

Kendal Victoria Bowling Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 9 December 2020 from 7:30pm

1. In Attendance / Apologies

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

Apologies were received from Geoff Thompson, Jackie Foster (treasurer) & John Foster.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 4 November 2020

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

3. Matters Arising

- a. Electrics – the internal work has been completed, billed and paid for, though Alan Medcalf added that the wiring in the gutter had not been done, so Steve Cornell stated that he'd chase that bit up.

Floodlight complaint – we have received a letter from SLDC [appendix 1] regarding a complaint from one of the residents from the flats, and Alan Medcalf has spoken to a lady from the council, who said that they would be “monitoring the situation, but did not think it was a serious issue”. Steve Cornell added that he'd borrowed a light meter and taken several readings that showed that the light from the floodlights dropped off very quickly the other side of the wall, which is something we can relay to the council should a further complaint be made. Alan Medcalf added that the outside light from the kitchen corner may be angled too high and turning that down a notch may reduce any potential glare towards the flats.

- b. Gas leak (kitchen hob) – Simeon Noble has acquired a replacement hob from a job for free and dropped it off, but not yet connected it up. The gas is currently disconnected from the existing hob, so there is no chance of any further gas leak.
- c. Secretary / Events Secretary position – Alan Gilpin said that he still had not had chance to draw up anything to change the rules and incorporate a new Events Secretary position, but that he was starting to reconsider leaving the post after significant changes left him in a much better head space.

4. Coronavirus and its Effect on the Club

- a. Coming out of lockdown – The UK came out of full lockdown on Wednesday, 2 December and back onto the tier system, with Cumbria being placed initially in tier 2 (high risk). The BCGBA emailed to confirm that clubs could re-open and internal competitive matches resume, which was

done at the earliest opportunity.

The bar has not reopened because we do not serve food and it was agreed to keep it that way until we are legally allowed to open. Paul Crossland added that the Prime Minister was due to announce further information on 16th December.

- b. Club competitions – The Presidents Cup has been pencilled in for January / February on Saturday(s), depending on number of entries, President availability and weather conditions. Alan Gilpin has started taking entries and making a note of any Saturdays that they cannot do. The initial restrictions of 30 players is no longer part of coronavirus restrictions, as they are now allowing larger numbers at sporting events, so the event could be held on one day. It was agreed that it would be best if we could hold this on one day, and ideally sooner than later as a third lockdown is predicted by the end of January. Alan Gilpin said that both the President and Vice President were playing in the winter league this Sunday, so he would talk to both and pencil in a date.

The Winter Tournament was supposed to be restricted to 32 players, but we have more than that and Alan Gilpin said he thought we could accommodate extra players and make some of the groups 5 players rather than 4 and this was agreed, as it was better for members not to miss out.

- c. Winter leagues – Phase 2 of the Singles League started last week and the Doubles League started this Sunday gone, with a reduced number of teams (14) due to the Blackstones and Fosters withdrawing due to illness and injury.

Alan Gilpin added that he would like the Singles League to carry on during the summer, as we have plenty of weeks to get a full phase done from April to August without using Fridays where there were bank holidays and/or local over 60's events. The new format he is trialling can incorporate up to 40 players each week, which gives two leagues of 20 and should draw additional interest and possibly attract new members to play in it. It was agreed to trial this for 2021, and Alan Gilpin said he would draw up some "rules" and rough dates ready for the next meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Alan Gilpin read out an email received from Jackie Foster earlier today, as follows:

"I am sorry John and I will not be able to attend tonight's meeting. I am improving slowly so hopefully will be able to attend January's meeting. The current bank balance at 30 November is £15446 petty cash £100.

Regarding the Go Membership Database I did a zoom training session with Colin Harwood which I found very informative have been on the website and updated John's and my details as there had our surname as Forster not Foster. I have printed copy of the instructions of how to access and amend members details.

I would like to thank the committee for their help and understanding at this difficult time."

