

Kendal Victoria Bowling Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 1 July 2020 from 7:30pm

1. In Attendance / Apologies

Present: Steve Cornell (chairperson), Alan Gilpin (secretary), Jackie Foster (treasurer), Paul Crossland, Alan Medcalf, Sue Hillbeck & Martin Blamire.

Apologies were received from John Foster, Dan Hartley & Geoff Thompson.

Steve Cornell confirmed that he had received an email from Simon Airey, resigning from the committee, which was noted and accepted.

In attendance: Dave Hourihan (trustee).

2. Minutes of the Previous (Zoom) Meeting held on 10 June 2020

These were proposed to be accepted as a true record by Sue Hillbeck, seconded by Paul Crossland and agreed by all.

3. Matters Arising

a. Floodlights

Copied from email correspondence started by Steve Cornell on 18 June:

“With regards to the floodlights, we originally asked for external sockets for the far end of the green, on the box at the base of the post. This wasn't included on the quote, the reason being that you can't officially power lights & sockets on the same circuit/supply. It can still be done (unofficially), but it will have to be for cash-in-hand, and obviously it won't be able to be included on any test certificate. I've been told that the cost of purchasing and fitting isolators & outdoor sockets when the boxes are fitted, will be approximately £120 to £150 (definitely no more than £200 max). Is everyone happy for me to tell them to go ahead with this?”

This was agreed by six other members of the committee, but Alan Gilpin stated that he could not ethically vote to accept a cash-in-hand offer for such work.

On 22 June, Steve Cornell followed up on this with the following email:

I know that we got enough yes's to go ahead with the sockets on the floodlights, but we're maybe going to have to have a re-think.

I received a call from Dave Hourihan, and as a trustee he is extremely concerned about the implications of having the work done unofficially, especially the lack of a test certificate & the fact that that any work done this way would be likely to void our insurance, and not forgetting that we wouldn't have a receipt for the work.

As Dave has quite rightly pointed out, we have plenty of money in the bank to be able to have the work done properly. He also mentioned that he believes that the electricians in the bar end aren't up to regulations so we should think about having them checked as well.

Steve Cornell confirmed that he has spoken to the electricians and asked for a proper quote for the work and also inspecting the wiring, as well as finding out when they expect the floodlight work to be completed. They have recommended that a full site survey be carried out, which should cost around £200, after which they can quote for the work, which was agreed to be done.

b. Review of Green Opening Guidance

New updated guidance has been received from the BCGBA, but this didn't change very much despite the Government easing lockdown significantly in the time between their released updates. Alan Gilpin stated that he'd already expressed his disappointment on this to Denise Noble, who said she would pass that on to the BCGBA. Alan Gilpin also stated that with us running a bar on site, we needed to look at all Government guidance rather than just the BCGBA, as pubs are allowed to open to the public from 4 July.

On 29 June, Alan Gilpin finalised his recommendation to the club (see appendix 1) for their new guidance for opening from 4 July, which had been emailed to the committee members ahead of this meeting so that they had chance to read it in detail beforehand.

Dave Hourihan made it very clear that he was not happy with the club's interpretation of the guidance, and thought that the plan for reopening further from 4 July went further against what should be being done. He stated that Denise Noble and Colin Haworth were disgusted by our guidance, which was questioned by Alan Gilpin, who works closely with both of those individuals and if they were so strong in their opinions, they would have spoken to him by now.

Dave Hourihan then went on to say that we could be invalidating our insurance and risking a fine from the British Crown Green; Jackie Foster stated that she'd read the insurance documentation and saw nothing in there that would suggest this was the case and Alan Gilpin stated that the BCGBA couldn't justify fining the club because we'd approached their CEO by email and had not had a reply and that he was planning on sending the updated guidance to Cumbria's Safeguarding Officer, who works closely with the BCGBA senior officials, and if there was a chance of that then it would give them an opportunity to tell us direct that we are wrong and risk financial punishment. Dave Hourihan asked Alan Gilpin if he could guarantee that the club were safe from such a sanction from the BCGBA, and Alan Gilpin replied that he could not, but he was confident that they would not have justification for it and we would have sound grounds for an appeal should it happen. Dave Hourihan said that he had a direct contact at the BCGBA and would go to them himself as a disgruntled trustee of the club, and Alan Gilpin pointed out that firstly, Dave Hourihan should be going to Martin Kinley to make sure the trustees were in agreement before taking the matter further, then secondly he should give the club chance to send their proposed guidance and see what the response is.

Steve Cornell stated that enough talking had been done, and asked the committee to vote whether to adopt the new guidance – all in favour other than Dave Hourihan, who voted against. Alan Gilpin was therefore asked to email the new guidance to Denise Noble and ask for clarification whether it was appropriate, before sending it on to members this weekend.

With regards to the opening of the bar, it was agreed that a sub-committee of anyone who operates behind the bar should meet in two weeks' time (15 July) to work out what needed to be put in place before opening for the first Moscrop qualifying night.

