



Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Ladies' Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club held on Tuesday, 13th May 2014 at Easterbrook Hall, The Crichton, Bankend Road, Dumfries DG1 4TA at 2pm

Present

Office Bearers: Fiona Hardie (President), Mary Anne McWilliam (Vice President), Marion Fraser (Junior Vice President), Gail Munro (Treasurer), Kate Caithness OBE (Honorary Vice President & Past President 1997/98)

Past Presidents: Marjory McLachlan (1989/90), Kirsty Letton (1990/91), Sheila Watson (1993/94), Johan Steele (1998/99), Ena Stevenson (1999/00), Kathleen Scott (2001/02), Marion Murdoch (2002/03), Jeanette Johnston (2003/04), Joan Forrest (2004/05), Anne Malcolm (2005/06), Patricia Thomson (2007/08), Kay Gibb (2009/10), Brenda Macintyre (2010/11), Claire McLaren (2011/12), Jenny Bain (2012/13)

Centre Representatives: Liz Boswell (Ayr), Wendy Henderson (Border), Elaine Semple (Braehead), Maureen Woods (Dumfries), Carolyn Nicoll (Forfar), Jan Howard (Greenacres), Katherine Adamson (Inverness), Helen Gordon (Kirkcaldy), Jackie Craig (Lanarkshire), Linda Imrie (Lockerbie), Jean Gorrie (Murrayfield), Shelagh Fulton (Perth), Maureen Parker (Stranraer)

New Centre Representatives: Margaret White (Ayr), Nina Clancy (Border), Kate Smith (Dumfries), Elaine Telfer (Greenacres), Ann Gibb (Inverness), Jane Drysdale (Kinross), Helen Hally (Lockerbie), Margaret Nicol (Murrayfield), Cath McIntosh (Perth), Mhairi Baird (Lanarkshire)

Invited Guests (listed alphabetically by club): Aileen Neilson (Braehead Wheelchair), Margaret Robertson (Ayton Castle), Angie Malone (Braehead Wheelchair), Margaret Richardson (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Isobel Hannen (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Judith McCleary (Keir), Bill Holland (New Abbey), Frances Henderson (New Abbey), Rhona Howie (Reform), Naomi Brown (Stoneykirk), Christine Cannon (Wigtown)

Individual Members (in alphabetically order by club): Barbara Baird (Abdie Ladies), Jill McEwan (Abdie Ladies), Sheila Harley (Aberdour), Elaine Turnbull (Alpha Ladies), Barbara Laidlaw (Annan), Helen Crichton (Annan), Lynne MacKenzie (Avondale Heather), Lorna Alexander (Ayr), Margaret Nicol (Ayr), Liz Martin (Ayton Castle), Rhona Fleming (Ayton Castle), Margaret Lambie (Balcaskie), Kay Hamilton (Bellshill), Anne Airey (Belmont October Ladies), Margaret Ecrepont (Beresford Ladies), Corrie Lawrence (Beresford Ladies), Marion Mather (Caerlaverock), Yvonne Birnie (Cairngorm Ladies), Jean Morton (Carnell), Helen Young (Castle Kennedy), Janet D McMillan (Castle Kennedy), Naomi Whyte (Crocketford), Susan Morrison (Crocketford), Yvonne Chalmers (Crossmyloof), Hazel Wales (DIBCA), Elma Walkers (Dippool), Grace Moffat (Dippool), Liz Moffat (Dippool), Morag Sandilands (Dippool), Linsey Alison (Doune), Val Saville (Doune), Caroleen Clark (Druids), Fiona Telfer (Dumfries), June Green (Dumfries), Jennifer Mutter (Dundonald), Dor Borthwick (Dunfermline Ladies), Lynne Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Mary Barr (Dunfermline Ladies), Trish Petrie (Dunfermline Ladies), Brenda Sillars (Durisdeer), Liz Cullen (Earlston), Margaret M Brown (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Christine Ross (Eskdale), Fiona Macdiarmid (Falkirk Ladies), Margaret Mauchline (Forth Valley Ladies), Morag Wellman (Fossway), Mima Strang (Galleon), Sheena Murdoch (Galleon), Liz Paul (Glasgow Ladies), Margaret Gibb (Glasgow Ladies), Morven Findlay (Glasgow Ladies), Sheena Boyd (Glasgow Ladies), Jenny Stark (Heart of the Highlands), Jan Stuart (Hercules Ladies), Jennifer Kubrycht (Hercules Ladies), Pat Hughes (Hercules Ladies), Sophie Jackson (Holywood), Barbara McBride (Johnstone & District), Janet Pollock (Johnstone & District), Marjorie Neill (Johnstone & District), Liz Jamieson (Kilmacoll), Helen Lyburn (Kirkoswald), Barbara Sherrieff (Kirriemuir Ladies), Marnie Ewart (Kirriemuir Ladies), Margaret K Neilson (Lanark Ladies), Margaret Moffat (Lanark Ladies), Vera Shearer (Lanark Ladies), Beth Aitken (Limekiln Loch), Ilene Park (Limekiln Loch), Janette Sloan (Loch Connel), Sheila Hastings (Lochmaben Castle), Susan

Fleming (Lochmaben Castle), Rhona Johnston (Muthill), Caroline Donaldson (New Abbey), Margaret Carruthers (New Abbey), Anne Templeton (Nithsdale Ladies), Christine Harvey (Nithsdale Ladies), Margaret Harvey (Nithsdale Ladies), Mima Telfer (Nithsdale Ladies), Nancy Gallacher (Nithsdale Ladies), Sheila Glendinning (Nithsdale Ladies), Beryl Harley (Orwell Ladies), Edna Nelson (Orwell Ladies), Wendy Scott (Penninghame), Sandra Renton (Pentland Ladies), Ann-Maree Davidson (Perth Ladies), Margaret Cairns (Perth Ladies), Carol Maxwell (Portpatrick), Catherine McWilliam (Portpatrick), Fiona Maxwell (Portpatrick), Kate Adams (Portpatrick), Sally Farrell (Portpatrick), Anne Buchan (Raith & Abbotshall Ladies), Beverley Brown (Raith & Abbotshall Ladies), Dorothy Greenhorn (Raith & Abbotshall Ladies), Lynne Page (Raith & Abbotshall Ladies), Violet Reid (Roxburghe), Marion Malcolm (Rubislaw), Margaret Hynd (Schiehallion Ladies), Vilma Kirk (Schiehallion Ladies), Ruth Addinall (SIAE), Sadie Anderson (Sorn), Lyn Brown (Stoneykirk), Fiona Glass (Strathendrick), Gill Smith (Strathendrick), May Steel (Symington), Jo Pegg (Uplawmoor), Lillias Hyslop (Upperward Ladies), Annette Macdonald (West Stirlingshire Ladies), Margaret Armstrong (West Stirlingshire Ladies)

In attendance: Cate Brewster (British Curling)

1. Welcome

President Fiona: Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Dumfries and to the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Ladies' Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. I would like to introduce Colin Smyth, Events champion for Dumfries and Galloway Council who will formerly open the meeting.

