

Kendal Victoria Bowling Club

Minutes of the Emergency Committee Meeting (via Zoom)

Monday, 24 August 2020 from 7:30pm

1. In Attendance / Apologies

Present: Steve Cornell (chairperson), Alan Gilpin (secretary), Jackie Foster (treasurer), Paul Crossland, Alan Medcalf & John Foster.

Apologies were received from Geoff Thompson, Sue Hillbeck & Martin Blamire.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 5 August 2020

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

3. Matters Arising

Electrics

Steve Cornell updated the committee, but unfortunately the Condition Report was not yet available – this has been promised to arrive in time for our next meeting at the end of September. We have been quoted £1,497+VAT for the additional socket work at the far end of the green (to include a sub-main, mains board and two external sockets). Alan Gilpin asked whether this work was essential to our plans and Alan Medcalf confirmed that it was, and so approval was given in principal, but it was agreed to hold over any final decision until the next meeting, so we knew whether any additional work would be required. Steve Cornell added that so far nothing had come up as needing doing from the work the electricians had reviewed to date.

Paul Crossland asked if we would need a cherry picker to sort the floodlights and Steve Cornell added that he had been checking this, but it had taken a back seat during the other electrical review work. Steve Cornell stated that he would follow up with this as soon as possible, as we may need use of the floodlights soon on the qualifiers for club competitions.

4. Coronavirus and its Effect on the Club

- a. Reopening of the green –The committee had agreed to close the green by email correspondence (see appendix 1), following Alan Gilpin's possible Covid-19 infection. A fogging machine had been ordered, which will disinfect surfaces in the club quickly and efficiently, and is expected to arrive tomorrow – Alan Medcalf said that he intended to operate this on Wednesday morning, and would only need the green to be closed on Saturday for greenkeeping works, so in theory the facilities and green could reopen from Wednesday afternoon.

Steve Cornell mentioned that when he went to the Trustees with the information received from Alan Gilpin, Dave Hourihan wanted to close the green for the rest of the year, whilst Martin Kinley seemed to be in support of a shorter period and had separately contacted Alan Gilpin to check on his well-being.

- b. Club competitions – Steve Cornell said that the format adopted for the Stubbs Cup had worked very well, and he had received good feedback from members, other than a few moans on the handicaps, which will be discussed in AOB. Alan Medcalf added that the club made as much profit behind the bar from the event as we would normally do from an open competition.

It was agreed to run the rest of the club competitions on every other Sunday with qualifiers the week before, starting with the Bob Kirkby on 13 September. Alan Gilpin stated that Sue Hillbeck had been in touch with Cindy Kerigan but was waiting for a reply, so thought pencilling in 27 September for that one would give her more time to arrange. This would leave the Joan May on 11 October, the Forbes Cup on 25 October (Alan Gilpin to contact Ian Gilpin over sponsorship and to check the date is okay) then finishing with the Presidents Cup on 8 November.

- c. Winter leagues – Alan Gilpin has been starting to take names for the singles and doubles events. He stated that the doubles had 14 entries, including the top 8 from last year, and suggested that to keep the bubble numbers lower we limit it to two leagues of 8 – top 8 from last year in tier 1 and everyone else in tier 2. This was agreed.

Alan Gilpin stated that we would start the week after the Presidents Cup, i.e. 15 November, which gives enough Sundays to the Christmas Break (require 4 and have up to 6) to then have promotion and relegation between each tier before starting again in January.

John Foster asked whether the kitchen would be open for the winter doubles and it was agreed that we do not yet know the answer to that question, but there is quite a bit of time before we will be starting to decide and talk to the council, if needs be. Alan Gilpin added that Kirsten Wilson was intending to play with Colin Wilson, so it did not look like they intended to do any food this year, so it would likely just be teas and coffees.

For the Winter Singles, we have 23 names so far or 25 if Paul Crossland and Yvonne Gregory were to be included, as they were unsure if they could play or not around work rotas until a format has been decided. Alan Gilpin stated that we need to limit capacity to 30, as that is the maximum allowed for an outside social gathering at present, which would work well in three tiers of 10, meaning 9 games that could be played over six weeks including a week for catch-up games to be played. This was agreed.