Alan Medcalf and Steve Cornell were thanked for their emailed input on bar opening, which will be used at that meeting as a starting point, and Alan Gilpin was thanked for his new arrangement of the furniture to allow for social distancing. Alan Gilpin mentioned that thanks also go to Alan Medcalf who has sterilised the bar area this week.

c. CCCGBA Annual Membership Return

Alan Gilpin confirmed that he submitted the return yesterday (on the 30 June deadline), showing 79 registered members. Ira Collier, Jonathan Cooper, Rod Garnett, Bob Newby, Harry Postlethwaite, Alan Salisbury, Mike Wilson & Sybil Wilson were listed as stopping bowling while Ian France, Ronnie Jones & Tom Pitt were listed as left club. If any of these 11 players decide to re-join the club at a later date they will need to follow the new member application process.

4. Coronavirus and its Effect on the Club

- a. League bowling – Still no word from the Rural League.
- b. Open competitions – We have now had confirmation that these are still specifically not allowed, so all are cancelled until August at the earliest. Alan Gilpin asked whether anyone had heard from John O’Flaherty’s family with regards to the mixed due to be held at the start of August, which is unlikely to go ahead – Paul Crossland said that it was through Steve Teasdale, so when he is next down at the green we can mention it.
- c. Club competitions – As part of the green opening guidance the Moscrop Cup can now be held as our first club competition, and if this is successful we will plan to run some of the others in August, to be agreed at the next meeting.
- d. Floodlight league – Alan Gilpin stated that our Floodlight rules state that payment of fees for the season should have been paid by yesterday (30 June) and that if it is to run, we need to get fixture packs to clubs by the end of August. Alan Gilpin said that with the BCGBA’s strict interpretation of the Government rules at present he could not see this taking place in 2020, but we could hold off making a final decision until the next meeting. A discussion took place, and the fact that 40 players plus spectators and volunteers would be present at each night meant that it is extremely unlikely that we will be able to run this event. It was therefore agreed to postpone the Floodlight League until 2021, and Alan Gilpin said that he would email the clubs to let them know.

5. Treasurer’s Report

John Iddon had come down earlier tonight to sign saying he didn’t need to be a signatory on the account anymore, and Simon Airey needs to sign as well, which can be done when he passes over the accounts folder to Jackie Foster.

There is £23,116 in the current account and approximately £1,000 in the bar account.

6. Secretary’s Report

When reviewing the club equipment as part of guidance on how we can run club competitions, Alan Gilpin had checked our match jacks – there are five black jacks that expire at the end of the 2021 season and six yellow jacks that expire at the end of 2022. Alan Gilpin had emailed Brian Cooke of the Bowls Hut in Morecambe to ask for a quote on a new set of jacks, preferably in a different colour but unfortunately Brian Cooke informed him in reply that the BCGBA only allow black and yellow jacks to be used for competitions at present, so that is not an option available to us. Alan Gilpin informed Terry Mercer of this on Monday this week, as it was Terry’s proposal to use a different colour that had been agreed at a previous committee meeting. With the above information, it was agreed that we will not need to source new or arrange for re-stamping of jacks until the end of next year.

On Friday, 26 June, Sue Hillbeck had forwarded a complaint to Alan Gilpin that was made through our website:

Please could you ask your members to show a little more respect towards the neighbours of the green. It's now 10.30pm and all we can hear is drunken laughter, noise and bottles crashing. Children are trying to sleep.

Alan Gilpin stated that he was in attendance at the time and did not feel that anything was wrong at the time – players were socially distancing and consuming their own alcohol at a reasonable hour; had the bar been open they could well have been there till midnight as they were in previous years! It was agreed that this complaint probably came because the neighbours have gotten used to a quieter world with lockdown, and that Sue Hillbeck should send a polite reply saying that it had been noted.

7. New Membership Applications

None.

8. Any Other Business

Steve Cornell noted that long-time sponsor of the club, Graham Forrest, sadly lost his battle with cancer last month and that Sue Hillbeck had sent a card of condolence to the family, from our club. Graham Forrest sponsored the Norman Kinley pairs, so a new sponsor will need to be sought for this at some point.

Alan Gilpin asked how often the green was being cut, as he had been approached by a few members of the club who thought that the grass was too long, and that the green was slow. Alan Medcalf said that it hadn't been cut as often because there are no proper matches taking place and also that his team is down on numbers due to Keith Hartley isolating and Martin Gilpin working at Hale.

Sue Hillbeck mentioned about the Paul Kerigan competition, and that she'd spoken to Cindy about it being run later in the year, which she was happy with.

Steve Cornell said that he'd been speaking to Alan Sanderson (club president) about the possibility of replacing the chairs in the main clubhouse. It was agreed that this should be done at some point, but at present we needed to get the electrics and floodlights sorted, and with no match bowling this year, it's something that can be done over the winter ahead of the 2021 season.

9. Time and Date of Next Meeting

Alan Gilpin suggested that we didn't necessarily have to meet as often as we have been now that the club would be open with fewer restrictions, unless guidance from the Government tightened up or a reply was received from The BCGBA or CCCGBA telling us that specifically why our new guidance cannot be applied. He therefore suggested we met on the first Wednesday in August, which was agreed and so the next meeting will be held at the club on Wednesday, 5 August from 7:30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:20pm.