Councillor Colin Smyth: Thanks very much indeed Fiona. On behalf of Dumfries and Galloway Council it is my pleasure to welcome you to Dumfries. For those of you out-with the area can I say to you that it's always this sunny in Dumfries, honest!

I particularly want to thank the Royal Caledonian Curling Club for choosing Easterbrook Hall as the venue for the Ladies' Branch AGM. I do hope you take up the opportunity of taking a walk around the site. I think that as a venue this is probably one of the most appropriate places to hold a ladies' event. It is an amazing site that actually stretches across 40 hectares of beautiful park land. It actually dates back to the 1830's. It was in fact the inspiration of a remarkable lady called Elizabeth Crichton. Her statue you can actually see just outside the hotel as you come in. At the time Elizabeth planned to use the family legacy to build a university here in The Crichton, but that was thought to be blocked at the time by the historical Scottish Universities. So Elizabeth turned her mind to create one of the finest mental health hospitals in Europe called The Crichton Royal Hospital which opened in 1838. Part of the hospital was a recreational facility for the aged. Obviously as we moved towards modern health care, the Crichton Hall closed, in fact the council itself took over the site in 1995, and if you take a walk to the door over to your left you'll see the University of Glasgow has now developed a campus here, and the University of West of Scotland has developed a campus here as well. So in many ways it's a real twist of fate 175 years after Elizabeth Crichton's first vision there is now a university here in Dumfries.

The hall we are in was extensively refurbished in 2006 and now provides a fantastic venue for club functions and parties. In fact we actually held the closing banquet for the recent World Senior and World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships here at the Easterbrook, in fact I recognise one or two faces here that were at that banquet, and hopefully you are in a slightly better condition today than you were then.

Of course curling itself here is a hugely important part of the Dumfries and Galloway's history, and I am told that many of the first references to women's curling actually originate from this region. Although at the time it maybe wasn't universally accepted I was actually reading a history of curling here recently and was struck by the rather specific comment made in the 1890's by the Rev John Kerr of the RCCC that said, 'Ladies do not curl – on the ice. The Rational Dress Association has not yet secured for them the freedom that is necessary to fling the channel-stane.' However the article did go on to say that some were surprised during the first Scotland curling tour in Canada in 1902, when the team in Canada not only met women curlers but were beaten on three occasions by these women. I think it's probably fair to say that women's curling, including here in Dumfries and Galloway, has never looked back, no more so than of course the recent Olympics in Sochi, with three of the Team GB bronze medal women's team Claire Hamilton, Anna Sloan, and of course Vicki Adams who I see over there, hailing from Dumfries and Galloway. I think the skills and sportsmanship of Anna, Claire, Vicki, and of course the Paralympic women medallists here today, has really helped win over our young people. They are

also really outstanding ambassadors for Dumfries and Galloway, and I am really proud that they have raised the profile of our region worldwide, and I think so too the decision by the curling community to host so many major events here in Dumfries such as the recent Henderson Bishop Trophy and of course the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship and the World Senior Curling Championships. And I know one of my highlights of the year as Events champion was being at the ice bowl and listening to the huge cheer as Dumfries and Galloway's very own Christine Cannon led Scotland to the World Senior Women's Curling Championship title. So looking at things as a non-curling expert and as a man, I think my observation is that the ladies curling game in Scotland is in absolute tremendous shape under Fiona and her very successful presidency of the RCCC's Ladies' Branch. I am very proud that Dumfries and Galloway has played a part in that success. As a council perhaps we will be commitment to continue to support curling, but in the meantime can I wish you all a very pleasant visit to Dumfries and a very successful AGM. Thank you.

President Fiona: Thank you Colin. Housekeeping! Before my introductions can I please ask you to make sure mobile phones are switched off and that you make yourselves aware of the fire exits. In your booklet you will find a list of apologies, obituaries, new and resigned clubs, and the Ladies' Branch Accounts. If anyone wishes to address the meeting please raise your hand and await my invitation to make your way to the lectern. Please state your name and club before making your remarks. I would like to begin by making some introductions. At the top table on my right we have Mary Anne McWilliam Vice President, on my left Marion Fraser Junior Vice President and next to Marion is Gail Munro our Honorary Treasurer. And next to Mary Anne is Suzy Wakefield Office Manager at the Royal Caledonian Curling Club office at Cairnie House who will be taking our minutes today.

I am delighted to welcome our Honorary Vice President Kate Caithness OBE, as well as many of our Past Presidents. Ladies please stand so that we can acknowledge your presence here today. *(Applause)*

I would now like to ask all of our ladies who have become Scottish Champions, World Champions and medallists this season to stand so that we can acknowledge your great achievements. *(Applause)*

Can I also ask the Scottish Ladies tourists to Sweden to stand. *(Applause)*

Our guests today include President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club Alan Durno, and Bill Holland the Chaplain of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. *(Applause)*

2. Apologies

President Fiona: We have received apologies from Willie Nicoll Chairman of the Board Royal Caledonian Curling Club, also from Chief Executive Officer Bruce Crawford.

Past Presidents: Lucy Fleming (1978/79), Elizabeth Grierson (1981/82), Sandra South (1982/83), Mary Tyre (1986/87), Isobel Torrance (1991/92), Marjorie Kidd (1992/93), Isobel Forrest (1994/95), Alison McDermid (1996/97), Irene Hird (2000/01), Marion Craig (2006/07), Sheila Miller (2008/09)

Centre Representatives: Annette Bennie (Kinross), Jeanette Kerr (Stirling), Shirley Morton (Waterfront)

New Centre Representatives: Judith Carr (Aberdeen)

Invited Guests (in alphabetically order by club): David Aitken (Aberlady), Rachael Simms (Airlieywright Ladies), Claire Hamilton (Applegarth & Sibbaldbie), Lauren Gray (Balfroon), Willie Nicoll (Bank of Scotland Fife), Margo Nicoll (Bank of Scotland Fife), Bruce Crawford (CEO & Abbotsford Curling Society), Kerry Barr (Currie & Balerno), Eve Muirhead (Dunkeld), David Hay (Dunning), Keith MacLennan (Dunning), Janet Lindsay (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Susan Durno (Fochabers), Karen Barthelemy (Galston Haymouth), Gina Aitken (Gogar Park Young Curlers), Rowena Kerr (Gogar Park Young Curlers), Rachel Hannen (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Anna Sloan

