

# **KENDAL VICTORIA BOWLING CLUB**

## **Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Saturday, 23 February 2019 (from noon)**

### **Attendance and Apologies**

An attendance schedule was completed (see appendix 1), showing a quorum of over 19 members being present (35 members present). Apologies were received from Simon Airey.

### **Deceased Members**

A minutes silence was held in the memory of Joyce Davies and Anne Oswald.

### **Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes were proposed to be accepted as a true record by Paul Crossland, and seconded by Sue Hillbeck. This was unanimously agreed.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Steve Cornell presented his report, as follows: -

Well, you'll probably all be happy to know that this year's speech from me will be a little bit shorter, but not much shorter, than last years, due to me not having to include a secretary's report.

I feel that I can't start any other way, than by once again offering our condolences to Sue, for the loss of her mother. Anne Oswald loved Victoria Bowling Club. She was a faithful servant to the club for many years, in many different roles, the last of which was being club president up until last year. The kitchen was Anne's domain for many years, and with the help of a few other people, she ran it with military precision on open competition days. Anne will be fondly remembered, and greatly missed, by a great number of people, both from within this club, and the wider bowling community.

Ok, moving on, I've got a few thankyou's. Firstly, I need to thank Alan Medcalf, Martin Gilpin, Paul Crossland, Terry Mercer, and Chris Wyatt, for all their work on and around the green, and in the club. The way the green is playing at this time of year goes to show how much work and effort they've put in. And obviously, thanks to anyone else that I may have forgotten that has helped in any way.

I also want to thank all the members of the committee, for their work in the running of the club, and for working on constantly trying to improve the club, with special thanks to Alan Gilpin and Simon Airey for their work as secretary & treasurer respectively.

Next, I want to congratulate all members for a successful season for the club in 2018.

Now, even though as a club we had a successful season last year, we also had a lot of unrest. There was issues with team selection and club policies, we had members saying that they'd only play in certain teams, there were issues with the conduct of some of our members, there were members that had issues with the running of the club by the committee, and also disputes and issues between members, all of which I have to say, is very disappointing.

So, to start with, I want to draw your attention to this notice on team selection, copies of which have been clearly displayed for the last 2 or 3 years, for all members to see. Everybody knows that this is the club's selection policy, even if it isn't actually in the rules & constitution, YET, so there should have been no complaints. I can tell you all though, that the committee have been proactive on this subject, and produced a new policy, which should clarify things for everybody. A copy of this has been displayed on the notice board at the back for quite some time, so you should all have seen it. Hopefully you'll all vote to adopt it as our official selection policy later on.

Following on from that, all members who agree to play for the club, do, in fact, play for the CLUB, and do NOT play for specific teams. All members should make themselves available for whichever team they are selected to play in. This is also in the new policy, so hopefully we won't have a repeat of last season, where people felt that they could just play in any team they wanted to, or captains not making players available for other teams. My personal opinion on this, is that if you're not willing to bowl in whichever team you're lucky enough to be selected for, then don't put your name down in the first place.

Moving on again, I have to remind everybody, that every time you step out onto a bowling green, whether it be that green, or any other green, you are representing this club. Last season, the committee received complaints with regards to the conduct of some of our players, both from within the club, and from elsewhere. This is unacceptable. I know that there are a lot of people who care about this club, and represent it in an exemplary manner, and WE do not want the name of Victoria Bowling Club tarnished by a very small minority. So please, everybody, consider your conduct, actions, and words, on or around any green.

My last thing on this, is the problem that I have with the people that have issues with how the committee run the club. This is a members club, run by the members via the committee. Every year that committee is selected by you, the members, to run this club. And every year, the number of members increases, but the number of people willing to help run the club remains the same. So it is extremely disappointing when the people who aren't willing to help, criticise those that are. Too often I hear that people aren't happy with a decision, or with something the committee has done. But those same people, when asked, don't have a better option, or any idea how to do it differently, which makes complaining or criticising completely pointless. Every member of YOUR committee give up their time, free of charge,

to try and do what is best for this club, so please don't criticise unless you are willing to step up and help. And so once again, I find myself having to remind you all, that ANY member can attend ANY committee meeting, where you can join in with whatever is being discussed, and put your opinion across, you just can't vote. Now I know most of you won't, but if any of you doesn't agree with how the club is being run, or you have an issue with a decision that has been made by the committee, then before you start criticising, come along to a meeting or 2 and see for yourselves what the committee does, and how decisions are reached. My final word on this, is that if you're not happy with the current committee, then vote in a new committee later on in the proceedings, but good luck in finding enough people willing to do it, especially a secretary & treasurer. So basically, if you're not willing to help, then don't criticise those that are.

