

SOUTH LAKELAND RURAL BOWLING LEAGUE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held 16th November 2016 in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

Present: In the **Chair Tom Grindey**. Representatives from **Burneside** (Colin Slinger, Ann Slinger), **Burton-in-Lonsdale** (John Mason, M Bibby, Val Thompson, Chris Thompson, Shaun Wilson), **Burton-in-Kendal** (David Raynor), **Crosthwaite & Lyth** (George Herd), **K A Hale** (Brenda Robinson, Ken Robinson), **Heversham** (Jim Mc Poland), **Holme** (Ian Hayton, Steve Ashburn), **Kirkby Lonsdale** (Robert Twaites), **Milnthorpe** (William Morris, Kath Craig), **Netherfield** (Ian Woof, Malcolm Booker), **Sedbergh** (John Haygarth, William Lowther), **Staveley** (Jim Garside, Helen Batty), **Subscription** (Davis Thornborrow, Colin Howarth), **Windermere** (Dan Edgar, J A Edgar) (27 delegates representing 14 of the League's 16 clubs) together with Mr. Mike Tordoff, President Cumbria County CGBA, Ms. Lydia Walker (interpreter) and J D Smith.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed representatives.
2. **Remembrance:** A minutes silence was held in remembrance of bowlers who had passed away in the past year. Mentioned by name were David Watson and David Dugdale, Burneside, Eric Proctor, Harry and Muriel Hamer, Heversham, Keith Mason, Holme and Norman Bone, Milnthorpe.
3. **To receive apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from **Langdale** (Lynn Smith)
4. **To receive Chairman's report:** The Chairman invited questions with regard to his report which, had been circulated prior to the meeting; none were raised.
5. **To approve Minutes of previous AGM:** The Minutes of the meeting held 18th November 2015 which, had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read. Proposed by Milnthorpe and seconded by Holme and **AGREED** that Minutes be approved.
6. **Matters arising from those Minutes:**
 - 6.1. **Minute 7.5 Use of Mb Bowls Results Service:** Action on Secretary to try to ensure 'no ranking of players or individual lists published'. The Secretary had raised this with Mr Beckett whose service it was and there was no specific merit list table appearing for League on the MB Bowls website. However, if you clicked an individual team in the League Tables players were ranked by % success and their overall position in the league could be found but he did not feel this was a particular problem.
 - 6.2. **Minute item 9 Cumbria County President report:** Request from Windermere that clubs be made aware of County wide contractors with certified operators with regard to application of pesticides'. This had still to happen.
 - 6.3. **Minute 6.3 Action on Secretary to contact clubs seeking a volunteer to be Treasurer.** Clubs had been circulated but there had been a 'NIL' response. He had then approached Mr John Alderson, Heversham who had agreed to take on the role in March 2015
7. **To receive the Secretary's Report:** The Secretary reiterated his thanks to a) Mike Beckett of MB Results Service for his always very prompt responses to queries raised b) Hedley Stephens for helping send in Press Reports to the Westmorland Gazette when he himself had been out of action. The Secretary was conscious that the League web site needed updating. He did struggle to access it sometimes and make changes but intended to try to get it up to date.
8. **To receive Treasurer's Report and Accounts for year ending 31st October 2016:** The Secretary reported that Mr Alderson had acted as Treasurer up to 13th October 2016; at this point he had handed the accounts folder back to the Secretary, thus effectively resigning as Treasurer. Accordingly the Secretary

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had had to prepare the year end accounts. Presenting the accounts for the year he outlined the following points:

- He had changed the format to one which he felt identified the surplus/loss more readily
- Funds stood at £458.08 at the year end compared to a reported £364.92 at the start
- Surplus for the year was £81.16 however, a cheque for £25.00 issued to the County Ladies had still to clear through the Building Society account; net surplus after taking into account this liability was £56.16
- The accounts showed a trial balance with a £10.00 closing error. He had discovered that there was £10.00 more in the Cumberland BS account at the previous year end than had been reported at the last AGM; figure reported £364.42 ; actual sum found £374.42.
- A corrected balance sheet was presented

The accounts were **APPROVED**.

9 To receive report from The President of the Cumbria County Crown Green Bowling Association (CCGGBA). Mr Tordoff thanked the League for inviting him to the meeting. He had decided to step down from his County duties. He had been President for 6 years, Treasurer for 9, and delegate to British Crown Green for 7 and producer of the County Handbook for 9. He thanked the County Committee who had supported him over the years. He felt the County needed new impetus to take it forward. There were negatives and positives to report:

- The Jack and Jean Isherwood competition had again been cancelled as had the Centenary doubles competition. This meant that Cumbria had no representatives going forward to the national level.
- Senior Merit Numbers had reduced from 90 entries in the previous year to 55 in 2016. Andy Thornton and Zack Walker had gone forward to the All England Merit Final.
- The County Referees Society was very short of referees thus there had been insufficient numbers available to meet commitments at end of season Championships. He urged anyone interested in becoming a referee to contact Colin Hawarth who would explain what was involved.
- For the second year running the County Juniors could not put out a team. It looks as though this situation will continue into 2017. 2 teams of 12 are required which means a squad of 30. Current numbers are 16. The County look to Clubs to bring Juniors forward.
- The need for bowling to be more proactive is readily apparent. He encouraged clubs to hold more Open Days. 150 new bowlers were needed each season to just stand still. Only 120 had been newly Registered in 2016. The County had lost 500 bowlers over the last 10 years.
- Mike paid tribute to Colin Haworth for his work as County Registrar
- County Finances. These were satisfactory although there was a loss of £96 on the current year. A major cost was the cost of buses for County away games. The cost had risen from £450 a few years ago to £600/700 each for the three coaches that had been needed. The additional revenue from the levy had enabled the County to make grants to help clubs recover from last December's floods although these had by no means met full costs.