(Hutton), Barbara McPake (Keir), Jackie Lockhart (Laurencekirk), Hannah Fleming (Lochmaben Castle), Rhiann Macleod (Meldrum & Daviot), Mhairi Baird (Midcalder), Kay Adams (Portpatrick)

Individuals (in alphabetically order by club): Jennie Duncan (Aberdeen Ladies), Ann Laing (Belmont October), Mandy Graham (Beresford Ladies), Anne Munro (Beresford Ladies), Christine Cheape (Blair Atholl), Bernice Muir (BMA Ladies), Joy Toshner (Braehead Virtual), Kath Murray (Corstorphine Ladies), Maggie Barry (Corstorphine Ladies), Avril Anderson (Corstorphine Ladies), Sandra Jappy (Cragielands), Katrina Geddes (Crosshill), Louise Edwards (Currie & Balerno), Susan Skene (Dalhousie Ladies), Sheila Steel (Drymen), Isobel Rainey (Dumfries), Carole Marsh (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Helen Thomson (Edinburgh Academicals), Catherine Edington (Edinburgh Ladies), Janet Lynch (Errol), Marlyn MacAulay (Falkirk Ladies), Carolyn Manson (Falkirk Ladies), Anna Burnside (Falkirk Ladies 1960), Linda Mould (Forret), Sheila Main (Haddington), Isobel Waddell (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Elizabeth Christie (Inverness Ice Rink Ladies), Shirley Mathieson (Lanark Ladies), Mary Forster (Loch Connel), Rosie Andrews (Maxwell Ladies), Jean Carruthers (Midcalder), Margaret K Smith (New Abbey), Kathleen Brown (Orwell Ladies), Morag Erskine (Pitlessie), Fiona Watson (Rolling Stones), Nancy Smith (Stewarton Heather), Jane McLaren (Strathendrick)

Clubs: Beresford Ladies, BMA Ladies, Brookfield, Bught Ladies, Club 90, Corstorphine Ladies, Dalgety Bay, Duntocher Ladies, Falkirk Ladies 1960, Greenock Ladies, Haddington, Inverness Ice Rink Ladies, Markinch, Nairn Ladies, Orwell Ladies, Pitlessie, Rolling Stones, Tulliallan

3. In Memoriam

President Fiona: During the season we have sadly lost some of our members. It is appropriate to mention at this time the passing of Honorary President Anna Smith. Anna had been a long standing secretary in the early years of Ladies' Branch. All other recent intimations have been noted and will be included in the Annual. I would ask that you all stand if possible for a minutes silence to remember all our friends who have passed away over the last year. *(Those present stood for a minute's silence)*

President Fiona: All names notified to the RCCC have been listed in the booklet apart from recent intimations. If you know of any that are not in the booklet please notify Suzy at the end of the meeting so that their names can be included in the minutes. *(See below)*

Sheila MacDonnell (Bught Ladies), Pat Frame (Callander & Trossachs), Muriel Strother (Coldstream & Hirsell), Doris Adnes (Corstorphine Ladies), Betty Whitefield (Crawford Priory), Joy Bowie (Dunfermline Ladies), Irene Taylor (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Margaret Craig (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Minnie Craig (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Marion Inglis (Edzell), Anna Smith (Falkirk Ladies & Honorary President), May Patricia Smith (Falkirk Ladies), Joan Fraser (Forfar Ladies), Mairi Young (Gourock Ladies), May Wellington (Kennoway), Margot Gibson (Kinross Ladies), Elizabeth Purdie (New Abbey), Lileas McKenzie (Northern Lights), Betty Kilgour (Raith & Abbotshall Ladies), Betty McLay (Raith & Abbotshall Ladies), Pat Keith (Raith & Abbotshall Ladies), Effie Johnston (St Andrews), Margaret Hunter (St Leonards), Dorothy White (Stratheden)

4. Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting

President Fiona: The minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting held at Murrayfield Curling Rink on Tuesday, 6 May 2013 have been published in the Annual. There are two amendments to these minutes. On page 78 (of the Annual) item 10/e: the score to be changed from 7-1 to 7-5. The second amendment is on page 89 (of the Annual) item 13/c: Margaret Lambie's seconder proposal was abbreviated and will be published in full. Can I take this minute as read?

Proposer: Jenny Bain (Edinburgh Ladies): I would like to propose the adoption of the 53rd Ladies' Branch AGM minutes.

President Fiona: Thank you. Could I have a seconder please?

Seconder: Jean Gorrie (Pentland Ladies): I would like to second the adoption of the minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting.

5. Business arising from the minutes

President Fiona: Does anyone have any matters arising from the minutes that will not be covered in the agenda? If no, we will go on to the next item.

6. New Clubs and Resignations

President Fiona: New Club and Resignations of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club are listed in the booklet.

New Clubs 2013-2014

Biggar High School, Clyde Coast Virtual, Disnae Virtual, East Kilbride Virtual, Hamilton Virtual, Kirkcudbright Academy and Lathallan School

Resigned Clubs 2013-2014

Avoch, Belmont Ladies, October Ladies, RBS (Dundee & Perth) and Temple

7. Presidents Report

President Fiona: The next item is my report and I am going to move to the lectern.

It doesn't seem like 12 months since I took office as your president, where has time gone?

The Ladies' Standing Committee (LSC) remains a strong and well-organised group with a good record of communication. During the past year LSC representatives have continued to represent the lady curlers of Scotland at our regular meetings. The LSC comprises of 18 centre representatives and this year we have held seven meetings and two joint meetings with the RCCC Board and Areas Standing Committee (ASC). The RCCC continue to send a representative to attend our meetings and we have Ladies' Branch representation on all RCCC sub-committees. I was also invited to attend a meeting of the Board of the RCCC, which I did in December.

I can say that I have had a truly great experience, clocking up quite a few air miles, meeting lots of interesting people at both home and abroad in my capacity as your President.

I will endeavour over the next few minutes to take you with me as I reflect on the whirlwind journey that has been my season!

First off, a meeting with CEO and RCCC President to decide who was going to represent RCCC at international competitions, it was decided that the lady president should attend the World Junior Curling Championships in Flims, Switzerland and the World Women's Curling Championship in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. I feel quite strongly that the lady president should support the Scottish ladies team and made the decision to travel to Stavanger to the European Curling Championships to give support.

My first official duty in June was to attend the RCCC AGM.

