

## The Kendal & District Bowling League

### 2021 Executive Meeting Minutes

Held at Netherfield Cricket Club on Thursday, 21 October from 7:45pm

#### In Attendance / Apologies

Officers of the league attended the meeting as follows: Colin Haworth (Chairman), Steve Cornell (Vice-Chair) and Alan Gilpin (Treasurer). Mary West was also in attendance, having been invited by the league committee to discuss taking over the role of Treasurer at the AGM.

Of the 29 clubs subscribed to the league, 18 were present. Apologies were received from Burton-in-Kendal while Allithwaite, Ambleside, Hawkshead, Holme, Langdale, Lower Holker, Milnthorpe, Sedbergh, Silverdale and Staveley did not send anyone to attend.

#### Chairman's Welcome / Address

Colin Haworth thanked those in attendance for representing their clubs tonight, but also for helping the league executive committee in their quest to provide competitive league bowling during 2021, following the covid-19 pandemic. He also thanked Steve Cornell, Alan Gilpin and Denise Noble for their hard work in making this happen. Colin requested that clubs email a list of their deceased members (since our last AGM on 28 November 2019), to be respected by a minutes' silence at the AGM next month.

#### Review of the 2021 Season

- a) Fixtures / disputes – There were very few disputes this year, with most complaints being for players being played in the wrong merit order, following which Alan Gilpin prepared and sent out a reminder to clubs where these can be found on the league website.

There were a number of fixtures postponed due to small coronavirus outbreaks, and the league executive committee were pleased that clubs were mostly able to rearrange these themselves and kept Alan Gilpin informed so that he could update the dates online.

- b) League winners – Alan Gilpin stated that the usual prizes will be paid out to clubs at the AGM, being £50 to all league winners, £30 to runners-up and £20 to 3<sup>rd</sup> placed sides, totalling £600 across the 6 divisions. A summary of those teams is as follows:

Division 1: Windermere A, Holme A, Levens A  
Division 2: Burneside A, Kirkby Lonsdale A, Lindale A  
Division 3: Windermere B, Sedbergh A, Burneside B  
Division 4: Netherfield D, Windermere C, Levens C  
Division 5: Langdale, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Bowness  
Division 6: Springfield, Subscription C, Milnthorpe B

- c) Individual merits – Alan Gilpin stated that instead of keepsakes for the top 3 of each division, the league's executive committee decided to pay cash to the top players across all divisions this year, and again, cheques will be presented at the AGM. The league executive committee have agreed the following prize breakdown for 2021 league merits (also totalling £600, budget figure given by Alan Gilpin as Treasurer, split calculated by Steve Cornell and approved by Colin Haworth as Chair):

Division 1: Martin Gilpin (Netherfield A) £100, Alan Gilpin (Windermere A) £75, Steve Carruthers (Windermere A) £50, Daniel Edmonds (Levens A) £30

Division 2: David Heness (Burneside A) £60, Martin Wilson (Crosthwaite A) £35, Graham Barnes (Burneside A) £25

Division 3: Graham Molloy (Windermere B) £40, Chris Goodwin (Windermere B) £25, Graeme Smith (Arnside A) £15

Division 4: James Duffin (Levens C) £25, Joan Loveland (Windermere C) £20, John Baines (Windermere C) £10

Division 5: Colin Knipe (Langdale) £20, Simon Bray (Langdale) £15, Bob Proctor (Bowness) £10

Division 6: Andrew Cross (Springfield) £20, Tom Davies (Springfield) £15, Cliff Park (Springfield) £10

- d) The Championship Weekend went very well, and thanks were given to host clubs. Winners and runners-up were presented with keepsake trophies on the day, as follows:

Division 1: Aidan Milliard (Levens A) 21-8 Matthew Simpson (Victoria A) at Bowness

Division 2: Russ Coates (Burton-in-Kendal B) 21-8 Graham Barnes (Burneside A) at Sedbergh

Division 3: Gillian Balderston (Allithwaite A) 21-15 Shane Barron (Burneside B) at Crosthwaite

Division 4: James Duffin (Levens C) 21-11 Joan Loveland (Windermere C) at Burneside

Division 5: Simon Bray (Langdale) 21-17 Tony Blacow (Burton-in-Lonsdale) at Ambleside

Division 6: Anne Unthank (Subscription C) 21-17 Julian Tyson (Milnthorpe B) at Hale

Alan Gilpin reported that there were several negative comments regarding the level of player that won two of the lower division events, but that the rules did not prevent this from happening and unless someone had an idea to propose to the AGM, it would be up to clubs and individuals to use their own judgement on what is and what is not appropriate.

