

Kendal Victoria Bowling Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 17 February 2021 (by Zoom) from 7:30pm

1. In Attendance / Apologies

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

Apologies were received from Martin Blamire.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 9 December 2020

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

3. Matters Arising

- a. Electrics – the wiring in the gutter had not yet been done, so Steve Cornell said he would chase this up.
- b. Floodlight alterations – not yet done, as we have been locked down; Alan Medcalf to organise before the season starts.
- c. Kitchen hob and replacement of water boiler – not yet done, as we have been locked down. Alan Medcalf mentioned that the club owes him around £800 – the boiler is £460 and he has spent £80 on new batteries for the defibrillator, amongst other expenses – Jackie Foster said she would pop to the club and give him a cheque.
- d. AGM preparations – Alan Gilpin has suggested that we could do this electronically, as there are no notices of motion so we are basically asking members to vote on a few things:
 - i. Are they happy with the 2020 minutes
 - ii. Are they happy with the 2020 accounts
 - iii. Are they happy to appoint Joey Bean as Trustee to replace Terry Mercer, who resigned last year, for his final years' term – Alan Gilpin confirmed he'd spoken to Joey, who was happy to do this so long as the committee don't feel it is a conflict of interests with his position as Chairman of Burneside
 - iv. Are they happy for Alan Sanderson to be President again
 - v. Vice President role vacant – Paul Crossland asked Geoff Thompson whether he'd be willing to become the new Vice President, being as he was stepping down from the committee, which was agreed
 - vi. Alan Gilpin to remain secretary
 - vii. Jackie Foster to remain treasurer
 - viii. Five other remaining committee members (Steve Cornell, Alan Medcalf, Paul Crossland, Martin Blamire and John Foster) re-elected on mass
 - ix. Phil King to be added to the committee – Paul Crossland confirmed he had spoken to Phil and he was keen to get involved in this capacity

Steve Cornell and Jackie Foster have emailed their 2021 AGM reports to Alan Gilpin, who will add his report then send to members with the accounts, 2020 minutes and the list above for voting. Replies to be received by Sunday, 28 March so we remain compliant with the club rules of holding the AGM by the end of March. It was questioned whether we would be quorate for this meeting, and Alan Gilpin said that he'd calculated we needed 21 members to have a quorum, so if we make sure all of the committee respond and push other members to do the same, we should be okay. Alan Gilpin added that if the rules and weather allow, we could hold the belated 2020 President's Cup over the weekend of 27/28 March, at which we could encourage all entrants to submit an AGM response. This was all agreed and Alan Gilpin was asked to organise the email to be sent out as soon as possible.

- e. 2021 players for league teams – a list had been put up before Christmas and there are now 28 names on the list for the Kendal League, with some of those wanting to play Seniors as well. This does suggest that we will struggle to enter four teams in the Kendal and two teams in the Seniors this coming season, but it was felt that there were enough names to come to field teams, and we'd rather keep the teams in the league than see players not having competitive games each week, should the league seasons be able to go ahead. Alan Gilpin was asked to email Colin Haworth to say we will aim to keep all four teams in the Kendal League in 2021, and to do the same for the two teams in the Seniors League, should we be asked the question.
- f. The future of the floodlight league – It was agreed to put this forward to the next meeting, when we will hopefully have more information on what else may be running this year. Steve Cornell added that his opinion had not changed in that the league was no longer in the best interests of the members and should be replaced with something internal. Alan Medcalf and Paul Crossland both also reiterated the negative effect playing the floodlight league has on the condition of the green.

4. Coronavirus and its Effect on the Club

- a. 2021 lockdown – The UK went back into a third full national lockdown on Monday, 4 January 2021 and will likely remain in it until at least Monday, 8 March. There are suggestions that amateur sport such as golf, tennis and bowls be allowed to return in some form before then, and it was agreed that we would open our facilities to members as soon as it was possible for whatever we can offer – Steve Cornell reiterated the positive impact playing bowls can have on mental health and so the importance of giving members the opportunity as soon as we can. Alan Medcalf added that the green will need some work doing when the weather allows over the coming month or so, and might need to remain closed or close briefly again to get this done, so Alan Gilpin was asked to consult with Alan Medcalf as soon as we get the go-ahead to reopen.
- b. The President's Cup 2020 – this is the last of the club events from last year to be competed and Alan Gilpin suggested that this should be the first to be played once we are allowed to, after which we can look to restart the 2021 member's events. It was agreed that we would try and do this at the end of March, if allowed.

- c. Winter leagues – The singles league can restart as soon as we are allowed, because this is set-up to be covid safe with the top division of 16 players competing in the morning and the championship (another 16 players) in the afternoon. As we intend to turn the winter singles league into an all-year singles league, there is no immediate rush to finish it before the usual summer season starts.