The Chairman thanked Mike for his report and invited questions:-

Q: Had any more grounds man courses been held? **A:** Mike said the County Development Officer had had difficulty finding suitable trainers but was hoping to arrange another course in 2017.

Q: Netherfield enquired what was the age range of County Juniors? **A:** Age 10 to 18 but if 10 would need to be exceptional for their age.

10 To elect Executive Officers for 2017 (Rule C6) No nominations had been received

10.1 Chairman: Tom Grindey was willing to serve for a further year and was elected

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10.2 Treasurer: No appointment made. Secretary to act as Treasurer if vacancy not filled

10.3 Secretary: J D Smith willing to serve a further year and was re-elected

11. **To appoint 2 representatives to represent the League on the Cumbria County CGBA Committee;** No appointments made.
12. **To consider making donations to the Cumbria County Ladies CGBA and Cumbria County CGBA Junior Section (Rule C10):** Proposed by Netherfield and seconded by Windermere and **AGREED** that donations of £25.00 each be made to Cumbria County Ladies and Cumbria County Ladies respectively.
13. **To set the League fee for Season and entry fee for the David Skidmore Memorial Competition (Rule C10.2).** The Secretary recommended that League fee be set at £22 of which £8.00 would be for the David Skidmore entry fee. Proposed by Holme and seconded by Sedbergh that the fee remains at £25.00 as last year; this was **AGREED**.
14. **To set the prize money for the David Skidmore Memorial Competition: AGREED:** proposed by Netherfield, seconded by Milnthorpe that the total prize money remain at £100.00; Winner to receive £50, Runner –up £25.00, losing Semi Finalists £12.50 each.
15. **To consider Notices of Motion (Rule C14 Changes to the Constitution or Rules):**

MOTION 1 – from the **League Secretary** – *‘That the Constitution and Rules as amended by the AGM of 18 November 2015 be adopted AND that the League Secretary be required to produce and issue a revised set incorporating changes agreed at the AGM held on 16th November 2016’.* **MOTION APPROVED**

MOTION 2 – 2017 Fixture list - proposal from League Secretary – *‘That Clubs to play in 2 groups North and South as in 2016 and play each other 3 times’.*

There were two amendments proposed by Burneside; these were both seconded and discussion took place on their merits. The Amendments were then formally considered in reverse order.

Amendment 2b; *‘That format for League Matches be 2 doubles and 4 singles’.* The proposal was put to the vote but **LOST**.

Amendment 2a: *‘That 2017 fixture list comprise Weeks 1 to 4, 4 doubles matches, 14 weeks of singles played for League Trophy, followed by 3 weeks of doubles to give a 21 week season. The doubles game to be played with 4 doubles i.e. jacks going on together.’* The proposal was put to the vote but **LOST**.

Main Motion 2: *‘That Clubs to play in 2 groups North and South as in 2016 and play each other 3 times’* was then put to the vote and **APPROVED**.

MOTION 3 – from **League Chairman** *‘ That the matches consist of 6 singles games and 1 doubles game all players still to be drawn at random by the 2 captains the idea being that beginners are able to gain experience of competitive doubles matches. In the interest of fairness if a player is chosen to play doubles 1 week they wouldn’t be eligible to play doubles the following game and would be excluded from the players who would be included in the draw for doubles.’* Motion **LOST** there being no seconder.

MOTION 4 – from **League Chairman** *‘Any player with 10 years’ experience or more who plays a player with less than 5 years’ experience to start with a handicap of -5 and their opponent to start on scratch.’* Motion **LOST** there being no seconder.

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16. **To make the draw for the 2017 David Skidmore Competition.** The draw was made all 16 clubs being entered.
17. **Presentation by the Chairman of the 2016 League Cup;** The Chairman presented the League Cup to **Crosthwaite and Lyth** and **Kings Arms Hale**, respective winners of the North and South groups, to be held for 6 months each.
18. **Any Other Business :**
- 18.1 Chairman:** Heversham Bowling Club have a Christmas Coffee morning in The Athenaeum, Leasgill on Saturday 10th December from 10am to 12 noon.
- 18.2 Secretary:** Drew attention to the recently received Agenda for the Cumbria County Green Bowling Association's Annual General Meeting to be held at Red River Bowling Club, Barrow-in-Furness on Monday December 5th 2016 at 7.30pm.
19. **Close the meeting:** There being no further business the Chairman thanked all for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.39pm.

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