

STEVENAGE BADMINTON LEAGUE 2010 AGM - accepted at
2011 AGM

www.stevenagebadmintonleague.co.uk

Held at Paynes Park Social Club, Hitchin

on Monday 14th June 2010 at 8.00pm.

Attendance: 24 (18 voting) including four committee members and 1 representing St Johns A and B, 1 representing Vauxhall A and B, 2 representing Academy A, B and C.

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

Papers available; attendance sheet, agenda, 2009 extract minutes, 2009 draft minutes, balance sheet, and Ladies Section, Mens Section, league tables. ~~Presentation figures etc, Marshall Trophy figures etc.~~

1. Apologies, As above.
2. Opening address and 2009 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 successful season with 28 teams in the mixed league and 18 Saturday afternoons at Barnwell being 5 tournaments, Ladies and (the new) Mens Sections. Ian read a letter from Professor Chung advising that **£3,535 had been donated to Imperial College Trust in memory of Carl Couzens**, who had sadly passed away in 2008.
The 2009 AGM minutes were accepted.
3. Treasurer's Report. Ian reported on the distributed information which unusually was not for the complete (2009/10) because the Marshall Trophy figures were yet to be finalised and the Presentation was yet to take place (both joint events with the Letchworth league). Ian supplied the previous season figures for comparison and drew the meeting's attention to a number of items and in particular at the Notes confirming the outstanding items. Also end of season trophies are yet to be purchased. Ian stressed the need for a good attendance at the Presentation Quiz Night, as usual as the amount of/any SBL season surplus will be dependant on this event.
The balance sheet was accepted. No changes to 2009/10 subscriptions for 2010/11.
4. Fixtures and 5. Results Jan reported on the distributed information (4 divisions, of 28 teams, as 2008/9. There were **no conceded SBL league matches**. The SBL website has featured the number of outstanding games/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: Onyx, Runners Up: Icarus; Winners D3: Strings A, Runners Up: Vauxhall A; Winners D4: Academy C, Runners Up: Great Ashby.
There was discussion regarding the confirmation of matches prior to the scheduled date (Rule 20) and in particular how it affected Knebworth playing at Gosling with court charges made. Richard Adams confirmed that Masters had not experienced the difficulties that Melanie had highlighted at the 2009 AGM other than teams not confirming matches. It was hoped that some dates would be left free by clubs for SBL cup matches. It was confirmed that the published figures were likely to stop at Easter.
6. Ladies Section Chris Bullock reported on the **continued success** of the monthly matches throughout the season for 8 teams with the Henriksson Tournament on the final afternoon.

“Double Trouble” won both League and Cup. Full results and 2010/11 entry forms will be on the website. Chris is happy to continue in her role and urged all ladies who wished to play even if not in teams, to put their names forward as it was always good to keep as many ladies on the ‘reserve list’ as possible. 2010/11 dates are already booked at Barnwell. Chris confirmed that a number of youngsters had played during the season. Chris was thanked for her involvement during the season and willingness to continue.

