

KENDAL VICTORIA BOWLING CLUB

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Saturday, 15 February 2020 (from noon)

1) Attendance and Apologies

An attendance schedule was completed (see appendix 1), showing a quorum of over 22 members being present (36 members present). Apologies were received from Jonathan Cooper, Dan Monks, Alan Sanderson, Dave McRoy, Mike Simpson, Chris and Mary West.

2) Deceased Members

The chairman apologised for missing a mention for Stan Rymell at last year's AGM under the deceased members section, as Stan had been a member of the club for many years, though not during the last of his life. A minute's silence was held in the memory of Stan Rymell, as well as John O'Flaherty, Albert Brindle, Colin Askew, Joyce Grosvenor and Debbie King, who sadly passed away in the past 12 months.

3) Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were proposed to be accepted as a true record by Dave Mould, and seconded by Dave Hourihan. This was unanimously agreed.

4) Chairperson's Report

Steve Cornell presented his report, as follows: -

As usual, mine isn't a report, more of a chairman's speech. And I'm sure you will all be delighted to know that this one is definitely shorter than the previous two.

I'm going to start as usual with a few thankyou's. Firstly, I want to thank Alan Medcalf, Martin Gilpin, Chris Wyatt, Terry Mercer, Paul Crossland and Keith Hartley, for the fantastic work that they do with keeping the green in such a good condition, and also for all the other work and jobs that they do around the green and in the clubhouse. These guys all spend a lot of time and effort in maintaining and improving the club, and it is very much appreciated. I also want to thank anybody else that has helped with any work, at any time during the last year.

Next up, your committee. A big thank you to you all, for running the club so well in what has been a very challenging year.

Following straight on from that, I want to give special thanks to Alan Gilpin and Simon Airey. Alan does a fantastic job for this club. He does a lot of work in the background, that most of you won't even be aware of, giving up a great deal of his time and putting a lot of effort into making sure that everything at the club is right, and so you can all just turn up and bowl without having to bother about anything. So I just want to say that the criticism that he gets from some members is totally unjustified. And now Simon. As you are all aware, or you should be anyway, Simon is stepping down as club treasurer, following his financial report, and I want to say thank you for the work that he's put into the role over the past several years, especially following the flood in 2015. Throughout most of 2016 Simon worked tirelessly to get grants sorted, worked with the insurance company to get back all we could, co-ordinated the contractors doing the work on the club, and much more, to get the club up and running properly as quickly as possible. So, thank you Simon.

Moving on, thank you to all the members who have stood by the committee during a difficult year.

Thank you also to anybody that helped in any way at the open competitions, and to those who did so well in the kitchen.

And my final thanks go to the selection committee, who did a marvellous job of organising team bowling for all our members, and keeping the vast majority of them happy while doing so.

Right, that was all the thankyou's that I have, my apologies if I've forgotten anybody. But sticking with the selection committee, I personally think that it worked very well, having them pick all the teams. We asked you at last year's AGM, when the selection committee system was voted for, to give them time to work out the intricacies of how it was going to work, and thankfully most of you did. There were a few moans in the first 3 or 4 weeks, but that was to be expected, with the number of members wanting to play outweighing the number of places available. And once it was explained to people how it was going to work, most of them were happy. Of course, some people will never be happy, whatever you do, but clearly most of you are, as we've had no motion to change back to individual team captains. Obviously, the fact that the club had such a good season last year has helped with everyone being happy with the system. My last word on this subject, is that please bear in mind that the selection committee is still a work in progress, things were learnt during last year and things were changed as the season went on to try and improve the way it worked for the club, and things may change slightly again this year, especially as we now have more members. So I'm asking you all to please be patient again, and let them get on and do what is a difficult job.

Well thankfully, I can say that over the last 12 months, I've heard less grumbling of how the committee are running the club, so we're clearly doing something better. Like I said earlier, we know that some people will never be happy, and neither can we keep everybody happy, but the job of the committee is to make decisions that they feel are in the best interests of the

club, whilst keeping the majority happy, which is what we've been doing. But once again, I'm going to say that the committee is quite small, compared to the number of members that we have, so if anybody would like to join the committee, then please put yourself forward later in the proceedings, as the more opinions that we have on any subject at the meetings, the better it is for the club.

