**St Helens & District Badminton League**

**Committee Meeting**

**Minutes**

**19th April 2015**

**Present:**

Bryan Bickerstaff, Jan Chelton, Janet Cliffe, Nigel Cross, John Harris, John Harrison, Paul Hawgood, Paul Hawes, Alison Marsh, Helen Williams.

**Apologies:**

Jeff Johnson, Jim Parish, Dave Savage.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters arising not on the agenda.**

Helen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of meeting from 25/1/15 were agreed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

Actions from the last Minutes: All actions carried out. Regarding item 1, Helen informed the Committee that she is still trying to contact Glyn at Lancashire to request financial breakdown.

1. **League and Knockout Results**

All results are in and Janet has circulated final league tables:

Mixed League Division 1

Winners: Sutton A

Runners-up: Grange Park A

(Slight amendment needed to table to show 3rd place as Y Club and 4th place as Vida).

Mixed League Division 2

Winners: Grange Park B

Runners-up: Sutton B

Mens League Division 1

Winners: Bryn A

Runners-up: ICI A

Mens League Division 2

Winners: Sutton B

Runners-up: Tigers

The Ron Wright Mixed Knockout Final between Grange Park and Y Club was held on 16th April at Broadway. Thanks go to Broadway for the use of the courts. Handicap was in favour of Grange Park. Well done to Grange Park who won by 50 points. Thanks to John Harris for help with handicapping.

The Mens Knockout Cup Final between Bryn and Culcheth A was held on 2nd April at Broadway. Thanks again to Broadway and to John Harris for help with handicapping. Handicap was in favour of Culcheth A (45.5 points). Well done to Bryn who won by just 14.5 points.

It was noted that as John Harris contributed two tubes of shuttles to the event, the Committee will reimburse for the cost (£13 per tube). Jan Chelton to arrange reimbursement.

1. **Adult Tournament feedback/results**

Nigel informed the Committee that given the tournament was held on Mothering Sunday he wasn’t expecting a big turnout. However, Nigel has received good feedback - it was a very successful day, with 54 entrants (up on 38 from 2014). It was nice to see new clubs entering this year. Thanks to Craig Eccleston, Linda Eccleston and Tom Lowe for their help on the day.

Tournament Results:

Men’s Singles:

Winner: Michael Johnston

Runner-up: Adam Hill

Ladies Singles:

Winner: Peggy Leong

Runner-up: Ruby Davies

Men’s Doubles:

Winners: Craig Eccleston & Michael Johnston

Runners-up: Jared Matthews & Rob Metcalf

Ladies Doubles:

Winners: Jen Rigby & Charlotte Heyes

Runners-up: Mayling Tse & Peggy Leong

Mixed Doubles:

Winners: Tom Lowe & Jannette Norris

Runners-up: Michael Johnston & Annette Softley

1. **Junior Tournament Update**

This will be held on Sunday 26th April at Broadway and organised by Craig, Linda and Nigel. Open to children registered with a St Helens club. Struggling for numbers this year – low number of entrants (as at 19/4/15). Feedback from tournament to be given at AGM and future of junior tournament to be discussed ie to increase numbers should tournament be opened up to include other leagues, or to include children who live/study/play in St Helens. Nigel to organise trophies (to be given out on the day of the tournament).

1. **Treasurers Report**

All money from the senior tournament (£370) has been collected and banked. Tournament court fees have been paid (£216). Dance tickets have been produced. Bank balance is now £660.83. Likely to be a loss at junior tournament – how to deal with this loss should be raised at AGM. Janet Cliffe to be reimbursed £25 for shuttles used for mixed knockout final.

1. **Presentation and Dance Evening – Saturday 23rd May**
2. Venue organised – Bishop Road Police Club, St Helens (7.30pm).
3. Catering organised.
4. New DJ booked for this year (usual one not available on this date).
5. Discussion on who may be available to present trophies (Helen to invite).
6. Photographer – Helen to check availability of Stuart Mo.
7. Nigel to arrange senior tournament trophies. Helen still awaiting one winner’s trophy from last year to be returned.
8. Tickets organised.
9. Trophies – Helen to order.
10. Other. Jan to email secretaries for raffle prizes.
11. **AGM**

Helen informed the Committee that according to the handbook (rule 4) the AGM should be held within the first two weeks of May. It was felt that it would be more beneficial to have an accurate financial position after the presentation and so to move the AGM to a later date. The AGM has therefore been arranged for Wednesday 17th June and it was agreed that the wording in the handbook will need to be amended. The AGM will be held at The Abbey, Hard Lane, St Helens (opposite The Gerard – The Gerard is not available on this date). Please note that any club not attending the AGM will be issued with a £5 fine.

