

STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE 2011 AGM –

Accepted at 2012 AGM

(www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk)

Held at Paynes Park Social Club, Hitchin

on Monday 13th June 2011 at 8.00pm.

*Attendance: 18 (16 voting) including three committee members and
Irepresenting St Johns A and B,*

*(Apologies/Non attendees: Academy, Hatfield, Saracens, Ward Freman and
Whitwell.)*

*Papers available; attendance sheet, agenda, 2010 extract minutes, 2010 draft minutes,
PROVISIONAL balance sheet, and Ladies Section, Mens Section, league tables.
PROVISIONAL Presentation figures etc, Marshall Trophy figures etc.*

1. Apologies, As above.
2. Opening address and 2010 AGM minutes Jan Macfarlane **thanked all those present** for attending and their work as organisers/fixture secretaries during the season.
The SBL had had a good season with 29 teams in the mixed league and many Saturday afternoons at Barnwell/Shephall Leisure Centre with 5 tournaments, Ladies and Mens Sections.
The 2010 AGM minutes were accepted.
3. Treasurer's Report. Ian reported on the distributed information which was not for the complete (2010/11) season because the Marshall Trophy figures and Presentation figures were yet to be finalised. Ian noted that the small deficit shown would have been a smaller credit if the Marshall Trophy had not been played; SEE BELOW re Marshall Trophy discussion.
The balance sheet was accepted. No changes to 2010/11 subscriptions for 2011/12.
4. Fixtures and 5. Results Jan reported on the distributed information (4 divisions, of 29 teams, + 1 from 2009/10. There was **one conceded SBL league match** (but this did not affect promotion/relegation so the 'average system' was not required). Jan advised that the 'average system' had been made available several years ago to replace the possibility of teams gaining promotion by obtaining 6 points when matches were not played. The SBL website has again featured the number of outstanding matches/results and it was felt that this had assisted in match results being kept up to date.
Full divisional honours as shown on the website;-
Winners D1: Masters, Runners Up: Cam Gears A; Winners D2: Academy A, Runners Up: Strings A; Winners D3: St Johns B, Runners Up: Datchworth; Winners D4: Ward Freman, Runners Up: Redhoods.
6. Ladies Section In Chris Bullock's absence Jan reported on the **continuing popularity** of the monthly matches throughout the season for 8 teams with the Henriksson Tournament on the final afternoon. "Eradicators" won the League and "Faye's Birds" won the Tournament/Rosebowl. Full results and 2011/12 entry forms will be on the website.
7. Mens Section Jan reported on the the second season of these Saturday afternoon matches. There were 2 divisions of 6 and 5 teams respectively with St Johns A winning Group A and Strings winning Group B and Great Ashby won Group C. It was more difficult to get teams out but reserves usually filled in when required. **One match was not played.**
8. Plate, SBL CUP & TALOR CUP.
Ken Abbott advised that **17 teams** (down 5 from 22 the previous season) entered in the SBL Cup with first round defeated teams entering the Plate competition. The draw was

done as usual by non-SBL Committee members with both Strings teams and both St Johns teams drawn against each other. Ken reported on the finals and Finals results confirmed:- Plate, Academy B beat Redhoods 5-1; SBL Cup Cam Gears A beat Saracens 6-0 (but some very close games). Taylor Trophy Masters (Holders) beat Cam Gears A 4-2. Ken observed there was match congestion at the end of the season partially due to Bank Holidays so hopefully that will be avoided next year and he asked for more entries from lower divisions.

