

ST HELENS & DISTRICT BADMINTON LEAGUE

AGM Minutes Thursday 27th June 2019 Held at Broadway at 7.30 pm

Present: Bryn
Culceth
Cowley
Roe Green
Vida
Grange Park
Sutton
Janet Cliffe
Janet Chelton

Apologies: Tigers
Bryan Bickerstaff
John Harrison

1.Minutes of last AGM Meeting(19/06/2018)

Unfortunately these were not available to be reviewed and approved.

2.Roll Call/Apologies

An apology had been received from Tigers. Any clubs who were not present will be fined £5.

3.Reports

Chair's Report

Due to our Chair resigning before the AGM there was no report.

Secretaries Report (sent by email from Paula)

Thanks for coming to the AGM, and continuing to support the league, and thanks to all the committee for their continued support. This season I have received several complaints from various clubs/secretaries regarding the conduct of certain players, which does not make for good reading.

They are as follows:

- a) Swearing on court, and especially in front of juniors- this has to stop immediately
- b) Cheating- if you feel you need to do this, may I suggest you go and play elsewhere it will not be tolerated.
- c) Comments on social media – this isn't going to change, and we cannot stop it, however in the interest of our league, comments of an in- appropriate nature, will not be tolerated. If you have a complaint, please follow the rules and send them to the league secretary.

This is the reason for me sending out the code of conduct as it will be a gentle reminder in case individuals forget how to behave. We have the full backing from Lancashire BE to investigate these matters which may result in a ban.

During the 2019/20 season, if you need to report any of the above offences, or any others, please write on the back of the match card, or email match secretary with details.

To end on a positive note, the league has been praised for the efficient way it handled the paying of Lancs fees. Besides us there was Rossendale 9who always send there's on the 1st September to efficient by far) were the only ones sent in by the end of September, well done everyone.

See you all at the fixture meeting and have a good summer.

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Match Secretaries Report

Well it has been an interesting season, with a lot of matches having to be re-arranged. I bet Roe Green were glad to see the back of the season. Just a reminder though to all clubs, to keep me informed of any matches that need to be re-arranged, to save me having to chase up clubs.

Congratulations to Grange Park A and Vida A for winning the mixed 1st and 2nd divisions respectively, and Sutton A and Tigers the mens. Points were deducted from Culceth, Bryn A, Sutton C and Feathers as they failed to raise a team.

Thanks to all the clubs for their support, it means a lot to me, and thanks especially to Leslie Davies from Vida, as when I got confused with all the re-arranged matches concerning Vida B and C, she knew exactly where everything was up to, and could help me get to grips with it all.

Congratulations to the winners of the Player of the Year award, voted and decided by all players. Jack Robinson (Mens Div 2) Ben Woodward (Mens Div 1) John Davenport (Mixed Div 1) Paul Hawgood (Mixed Div 2).

May I just remind all clubs, that you should forward score sheets within 1 week of the match being played, and registrations 7 days before the match. This is in accordance with the rules, and the last date of registration is the 1st Feb.

Mixed Knock out

Congratulations to the winners, Feathers, beating Grange Park in the final.

I am sure you will appreciate, that the job of handicapping is extremely hard. The best was Vida A beating Bryn B in round 1 by ½ point, the worst was Feathers beating Vida A by 111.5 points. This year has been the worse, and if anyone is prepared to take this on next season, then I am happy to stand down, or at least have someone assist with handicapping.

Treasurers Report

Thank you to all clubs who paid their league fees on time. To have all monies in the account by October is a great help, and means I am not chasing, and no fines are being collected.

We are ending the season with a balance of £600.78, slightly down on last season by £149.86. Throughout my time as treasurer, I have always stated that the account is run to not make a profit, but to keep a healthy balance being carried forward from one season to the next. The fees have been stable, with no increase for 3 years, but if we see anymore clubs leaving, then this will be reviewed before the fixture meeting for the 2019/20 season.

Senior Tournament

A big thank you to Sathya Subramaniam for organising and giving his time on the day, so that we may have a senior tournament. Numbers entering were down on last year's, and the fact of paying before the day might have had an impact. A profit of £47.00 was made.

