

**Victoria Bowling Club  
Meeting of the Committee  
Wednesday, 22 September 2019, 7:30pm**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Present:</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>Steve Cornell [SCL] (chairperson), Alan Gilpin [AGN], Paul Crossland [PCD], Sue Hillbeck [SHK], Dan Hartley [DHY], Martin Blamire [MBE], John Foster [JFR].</p> <p>Also in attendance were Terry Mercer [TMR], representing the Trustees, and Club President Alan Sanderson [ASN].</p>	
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Simon Airey [SAY], Geoff Thompson [GTN].</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting (held on 21 August 2019):</b> The minutes were accepted as a true record (proposed by SHK, seconded by DHY).</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>New Membership Applications:</b> Jane Glaister has been approved by email before this meeting, as we did not think we would be meeting this soon.</p> <p>Davis Thornborrow and Dave McRoy have applied for membership, so as to take advantage of the winter opening. These were both accepted unanimously. It was also noted that Ian Harrison and Sue Wareing were talking of doing the same, and the committee accepted both of them too, pending their membership information form.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Floodlight League Update:</b> AGN stated that the first week of the new format league had been completed, and all of the feedback he'd received had been positive so far. This was echoed by the other members of the committee. SHK stated that she had heard one gripe, but the individual involved realised that it was their own fault for not reading the rules properly! SHK suggested that at the end of the competition, perhaps we could email clubs and ask for any feedback, and this was agreed for AGN to do.</p> <p>AGN mentioned that whilst we didn't have an official rota for running the office, Mondays and Tuesdays were covered by our captains, and SCL was going to do every Wednesday, but Thursdays may be difficult, as SCL has darts and AGN has his children at home. SHK and PCD stated that they would share the responsibility on the remaining Thursdays.</p>	<b>AGN</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>New "Big Money" Competition:</b> AGN sent notice to committee members that we had been asked to host a new competition on Saturday, 19 October. Martin Gilpin, Ian Nicholson and Keith Atkinson have put £50 each in themselves and also got a main sponsor, Alfa Aesar. The committee had agreed to match another £50 sponsorship (which we expect to get on the raffle, then can profit from the kitchen and bar) so that the total prize money would be £1,000.</p> <p>Stramongate School have also confirmed that parking will be available.</p> <p>AGN stated that the sponsorship had now been received, and 22 of the required 32 entries had already been sought before Facebook promotion, which he will be doing tomorrow.</p>	<b>AGN</b>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Winter Opening and Leagues:</b> AGN wanted to know whether the committee wanted to run the winter leagues again this year, but this time on a more official basis (it was trialled last year and went well). This was agreed, and AGN was asked to put a notice up.</p> <p>AGN asked what the opinion was for the doubles, as last year teams were made up of 2, 3 or 4 players that rotated depending on availability but this limited the number of pairs that could play. After a brief discussion, it was decided that we should allow this again, but with a maximum of 3 in a squad.</p>	<b>AGN</b>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Date of the next meeting(s):</b> AGN had suggested the following dates and times for the winter meetings: Wednesday, 6 November 2019 at 7pm – committee meeting Wednesday, 11 December 2019 at 7pm – committee meeting Wednesday, 22 January 2020 at 7pm – committee meeting</p> <p>AGM Saturday, 15 February 2020 at noon</p> <p>This schedule was agreed.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Blackstone Complaint:</b> A second letter has been received from Lesley Blackstone, and had been emailed to the committee prior to this meeting. The Trustees have also been read in, and TMR was in attendance to comment on their behalf. SCL has also sent a copy of the letter to Denise Noble, as Safeguarding Cumbria Officer, and her recommendations have been summarised in Appendix I.</p> <p>Firstly, the committee agreed to take on board Denise's recommendation to add to the club's rules regarding a junior member selection policy. This will be discussed separately over the winter meetings.</p>	