The Ladies' Branch helped out at the RCCC stand at the Royal Highland Show, where fine weather attributed to a good attendance. Ladies' Branch representatives assisted the RCCC President Alan Durno, Vice President David Henderson and the RCCC staff in entertaining visitors to the RCCC stand. Members and visitors were provided with a glass of wine and or a tea /coffee and a biscuit or cake. Many thanks to all those who contributed with home baking, this was very much appreciated.

The first week of July was a busy one starting on the Monday with a meeting of the executive committee to make the draw for the Henderson Bishop Trophy, then on Tuesday it was a great honour to be invited to the Royal Garden Party at the Palace of Holyrood where I was accompanied by my husband David and also past president Jenny Bain and her husband Alan, unfortunately that day it just never stopped raining but it didn't dampen our enthusiasm at having been invited to spend the afternoon with our patron.

Wednesday I attended the RCCC Junior Summer Camp held at The Peak Ice Rink, Stirling where I was made very welcome and I observed the young curlers experience a

high level of coaching, learn new game skills as well as taking part in other sporting activities and fun events, socialising and making new friends.

Then on the Thursday the family was in Glasgow attending my daughter Aline's graduation from Glasgow Caledonian University.

In September I attended the European Mixed Championship at Murrayfield Curling Rink where Team Scotland won the Silver medal (Ewan Macdonald and his team Kay Adams, Euan Byers and Karen Barthelemy.). Past President Jenny and I were invited to attend a drinks party at the ice rink before the final game then went on to the closing banquet held at The Hilton Hotel.

On 22nd September the RCCC held the Legacy Conference at Murrayfield Curling Rink where they presented and outlined the trycurling.com initiative with its main focus on encouraging new curlers and more importantly - retaining them.

Also in September, albeit the 30th LSC held their October meeting followed by the Ladies' Branch Bonspiel which this year in order to mark the 175th Anniversary of the RCCC the LSC invited all Past Presidents to join us for lunch and to play in the bonspiel at Murrayfield Curling Rink. We were delighted to welcome 14 past Presidents for an excellent soup and buffet lunch, 10 of whom joined us on ice and curled. It was a very enjoyable afternoon with all ladies being presented with the RCCC 175th anniversary pin.

I had been keeping in regular contact with Corrie Lawrence, captain of the outgoing Scottish Ladies Tour to Sweden and was very pleased to be at Edinburgh Airport on 1st November along with Patricia Thomson, Past President and Captain of the 2003 tour and together with the RCCC Marketing Officer to wish them good luck as they set off for the 10 day tour.

After a very successful tour, which we are going to hear about from Corrie later, the ladies arrived home looking very smart, dressed in their Royal Club blue *ladies* blazers that had been specially made for them, they also wore the RCCC tartan shawls on tour.

On 12th November LSC played at Perth against the ASC in the annual match for The Priestfield Cup but all I am going to say about that is that we came second!

I was very pleased to be supporting the Scottish teams at the European Championships held in Stavanger, Norway and was delighted to be given the honour of presenting the silver medals to Team Scotland, skipped by Eve Muirhead with Anna Sloan, Vicki Adams, Claire Hamilton and Lauren Gray.

Following the women's final President Alan Durno, my husband David and I hosted lunch and a drinks party for the Scottish teams and their supporters.

During December and January I travelled the country attending the Scottish Senior Mixed Championships, the Scottish Double Rink Championship, the Scottish Junior Qualifiers and the Scottish Mens Qualifiers.

In January the Scottish Ladies teams retained the Connie Miller Trophy at The Four Nations competition hosted by Ireland at Lanarkshire Ice Rink. England will host the Four Nations next year at a venue to be announced.

During the same weekend I managed to look in at The Glynhill International event at Braehead where six of our ladies teams gained invaluable experience playing against top class European teams.

It was then north to the Scottish Junior Championships, which were held in Aberdeen.

Then into February, and down to Lanarkshire to the Scottish Seniors, followed by a week at the Scottish Championships held in Perth at the Dewar's Centre.

Then probably the highlight of my year, David and I travelled to Sochi, Russia for the Winter

Olympics Games, for just five days.

The experience was amazing, we were delighted to witness team GB consisting of our Scottish girls and men win their medals, we were so proud of Eve, Anna, Vicki, Claire, Lauren and their coaches David and Rhona. We knew how much it meant to them, it is a huge commitment for these athletes and their families.

It is nice to see Aileen Neilson and Angie Malone here today, and I'm very sorry Aileen and Angie that we couldn't be there supporting you too, but we are very proud of your success at the Paralympics and offer our congratulations on your bronze medal. *(Applause)*

So I was home for one day when it was time for The Henderson Bishop Trophy at Dumfries, my home ice rink thankfully, as straight after the final Vice President Mary Anne and I left for Edinburgh Airport where the following morning we flew to the World Junior Championships in Switzerland, after a flight, train and bus journey we arrived in the beautiful town of Flims.

The girls' team played well but unfortunately were unable to turn the good play into more wins. Naomi will give her teams report later. The boys' team skipped by Kyle Smith won silver and I presented the team with their 'keeper' stones. President Alan who also attended presented the boys with their medals.

I was pleased to be able to attend the Scottish Wheelchair Championships at Stirling on 7th March then it was on to the National Masters at Greenacres on 9th March.

I managed a day at home before attending The Morton Trophy Final at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink on 11th March, which this year was won by Ayr.

Next I was off to the World Women's Curling Championship in St John, New Brunswick Canada. It was very cold in Saint John but thankfully there was a covered walkway between the hotel, shopping centre and the ice centre.

The people of Saint John were very welcoming and one of the pubs hosted a Scottish night in honour of our ladies who were great ambassadors for Scotland and our sport.

I had almost a month at home before the World Mixed Doubles and Seniors Championships started at Dumfries. This really was a whirlwind week.

I was split in three or maybe more! I was part of the organising committee, and the main event sponsor. I tried very hard to support all three of our Scottish Teams!

I unfortunately didn't see much curling but I must pay tribute to Dumfries and Galloway Council and the Dumfries Organising Committee for these Championships, they really excelled themselves in hosting 34 countries, 34 mixed doubles teams, 25 senior men's and 15 senior ladies teams.

The icing on the cake for me was our Scottish Ladies Champions Christine Cannon (skip) and her rink, Margaret Richardson, Isobel Hannen, Janet Lindsay, alternate Margaret Robertson and coach Jackie Lockhart winning the gold medal which I was so proud to present to them.

During the season I also attended Ayr Ice Rink's 40th Anniversary Day of celebration and Dunfermline Ladies 40th Anniversary dinner and received their kind hospitality.

I attended the Atholl Province celebrations for Eve and Thomas Muirhead.

I attended the funerals of Past President Donald Whyte, Matt Murdoch and Ken Gumley.