- e) The Knockout Cup was retained by Victoria A, who defeated Arnside A 6-1 in the final. The Ernie Woodcock Trophy was won by Springfield, who defeated Subscription B 6-1 in the final. Netherfield Bowling Club were thanked for hosting both events.
- f) The Super 32 competition was held at Burton-in-Kendal this year, which was the event carried over from 2020. Martin Gilpin (Netherfield A) beat Martin Wilson (Crosthwaite A) 21-17 in the final.

## Preview of the 2022 Season

- a) Number of teams / league structure – Alan Gilpin stated that clubs indicated an entry of 69 teams for 2022, and the proposed league structure had been handed out. Alan Gilpin suggested that league fees for 2022 be collected by the new treasurer after the AGM, and once all have come in, the structure will be confirmed by the league executive committee by email and fixtures generated shortly thereafter.

Burneside asked why there were 12 teams in divisions 1, 2 and 5 and 11 in divisions 3, 4 and 6 and Alan Gilpin explained that we did not want to promote more than 3 teams (i.e. the ones receiving prize money this year) from any division, and also knew that if Levens C were promoted from division 3 then they would likely need to withdraw that team next year because most of their players cannot play on Tuesday nights.

It was mentioned that Endmoor had sent several emails on this, but having spoken to their representative they were happy to go with the league executive committee's proposal for transitioning teams into their respective leagues in 2022.

Victoria asked why it was felt appropriate to relegate teams from the reduced divisional numbers in 2021, in favour of those that did not compete this year. Alan Gilpin stated that the league executive committee were very clear at the start of the season that we were a competitive league, and as such it was likely that at least the top 2 teams would be promoted and at least the bottom side would be relegated, with the returning sides using the covid exemption coming back in either the division they were in previously, or the one below as fits with the structure. Netherfield commented that they felt this was a very fair schedule to follow into 2022 and thanked the league executive committee for putting it together and making it so clear.

- b) Prize fund – member clubs were asked their opinion on whether they would like to stick to paying money for merit places and keepsake trophies to the finalists of divisional championships in 2022, or revert back to trophies for all. Endmoor commented that getting people to fill roles was hard enough, so if it makes a job simpler then the executive committee should do what is easier to process. Burton-

in-Lonsdale commented that anyone who wanted a keepsake trophy could purchase one from any prize money given, should they prefer it, so they were also happy to keep this as was in 2021.

- c) Championship weekend – Alan Gilpin noted that a couple of issues with regards to these events was that there were so few entrants (just 16 at Hale) and so many changes to the line-ups / no shows. He put to member clubs an alternative method for these events to be considered going forward: each team in a division can nominate up to 4 players each to take part, and priority is given to the teams finishing in a higher league place, so for example, in a division with 11 teams where all teams put forward at least 3 players each, all will be given their top 2 then the top 10 will get their 3<sup>rd</sup> entry, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> entry from the bottom placed side being the first reserve on the day. This would give a full 32 singles event for each division and a list of reserves in order to replace anyone who fails to attend. All at the meeting seemed keen on the new idea, and Alan Gilpin said that he would prepare a notice of motion for them to vote on whether to keep the old version from 2022, or move to this new one. Alan Gilpin went on to ask whether member clubs still wanted to vote for each venue at the AGM, or whether they'd prefer the league's Executive Committee to decide from a list of volunteering clubs on a similar basis to what was done before (i.e. preference given to those that have not hosted in previous year(s)). Again, all in attendance seemed to prefer this power to be given to the executive committee, rather than going through the complicated voting process at the AGM. Heversham and Bowness have already put themselves forward to host one of the championship weekend events for 2022, and Netherfield and Crosthwaite also volunteered at this meeting.
- d) Knockout Cup / Ernie Woodcock Trophy – no proposed changes to these events. Heversham asked that care be taken on start times, as they had a match listed as 7pm start on the website, but 6:30pm on the draw sheet and Alan Gilpin apologised for this error, stating he got himself muddled up between the rules on start times and must have got that one wrong somewhere.
- e) Super 32 competition – Crosthwaite have been chosen to host the 2022 event on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April. A list of initial qualifiers will be sent out with these minutes tomorrow, and Alan Gilpin asked clubs represented to check if their players would like to attend and let us know at the AGM. Springfield asked for more information on the Super 32, as being the newest member club, they had not heard anything about it before. Alan Gilpin explained the theory behind it and also let them know that there was more information on the league website.