	<p>It was very clear that everyone on the committee that were in attendance were of the opinion that there was nothing new in the second letter from Lesley, and that the matter should be closed. The only question, therefore, was how this was done.</p> <p>ASN opened the discussion, stating that he likes option 3 (from Denise's recommendations), as it gives everyone the opportunity to get together, face-to-face, and go through the issue. TMR, speaking on behalf of the Trustees, stated that he agreed with ASN, but only if there were people on the committee that were prepared to sit down at such a meeting with Lesley. AGN stated that, whilst he would do so, he thinks he should not be involved due to the words against him and the selection committee in Lesley's letters. PCD, DHY &amp; SCL stated this also took them out of the options.</p> <p>SHK and MBE indicated that they would be willing to be in a meeting.</p> <p>AGN put to the meeting that we had no obligation to respond to Lesley at all (i.e. option 1 from Denise). He stated that, in his opinion, Lesley had brought the club into disrepute, and we should instead be discussing whether we want to allow her to continue her membership at the club. His reasons for this was that she: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Failed to follow club procedure</li> <li>2. Did not allow the club to respond before contacting both Denise Noble and the BCGBA</li> <li>3. Had made threats to the club with regards to going to the press/police</li> </ol> <p>A discussion was had as to the options available to the club, and SCL was asked to check with Denise Noble whether the committee has the power to refuse Lesley's membership renewal after the next AGM (should she stay a member for 2020), or whether the removal of a member would need the approval of the members.</p> <p>TMR stated that, in his opinion, option 1 will just leave Lesley to stew and potentially further bad-mouth the club. He felt it was better, if not option 3, then to go with option 2.</p> <p>Taking a break from the decision of which response method to choose, the committee felt it needed to discuss whether Sam Blackstone had actually been treated the same as the other junior members of the club (as questioned by Lesley in her last letter). The club has five junior members, but only two play in the teams – the other started working during the summer holidays and was not given special consideration when available on one night and not the other, and hence received no special treatment. This is the same as Sam, so we are not exposed on this matter. AGN stated that at the start of the season, the selection committee made it clear that there would be rotation in the D Team, and over the course of 2019, Sam Blackstone actually ranked 6<sup>th</sup> (and 1<sup>st</sup> if you ignore those who qualify to play in the Seniors League) in terms of total league and cup games played – see appendix 2.</p> <p>The chairman moved to a vote as to an action plan for response (or not) to Lesley. It was agreed that we vote between options 2 and 3 from Denise's recommendations. TMR and ASN stated that they would not vote, as they are not on the committee, and SCL abstained from the vote as chair, due to being the deciding vote if tied. The committee voted (4:2) to send a brief letter (option 2) to Lesley, summarising that the matter has been discussed and is closed, but also letting her know that we have taken on board recommendations from Cumbria's Safeguarding Officer. SCL to draft a letter and send to the committee, then Denise, before handing over to Lesley.</p>	<p>SCL</p> <p>SCL</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><b>Any other business:</b></p> <p>JFR asked why, after the D Team won the league in 2018, only 2 of their players were selected for week 1 of the 2019 season? He stated that this caused discontent amongst players, especially as new players had come in from other clubs and taken these places.</p> <p>AGN stated that the selection committee had put a notice up, stating that there were lots of players, it was a new committee in charge of selection, and that over the course of the season everyone got plenty of games.</p> <p>TMR stated that at the AGM, the club voted for the new selection committee (almost unanimously), so should have been patient at the start of a new season.</p> <p>DHY added that names, numbers and email addresses for each member of the selection committee have been displayed on the wall all year, and not once have any of them received a call to complain about selection.</p> <p>AGN logged onto the Kendal &amp; District Bowling League website using his mobile phone, and looked at the team that actually started the first game of the 2019 season. He stated that the first game of the season actually included 4 players from the 2018 D team squad, 3 from higher teams and 1 new member. SHK asked whether those that missed out in week 1 were getting a game in the Seniors, to which JFR replied "Yes".</p> <p>It was agreed that there was no complaint to make, and if anyone was unhappy, they should have come forward 25 weeks ago, not now. This matter was therefore dismissed.</p> <p>SHK stated that when she was contacted by Denise Noble over the Blackstone complaint in the first instance, this was because she couldn't get hold of MBE, and the club should really have two members of a Safeguarding Team. AGN asked whether two was a requirement, or a recommendation – just a recommendation, so we are not doing anything wrong. It was decided to put forward to the next AGM to introduce a "Vice Safeguarding Officer" position for 2020 onwards.</p>	

The meeting closed at 8:50pm