged their youngsters to progress in playing. In response to a query, Jan confirmed that the Junior Tournament was for under-18 year-olds. There were also 3 very successful tournaments, a men's singles and doubles and a mixed (with the ladies being catered for by the Ladies Section – see above). All results and some pictures are on the website.
9. Inter-league match – Marshall Trophy. Ian reported that as requested last year, the format had returned to trying to involve all clubs in both the Stevenage and Letchworth leagues and in the first 3 'divisional' matches the 3-3 results were proof of good organisation by Jan and Bob Green with the help of the clubs involved. However division 4 produced a rather one-sided result because of SBL's league players playing against a team of mainly non league players. This year also reverted to Letchworth league format (3 men, 3 ladies). So the Marshall Trophy result was **a win for Stevenage**, 1-0 with D1, D2 and D3 halved (3-3).
 This meant a 5-4 overall Marshall Trophy result in the 9 years it has been played for. (The 2002 result is incorrectly engraved!)
10. Presentation Evening. Ian reported on a **good success** again in terms of attendance (about 120) and surplus (£450 total) shared between both Letchworth and Stevenage leagues. Thanks to Elaine Drury who suggested Timbers/Tudor Oaks after it was agreed by Stevenage and Letchworth committees that we should not return to Arlesey Football Club for 2009 after our 'uninvited guests' came close to spoiling our joint event and no acknowledgement was received to our joint letter to Arlesey FC.
11. 2009/10 Committee. Jan thanked Richard Adams in particular for his assistance at the Junior Tournament which was a result of Richard's offer to assist, at the 2008 AGM. 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**. Words of appreciation came from Elaine Drury and others for the work done by the Committee.
12. 2009/10 divisions Jan advised that Broadway were likely not to be re-entering the SBL next season but it was hoped that perhaps a second Purwell team might enter to accommodate some Broadway players. It was also likely that Icarus B would not be re-entering but Academy were likely to enter a third (C) team. Thus **hopefully the 2008/9 total of 28 teams in 4 divisions will continue**. As usual '2 up 2 down' depends on the number of/teams re-entering and at what level.

13. Any Other Business

(i) Change of match dates; Melanie raised the issue of teams asking to change match dates, and with Masters trying to accommodate such requests not only in the SBL, they found themselves having to cram matches in at the end of the season. This prompted a discussion of how this situation should be addressed with points made in previous years being made again, eg dates should be fixed and matches not rearranged just because a team does not have all their usual/best players available; if a game has to be rescheduled because the away club has requested they should (offer to) pay the unused court costs; once confirmed, a match cannot be changed, etc. It was subsequently agreed (*14 votes for*) that **a rule should be brought in** based on words Ian put to the meeting
If an away team asks for a rearrangement within the 10 day confirmation period then that team must offer to pay the court costs incurred by that rearrangement. This rule is in place except for what can be deemed 'exceptional circumstances', beyond a team's control. It is hoped that the teams involved will come to an amicable agreement regarding the imposition of this rule and also any 'exceptional circumstances', such as severe weather conditions eg heavy snow.
Further discussion suggested that teams that postponed on more than one occasion might be 'named and shamed' but it was felt that viewing the website could identify date changes for example by a different colour and that any team being the cause of this on several occasions would be identified accordingly.. The meeting was reminded of the appropriate rule, 20 about informing Jan as Fixtures Secretary of the rearranged date which should be agreed before the date of the original match date.

(ii) Publication of results; It was suggested that to give SBL/badminton a higher profile, **local newspapers should be approached** with a view to having SBL results published. Discussion brought the matter of Badminton England affiliated leagues having their results published but those results are only published to affiliated players in the Hertfordshire county newsletter thus not reaching a wider public/circulation. It was recalled that Jim Last had several years ago managed to get a very good end of season report about league positions and a report on the Marshall Trophy. Jan will try and persuade local press (The Comet) to give the SBL some coverage during the coming season.

(iii) Men's singles; Jan advised the meeting that she understood that this was going to be raised by Adrian and she reported on previous attempts to get a men's singles ladder started a couple of years ago but although the men's singles tournament played during one afternoon was proving successful, the ladder was not – it did not 'get off the ground'. Derek Cox of Broadway earlier this year had suggested incorporating a men's singles rubber into the SBL format, not only to add a new dimension but also to cause a match result as this would be the decider if previous rubbers in the match had resulted in a 3-3 draw. SBL Committee were not minded to include a men's singles on that basis but Jan suggested that a **Men's Section** could be run on a similar basis to the SBL Ladies Section that had been so successful for many years. This suggestion had a positive reaction from the meeting and various formats were discussed. It was suggested that there could be 4 or 6 men in a team and play matches like the Ladies, on a number of Saturday afternoons during the season. As long as players were registered with an SBL team they could play with players from other clubs and identify themselves by a team name not necessarily linked to an SBL team name (again, like the Ladies). Jan said that based on discussions and what the meeting indicated would be most favoured, she would circulate a suggested format shortly after the AGM, asking for definite interest from clubs.

(iv) Teams from the same club; Ken suggested that if **2 teams from the same club** were in the same division then the 2 matches should be played before Christmas. Brief discussion among those present resulted in the suggestion that they should be the first 2 matches in the season. With that agreement Jan will make efforts to arrange fixtures accordingly.

14. Close. There being no further business, **PRE-SEASON ENTRY FORMS****
(PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTS FOR 2008/9 TEAMS WHO WERE AGM
ATTENDEES AND 'SECOND TEAMS') WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE
PRESENT (FOR RETURN WITH FEES BY FRIDAY 10TH JULY 2009). Ladies
Section forms were also available. (On the reverse is a pre-printed blank listing**
for team nominations which will hopefully be completed and returned at the same
time as the entry forms – BY 10TH JULY.)
The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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June 2010