Alan Gilpin said that he has balanced Jackie's accounts and is waiting for Alan Medcalf to provide the records for the bar before the accounts can be drafted; Alan Medcalf passed these over.

6. Secretary's Report

Windermere have not confirmed whether they are going to take Lindale's place in our Floodlight League, and they know they have until the New Year so if nothing comes Alan Gilpin asked whether we might need to consider emailing other clubs. Alan Gilpin then went on to ask the committee whether they might consider the future of the floodlight league, as more clubs may struggle to field sides next year after the coronavirus break. Steve Cornell added that for the amount of work put in, the club do not really gain financially from the floodlight league and that this year has shown us that we have plenty of members to potentially replace it with a members only event, which would likely generate more profits. Alan Medcalf said that the floodlight league was also the biggest threat to the green condition, which Paul Crossland backed up as the greenkeeping partner for Fridays after a full week of play in the past couple of years. Alan Gilpin stated that we should not be too hasty to stop the floodlight league, because it is a popular competition, but also we should not disregard this opportunity to reflect on whether it is still something that is more beneficial to the club and it's members than something we could run in it's place. Alan Gilpin asked the committee to take some time to think and suggested that the future of the floodlight league be added as a matter to discuss again at the next meeting.

The Cumbria County AGM has been postponed until a time when it can be held safely but they have been able to find a new secretary (Vi Dennison) to take over from Pam Baxter.

Our AGM preparation: -

- Trustees – Martin Kinley's term runs to 2024 and Dave Hourihan's to 2026 but with Terry Mercer's resignation earlier this year we need to vote in someone. His term was only until 2022, so we need to adopt someone for one year only, and they would get the option to stand for re-election for a further six years in 2022, to 2028.
- President / Vice President – Alan Sanderson is the current President, but Sue Hillbeck has expressed a wish to stand down as VP, so we will need to fill this position at the AGM
- Secretary / Treasurer – we are hoping Alan Gilpin and Jackie Foster carry-on.
- Committee – we are down to 8 on the committee, which is lighter in numbers than we would ideally like, so we need to encourage more to join.
- Deceased members – Chris West passed away recently, and we also need to mention Mike Wilson.
- Notices of motion – none from the committee, so if none from members by the next meeting then it should be a quick AGM!

7. New Membership Applications

None.

8. Any Other Business

Alan Medcalf mentioned that the water boiler in the kitchen has now been condemned and asked if we could replace it. Alan Gilpin asked how much they are, and Alan Medcalf said around £400 and this was agreed.

Steve Cornell made the committee aware that somebody had approached him to ask the question of whether the club could be purchased – they are interested in buying the Albion Sports and Social Club for development but would want to add our land to make the site bigger and even said they'd build us a new

green and bar elsewhere as part of any deal. Steve Cornell had told them that whilst he was club Chairman, it is the members that have the power to dissolve the club and any offer would need to be made and heard at an EGM, but his gut feeling was that the majority of members would not be interested, however, added that money talks.

Alan Gilpin raised a concern over the number of members that might want to play for our club in the Kendal and Senior leagues next season. He stated that he'd looked at who played in 2019 and if you take out those who didn't renew in 2020, those we know were planning to play elsewhere and those who may not be playing at all, the squads were extremely depleted. We have added a few new players, but until lists go up we will not know for sure how big our selection headache might be. The committee decided that Alan Gilpin should put lists up as soon as possible for the 2021 teams so that we can assess the situation again, and include this in the next communication to members as well as sending Facebook messages to Jonathan Cooper and Ira Collier, who were both A Team players but haven't bowled at all since the pandemic.

Paul Crossland asked whether the committee would consider allowing the families of members who have passed away to purchase plaques to add to the stone chair on the flat side of the bowling green, to make it a memorial seat. It was agreed that this would be okay, as long as there was no considerable cost to the club.

9. Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is 20 January 2021 (7:30pm), with 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.