Junior Vice President, Marion attended the funerals of our Honorary President Anna Smith and of Past President Dr Derek Anderson.

There ended the travelling and gallivanting!

All in all, it's been a pretty successful year for Scotland and Team GB; one gold, four silvers and two bronze medals. Congratulations to you all. *(Applause)*

At this stage I have a couple of items of interest I would like to share with you.

There is an ongoing structure review within the RCCC and we in the LSC are keen to be actively involved.

The Ladies' Branch of the RCCC have received an invitation for 24 ladies to tour central Canada for three weeks in November 2015, applications are available online or from your centre representative. The closing date is the 1st September.

The Ladies' Branch will extended an invitation to the USA for 20 ladies to tour Scotland in November 2016.

Another item is regarding the presentation of the Frances Brodie Award created to honour sportsmanship at the World Women's Curling Championship. It was named after Frances in honour of all the work she had done to develop women's curling. Whilst Frances was able to attend she was asked to present the award and thereafter if she was unable, would nominate a Scot to do it on her behalf, which generally was the Ladies' Branch President. We have been informed by WCF that a decision was taken that the Chief Umpire at World Women's, Men's, Juniors and Wheelchair Championships will from now on present all the Sportsmanship Awards. This decision is regrettable as it had been a great honour for our president to be able to make this presentation.

Ladies' Branch continue to sell merchandise to raise money that goes towards funding incoming tours and competitions as well as the general expenses of the club and we are grateful to everyone who has supported us by buying goods and or allowing us to sell items at their centre or event over the last year.

Ladies' competitions throughout Scotland continue to be well supported and I would like to thank the volunteers on our LSC who willingly give their time to support these events.

During my year it has been a great honour to represent the RCCC and to support all teams and supporters at national and international level and I am very pleased to be able to report that all the athletes representing Scotland at all levels were wonderful ambassadors for our sport of curling.

In concluding my report I have many thanks to make, so please bear with me!

Thanks to Alan Durno, President of the RCCC and his wife Susan and to Vice President David Henderson and his wife Frances, for their support, generosity and company through all our travels throughout the whole year.

To WCF President and Past President of Ladies' Branch Kate Caithness who has been a tremendous support and I would like to wish her all the best in her bid to continue as WCF President for another term. *(Applause)*

Thanks to my executive committee, Mary Anne, Marion and Gail.

To all the centre representatives to whom I had had the pleasure of working with over the last 3 years.

To all our past presidents, who have advised and guided me.

To our minute secretary Ruth Addinall who's contribution has been invaluable in recording an accurate and comprehensive minute of our committee meetings.

To CEO Bruce Crawford, and all his staff at Cairnie House, with very best wishes to Margaret Mackay who is retiring next month after 15 years with the RCCC.

To all the umpires, coaches, and volunteers.

Thanks to my clubs, Crocketford, New Abbey and Castle Kennedy

To Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association, and to all the ladies of the Dumfries Centre of the RCCC.

And to everyone for their attendance here today and for allowing me the privilege and honour of being your president.

A big thank you to Nicola and her staff at Easterbrook Hall for providing this wonderful venue and to Dumfries Ladies Centre in anticipation of the goodies provided for our afternoon tea.

No I haven't forgotten, last but not least thanks to my husband David and my family for their patience and support

Thank you all. *(Applause)*

8. Treasurers Report

President Fiona: I would now like to ask Gail Munro to give her treasurers report.

Treasurer Gail: Ladies, you affectively have my report in front of you. It is a very simple balance sheet, made possible by Alastair at the RCCC office who I extend my thanks to. He does a wonderful job of keeping me right. On first glance you'll need your mental arithmetic skills to work out whether you have actually made a profit or loss. No prizes for working it out sorry. We have in fact a small deficit of £581.00 when you take the income received of £3,000.00 and the expenditure of £3,581.00. This is in main to a large amount of stock which we purchased just over the last few weeks of small brass curling stones, which we expect to take delivery of next week paid on pro-forma. So watch this space come next season. So all in all a quiet year for the Ladies' Branch. We weren't involved at all with the Swedish tourists account, they had their own treasurer. And no other touring income to speak of. Does anyone have any questions on the accounts? No, you are making it too easy for me.

Okay could I just say that we are still seeking a Merchandising Officer, so if there is anyone willing to take on that post, the position is still available, otherwise if you would just like to continue to support by promoting our goods and offering to buy them, I would very much appreciate it.

Before I propose the adoption of the accounts I would just like to say I stand here a very proud wee sis and I would just like to congratulate big sis on job very well done. *(Applause)*

So I take great pleasure in proposing the Ladies' Branch Account 2013-2014.

President Fiona: Can I ask someone to second the adoption of these Accounts?

Seconder: Helen Gordon (Aberdour): President Fiona, ladies and gentlemen I would like to second the adoption of the Accounts for 2013/14.

President Fiona: Thank you Gail for your kind words and for all your hard work. You are a credit to Ladies' Branch.

(See Annex A of these minutes for a copy of the Ladies' Branch Accounts for the Year Ended 30 April 2014).

9. CEO's Report

President Fiona: I would now like to call upon Judith McCleary who will give a report on behalf of the RCCC CEO Bruce Crawford.

Judith McCleary (Development Manager): As Fiona has mentioned unfortunately Bruce couldn't be here today, so I have a report from Bruce.

President Fiona, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for inviting me to join you at your AGM today and asking me to report on some of the work of the RCCC. This last year has been another excellent year for Scottish curling. As you already heard we have achieved some real progress at home and abroad with the success of our curlers in the European Championships, Olympic and Paralympic games, World Junior Championships, and most recently of course the Senior Women's team becoming World Champions here in Dumfries.

We ended the year with 630 clubs. Glasserton Curling Club from Galloway reached 100 years membership of the RCCC though the club is 172 years old. Belmaduthy, Blythswood and Cardross all celebrate 150 years membership of the RCCC.

11 individual members reached 50 years of membership of the RCCC including two ladies: Janet Dunn a member of Ford Ladies, and Aline Murray member of Greenock Ladies. Congratulations to them both. (Applause)

12 teams recorded eight-ender results this last season. Of the 46 individuals involved, 26 were women. I noticed one former Ladies' Branch President Jenny Bain amongst those.

A considerable part of our work is in developing the sport for the next generation and our team of Development Officers continue to work with our partners at the ice rinks to grow the sport across the country.

The Try Curling programme this season introduced 5,042 people to curling, up from 817 last year, which shows the power of the campaign which we ran around the Olympics and Paralympics.

The Curling's Cool programme brought 4,500 primary school children to the ice rinks.

We now have 1,204 junior members involved in 21 clubs, which is the highest number of junior members we've had for a number of years.

