

## **Kendal Victoria Bowling Club**

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

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

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

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

In Attendance: Sue Hillbeck & Phil King – Alan Gilpin explained that Sue was here because of her input into the open competitions, which will be discussed later, and Phil as an introduction ahead of him joining the committee after the closing date for AGM voting had passed.

Alan Medcalf and Martin Blamire were absent from the meeting.

#### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 17 March 2021**

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

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

- a. Electrics – Steve Cornell stated that Alan Medcalf was going to sort the wiring in the gutter himself, and that he had chased the electricians for the sockets at the far end of the green, which was a separate quote to the other work previously completed – he will chase again in due course but there is no urgency and we have not yet paid for this.
- b. Floodlight alterations – We do not think this has been done with the green being closed, but Paul Crossland said he would discuss with Alan Medcalf and arrange it before the lights are needed.
- c. Kitchen hob and replacement of water boiler – Paul Crossland stated that he thinks the new water boiler has been ordered, following its approval for purchase at the last meeting, and that the hob is still on the side waiting to be fit.
- d. Electronic AGM response from members – Alan Gilpin reported that 29 forms had been received, so we were quorate for the AGM and that all votes so far were either “agree” or “abstain”.
- e. 2021 league start dates and selection process – It was agreed at the previous meeting that teams for April be picked by the club committee, as there would not be sufficient time to appoint a selection committee. However, with leagues now starting at the end of April at the earliest, Alan Gilpin stated that a list has already been put up for the selection committee to be appointed at our next meeting, which should be in time to select teams for week 1 of the new season. Alan Gilpin stated that he did not intend to stand on the selection committee in 2021, as there are already four names down on the list and it is a good opportunity for us to see how well it works without his input. He did, however, want to organise internal friendlies on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> for the top players and the 15<sup>th</sup> for D team contenders, the results and performances from which could be used by the new selection committee to determine who plays in which team come the

opening games of the 2021 season. This was all approved by unanimous decision.

Alan Gilpin added that this would mean that the floodlight alterations will need to be done before the 13<sup>th</sup> of April.

- f. The future of the floodlight league – Alan Gilpin summarised the thinking so far from the December and February meetings (for the benefit of Phil King and Sue Hillbeck, who were not at those meetings), being that the committee were strongly considering scrapping the floodlight doubles league following the break from it due to coronavirus in 2020. Steve Cornell commented that his opinion had not changed in that we could run something internally with likely more financial gain from our own members, over less nights causing less strain on the green. Paul Crossland added that he had been discussing possibilities with members, and thought you could have teams of mixed ability, using Kendal League finishing positions, for example, eight teams captained by each of the A team from the last week of the season – Alan Gilpin reminded Paul Crossland that this should be for ALL Victoria members and not just those that play for us in the Kendal League; we have almost 100 members but only 40 or so fall into that category and others might be interested in playing, and should not be ignored.

It was decided that a final decision on the floodlight doubles league be made at the next meeting, so it will be done by a committee officially appointed for the coming season following the AGM closing date. If the decision is to scrap it, then a decision on what will replace it can be made in June or July, still leaving plenty of time to plan and organise a new event.

#### **4. Coronavirus and its effect on the club**

- a. Reopening plans for 29 March – the Government have announced that outdoor sports facilities can reopen from this date, and Alan Gilpin confirmed that he'd spoken with Alan Medcalf to confirm the work on the green had been done so it will be ready. Alan Gilpin to email members to confirm this will be the case, but that until told otherwise players should stick to the rule of 6 and wear masks when accessing the clubhouse. The bar can reopen from 12 April as long as drinks are only consumed outside – Alan Gilpin and Steve Cornell have both read up on the rules for this.
- b. Membership renewals – as we have opened later and leagues will start later, Alan Gilpin proposed an extension to the 30 April deadline for renewal, to 31 May. This will give us enough time to complete the County Membership Forms by the end of June. Alan Gilpin said that he'd include bac details on his email so members could renew more easily without having to hand over cash to Jackie.
- c. Grant applications – Steve Cornell stated that Alan Gilpin had sent an email to SLDC to enquire which grants we were entitled to and made a claim based on that advice. We should now have received: -
  - i. £1,334 for the November Lockdown
  - ii. £238 for Tier 4 restrictions (5 days)
  - iii. £4,000 for closed organisations as a one-off in December
  - iv. £2,001 for January/February restrictions (42 days)
  - v. £2,096 for February/March restrictions (44 days)

Jackie Foster asked whether the money will be in the bank yet, and Alan Gilpin stated that he'd had confirmation that the grant had been approved so it should be, but he does not have access to see the club's bank account.

- d. The President's Cup 2020 – Alan Gilpin stated that he'd originally pencilled in Good Friday for this event but thought we may need longer to keep players in different bubbles and that he hoped to start the member's singles league that day (see e). Therefore, there were two options – we could use Saturday, 17 April to complete this event, as it is the first Saturday after the bar can serve alcohol again. Sue Hillbeck stated that it would be good to have the bar open for club events, as it was the way we made money and Phil King agreed – Alan Gilpin reminded the committee that Sue and Phil can have an input to discussions but neither were eligible to vote on a matter. The second option would be to hold the President's Cup from 2020 over Easter Saturday and Sunday – the bar would not be open but players who wanted a drink could bring their own as long as it was consumed outside, noting that a few members had commented to him at the Winter Tournament that they felt it was inappropriate for those who were drinking to be sat in the bar, as pubs were closed. Geoff Thompson stated he felt that with the club having received another grant from the council, making profits from events was not so important, and we should do what is best for members. Paul Crossland added that it would be good to hold an event over the opening weekend for those that have missed competitive sport these past few months. It was therefore agreed that, if Government guidance allows, we will hold the belated President's Cup on Easter Saturday and Sunday, with qualifying sessions each morning and afternoon down to a last 8 to be played Sunday evening.

