

STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE 2012 AGM

[Accepted at 2013 AGM]

(www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk)

Held at Paynes Park Social Club, Hitchin

on Monday 18th June 2012 at 8.00pm.

Attendance: 19 (16 voting) including three committee members and 1 representing St Johns A and B, and 1 representing A, B AND d.

(Apologies/Non attendees: Norton and Baldock, Saracens, and Whitwell.)

Papers available; attendance sheet, agenda, 2011 extract minutes, 2011 draft minutes, PROVISIONAL balance sheet, and Ladies Section, Mens Section, league tables. PROVISIONAL Presentation figures etc.

1. Apologies, As above.
2. Opening address and 2011 AGM minutes Jan Macfarlane **thanked all those present** for attending and their work as organisers/fixture secretaries during the season.
The 2011 AGM minutes were accepted.
3. Treasurer's Report. Ian reported on the distributed information which as last year was provisional with the Presentation finances to be confirmed. A loss was reported and disappointingly the Presentation Dance also resulted in a loss. Malcolm suggested a saving for the SBL to become affiliated to Badminton England with insurance being provided. Jan said she would address this point with suggested savings for the SBL later in the meeting. **The balance sheet was accepted. No changes to 2011/12 subscriptions for 2012/13.**
4. Fixtures and 5. Results Jan reported on the distributed information (4 divisions, of 23 teams, 6 less than 2010/11. Academy C dropped out at the start of the season leaving only 5 teams in Division 3. **There were no conceded matches. Online scoring was in place** for the season 2011/12. Jan asked that scoresheets should be retained by the away team as well as the home team.
Full divisional honours as shown on the website;-
Winners D1: Masters, Runners Up: Cam Gears A; Winners D2: Vauxhall A, Runners Up: Strings A; Winners D3: Academy B, Runners Up: Datchworth; Winners D4: Vauxhall B, Runners Up: Academy D.
6. Ladies Section Chris Bullock apologised for her absence at last year's AGM and reported on **an excellent 20th season** with 8 squads, 7 matches for each, involving 55 ladies. The Henrikson Shield Tournament ended the season as usual and Chris thanked the ladies for a lovely bouquet presented to her on the final Saturday.
"Double Trouble" won the League and "Faye's Birds" won the Tournament/Rosebowl.
Full results and 2012/13 entry forms (teams with up to 7 ladies) will be on the website.
The forms should be completed and returned with ladies' nominations to be with Chris by 1st September. The rules will be on the website and the **monthly match fees will remain as £ 4 but the squad entry fee is increasing to £10 for 2012/13.**
All ladies must be registered through their SBL (mixed team) captain BEFORE the first matches on Saturday 15th September 2012.
7. Mens Section Jan reported on the third enjoyable season of these Saturday afternoon matches which were matches consisting of a singles and two doubles. There were 9 teams in a single division with 2 matches per afternoon. The winners were Spartans who just beat runners-up Purwell on games. Full results on the website. As usual the format for next season will depend on entries