7. Mens Section Jan reported on the the first season of these Saturday afternoon matches. There were 3 divisions of 5, 4 and 4 teams respectively. Palmer’s Prodigies won Group A, Cam/Cod/Strings won Group B and Great Ashby won Group C. Indications, confirmed by Richard, were that this was an enjoyable season and will continue for 2010/11 with the format dependent on entries.
8. Plate, SBL CUP & TALOR CUP.
Ken Abbott advised that 22 **teams** (up 4 from 18 the previous season) entered in the SBL Cup with first round defeated teams entering the Plate competition. One team withdrew prior to the first round and another match was forfeited.
As previously high standards of sportsmanship and play in the finals were evident. Finals results confirmed:- Plate, Academy B beat Datchworth 6-0; SBL Cup Cam Gears A beat St Johns A 3-3 (8-6 in games); Taylor Trophy Masters (Holders) beat Cam Gears A 4-2. Ken asked that fixtures secretaries anticipate Cup/Plate matches and hold a free date (every six weeks/two months). Also could cup/plate contacts ensure that team captains are aware of the rules that are specific to the Cup/Plate competition.
9. Tournaments. Jan reported on a fourth successful Junior Tournament with a record number of entries at which the **Denise Peat Prize** was awarded to Carmen Au for her overall effort and sportsmanship. 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. Ian 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. Ian reported that following the usual effort from both Stevenage and Letchworth Committee members to ring round in trying to ensure that each club was represented, 4 ‘divisional teams’ represented each league ie 48 players in total at the annual match on Sunday 13th June (*yesterday*) at Hitchin Boys School. The result was a win for Stevenage 3 divisions to 1. 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 6-4 overall Marshall Trophy result in the 10 years it has been played for. (The 2002 result is incorrectly engraved!)
11. Presentation Evening. This joint Letchworth/Stevenage leagues event was scheduled to take place on Friday 25th June 2010 and Ian encouraged all clubs to make an effort to attend in numbers as this event greatly assisted in keeping league subscriptions down by providing surplus funds (to the Letchworth league as well). This year after a lot of effort by the Committees of both leagues it was believed that the best venue available was the Collingwood Suite, Gosling Sports Park, Welwyn Garden City. (The 2009 venue, Timbers had changed hands and costs greatly increased.) For several years the venues have been to the north of the leagues’ ‘playing area’ and it was hoped that to come south for once would not be detrimental. Matt Glew advised that as Friday was Redhoods’ club night they were unlikely to have (many) attendees. Purwell are another club with their

club night on Fridays. In discussion Saturday was considered as a possible night to change to but Richard thought that either night would have disadvantages as far as some are concerned. The venue and disco total will be £300 (£200 in 2009)

11. 2010/11 Committee. Richard Adams was thanked for his assistance again at the Junior Tournament. 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 Chris Holley and others for the work done by the Committee.

12. 2010/11 divisions Jan thought that it was possible that 2 teams might not re-enter but 2 new teams might join the SBL. Academy and Icarus indicated that they would be the 2 new teams. Thus **hopefully the 2009/10 total of 28 teams in 4 divisions will continue**. Jan asked for the preferred number of teams in a division and 8 was felt to be a 'maximum' with 14 matches and 7 teams with 12 matches probably most favoured. Five divisions of 6 teams each was not 'encouraged'. As usual '2 up 2 down' depends on the number of/teams re-entering and at what level.

13. Any Other Business

(i) Veterans Tournament; Jan reported that she had received a number of inquiries as to whether a Vets tournament could be considered. Discussion took place regarding the possible sensitivity regarding 'age' of vets and it was suggested that 50+ was an appropriate minimum with possible handicapping in favour of older players. It was felt that some clubs may have members who would appreciate the opportunity to play in a vets tournament on that basis. Jan indicated she would consider sending out a questionnaire to clubs seeking their feedback etc.

(ii) Knebworth BC; Thomas advised that several Knebworth players were leaving (amicably) to form a new club – Hatfield BC. This was likely to just mean a change of name for 2010/11 with the 'same' teams/personnel re-entering – just a name change.

(iii) Cup matches; Gabor suggested the SBL consider the idea that the Letchworth league had implemented for its cup matches – individual rounds all taking place on the same night/at the same/neutral venue (Letchworth Tennis Club). Matt Glew was in favour as playing their (additional) matches at Fearnhill had caused some difficulties for them. Richard Adams thought that a fixed first round date might be a positive idea to get the cup matches started and it was also a 'social occasion' with so many clubs together. The meeting acknowledged that this would put an onus on the SBL Committee and the member responsible Ken Abbott but Richard hoped that clubs might take on/share some responsibility.

The SBL Committee would discuss this further and see what difficulties etc the Letchworth league experienced.

(iv) Inter-league match – Marshall Trophy was further discussed; trying to achieve 2 balanced teams; whether individual names could be put forward well in advance of the match date; perhaps a draw 'out of a hat' basis.

14. Close. There being no further business, **PRE-SEASON ENTRY FORMS** (PROVIDING FOR DISCOUNTS FOR 2009/10 TEAMS WHO WERE AGM ATTENDEES AND 'SECOND TEAMS') WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE PRESENT (FOR RETURN WITH FEES BY FRIDAY 2nd JULY 2010)**. **There was also a new form for those MEN interested in playing in the Mens Section in 2010/11. Ladies Section forms would become 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 2nd JULY.)**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

ISM (draft1) 1/7/10