The last thing that I want to mention, is personally how disappointed I was with the number of members opting not to purchase club clothing, particularly after so many people had asked about it the year before. A lot of work went into sourcing clothing that the committee thought suitable for the club, and to have so few people take up the option of buying anything, considering how many members we have, is what is disappointing. I know that it's down to everybody's personal preference what they wear to bowl in, but I've always been a believer in everybody in a team wearing the same, whatever the sport is. Now obviously we're not going to make it compulsory for everyone to wear or buy clothing, that would be wrong of the club, and it wouldn't work anyway as it would be a sure-fire way to lose members. And I understand that what people wear doesn't actually make a team, camaraderie and spirit make a team, but it would be better in my opinion if our teams that take to the green actually look like a team.

Well, you'll be glad to know that's it from me, except to say, that as a club, I hope that we can have as successful a season this year as we did last. So good luck to you all, and I hope that you 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, and indeed several years, as Chairman of this club. Also thank you to all of you members for an excellent turn-out at today's AGM. I'd also like to thank Simon Airey personally, for his stint as Treasurer of KVBC and hope that whoever takes over this role can do as admirable a job as he has.

I'd like to keep my report to the positives, because I believe that this club has a lot of things to be pleased about both on the green and behind the scenes, which is reflected in our growing membership and continued success. 2019 was another fantastic season for our club and I must start by congratulating the players who contributed to our Seniors A side winning the first division trophy in their first season back in the top flight! Martin Gilpin finished top of the singles averages in the league, winning all 12 of his matches, and both Keith Atkinson and Mick Simpson won 10 doubles games each, ranking them both in the top 7 of the league averages for pairs. I was also really pleased with the Seniors B Team, with 13 different players used in what I believe to have been a fun team to be a part of. John Iddon was the

stand-out performer on the green for them, winning 9 out of his 10 games as well as winning for the A Team as cover in their final game of the season.

In the Kendal & District League, our A Team swapped trophies with Holme A – having to settle for runners-up in the league but regaining the cup with a thrilling final victory against Ambleside. Our B Team finished mid-table in the first division and 3 places higher than they did in 2018, showing further improvement in the strength in depth of our top flight sides. From division 1 we boasted 3 of the top 4 (and 5 of the top 8) individuals in the final merit table, with Martin Gilpin picking up the individual merit prize for the second year running. The C Team was utterly dominant in division 3 and won the title by a massive 15 points; this was a real team effort and everyone who played in that team contributed to its success. We were also delighted to see both players from our C Team meeting in the final of their divisional championships at Netherfield, with Chris Wyatt edging out Dan Monks to win that trophy. Finally in the Kendal League, our D Team managed to finish fourth in division 4 whilst giving games to 25 different players over the season. We were really pleased with the results this team achieved with the rotation of players, allowing games for everyone who put their name on the lists over the season and seeing several players developing from the Rural team into the more structured league format of this team.

Our last league side are, of course, the Rural League team, and they also did very well last season. Fourteen different players were used and we were able to field a full team every game of the season. The two stand-out players were Steve Teasdale and Colin Wilson, who both also transitioned into the Kendal League teams very well last year.

In our own Floodlight League, our A Team managed to steal the Hayes Gardenworld title from Holme A with a thrilling final match victory and 15 chalk aggregate lead in the final table! The top performer was Sue Hillbeck, who won all of her 4 games, but with the rotation of players this was a true team victory that all 14 players in the squad contributed towards. Our B Team were runners-up in the second tier of the Floodlit League and used 16 different players across the six-game format on a rotation basis. Alan Gilpin, Dave Mould, Martin Kinley and Steve Cornell were all able to win all of their games, with Alan topping the league merit listing at the end of the campaign.

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 run ten different members' competitions over the season. There is a list on the notice board behind you, as well as sheets to add your name for the first three events. What has been most pleasing about these competitions in the past few seasons is the number of entries we are getting and how well enjoyed they seem to be – I was astounded when we reached 48 entries for Presidents Day at the end of the season, far more than most clubs get for sponsored open competitions! Congratulations go to the winners, of course, starting with Keith Atkinson, who brought Dave Jones from Carnforth for

our first ever invitation pairs and also to Matthew Simpson and Martin Gilpin, who each won two club events in 2019, and somehow, Alan Gilpin managed to win the other five!