Junior Tournament

A big thank you to Sathya Subramaniam for organising and giving his time on the day, so that we may have a junior tournament. Numbers entering were down on last year's, and the fact of paying before the day might have had an impact. The tournament made a loss of £10.70 which isn't a lot, but as trophies, courts and shuttle costs increase each season, then the cost of entry might need to be reviewed.

Mens Knockout

John H reported that it had been an up and down season as far as handicapping. Standards are so different, and we should not go by league positions, when working out a handicap. Overall it had gone very well, but a decision to stand down had been made to allow someone else a chance.

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4. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Chairperson-vacant role

John Harris put himself forward and seconded by Paul Hawgood

Secretary- P Cranham

Match Secretary- J Cliffe

Knock-out Secretary- J Cliffe (with assistance on handicapping)

Treasurer- J Chelton

Committee Members – P Hawes, P Hawgood & J Harrison

Club members interested Ian Eccleston and Stuart Mo. More club members welcome.

5. League Dance

This year it was held at The Mansion House in St Helens, a lovely venue, which I think all people who attended would agree. I would like a big thank you to go to Janet and Paula for their help, selling raffle and bingo tickets. Also a thank you to the clubs who provided raffle prizes, and to our President Bryan who did a great job, congratulating those who had won trophies. I organised the dance this year, after having a break, and enjoyed doing it, but I had concerns and a few worries that we would make a big loss. This was due to the numbers attending on the night, being different to the numbers given the week before by the clubs. This meant that the buffet was prepared for **x** amount and only **y** turned up. Next seasons dance will be (if it's me organising it) different and I would appreciate ideas. We did make a loss of £151, and that would have been worse, without the generosity of the people attending, digging deep and buying raffle tickets. Thanks to all who attended, and let's have some ideas for next season.

6. AOB

Item from Tom a possible Mens three division

I have a proposal for St Helens Mens League for next season. Ian Ecc, Halton, Roe Green, Bryn have all said they'd back it so far. It will cause a few issues with some teams though.

The mens league to be split into 3 divisions of 5 teams next year is my idea.

Premier Division

Division 1

Division 2

My reasons are:

1. The dwarf in standard between some teams.
2. Attracting and keeping the stronger players to the st helens league.
3. More games. More chances to win. Better morale.

Here's an idea of the proposed set out. Every team will play every team home and away, TWICE! So 16 games each.

From the current tables....

Premier Div

ST HELENS & DISTRICT BADMINTON LEAGUE

Bryn A
Sutton A
Grange A
Halton
Sutton B

Division 1
Roe Green
Culcheth
Vida A
Cowley
Tigers

Division 2
Vida B
Vida C
Sutton C
Bryn B
Feathers

If this would happen, Bryn would enter a stronger mens B (Matt Seddon n co.) making Brent etc into a mens C.

Roe Green have also said they'd put a 2nd mens team in.

Benefits:

Teams don't get battered/disheartened.

The league title will be more open in each division as teams will have more opportunities in a season to challenge their rivals, especially if on occasions they struggle to field a good team.

For Bryn it's keeping the strong players in the league (although my players don't actually moan that much about the standard) It's very frustrating when we play the lower league teams.

As I know some of the lower teams will argue they love playing the tough matches to help them develop etc..

However as the case is 'most' of the time, when a weaker team plays Bryn A, they will decide that they don't have to put out their strongest team because Bryn are going to win anyway and end up putting an even weaker team out. This is putting off my players who travel far and give up 2 hours of their evening.

Most clubs present thought the idea was good, and could see the benefits in it, but without all clubs being represented, it will go out to all members for a decision. John H put forward a 2 up 2 down to keep the leagues interesting, but most felt it would not benefit the new structure. Paul H commented that the Wigan league were thinking of starting a mens league.

Item from Becky

Some ladies in the league are very strong players, some a better standard than some men. The proposal is to include those ladies into mens games and play levels. One benefit of this would be, if a mens team are struggling for players then they could call on a strong lady to step in. No decision was made at the AGM, and it will be discussed further within the committee and club members.

Date of Next Meeting- Fixtures 28.08.2019

Chairperson closed the meeting- John commented he would do the best he could as our Chairman, and would enjoy working with the committee and for the St Helens League.