Alan Gilpin stated that we have only completed two of seven weeks and there are also two catch-up games to fit in after Keith Atkinson had been taken ill the night before the last outing. However, it is unlikely that open competitions will start in April, so we could continue to use Sundays for several weeks yet and this might be the only opportunity to play for some of those players. It was agreed to try and salvage the doubles league, depending on the rules open to us coming out of lockdown.

- d. 2021 leagues – We do not know whether the league seasons will kick-off this summer, though the chances of them happening at the start of April seems slim. If we cannot play in league competition, but are allowed to do internal club events, we could consider running something ourselves on the normal league nights (Tuesday and Thursday) and during Monday afternoon for Senior players. Steve Cornell added that it would be important to provide members the opportunity to play competitively if the leagues did not start as normal.

Alan Gilpin added that he could use the first five Friday nights to run the Moscrop Cup, after which we can look at doing the other club events. John Foster said he thought that Friday nights were to be held for social evenings open to all members when the Rural team was withdrawn but Alan Gilpin added that we are unlikely to be able to hold social nights at the start of the year due to the pandemic, so they would come in later. Regardless, some Friday nights were planned to be used for the Moscrop Cup and Kendal League cup matches, with social nights thrown in whenever there was nothing else on.

5. Treasurer's Report

Alan Gilpin has sent the accounts by email, and the committee all confirmed they were happy with them for 2019-20.

Jackie Foster informed the committee that there was £14,838.28 in the current account at the end of January, which Alan Gilpin noted was very good for that time of year, plus around £100 in petty cash. The contents insurance with NFU was up for renewal: £618.97 (up by £81.55 on last year) – it was agreed to pay this but look to shop around next year if it remains high. The public liability insurance through Endsleigh is also due for renewal soon, and Alan Gilpin added this is normally prompted through Denise Noble or from the County. Gas bills are now available online with Jackie having a login.

Geoff Thompson asked if there were any more grants available to us after the £10,000 we managed to get from SLDC last year. Alan Gilpin said that he'd tried to apply for the wet-led pub grant of £1,000 but they now need a corporation tax reference and we do not have one – he asked if he should ring the council to enquire and this was agreed.

6. Secretary's Report

We have received a lot of emails from Colin Haworth with updates from the BCGBA, but not much of it very useful to us. There are several grants available to apply for, but mostly if you're doing something specific to battle covid – Alan Gilpin did ask whether we should be going back to SLDC, as he'd heard that

Hale Bowling Club had received an additional grant following the one we both got early last year. He has looked to apply online but needed a corporation tax reference so stopped as we don't have one, but could perhaps phone the council to ask if we are entitled to anything else, which was agreed.

Richard Edmondson (Westmorland Gazette photographer) has asked to put one of our pictures (from the website) in his online magazine, which was agreed by email.

With regards to league bowls and AGMs, Kendal and the Seniors have put their AGM back to the end of 2021 and sent their accounts out to clubs.

7. New Membership Applications

None.

8. Any Other Business

John Foster asked about the jacks, as they are out of date at the end of the year. Alan Gilpin noted that one colour expired at the end of 2021, with the others at the end of 2022, and it had previously been agreed to look to replace or restamp this coming winter.

Jackie Foster said that the Go Membership was now set-up for the club and she has the password.

Alan Gilpin asked about selection of teams, if the league seasons were to go ahead as planned at the start of April. In the absence of a physical AGM and the club being closed for all of 2021 so far, there has not been chance to put up a list to appoint a selection committee, and whilst Dan Hartley and Alan Sanderson had done an admirable job in the previous couple of years, they were no longer members of the club committee. He suggested that the club committee pick the opening teams after their next meeting on 17 March, if there is still a chance that league bowls will start in April by then. A selection committee can then be appointed to take over from week 5, with Alan Gilpin and Paul Crossland sorting out team sheets and holiday/illness cover for the first four games and Steve Cornell there if they cannot agree. Paul Crossland added that Alan Medcalf has been useful for team selection in the past, as he sees who is playing the green more than most, so there are four of us to sort those initial teams with experience of picking teams previously. It was agreed that the squads for the first four fixtures of 2021 be picked by Alan Gilpin, Paul Crossland, Steve Cornell and Alan Medcalf after the next meeting, so long as there are teams to pick (i.e. leagues going ahead).

Jackie Foster asked what would be happening with membership renewals. Steve Cornell mentioned that members got plenty of opportunity for bowls in 2020 for their money, and those that chose to join late in the year knew there was a chance we would be locked down again. It was agreed that the fee remain at £30, payable by 30 April as usual if leagues go ahead as normal or by 30 June if the season start is delayed again this year.

John Foster asked if there had been any follow up from the enquiry into purchasing the green as part of the development of the snooker club – Steve Cornell said he'd heard nothing more.

9. Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next proposed meeting is 17 March 2021 (7:30pm), at which we will set a schedule for the summer.

Jackie Foster stated that her and John have been advised to continue to shield until the end of March, and

Geoff Thompson added that he would not feel comfortable meeting in person so soon. It was therefore agreed that the next meeting be held over Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:40pm.