We have continued to offer a pathway for new players to get involved with the Funspiels, Newcomers Trophy and Asham Slams for U14, U17 and U21.

As you've already heard from Fiona a great summer camp was held almost a year ago, and thank you to both Fiona and Alan for coming along, taking part and for showing your support to the campers there.

We organised an adult camp which was held at Stranraer and 7 seminars which attracted 216 curlers. This included 104 people at 3 ladies coaching days in Stirling, Forfar and Braehead. Any member with a group of curlers can contact us to set up a clinic or seminar with any of our coaches to run a fun day, which can be tailored to meet your needs. 24 people attended the adult camp in Stranraer, and the next camp is noted on the back of your programmes today.

We now have 1085 registered coaches across the country, a 7% increase from last year. 162 coaches undertook additional training courses this season to refresh or develop their skills. We held the fourth annual Coaches Gathering in Perth in February to share ideas and allow coaches the opportunity to mix.

The restoration work on the Charles Lees painting of the Grand Match at Linlithgow Loch has been taking place these last few months and we look forward to seeing the painting on public display once more when the work is completed.

I hope that you have enjoyed the YOUR curler electronic newsletter. Previous additions are on our website and we welcome your contributions of news, stories and photos for inclusion.

Thanks to Fiona and her committee in whose hands curling has been nurtured this last year. I'd also like to express our thanks to all of you who have contributed to furthering the aims of the RCCC in so many ways. (Applause)

President Fiona: Thank you Jude. Does anyone have any questions for Judith? *(There were no questions)*

10. Report on Ladies' Competitions

President Fiona: Now for the report on Ladies Branch competitions

- a. **The Scottish Women's Championship:** Seven teams entered the Scottish Women's Championship which was played in a double round-robin format starting in Dumfries in December, ending at the Scottish Championships in Perth in February. After a close Final, skip Kerry Barr's team with Rachael Simms, Rhiann Macleod and Barbara McPake beat Hannah Fleming and her team of Jennifer Dodds, Alice Spence and Abigail Brown and would go on to represent Scotland at the World Women's Curling Championship in Saint John. There will be a World's report later.
- b. **The Scottish Juniors Women's Championship:** The Finals were played at Curl Aberdeen in January. The Junior Women's Final was between Team Gina Aitken, Naomi Brown, Rowena Kerr, Rachel Hannen, and Team Katie Murray, Sophie Jackson, Laura Ritchie, Jodie Milroy, Heather Morton. Gina's team won and they would go on to represent Scotland at the World Junior Curling Championships in Flims, Switzerland. We will hear Gina's team report later.
- c. **The Scottish Senior Women's Championship:** Held at Lanarkshire Ice Rink, 14 entries were received making two sections of seven teams. The Final was between Christine Cannon's team of Margaret Richardson, Isobel Hannen, Janet Lindsay, and Isobel Waddell's team of Liz Horton, Dot Moran and Jackie Craig. After a very close game Team Cannon became senior champions with the right to represent Scotland at the World Senior Curling Championships in Dumfries.
- d. **The National Masters Women's Championship:** After a very exciting game and an extra-end skip Janette Wilson with Norma Brown, Christine Cheape, Liz Reid beat Margaret A Robertson and her team of Venetia Scott, Gillian Smith and Hilary Bowyer.
- e. **The Henderson Bishop:** 125 teams entered this competition. 20 teams qualified for the Final. Dumfries Ice Bowl hosted this competition for the first time, and the Dumfries Ladies' President Maureen Wood and her committee did a wonderful job. The organisation in its entirety and the entertainment were excellent. We even managed to find a sponsor, Specsavers, who provided new Henderson Bishop curling bags for all the players.

The Final of the Henderson saw the young Dumfries team of Naomi Whyte, Fiona Telfer, Caroline Donaldson and Sophie Jackson beat Murrayfield's Susan Kesley, Jenny Barr, Fran Stretton and Morna Aitken.

In the Low Road Final for the Cherrystone Lanarkshire 2 skipped by Isobel Waddell, Jean McLaren, Carole Marsh and Elaine Turnbull won against Stranraer's team of Gail Munro, Maureen Parker, Beth Parker and Mary Anne McWilliam

We were delighted to have Matt Murdoch umpiring the event unaware that it would be his last official duty for the RCCC. We extend our sympathy to the family at this time.

- f. **The Morton Trophy:** The semi-finals and Final of the Morton Trophy competition took place at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink on Tuesday, 13 March 2014. Games commenced at 10.15. Lanarkshire versus Aberdeen, and Ayr versus Kinross. Lanarkshire and Ayr progressed to the Final which Ayr won. Ayr teams were presented with the Morton Trophy, and winners' badges and certificates. An excellent day was had with a big crowd of spectators. Thanks also to Kirkcaldy Centre for their usual good hospitality. And also thanks to umpire Harry Mitchell.

- g. **The Unders & Overs:** Unfortunately the Unders & Overs competition was not held. After much discussion it was felt that the competition had done the job it was originally set up to do and had now run its course as there were many more opportunities for young curlers to participate in competitions. It has been decided to hold a national ladies bonspiel in October or November. A sub-committee has been formed to set up this competition which will accept individual entries and will be open to all lady members. The date is still to be decided.

11. Report on the Women's International Championships

President Fiona: Vicki Adams will give a report on the European Curling Championships. She will also give a short summary on Team Muirhead Winter Olympics experience. *(Applause)*

a. European Curling Championships

Vicki Adams (Portpatrick): President Fiona, Ladies and Gentlemen. It was a drizzly morning in Stirling when we set off for the European Curling Championships in Stavanger. Our travel plans resembled that of a school trip with everyone bundling onto the bus for our trip to Aberdeen, there was even the fight for the back seats, which in my school days only the 'Cool' people got to sit back there. So once again I was shunted by the lads to the middle of the bus. Lots of fun and banter with the boys and support staff and the 3 hour bus journey flew past. It was great to travel as one big team, and get everyone buzzing for what was going to prove to be a pretty successful championships.

A short 1 hour flight from Aberdeen to Stavanger and we were set for the competition ahead.

The following day we went into have a scout around the arena and check out the facilities. It was a spacious arena with both the A and B leagues in one hall - it was going to be noisy.

We kicked off our championships against reigning champions Russia. We always have tightly fought games against these girls who we have played for many years, 4-4 going into the halfway point. A well-played end in the 6th by all, and a short run back by Eve scored us a big 6 from which we never looked back, a good game to post our first win.

Next up were Latvia, a relatively new country on the world and European stage, however not a team to be underestimated. Having played them a few times before we knew it was going to be tough, and being 3 down after 3 ends, we had an uphill struggle on our hands. We bounced back and scored a 5 in end 4 and a 4 in the 9th to sealed another win.