Right, well after all that, let's move onto something more positive. In the past we've had a few people asking about club colours or club clothing, and we've tried to get other members interested, without success. This was mainly due to the fact that that nobody could agree on what colour we should have. Now last season we had more people than ever enquiring about shirts, jackets, etc, mostly from our newer members. So we, as a committee, decided it was time to pick the colours, and just go with it. And now we finally have a range of clothing for members to buy. And this is it. We have samples of polo shirt, T-shirt, sweatshirt, and tracksuit jacket, all of which I will leave on the side after this meeting for you all to view. These samples aren't embroidered or printed, as they only arrived yesterday, but I have seen an example of the embroidery, and it is identical to this. I will also leave a temporary price list, it's not an official list yet, as we don't have all prices confirmed yet. Also available are jackets, fleeces, soft shell jackets, but these will only be available in plain navy blue. I will leave this on the side as well, with photos and descriptions of these. Upon request, we can also get items such as beanies, caps, bags, towels, etc, with the club logo on. Orders can be placed through myself. I won't be placing individual orders as I get them, but when I get a few together I'll put an order in, and then as I get more I'll do the same. All items will usually be delivered 1 to 2 weeks from when I place an order.

Well, that's it from me, except to say good luck to everybody for the coming season, and I hope that you all enjoy your bowling.

Thank you.

### **Secretary's Report**

Alan Gilpin presented his report, as follows: -

Thank you Steve, not only for your passionate report but also for the level of commitment you've shown over the past year as Chairman of this great club. Also thank you to all you members for an excellent turn-out at today's AGM. I would like to firstly reiterate Steve's comments, in particular regarding conduct and discipline of members going forward; let's draw a line under what has passed and make a positive start to the 2019 campaign.

On the green, 2018 was a fantastic season for our club; in the Kendal & District League, our A Team picked up the first division title for just the third time in the past fifty or so years but what was so impressive about it was the manner of the title, with a record points-per-game return from a top flight season plus a clean sweep in the division's three merit prizes (well done to Martin Gilpin, Ian Nicholson and Ira Collier), plus all eight players qualifying for the Super 32! Our B Team played in division one for the first time since 2002 and were delighted to survive the drop by what ended up being a comfortable margin. The C Team held their own in the third division and our D Team were able to lift the title from division five.

I must also congratulate Alan Gilpin and Michael Wilson, for picking up the Divisional Championship trophies for divisions 1 and 3 respectively. Michael added his name to our Super 32 qualifiers with that win, which means we have the most of any club taking part in that competition on Sunday, 31 March at Holme Bowling Club. The draw will follow our AGM, for anyone interested, and I think it would be good if our members could try to attend the event and put support forward for our players on the day.

In the South Westmorland Seniors League, our A Team managed to win the second division title by a comfortable margin, meaning that this coming year we will play in their top division for the first time, I believe. Martin Gilpin topped the division's averages for pairs and we also had the top two for singles with Chris Wyatt and Terry Mercer excelling. We also entered a B Team in this league for the first time in 2018, and they also took a title home, winning the fifth division with the top three pairs averages from Jeff Procter, Jean Wyatt and John Iddon, with Andy Procter finishing third in the singles averages.

Our Rural League team also did very well, finishing third in the Northern League and just losing out to the eventual winners of the David Skidmore Trophy in the quarter final stage. What was impressive again with this team was our ability to keep breeding new players each year, and there are so many of those within our other league sides that started there and can testify to how important those early steps are in learning the game.

In our own Floodlight League, our A Team just missed out on the Hayes Gardenworld title to Holme, coming runners-up. Our B Team were fantastic right through and were able to win the Cumberland Building Society League. This competition has been under review, and will be revamped for the 2019 season, making it (hopefully) bigger and better. Your support as members of the club, is always welcome throughout this league season, which doesn't last long and doesn't take a lot of effort just to contribute to it.

Thank you to all members who did help in the Floodlight, as well as our open competitions. There is a list of dates up for the latter, with entry forms printed for you in this folder *points to where they can be found*.