Alan Gilpin noted that he would run this event, but this would be the last club competition he would be organising this year, as he has delegated the 2021 club competition events to Paul Crossland, though he will oversee and provide support as needed.

- e. Winter leagues – Alan Gilpin stated that he thought the singles league could recommence from good Friday (2 April), so long as the bubbles of 16 for each division were strictly maintained. This would comply with the Government rule of 6 as long as no player played more than 2 matches per week. The doubles league may have to wait until we have confirmation from the BCGBA that such events can return, though it is hoped that all matches could be completed on 18 & 25 April, as with all shops open by then more restrictions should have eased. If guidance is released saying we can play earlier then we can add a week on the 11<sup>th</sup>, but we do not want to go into May and start clashing with open competitions.
- f. 2021 competitions – Alan Gilpin has discussed these in detail with Sue Hillbeck and then emailed a list to the committee, to which Steve Cornell, Jackie & John Foster and Alan Medcalf had all replied saying they thought it looked good. Alan Gilpin noted that he had delegated the organisation of open competitions to Sue Hillbeck for 2021.

Alan Gilpin asked whether we should consider running open competitions at all, being as we may not be able to do catering or raffles (handing out tickets to people is not covid compliant), but the committee decided it was more important to get these going again and that making a profit was not so much of a necessity being the grant income we had received. Alan Gilpin stated that football cards may be a good alternative to a raffle and save the hassle of going out and getting prizes.

Alan Gilpin asked about sponsorships: Sue Hillbeck stated that the Cumberland were first, and

Simon Airey used to have to complete a form for this. Jackie Foster said that she would email her contact to find out what she needed to do, but could always ask Simon if she gets stuck. Second would be the Albion, purposefully moved to a date when they can be open, and Sue Hillbeck said she would speak to Sam Wilson for this one. Sue added that the only other was CP Catering, and Geoff Thompson usually sorts that out; Geoff said he does not see a problem and will confirm with them nearer the time. It was noted that each open competition sponsor put up £100.

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

The current account stood at £14,501 at the end of February but there were two large cheques since, so it will be down to around £13,100, though bacs subscriptions in from Jackie Foster (for her and John) and Alan Gilpin (for a list of members) would add £225. After Alan Gilpin emails members with information on opening and sends the bank information, subscriptions will likely come in quickly this coming month. Jackie Foster added that there was still £100 in petty cash and Alan Gilpin stated that the bar account will not have moved, because it has been closed.

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

We have received a lot more emails from Colin Haworth this month, keeping us informed of the Government and BCGBA rules and updates. He has also sent the annual membership return. One that might be of interest is "Bowls' Big Weekend" taking place over the bank holiday weekend at the end of May, but Alan Gilpin stated that he did not want to get involved with this himself, and could forward on the information if someone else wants to have a look and run it for the club. Steve Cornell added that he has been involved in similar things in the past and they have not amounted to much, and that we have a lot of members already and word of mouth keeps bringing more in with the positive things we are doing in the sport.

We have had a letter from the Environment Agency, telling us we are in a flood risk area and Alan Gilpin asked if we should just bin this, as we learned that and put flood defences in after Storm Desmond! Phil King said that he had received the same letter, so they are clearly just writing to everyone in certain areas.

#### **7. New Membership Applications**

Kate Ince – she is moving to the area shortly and would like to take up crown green bowls, which she remembers playing as a child in Cheshire. Kate currently lives in Birmingham and enquired through our website. All approved this membership application.

Alan Gilpin said that Sue Hillbeck had sent on Kate's initial enquiry, as website messages go to her, so maybe we need to change this being as she is not on the committee. Sue added that the reason for this was because she organised the open competitions, and most of the emails (other than spam) are competition entries and that anything else she will forward on to the club secretary. It was therefore agreed that it was fine for Sue to be the recipient of the emails from our club website.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

After a long pause, Steve Cornell stated he could not remember a previous meeting without any other business! He added that he had not heard anything else from the possible sale of the club to a developer, and that he had assumed that either the Albion had turned them down, or the pandemic had put the breaks on it all.

Geoff Thompson told the committee to keep up the good work, as it was goodbye from him in terms of his service on the committee. Alan Gilpin commented that Geoff had been a great servant to the club for many years, and even though he is stepping down, he will no doubt remain active in keeping the club going, especially now he has been talked into the vice-president role! A number of other committee members thanked Geoff Thompson for his work on the committee over the years.

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

The next proposed meeting is Thursday, 22 April 2021 (7:30pm at the club) – Alan Gilpin said that the reason for the change to Thursday was that the Morecambe League was due to start from Wednesday, 21 April and he intended to play this year and also knew that our chair, Steve Cornell, played last year. It would also be a perfect date for a new selection committee to stay on after the meeting and pick the teams for week 1 of the new season, should it go ahead as planned. After that a new schedule for the summer would need to be worked out and agreed – we will look at options at the next meeting, but it was indicated that perhaps Mondays would work well being as the Rothay League is not going ahead this year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:42pm.