## **League Officers / Positions**

President – Denise Noble wishes to step down, no nomination received.

Netherfield asked whether the league executive had considered getting anything for Denise as a retirement gift – Colin Haworth stated that this had been discussed on the past but with Denise carrying on in different roles this was now the first time we know she is finishing her work for good. Several comments were made about how much work and progression Denise had done and achieved for the league for around 20 years, and that this should be recognised at the AGM.

Chairman – Colin Haworth happy to continue.

Vice-chair – Steve Cornell happy to continue.

Secretary – Vacated by Chris Hill, covered by the League's Executive Committee and Alan Gilpin would be willing to take this on at the AGM, as long as someone took his Treasurer role on.

Treasurer – Mary West agreed that if nobody else wanted the role, she would take it on.

Alan Gilpin advised member clubs that the current committee has a gap in their knowledge when it comes to website maintenance, and with Denise Noble stepping down it is important that someone comes forward to fill this void. If nobody from the above list is able to fulfil this role then perhaps there needs to be considered a new place on the Executive Committee for an Online Administrator.

Hale asked whether the league have seen the online-bowls website used by the Lancaster and Morecambe leagues. Alan Gilpin stated that as far as he was aware these would be an alternative to the MB Bowls website

that we use for the results service, which he was happy to keep using. The gap in knowledge was really for the maintaining of our own league website, which has the archives, honours boards, news, open competition information etc. on it. Springfield noted that they have a member keen on website management, and would ask them if they would be interested in helping the league executive with this role.

### **Financial Position / Budget**

Alan Gilpin advised that it looked as though the league was going to have a small deficit this year of up to £20, though he was waiting for the last couple of bits to come through to know for sure. He stated that with him standing down as Treasurer at the AGM, he did not feel it appropriate to advise on any change to the subscription fees for the 2022 season and that if that were the case we can expect another deficit next year with less than full capacity of teams, so the new Treasurer would need to consider this the following year depending on how things go.

### **Open Competitions**

A schedule of open competitions held in 2021, with the winners included, was provided. Alan Gilpin suggested that each club wishing to host open competitions for 2022 attend a separate meeting to discuss dates etc. and that we try to widen the area covered to include Barrow and Lancaster venues, as there were several clashes of larger events this year, although this has been a competition season like no other, with dates squashed into a shorter time-frame.

### **Notices of Motion for the Annual General Meeting (to be held on Thursday, 25 November)**

No notices have been received to date and Colin Haworth noted that these must be received within 3 weeks of the AGM, i.e. by 4<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Any Other Business**

Windermere asked whether a different venue could be considered for the meetings next year, as Netherfield was incredibly noisy. Alan Gilpin said that perhaps we could try a new venue for the open competitions meeting and if that was better we could consider using it for the main meetings next year instead. Netherfield mentioned that there is a microphone available to use, but we did not get this tonight because of the confusion over double-booking the room (which is also to blame for the increased noise levels).

Victoria asked whether clubs could bring more than one representative to the AGM and Heversham noted that there was no limit for the Rural League AGM, and it was also mentioned that the Seniors meeting had not set any limits. Alan Gilpin reminded clubs that we were still in a pandemic and should be operating social distancing while inside for meetings, so he would prefer just one representative still at the AGM. Levens noted that each club only had one vote, and should know what that is before they arrive to the AGM, so there should be no need for more than one representative per club. The League Executive stated that they will still ask clubs to send just one person to the AGM, but if anyone wanted to bring a second person for any reason, they would not be turned away.

**There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9pm.**