

## **Kendal Victoria Bowling Club**

### **Minutes of the Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, 30 September 2020 from 7:30pm**

#### **1. In Attendance / Apologies**

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

Apologies were received from Geoff Thompson.

Steve Cornell stated that since the last meeting, Dan Hartley and Susan Hillbeck had both tendered their resignations (25 August and 27 September respectively). He added that both were for personal reasons and that there was no indication that either had anything to do with goings on at the club. Steve Cornell mentioned that in Sue's resignation she had stated that she is willing to carry on doing the open competitions, and asked whether that would be acceptable: Alan Gilpin stated that there were several matters to discuss as a fall-out from Sue leaving the committee, and this would better be covered under Any Other Business later in the meeting.

#### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 24 August 2020 (via Zoom)**

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

#### **3. Matters Arising**

##### **Electrics**

We have now received the condition report from SRE Ltd (see appendix 1). Some work needs to be done but not as much as originally indicated by Dave Hourihan. There are 14 items, 13 of which are requiring immediate action with 1 recommendation. Price to come shortly but looks like mainly remedial work so shouldn't be too much.

It was agreed that we need to approve this work as soon as possible, subject to the price, and so the committee would meet at 11am on Sunday, 11 October (prior to the Joan May final day) to discuss this one point.

#### **4. Coronavirus and its Effect on the Club**

- a. League bowling – The South Lakeland Rural League have sent their financial statements and proposed that no AGM be held in 2020, instead simply carrying over the unplayed fixtures from this year to 2021 then holding their next meeting in November 2021. Alan Gilpin asked whether we still wanted to keep this team, as some of the players from 2019 are unlikely to play in 2021 and whilst we have some new ones, they would slot into the Kendal D and/or Seniors B sides, which may need bolstering with new players if we lose some of the squad size from 2019 in those leagues. A lengthy discussion was held over the possible players that would want to play on this Friday night league, and it was decided unanimously that they would be as well playing in the Seniors B and/or Kendal D teams. This would keep Friday nights free for social bowling at the club, which would likely be more profitable for the bar and more beneficial to members. Alan

Gilpin was asked to email John Smith of the Rural League, expressing our wish to withdraw with immediate effect.

The South Westmorland Seniors League have deferred their AGM until the start of 2021, and will be in touch again nearer the time to let us know a date if it is going to be possible to do this safely.

The Kendal & District League have not officially been in touch, but as Colin Haworth emails Alan Gilpin to his KVBC address, we know that the intentions are the same as the Seniors League.

- b. Club competitions – Alan Gilpin stated that all feedback received has been positive and all agreed. Alan Medcalf stated that over the course of the last event (The Paul Kerigan Memorial Cup) the bar took nearly £600, which is more than we ever would normally on any one-day competition. There are three more to play, plus the Seniors Cup on Monday, 12 October (this is a one-day event as there will not be over 30 entries).
- c. Winter leagues – The Singles League started last week and went very well – this was changed to two tiers of 13 rather than 3 tiers of up to 30 as we only managed to get 26 entries, so 3 tiers seemed excessive. Alan Gilpin stated that he'd set up an area in the bar for tea/coffee so that players could operate a one-way system for refreshments, which had worked well.

The Doubles League is scheduled to start on Sunday, 15 November and we have 15 of a planned 16 teams – John & Jackie Foster said that they would take the last place, which would mean we have two tiers of 8 teams. Alan Gilpin said that he would now send an email to the captains of each team to let them know the plans.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The current account at the end of August, less cheques sent out in September comes to £18,069 and there is also £79 in the petty cash.

Alan Medcalf added that the bar account had around £2,000 in it.

## **6. Secretary's Report**

The Bob Kirkby Plate was won by Paul Crossland, who beat Peter Blamire in the final from a field of 42. The Paul Kerigan Cup was won by Alan Gilpin, who beat Matthew Simpson in the final from a field of 44.

We have had confirmation from Stramongate School that their car park can continue to be used for our remaining weekend final days, as well as the winter league doubles. Alan Gilpin also stated that the President had requested that his Presidents Cup final day be moved from Remembrance Sunday to the Saturday of that same weekend, which was agreed.