Going from an inexperienced team at this level to probably the most experienced player, Andrea Schopp of Germany. A super intimidating player, and a team we generally don't enjoy playing against, however we got on with the job in hand and put her intimidating behaviours behind us. A very close game throughout and A precise draw to the button by Eve kept the wins rolling along.

The next couple games against Denmark, Czech and Italy were games which could have caused us some issues if we had taken the foot off the gas at all, but great team dynamics, performance and support from our amazing fans, we were now sitting top of the standings, joint with Switzerland.

The Swedish team, are always a team we have great battles with, and often takes that extra 10% effort to get the win. We were unfortunately forced to take 1 point in the 9th end which meant coming home tied without the hammer. However we put the pressure on Prytz, which resulted in a failed last shot and a stolen win. This was when we secured our playoff position, we just had to now make sure it was the 1 v 2 game.

Host nation, Norway had a rough week and we swiftly disposed of them in 6 ends, and secured our place in the 1 v 2 game still with one game left of the round robin.

We finished up the round robin against another very experienced team, this time OTT

from Switzerland. In the past this has been a bit of a bogey team for us, so it was nice to be able to put them to the side with a convincing 13-3 win.

We were now into the business end of the week and going into this undefeated. We were up against that used to be bogey team again from Switzerland. A great first half put us 6-1 up. We scored another 4 shots in end 8, with hand-shakes being offered and a place in the final for Team Scotland.

Next morning we found out we would be playing Sweden in the final. Going into any championship final is a huge thing, and going into it undefeated was huge, we had a target on our back, as reigning world champions and undefeated.

Unfortunately our adaptation to ice conditions, and missed chances meant we were on the back foot from the beginning. We managed to claw back and were all square after 6 ends, however the clock was not our friend in this game and we were lacking in time. In the 10th end we had an outside chance of Eve making a near impossible shot, but it wasn't meant to be this time - a hugely disappointing end to our near perfect week.

We were lucky to have our fantastic lady president Fiona and RCCC president Alan out in Stavanger with us. Their support makes a huge difference, and is very much appreciated. We enjoyed the afternoon with them after the final and thank you once again for the great spread you both put on for us.

I would also at this time like to add a huge thanks to our all our support team, the amount of work that they put in to help us, and keep us happy is priceless and we are truly thankful for that. The medals we win are very much theirs as well as ours. And this was only the beginning of a very memorable season. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Winter Olympics: All my dreams were coming true. I was going to the Olympic Games! We set off on February 5th with an overnight stay in Moscow and an early start again the next day to get us to Sochi. What better although a little strange than flying into a Winter Olympics venue and seeing the beach and palm trees, as well as the sun shining.

When we arrived we had functions on that afternoon with flag-raising in the village and a reception with Princess Anne in the evening. It was so much fun and excitement being involved with so many other athletes and in such a big team, with everyone truly getting behind everyone and spurring each other on. One Team GB!

We had two days of practice before the competition started, getting used to the ice, arena, stones and back to throwing having had a couple days off from travelling. The ice was five stars, a great effort from Hans and his ice team in what I believe we're testing conditions.

We kicked off our quest for gold against Sweden, USA, Canada and China. A tough opening few days, and we were on a 2-2 record. We knew that we were in a good position, but couldn't slip up on any games. It was in our own hands. Next up were, Japan, Korea, Switzerland and Russia, where we posted 3 out of 4 wins to improve our record to 5-3 with one game to go. Unfortunately this game against Denmark was lost which meant we finished in 4th position meaning we faced favourites Canada in the semi-final.

The semi-final day came and we were all looking forward to playing in this game. Coaches Dave and Rhona had us all ready for the game, nerves settled and game plan in place. The first end was looking great for a blank end, until Eve's first stone which caught a hair on the ice and picked and missing the shot stone, this then let Jones split the house for 2. This really set the tone for the game and we fought back as hard as we could, which unfortunately, was not enough on the day, with Jones making the draw to the 4 foot for the win. What a tough loss, we were absolutely devastated, but we knew that there was still a medal to be won, and we were not going to be leaving empty handed.

We went back to the apartment, after Eve got drug-tested unfortunately, not a great time for that, and talked things over with our coaches, video analyst and psychologist. We

also shed a lot of tears. It was definitely the toughest loss of our career so far. But we had a medal to win, so we got ourselves to bed and were going to come out fighting in the morning against Switzerland.

This was going to be a game of who wanted it more, and exactly that it was. We were tied at 3 all at half-time. In the 6th end an attempted blank end turned into a force of one, which allowed us to blank the 7th end and score two in the 8th end to give us the lead for the first time in the game. The pressure was fire on in the 9th end and Ott was forced to draw for one against 3 GB stones - coming home with the hammer, ideally. The end was set up perfectly with Claire making the perfect tick shot and Anna and myself clearing the guards. At this point I should mention that Rhona had earlier in the week asked eve what her ideal shot would be to win a medal at the Olympics was, and thankfully the shot which eve was left was her ideal shot, an out turn draw to the 4 foot - it was all under control.

Out of Eves hand and it was up to the sweepers to get it their safely. Initially I thought it was slightly heavy, but both Claire and I had the same time on our watches, so we knew it must have been close. When the stone stopped and we were not just Olympic athletes, we were now Olympic medallists. Pretty cool eh?! It's such an amazing feeling, and the support we had there was out of this world, Lord Seb Coe, Sir Steve Redgrave, Shelly Rudman to name a few were there watching us, it all just seemed a bit surreal.

After the game and for the next day and a half we had lots of media requests and official press conferences to attend. We did get time to see our family for a quick half hour, which was emotional.

Our medal ceremony was not until 2 days later, we were eager to get our medals and let me tell you, I did sleep with it under my pillow the night I got it. It's something I will treasure forever and 2014 is definitely a year I won't be forgetting in a hurry. *(Applause)*

President Fiona: Thank you Vicki. Can I call on Naomi Brown to give a report on the World Junior Curling Championships? *(Applause)*

b. World Junior Curling Championships

Naomi Brown (Stoneykirk): This championship was our first experience at this level of competition and we were very proud to represent our country following on from great successes in the previous years. Flims, Switzerland, was a beautiful town and venue and had a great atmosphere in the arena with great vocal support from the Scottish fans, which was well appreciated. We finished with a record of 3 wins and 6 losses. This included three extra ends and came down to skips last stones in almost every game. It was an intense week and we were pleased to have had so many good games though the results were short of what we had hoped for. However we finished with a significant win against Italy to avoid relegation which was a great relief. Overall we had an amazing experience and left feeling proud of our efforts. We have taken a lot from this championship in terms of experience both on and off the ice, and we will be practicing hard to get another chance to play at this level. I'd like to thank Fiona, Mary Anne and the RCCC for their support, and Cate Brewster for all her help, thank you. *(Applause)*

President Fiona: Thank you Naomi.

c. World Women's Curling Championships

President Fiona: Unfortunately Kerry Barr is unable to attend so I am going to read her report.

