

STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE 2015 AGM

[Accepted at 2016 AGM]

(www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk)

Held at The Orange Tree, Norton Road, Baldock SG7 5AW

on Monday 22nd June 2015 at 8.00pm.

Attendance: 16 (12 voting) including four committee members. (Apologies/Non attendees: Couzens, Icarus, Great Ashby, Saracens and Strings.)

Papers available; attendance sheet, agenda, 2014 draft minutes, balance sheet, Ladies Section, Mens Section, league tables etc.

1. Apologies, As above.
2. Opening address and 2014 AGM minutes Jan Macfarlane thanked all those present for attending and their work as organisers/fixtures secretaries during the season. As usual the 2014 AGM draft minutes had been available on the SBL website since last year. **The 2014 AGM minutes were accepted.**
3. Treasurer's Report. Ian reported on the distributed information which this year did not include the Presentation as there was not going to be one (SEE BELOW). A donation had been made to the Alzheimer's Society in memory of Anne Lundie who had been such a great player and supporter of local badminton for many years and had been 'responsible' for the formation of the Ladies Section team, "Anne's Lassies". Last season's figures were available and had been on the SBL website and Ian confirmed that a one-off 'donation' had been received from Nationwide (last season) as a goodwill gesture/apology for inconvenience regarding the SBL Nationwide account. This donation has been used to provide the SBL with a good stock of shuttles and 'centres' for trophies as we had been running down the stock in recent years. In view of the 'healthy' balance the deficit for 2014/15 was acceptable. The Cup/Plate competitions had lost money (SEE BELOW). **The balance sheet was accepted. No changes to 2014/15 league subscriptions for 2015/16.**
4. Fixtures and 5. Results Jan reported on the distributed information (3 divisions of 7 teams compared to 4 divisions, of 24 teams in 2013/14 and 3 divisions of 22 teams in 2012/13.) There were a lot of postponements. Kathryn advised of difficulties with lack of responses to emails and doubts whether emails had reached the appropriate personnel. Jan said if there was difficulty contacting a club then get in touch with her as she may have 'alternate' contact information.
Jan spoke about Rule 21 regarding playing at least 4 matches pre-Christmas – 1 team had only played 1 match in 2014 (in the 2014/15 season). D1 was the worst division for (not) playing matches leaving more than 50% outstanding (to be played) at 1st March 2015. Rule 21 is a difficult rule to enforce, however the SBL Committee strongly advised that it is adhered to in order to assist with the smooth-running of the season.
Conceded matches were discussed and the use of the 'average points' system (see Rule 18) had to be used for D1 this season. It was important to play matches and to have as few conceded matches as possible.
Rule 19 (a) was referred to regarding the confirming of each match and Jan reminded teams of also informing her when a match has been confirmed (usually by copying her into to a 'confirmation' email).
Matt Glew suggested that the SBL Committee had a mandate to make decisions based on the SBL Rules as they think fit and appropriate and the meeting supported this.

Full honours as shown on the website;-

Winners D1: St Johns A, **Runners Up:** Cam Gears A; **Winners D2:** St Johns B, **Runners Up:** Saracens; **Winners D3:** Academy B, **Runners Up:** Academy C.

SBL Cup: Winners: St Johns A, Runners Up: Cam Gears A.

Plate: Winners: Academy B, Runners Up, Knebworth B.

Presentations of Trophies and medals were made at the AGM to winners and runners-up representatives accordingly.