9. Tournaments. Jan reported on a fifth successful Junior Tournament and that the **Denise Peat Prize** was awarded to William Wade for his overall effort and sportsmanship. There were also 3 other successful tournaments, a men's singles (numbers less, possibly reflecting singles matches being offered by the Mens' Section) 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. Jan confirmed that Denise Peat who had been a previous SBL Committee member for several years but had sadly passed away a few years ago, was 'remembered' by her husband John (of Onyx) by his donating a trophy – not for a winner but a youngster who enjoyed their badminton and made an effort not just for themselves but also his or her partners during the afternoon of the Junior Tournament.
10. Inter-league match – Marshall Trophy. Jan reported that following even greater effort from both Stevenage and Letchworth Committee members to ring round in trying to obtain a pair from clubs, there were enough players for the match. The new format was 3 mixed pairs from each league in 4 groups with each pair playing 3 rubbers of 2 games only. The result was Letchworth 42 games, Stevenage 30 games (a draw was possible!) Thanks are due to Marshall Trophies in Stevenage for their 'sponsorship' by originally donating the Trophy and engraving 48 medals each year, free of cost.
This meant a 6-5 (to Stevenage) overall Marshall Trophy result in the 11 years it has been played for. (The 2002 result is incorrectly engraved!)
Because it appeared that all clubs were having difficulty each year in supplying players the meeting was asked to vote on whether those present would like the Inter-league match to continue. **The meeting voted in favour of the Inter-league match continuing.**
11. Presentation Evening. This joint Letchworth/Stevenage leagues' event took place on Saturday 11th June 2011 with new day, venue and format. A Saturday was selected (rather than a Friday as in previous years) because some clubs indicated their support would be greater than on a Friday (club night). The format changed from a quiz to a barn dance and most attendees participated in an enjoyable evening. Letchworth Committee members were thanked for their efforts, particularly Ali Worsely as she had booked the venue and printed tickets. Over 100 attended including several 'juniors'. Costs (venue and band) were higher and entry fee increased for the first time in several years from £5 to £10. Ali's idea of tickets as raffle tickets was a good idea with attendees writing their names on. About 15 raffle prizes were generously provided by clubs/attendees. The profit was likely to be £200+ to be shared between the 2 leagues but to be finalised as it was hoped/expected that the Plinston Hall deposit/s would be returned (being £100+). The success and feedback indicated that it was **likely that a barn dance would be repeated in 2012.**
11. 2011/12 Committee. 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, Chris Holley and others for the work done by the Committee.
12. 2011/12 divisions. Jan and some teams represented indicated that there might be a loss of 3 teams. In addition Chris Holley indicated that Onyx may have to withdraw. Because of the date of the Letchworth league AGM (6th July)** , Jan agreed that the date for return of SBL entry forms could be extended to Friday 8th July for those clubs awaiting the

outcome of the Letchworth league discussions etc so long as the forms were in the post the following day (ie to reach Jan by 8th July). 2010/11 was 4 divisions with 7, 7, 7 and 8 teams = 29 total; if the same number of teams enter for 2011/12 season then promotions/relegations would be **the ‘usual 2 up, 2 down’ but this cannot be decided until the number of teams entering the SBL was known.**

(** The Letchworth league were considering a change of format from 3 men, 3 ladies to 2 men, 2 ladies and the outcome of any decision/s at the Letchworth AGM might impact upon SBL teams, particularly Onyx for 2011/12.)

13. Any Other Business

(i) Club representatives and transfer of responsibilities; Jan outlined difficulties where clubs/teams had different contacts from those originally named/at the start of the season and it was important for not only others to be aware of who the new contacts were and their details but also that the SBL website should be updated. **Clubs were urged to ensure that Jan was advised so that the website could be changed as necessary and also that new representatives were passed/provided with all details given to known club representatives at the beginning of each season.** This was also important regarding the cup ie the SBL Committee need to be informed of any club representatives changing.

(ii) proposed rule change (addition to Rule 20), no match cancellation prior to 14 days of fixture date – after discussion it was **AGREED, NO CHANGE** to current rule but 14 days for Knebworth (because of Gosling Stadium cancellation arrangements).

(iii) proposed rule change (new Rule 21), teams from same club in same division must play each other ‘home’ and ‘away’ by end of November – after discussion this was **AGREED**. (Jan said she would try and arrange those fixtures early in the season to assist.)

(iv) proposed rule (new Rule 22), at least 4 SBL league matches must be completed prior to Christmas each season (except if there are circumstances beyond a team’s control AND with SBL Committee agreement) – after discussion this was **AGREED**.

Because of the above, the current Rule 21 will become Rule 23.

(v) match refreshments – Jan referred to an email from Knebworth and the suggestion that refreshments need not be provided when there are 2 courts available at a leisure centre for a match. It was appreciated that many clubs provided excellent refreshments, particularly those with only one court available (so ‘sit outs’ were longer for more players). After discussion it was felt that there could be minimal provision by home teams but it was hoped at least a (cold) drink/juice.

(vi) in discussion about more use of electronic communication for league and cup information, after the initial 2011/12 ‘pack’ of information being circulated by post, the meeting was advised that the SBL might be providing ‘on line scoring’ in future with trialling expected to take place during the coming season.

14. Close. There being no further business, **PRE-SEASON ENTRY FORMS (PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTS FOR 2010/11 TEAMS WHO WERE AGM ATTENDEES AND ‘SECOND/additional TEAMS’) WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE PRESENT (FOR RETURN WITH FEES BY FRIDAY 1st JULY 2011 – see 12, above).**

There was also a new form for those MEN interested in playing in the Mens Section in 2011/12. Ladies Section forms would become available in due course.)

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

ISM 13/5/12