Treasurer's Report

Simon Airey presented his report, as follows: -

The accounts for the year ended 31 October 2019 were presented (see appendix 2). Income is up, with competition profits back up following the new kitchen team's input last year. This is a big positive; it also helped the club assist in the donation of money to good causes in the process. Costs are held and consistent, meaning we have a good surplus for 2019.

Simon thanked all members for helping him through his time as Treasurer.

Alan Gilpin added that 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 2020.

The accounts were adopted unanimously, following a proposal by Ron France, seconded by Dan Hartley.

John Iddon asked whether there are specific job roles for the main positions within the club, bearing in mind we would later be looking to appoint a new Treasurer and not all members would be fully aware of what that fully entails. It was confirmed that there was not anything official. Dave Hourihan added that he felt that knowing what was needed would be good, and Alan Gilpin added that it is difficult to detail everything a role entails because people do things in different ways.

As there was no specific proposal here, the chairman urged members that we should move on to the next agenda item, but if anyone wanted to talk about this further, they are welcome to attend committee meetings, or put a notice of motion in for next year.

5) Notices of Motion – Proposed Updated Rules

A notice of motion was put forward by the Kendal Victoria Bowling Club Committee (see appendix 3). Alan Gilpin explained that this was prompted by a complaint that was received last year, and whilst the complaint was dismissed we were advised to add a few things to our rules to further safeguard the club.

Terry Mercer commended the committee with the way that they handled the complaint last year, stating that the letters received were passed on to him and his fellow Trustees, who were invited to attend meetings to discuss them.

The proposal from the committee was seconded by Colin Wilson, and all members present voted to adopt the new set of rules, effective immediately (Steve Cornell and Alan Gilpin signed these after the meeting closed).

6) Election of Trustee

Dave Mould's term as Trustee has now expired and a new Trustee needs to be appointed. Dave was asked if he wished to stand for re-election, and he responded that he would do another two years, but not six. Alan Gilpin confirmed that Trustees are appointed on a six-year term and that Terry Mercer's ran until 2022, Martin Kinley to 2024 and this position would expire in 2026 and so Dave Mould stated that he did not want to continue.

Steve Cornell asked if there were any volunteers or suggestions from the members, and Dave Hourihan put himself forward. Dave Hourihan has been a member of the club for several years, including a stint on the committee until last year. Alan Gilpin seconded this, and with no other nominations, Dave Hourihan was elected Trustee of the club for the next six years.

7) Election of Officers

- a) President – With Alan Sanderson not in attendance, Alan Gilpin asked Sue Hillbeck if she'd spoken to him, and she confirmed that he was happy to continue, unless someone wanted to take over. 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 – Simon Airey is stepping down and Steve Cornell asked whether there were any volunteers or nominations from the room. Jackie Foster said that she was willing to take over, and had already spoken with Simon Airey about the role, as well as previously being Treasurer of her former club in Manchester. Jackie was proposed by Ron France, seconded by Dave Hourihan and elected unopposed.

8) Election of the Committee

Alan Gilpin stated that Jackie Foster, as the new Treasurer, was automatically added to the committee and that all current committee members (Steve Cornell, Alan Gilpin, Simon Airey, Martin Blamire, Alan Medcalf, Geoff Thompson, Sue Hillbeck, Dan Hartley, Paul Crossland and John Foster) were willing to continue. These were adopted on mass, unanimously (proposed by Dave Mould, seconded by Terry Mercer).

Steve Cornell asked whether anyone else wanted to join the committee, but there were no further volunteers or proposals.

Meeting Closure

Simon Airey stated that he was very pleased with the number of members the club now had; 90 in 2019 compared to just 64 two years earlier in 2017.

Kirsten Wilson asked that members put forward any local charities that they wished to be considered for donations from the catering profits. At present, 50% go to the club and the other 50% went to Cancer Research up to 31 October 2019, and the local Motor Neurone charity for the period 1 November 2019 to 29 February 2020. They were hoping that from 1 March 2020, some be retained for local one-off applications, such as families in difficulty, and the rest be split between a number of local charities, one of which had already been decided as the Air Ambulance.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12:45pm.