6. Ladies Section Chris Bullock reported another successful (22nd) and enjoyable season with seven squads playing six matches each. There were nearly 70 registered ladies which included regular team players and possible 'subs'. Matches were played over 7 Saturdays at Barnwell School which is still well regarded and appropriate as an SBL venue.
Eradicators won the league with Annie's Lassies as runners-up; both these teams involved a mix of players from a number of SBL clubs.
Full results and 2015/16 entry forms will be on the website.
All ladies section players must be registered through their SBL (mixed team) captain BEFORE the first matches due in the 2015/16 season.
7. Mens Section Jan reported on the sixth season of these Saturday afternoon matches which were matches consisting of a singles and a doubles. There were 9 teams involving 3 men in each team playing 2 matches per afternoon. **The joint winners were St Johns Red and St Johns Blue.** Full results on the website. As usual the format for next season will depend on entries with forms available on the website.
8. Plate, SBL CUP & TALOR CUP. Ken reported. There were only **12 teams** entered (down 7 from 19 teams the previous season) in the SBL Cup. One team withdrew causing difficulties for organising but Knebworth B were thanked for making the number of teams back up to 12 (6 going into the Plate and 6 into the Cup). Four 'round robin' groups of three teams were arranged with the winners participating in either the Plate final or Cup final. Ken advised that as per the SBL league matches that this was the worst season for having to chase teams up to play cup matches with postponements etc. Some fixture secretaries worked very hard to ensure matches were played so thanks to them.
Knebworth B were 'rewarded' for stepping in at the last minute by reaching the Plate Final. The SBL Cup Final was as usual, very close and played to a very high standard. SBL Cup Winners: St Johns A, Runners Up, Cam Gears A (4-2); Plate Winners, Academy B; Runners Up, Knebworth B (5-1). Ken praised all those involved over many years in the cup competitions and also sporting behaviour. The Taylor Trophy match not played this year.
Discussion took place about the financial loss of the Cup and Plate but **the meeting AGREED to increase the fee from £5 to £10** for 2015/16 and see how many teams entered before Committee make a decision to have the competition/s or not. Further discussion included whether to play some rounds on the same date but no decision made.
9. Tournaments. Jan reported on an eighth successful Junior Tournament and that the **Denise Peat Prize** was awarded to **James Franklin** for his overall effort and sportsmanship. Two successful tournaments took place - Mens doubles in November 2014 and Mixed doubles in February 2015. All results on the website
10. Inter-league match – Marshall Trophy. No change from a decision by Letchworth and District Badminton League and SBL committees' agreement a couple of years ago not to continue this currently.

11. Presentation Evening. There will not be an end of season joint event with the Letchworth League this year as agreed by both leagues. Although enjoyed by those attending, the effort by committee members resulted in a disappointing number of 58 attendees. However Lauren Dear of St Johns has offered to assist both Letchworth and Stevenage league committees in 2016 and this was welcomed and Lauren thanked.
12. 2015/16 Committee. Ian indicated that **Jan, Chris and Ian agreed to continue** but after many years as an SBL committee member, Ken would be standing down. Ken was thanked for his valuable contributions and in particular in recent years, organising and running the cup and plate competitions and attending many tournaments, assisting and ensuring their smooth running. A gift was presented to Ken and the meeting warmly applauded and thanked him. The committee have a number of SBL players in mind to add to their number and approaches are being made accordingly. Words of appreciation were spoken by Elaine and endorsed by attendees.
13. 2015/16 divisions. **The ‘usual 2 up, 2 down’ (and number of teams in each division) cannot be decided until the number of teams entering the SBL is known**. It is hoped that there will be an unchanged number of teams for next season with not less than 6 teams in each division and Jan urged the entry forms to be returned as soon as possible.
14. Any Other Business
 - (i) Rule 8g – Jan referred to this rule and emphasised that players **MUST** be registered before playing a match. Oversights had been treated as such in the past but because recent AGMS had asked Jan to be firm on this rule and prevent teams being unable to put results on the website because of unregistered players Jan was acting accordingly.
 - (ii) Rule 11b – Jan referred to the rule about players only playing in one match at a time and advised that there had been a case of a player not adhering to this rule this season and thus the team had been penalised accordingly.
 - (iii) Refreshments were discussed – it was recalled that provision of refreshments may have been in the SBL rules a few years ago but was now up to each club in what was provided. As long as each venue has a drink available for players that is the minimum. It was noted that a number of clubs were still extremely hospitable and it was deemed to be welcomed if clubs playing at ‘single court’ venues provided some light refreshments as sit outs were longer than if leisure centre/2-court venues were used for matches.
 - (iv) Shuttles – Jan advised the meeting that Nick Goode of Goode Sports and Ashaway stockists asked if their new shuttles could be brought to the meeting’s attention. Brief discussion took place and some interest shown but Rule 7 would stand for the 2015/16 season – ‘if plastic shuttles used they must be MAVIS 370’.
 - (v) Results – in response to a query, Rule 13b was confirmed - result details to be put on the website within one week (at the latest) of the match being played.
PLEASE NOTE – all score sheets MUST have first and second names of all players completed and score sheets signed by BOTH captains (SBL RULE 12).
15. Close. There being no further business, **PRE-SEASON ENTRY FORMS (PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTS FOR 2014/15 TEAMS WHO WERE AGM ATTENDEES AND ‘SECOND/ADDITIONAL TEAMS’) WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE PRESENT (FOR RETURN WITH FEES BY MONDAY 13TH JULY 2015. Other forms etc will be available on the website.**