Alison to send draft Agenda out early May together with proposed re-wording of handbook rules to give everyone time to read.

1. **St Helens Badminton Development Group Feedback**

The St Helens Badminton Development Group is a local group working alongside Badminton England. The group has some funding from Badminton England to develop badminton in St Helens for initiatives such as support for adult coaching; beginners adult 8 week course (‘Essentials’); help with funding for Level 1 or 2 coaching courses.

Group includes representative from Badminton England (Nick Barr – covering NE/NW England), Linda Eccleston, Sports Development, Alan Fearnley, Helen Williams – new members would be welcomed. Helen to send information to Paul for inclusion on website.

1. **Bona-Fide Players**

Discussion continued from the last Committee meeting surrounding the issue of ‘bona-fide’ players and how some felt it is unfair for teams to play non-members (ie ‘ringers’) in order to win matches rather than playing registered players to fulfil the fixtures. It was agreed it would be extremely hard to police instances of non-bona-fide players playing matches.

Two options – keep the term ‘bona-fide’ in the handbook and provide a working definition, or remove the term completely.

It was unanimously decided that the term ‘bona-fide’ should stay in the handbook alongside a definition of the term to read (as an example) – Players have to be registered; have paid fees to Lancashire; have paid fees to Badminton England and paid subs to clubs (where applicable). Item to be presented at the AGM.

Handbook – rule 11 re tournament also mentions bona-fide players. Change that rule from 14 to 7 days.

1. **Strongest Players in A Team**

Paul highlighted that where clubs have multiple teams, it is open to misuse where a very strong player is playing in a lower team when they are higher-team standard and questioned should teams not be made up of players in order of strength? It was pointed out that players, for whatever reason, may not want to play in an ‘A’ team. It was agreed that there is usually a good reason why that player plays for the lower team. Helen to obtain rule from Wigan League handbook to compare wording with St Helens rule 20. Propose each club with multiple teams provides Committee with a list of who is ‘starred’ and who is not. Committee could monitor or question starrings/stronger players and would have a right to question clubs re players.

1. **List of Players Registered by a Club**

This point was covered in item 10 above. It was decided that each club should provide the Committee with a list of their team players.

1. **Committee Member Attendance**

Paul noted that it was nice to see a bigger turnout at this Committee meeting compared to previous meetings. It was decided to email out to all Committee members asking if they are still happy sitting on the Committee (Alison to email Committee requesting information).

1. **Any Other Business**
* Helen requested if Janet Cliffe could complete ‘F’ column on fixture tables so clubs can see exact points gained from matches (as well as the final points column).
* A request was made for Paul to make it easier to find score sheets on the website.
* Bryan mentioned that he has in his possession League records from the 1950’s, including Committee meeting minutes, election of officers etc. Paul may use some of this information on the website.
* John Harris highlighted the need to raise the presence of St Helens league clubs. All clubs seem to be losing players – maybe put something on the website or advertise through social media.
1. **Date and Time of Next Committee Meeting**

Next meeting is the AGM – held on Wednesday 17th June at The Abbey. Committee meeting will be at 7.00pm followed by AGM at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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| **Summary of Actions** |
| **Item No** | **Action** | **Who** |
| 1 | Contact Lancashire to request financial breakdown. | HW |
| 2 | Reimburse John Harris for shuttles. | JC |
| 4 | Organise trophies for Junior Tournament. | NC |
| 6d | Arrange presenter of trophies for dance on 23rd May. | HW |
| 6e | Check availability of Stuart Mo for photographer for dance. | HW |
| 6f | Organise senior tournament trophies for presentation/dance evening. | NC |
| 6h | Helen to order trophies for presentation evening. | HW |
| 6i | Email secretaries requesting raffle prizes for presentation/dance evening. | JC |
| 7 | Send draft Agenda and proposed handbook rewording out early May. | AM |
| 8 | Send info to Paul (for website) promoting St Helens Badminton Development Group. | HW |
| 12 | Email Committee members re sitting on the committee. | AM |