Alan Gilpin stated that after discussions at the last meeting regarding club competition handicaps, he'd come up with the idea of having a "Handicap Review Committee (HRC)" - the organiser will set the initial handicap for a player in their first event, but after that changes will be made by the HRC. If there is any disagreement on a player's handicap, each side will take their argument to the Chairperson to make a final decision. Paul Crossland, Alan Medcalf and Dan Hartley have been set up as the sub-committee forming the new HRC as a trial until the end of the year. Alan Gilpin added that Alan Sanderson had also

touted a potential new system for handicaps, but Paul Crossland said that he'd spoken to the President who was now happy with this new system.

Finally on club competitions, Alan Gilpin asked whether for matches in all handicapped events should we be placing the lowest handicapped player on scratch for each game (i.e. +5 v +7 would start 0 v +2). A brief discussion was held and it was agreed that at least one player should start on zero (or minus for the defending champion) for each game played in a club handicapped event moving forward. Alan Gilpin stated that he will make a new poster to put up about the handicaps and the new HRC.

The Floodlight League place left by Lindale's withdrawal has not yet been filled, and Alan Gilpin has therefore emailed Windermere to let them know that they have until the new year to take the place, or we will have to look to another club.

## **7. New Membership Applications**

Graham Barnes has been agreed by email between meetings, which was confirmed by all. Ian Walker has applied but not yet been listed on the board for 10 days, so it was agreed to approve him (or not) at the meeting on 11 October.

## **8. Any Other Business**

With Sue Hillbeck stepping down from the committee, there are several issues to be discussed: -

- 1) She is a signatory on the current account – it was agreed that only Alan Medcalf and Jackie Foster should sign cheques in the interim, and that Sue be taken off the bank mandate and replaced by Steve Cornell.
- 2) She is a signatory on the catering account – it was agreed that we would seek donations for Mike Wilson's charity of choice (Autism Awareness) over the course of the next two events, then we can bank everything in the catering account and get a cheque to close to that charity, to be presented to Mike's wife on Presidents Day (if she is available to come). If a catering account is then required in the future, a new bank account can be started again.
- 3) She has possession of a bar key – it was agreed that Dan Hartley be co-opted back onto the bar committee, and should be handed Sue's key back when convenient.
- 4) The position of "competition secretary" - this is not an official post at the club but one that Sue has used in that role. Alan Gilpin stated that really the organising of all club events sits on the committee and really falls on the secretary, and that he has always felt that this is fine, as the "competition secretary" was simply a sub-committee under his supervision. Alan Gilpin added that his intentions have been clear that he will be stepping down as secretary and that whoever takes over may want to run the open competitions themselves, and so we cannot promise Sue that she will continue to do this function.

Alan Gilpin suggested that we use this as an opportunity to split the secretary role, as he could not think of anyone that would want to take over everything that he currently does. We could instead create an "Events Secretary" position at the club, as well as the existing "Administrative Secretary". Both roles would need to be taken up by someone willing to sit on the club committee, but it was thought that there may be more interest in the latter role, as it is more of a standard secretary post. It was agreed that this suggestion had merit, and Alan Gilpin offered to draw up job specs and draft changes to the rules to incorporate this change, for review at our next meeting in November.

Paul Crossland asked whether we needed to do anything about the number of people at club events, as

we breached the 30 on Sunday due to the excellent weather for the Paul Kerigan Cup. It was thought that perhaps we needed to add a covid notice to the gates of the club, though we already have a sign saying members only and no right of way, that is generally ignored! A discussion was had over the covid rules, as there were 300 fans at the Kendal Town game at the weekend and even with just over 30 at the club there was ample room for more. It was agreed that we would not add any further notices at the club, and that with the dual purpose of our venue (bar and sports) we could have 30+ under the guidelines.

Alan Gilpin asked whether non-members could now play on the green, as friendlies and open competitions are allowed by the BCGBA. It was agreed that this is fine as long as they are accompanied by a member, pay £2 into the honesty box and signed in.

John Foster asked whether the club had ever held a Presentation Evening at the end of a season – it used to but support dwindled and so it was dropped several years ago. Paul Crossland said that he and a few others had discussed the possibility of having one this year, but that it had been put off by the pandemic. It was agreed to consider holding a Presentation Evening at the end of the 2021 season, perhaps in January 2022 (after the Winter Singles but before the AGM).

#### **9. Time and Date of Next Meeting**

There will now be a brief meeting on Sunday, 11 October at 11am to approve the electrical work and Ian Walker's membership application. Following on from there we will meet on Wednesday, 18 November 2020 and then 6 January 2021 (each at 7:30pm) before the AGM on Saturday, 13 February 2021 at noon (subject to social distancing rules at that time).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:16pm.