Alan Gilpin asked the committee to decide where the new players should play – he stated that the top 10 players from last year's table would automatically sit in tier 1 (assuming a full entry) and suggested that the bottom players should go into tier 3, but the new players could either join them or make up the middle tier with those that sat mid-table last year. Alan Medcalf asked who the new players were so far, and it was decided that they were a mixed bag, with one first division player + some with first division experience as well as one complete novice.

It was agreed that the new players should be placed in tier 2 or 3 depending on their playing level, and that Alan Gilpin could determine this depending on who is included in the final (up to) 30 players, using common sense. Alan Gilpin stated that there should be enough weeks to do two leagues before Christmas then one after, with promotion and relegation between, if we start on 18 September.

5. Treasurer's Report

Jackie Foster stated that at the end of July there was £23,381.91 in the main current account, but there were still a handful of cheques to clear, including £4,118.40 for the floodlights. It is expected to leave just under £19k when the dust has settled.

Alan Medcalf added that the bar account had around £2,700 in it, but with direct debits to come there was around £2k net.

Alan Gilpin stated that he had spoken to Kirsten Wilson about the catering account, as her and Colin Wilson were moving to Sedbergh and so it was uncertain whether the kitchen would continue in the same capacity in 2021. Kirsten was going to talk to her helpers and get back to us, but confirmed that she was happy for the balance of the account (well, leaving a small amount to keep it open) could be donated to the MNDA South Cumbria in memory of Paul Kerigan.

6. Secretary's Report

The Stubbs Cup was won by Martin Gilpin, who beat Trevor Procter in the final from a field of 38.

7. New Membership Applications

Billy Bigland was approved unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

It was noted that Mike Wilson had sadly passed away and agreed that Sue Hillbeck could organise a card to the family from the club.

Club Handicaps – Steve Cornell stated that he had received four separate complaints from members about the handicapping and more specifically regarding the scratch handicap that Dave McRoy had been allocated, as people thought he should have been +2 under our system of B Teamers being off that for club events. He added that when the handicap system was put in place, it stated that the A, B, C, D related to our club positions and that members who played for other clubs in the Kendal & District Bowling League were to be handicapped based on the equivalent division they competed in, so he understood how Dave McRoy could be allocated scratch.

Alan Gilpin stated that Steve Cornell had given him a “heads up” this morning on this and that he is glad that he did, because his initial reaction was that he was livid. He stated that as he had decided on the handicaps – a very difficult task with our own members moving between teams regularly, no league bowls this year and many members that now enter our events playing for different clubs – he felt that these complaints were a personal slur on him, particularly as he played against Dave McRoy. He added that in recent years Dave McRoy has defeated Martin Gilpin and Ian Nicholson (our top two individuals in the club) in open competitions, he has won the Kendal & District League First Division Championship and plays in the top half of Holme's Morecambe League team. The only reason he plays for Holme B in the Kendal League (in Division 1) is their club politics and because he is captain of that team, and that should not result in him receiving a positive handicap when he is one of our clubs top performers, illustrated by his finishing third in the Winter Singles League. Alan Gilpin stated that it was extremely sad that some members took it upon themselves to complain about Dave McRoy's handicap to the Chairman, rather

than talking to him or just living with it – Dave McRoy was more than happy to be off scratch and reached the semi-final of the competition so how can people moan that he was under-handicapped?!!

Steve Cornell agreed with everything Alan Gilpin said, concurring that allocating club handicaps for events was harder than it has ever been. He asked whether it was time that this policy be reviewed, and Alan Gilpin said that he'd already thought about this, as he was going to bring it up as a discussion point tonight anyway before it came up from this other process. Alan Gilpin stated that it could be better to do this by division, perhaps anyone who has competed more than a certain number of games in division 1 should always be off scratch and then you can work down the divisions, but that he felt this would result in most people coming down in handicaps and in recent memory, all club events have been won off scratch anyway.

Alan Medcalf stated that he felt that for all club competitions, the organiser should have the power to decide the handicaps and their decision should be final.

Steve Cornell proposed that the rules on handicapping stayed as they are, but that we make it clear that it is at the interpretation of the competition organiser and not up for discussion or complaint. This was agreed, and Alan Gilpin asked if he could clarify this in his next email to members, which was agreed.

9. Time and Date of Next Meeting

The agenda had Wednesday, 2 September (from 7:30pm) pencilled in, which was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:32pm.