8. Plate, SBL CUP & TALOR CUP.
 Ken Abbott advised that **19 teams** (up 2 from 17 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 drawn against each other for the second successive year. 26 matches played, 1 conceded. Ken reported on the usual competitiveness and sporting behaviour. Finals results confirmed:- Plate, Academy B beat Codicote 6-0 (third successive year Academy B have won the Plate); SBL Cup Cam Gears A beat St Johns A on points with the (rubbers) score 3-3 and games at 7-7. Taylor Trophy Masters (Holders) beat Cam Gears A 4-2 – a close match with result depending on final rubber. Ken reported that one match result had not been entered on the website and requested that results are entered and confirmed as soon as possible after the match; this will assist in monitoring substitutes as more players are playing for more clubs. Also slow reporting of results caused slow starts to subsequent rounds. Melanie asked that Masters be allowed to play in the SBL Cup. (As holders of the Taylor Cup for several years they have not had any cup matches as such but awaited the winners of the SBL Cup in a single cup (final) match. **Committee will consider this request.**
9. Tournaments. Jan reported on a sixth successful Junior Tournament and that the **Denise Peat Prize** was awarded to **Hee Li Leung** for his overall effort and sportsmanship. The Men's singles tournament did not take place because entries appeared to be affected by singles matches offered by the Mens Section. Both the Mens doubles and Mixed doubles were successful (with the ladies being catered for by the Ladies Section – see above).
 John Hamblin hoped that there might be a Mens singles tournament in the coming season and Jan asked that any men interested in such a tournament should email her confirming.
10. Inter-league match – Marshall Trophy. Jan reminded the meeting of the history where Stevenage and Letchworth divisional winners used to play against each other but once the leagues began having different numbers of teams/divisions it was changed to trying to involve players from all the clubs. Each year was difficult with committee members taking much time and effort to complete the two teams of 24 players each. In 2011/12 it proved impossible to secure sufficient players so the match was postponed. Both league committees have agreed to make the match more of an 'event' being open to all (**league registered players**) who wish to play and it is hoped to offer mixed and level doubles to those entering on **Sunday 30th September**. Details will be on both league websites in good time.
11. Presentation Evening. Following last year's success and feedback this joint Letchworth/Stevenage leagues' event took place on Saturday 16th June 2012. It was a barn dance on a Saturday for the second successive year and at a new venue, (because 2011 venue, Plinston Hall was closed/being refurbished) the Spirella Ballroom, Letchworth. It was very disappointing to have the second lowest total of attendees (71) at an excellent venue but having been lead to believe about 90 would be in attendance, sadly not enough league teams supported the annual event.
 The loss is expected to be £75 (**POST AGM NOTE: £75 LOSS CONFIRMED**) shared by both leagues with Spirella deposit hopefully returned (being £100). Both league committees will need to seriously consider 2013 event to make it successful. It was thought that the increased ticket price including a raffle ticket should NOT include a raffle ticket next year and raffle tickets should be sold separately. A larger loss was prevented on the evening when Elaine and Richard's pilot friend offered flights in his private aircraft so another £90 was raised by a 'last-minute' raffle. The venue and band had been significant expenditures so other venues were suggested Matt Glew was asked to check the Broadway Hotel for a possible reduced rate that Redhoods obtain. Discussion

included changing back to a Friday and that a possible venue, Hitchin Town Hall was due to close.

12. 2012/13 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 and others for the work done by the Committee.

13. 2012/13 divisions. Although Academy were only likely to have one team in the SBL, Jan Reported that there had been interest from new teams. Knebworth indicated that they might enter 2 teams. Jan indicated that if there were 21 teams it was likely to be 3 divisions, if 24 teams, 4 divisions. Malcolm suggested 'one and a half ends' if there were only 5 teams in a division. **The 'usual 2 up, 2 down' cannot be decided until the number of teams entering the SBL was known.**

14. Any Other Business

(i) SBL Finances; Jan referred to the 2011/12 loss as reported above and wished there to be NO increased league fees. In referring to Malcolm's suggestion of affiliation to Badminton England, Jan said that the SBL had traditionally not been an affiliated league but encouraged clubs to affiliate. The 30+ year-old SBL was 'inclusive, not exclusive' effectively encouraging youngsters and clubs who are starting badminton, without additional costs initially. Jan asked Malcolm whether there were any other advantages of becoming affiliated and Malcolm confirmed that it was just insurance. Jan's suggestion was to reduce the engraving costs relating to trophies. As a league SBL has been quite generous with league and tournament trophies, providing for runners-up and beyond, depending on the number of tournament entries.

With the higher proportion of the trophies/engraving costs of up to £500 being engraving, Jan suggested that only winners have engraved trophies/medals and runners-up and beyond have labels that have been used in recent years. In discussion it was felt that it would be a shame to do this but on a vote it was **AGREED**, with 1 abstention.

(ii) Proposal (by Ken) that in the Cup/Plate, the team 'lower' in the SBL should be given a home draw. After discussion, this was amended to 'in the first round' and on a vote, 9 FOR, 4 AGAINST (3 ABSTENTIONS). **AGREED**

There was discussion on sharing costs, playing cup matches in the same week and playing rounds earlier.

(iii) Presentaion/Fund-raising; Melanie advised the meeting of a very successful Masters fund-raising event ('Soul Man') with tickets selling very well because of members' efforts; perhaps a sub-committee could be formed to assist the leagues' committees. It was suggested that the Biggleswade League be invited to participate in the Presentation evening. **The SBL Committee will review suggestions and discuss with the Letchworth League Committee.**

14. Close. There being no further business, **PRE-SEASON ENTRY FORMS (PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTS FOR 2011/12 TEAMS WHO WERE AGM ATTENDEES AND 'SECOND/ADDITIONAL TEAMS') WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE PRESENT (FOR RETURN WITH FEES BY MONDAY 9TH JULY 2012. Ladies Section forms were also available**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

ISM 16/7/12