As well as the open competitions, this club also runs several member's competitions over the season – nine last year, which will become ten with the addition of the invitation pairs. For anyone unaware, please see the list on the board for that competition, which we would appreciate your support for; the idea is that it is a nice way to start the new year, but also

include members from other clubs. We will make the draw at the next committee meeting, so please add your name should you wish to take part.

What was most pleasing about the 2018 member's competitions was the number of entries combined with the variation in winners, with seven separate champions. Well done to Alan Gilpin and Ian Mitchell, with two wins each, plus Martin Gilpin, Michael Wilson, John Foster, Simon Airey and Chris Wyatt.

My final point is regarding the dreaded GDPR rules, which came into force last year. I've managed to get most members to complete information forms and sign a statement agreeing for us to use their details for our own purposes, but still need many of you to do so. Without this, I cannot comply with the club's rules in terms of displaying a list of members, and I've also had to shelve my plans for emailed newsletters. I urge you all to make sure that you've completed these forms, spare copies of which are also in this plastic thing to my right *points to same folder as before*, and hope to get everyone over the next couple of months.

And that concludes my report, other than to wish all members a successful 2019 on and off the green!

### **Treasurer's Report**

With Simon Airey not in attendance, Alan Gilpin stood in to present the following report: -

The accounts for the year ended 31 October 2018 were presented (see appendix 2). Memberships are as high as they have been in recent memory, which has resulted in higher income and bar profits. The one disappointing line was competition profits, but with the new catering team now in place we hope to bring this back up again in 2019.

A small surplus is what we aim for, so the committee are happy with the results, and as such also propose no change to the membership fees for 2019.

Alan Gilpin asked if there were any questions: Terry Mercer asked whether there was a split of games and sponsors, by raffle, kitchen etc. Alan Gilpin stated that this could be done, but briefly, for this year, we know that raffle profits were up, entries were good and the main reason for the decrease in net gain was the kitchen.

The accounts were adopted unanimously, following a proposal by Sue Hillbeck, seconded by Geoff Thompson.

### **Notices of Motion – Proposed New Team Selection Policy**

A notice of motion was put forward by the Kendal Victoria Bowling Club Committee (see appendix 3). Steve Cornell explained that there were two parts to this; firstly whether the members wanted to adopt the general policy, then, if so, which of the two options they prefer.

Alan Gilpin explained that this started from Alan Medcalf's draft and has been discussed at every committee meeting for the past nine months or so, to make sure that we were happy with it before bringing it to the AGM. He explained that the alternative to adopting the policy was to remain without an official policy, and simply relying on the red notice on the wall about selection being captain's choice.

A brief discussion was held in the room, followed by the vote. The new team selection policy was adopted unanimously and then Option 2 was voted in, with just one vote for option 1. This means that there will be a new selection committee picking teams for 2019, and Alan Gilpin displayed a notice for the board, asking for volunteers to that post, which will be put up after the meeting.

### **Election of Officers**

- a) President – Alan Sanderson was asked if he was willing to continue, which he was. With no other nominations, this post was automatically re-elected.
- b) Vice President – Sue Hillbeck was asked if he was willing to continue, which she was. With no other nominations, this post was automatically re-elected.
- c) Secretary – Alan Gilpin stated that he was happy to continue in this role, and with no other nominations, this was agreed.
- d) Treasurer – Alan Gilpin stated that Simon Airey had told him that he was happy to continue as treasurer, and in the absence of any other candidate this was also agreed.

### **Election of the Committee**

All current committee members are willing to continue, and were adopted on mass, unanimously.

Alan Gilpin stated that under the rules and constitution, whilst there was a minimum, there was no maximum number to the committee and the more the merrier. John Foster, John Iddon, Sue Hillbeck and Tim Kings volunteered to join the committee, which was unanimously agreed on mass.

### **Meeting Closure**

Terry Mercer requested that copy minutes be displayed in the clubhouse, as they used to be. Alan Gilpin stated that he was not prepared to do this, for fear of breach of GDPR rules, but if any member wants to see the minutes then they are held in his file behind the bar, which rarely leaves the club. Alan Gilpin agreed to print an extra copy of future minutes for Terry Mercer.

Tim Kings thanked all of those who have helped on the green, particularly keeping it open this winter. He also thanked Alan Gilpin for running the winter leagues for members, which have been greatly enjoyed.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12:49 pm.