First of all I'd like to apologise for none of the team being able to make it to the AGM. After a week off for the Scottish and just over two weeks in Canada our employers and bank balances were, unsurprisingly, not that willing to give us any more time off.

We had a bit of a whirlwind with only 3 weeks between us winning the Scottish Championships and heading off to Canada. We all turned up at Edinburgh Airport on Monday 10th March, some of us more relaxed than others after being stuck in traffic, but once we had been introduced to Kim the physio, met Rhona and Keith and stuffed all extra clothing into the brush bag we started to feel the excitement you should get when heading off to a World Championship.

After a long day of travelling via Heathrow, Toronto and finally into Saint John, which turned out to be the smallest airport in the world, we were taken to our hotel and managed to get a good night sleep. The next day was a free day so we were able to walk around the town, get our bearings and work on our synchronised swimming before heading over to the arena to see where we would be playing. Harbour Station was amazing, there was seating for 6600 people and was set out brilliantly. We couldn't wait to get started. We also had time to find Pete's Pub, a tiny little pub which the owner, Pete Ferguson, had turned into "Scottish HQ" for the week after he'd had such a brilliant time celebrating with Hammy McMillan's World Championship winning team in 1999. He even held a reception for us and all the Scottish fans during the week where we were piped in, given top table seats, presents and got to listen to singing and poems – all organised by the Saint John St Andrews Society. None of us had ever seen hospitality like it.

Wednesday and Thursday flew by, with us spending the mornings looking round the shops and finding that pretty much the whole town was under one roof as well as bumping into so many friendly volunteers. The afternoons were spent practising at the appropriately named Thistle St Andrews club, one of the local curling rinks where we were, again, very well looked after.

By this time in the week we were expecting that most of the teams would have arrived, but there had been a massive snow storm and many were delayed or diverted. Even Team Canada ended up having to hire a van and drive the four hours from Halifax. But in the end, all of the teams made it in time for their practice on Friday afternoon. It was great to get on the arena ice and see what it would be like.

Saturday came and, after the opening ceremony, we had our first game against Latvia. This game was possibly one of the most frustrating games I have ever played in. The ice was very different to how it was in practice, neither team were making the shots and in the end Latvia came out on top. Obviously we were disappointed with this as it is a game Scotland would be expected to win, but we went back to the hotel and had a good debrief, dinner and went to bed so that we could get up fresh and raring to go in the morning.

On Sunday morning we played Denmark. This was a close game and another one which we should have and could have won. The girls really picked themselves up for this game and played well but I was struggling and wasn't able to finish off the big ends we were setting up. After close games against Germany and the Czechs we were able to notch up two wins and be back in the middle of the field on 2-2. But unfortunately we then went down to China on Monday night and Russia on Tuesday morning. Tuesday night came and it was the big game, Canada. We were really up for this game, there was a big crowd and we were live on TV so wanted to put on a good show. Unfortunately this was a game where one important shot per end was missed and we weren't able to take our chances. We stuck with them but they are a good team and managed to take their twos whilst forcing us to our ones and ground out the win. The rest of our round robin games were must-win games and we just weren't able to get the wins we felt we deserved. We took Sweden, the Olympic silver medallists, to an extra end and could well have gone on to win the game but it was yet another case of so close yet so far. We ended up finishing the round robin on a 2-9 win loss record which was definitely not where we wanted to be. The support in the arena had been fantastic. We had lots of family there, plus Ladies President Fiona, husband David and RCCC President Alan and their support was fantastic all week. It seemed we had also converted some Canadians as well and wherever we went there was always people telling us we'd played a great game and wishing us luck which was really nice when we were struggling.

Whilst we enjoyed our last few days in Saint John, still doing autograph signings and going to all the other required events, the top of the table play-offs went like this: Canada beat Switzerland in the page 1v2 for a place in the final. Korea, who had put Sweden out in a play-off, beat Russia in the page 3v4 but went on to lose out to Switzerland in the semi-final. Russia then managed to beat Korea in the Bronze medal game, which we got

to watch from a posh box in the stadium thanks to Alan Durno and his tendency to make friends in high places. The gold medal game was a close one and great to watch. The Canadians looked like they had the edge in the first half but Switzerland and their relaxed “we’re just happy we got a medal” attitude really pulled through in the second half. They ended up forcing the pressure onto Team Canada which in-turn saw them miss shots they would normally make 9 times out of 10, and coming away with a gold medal. It was great to see a team having such good fun on the way to winning the World Championships.

To sum up our Championship as disappointing is fair on the curling side of things, but we have learned so much from the experience and therefore we have to put a positive spin on it. Even looking back at the games to write this report has been tough as I still have the “what could have been” feelings, if we had made that one shot here or that other shot there then we could have ended up in a very different position in the table.

I’d like to finish off by thanking a few people. Hannah Fleming came into the team as our 5th player and couldn’t have done a better job. She was enthusiastic, good at matching stones and did a great job when she came onto the ice to play the last few games. I’d highly recommend her! Rhona Howie was a fantastic National Coach, she kept us all right without changing the way Keith coached the team. Her wealth of knowledge at that level of curling was such a benefit to us. Coach Keith MacLennan has been with us through some good but also some pretty ugly times in the lead-up to the World Championships and has given up a great deal of his time to watch ladies curling for us, not a past-time he particularly enjoys! Kenny More was, as always, great with his camera and turned out to be a saviour for Keith after suffering the first few days with an all-female team and discussions of cuticles and split ends. Kim was also a fab physio, she got us all acupuncture, cupped and taped up ready to play, but also had a great sense of humour and provided us with lots of laughs.

Fiona, thank you so much for being a supportive ladies president and for making the long trip over, we hope you enjoyed it despite the curling results.

The last people I’d like to thank won’t be here today but I’ll do it anyway. Our families. They have supported us in lots of different team combinations for many years and travelled far and wide to do so. It was great to be able to win a Scottish Championship that only they and we believed we could and to make them proud by wearing Scotland on our backs. (Applause)

President Fiona: I would now like to call upon Christine Cannon to give her World Senior Championship report.

d. World Senior Women’s Curling Championship

Christine Cannon (Wigtown): Believe it or not I was on this stage just a few weeks ago dancing with a tambourine. Could I ask that very quickly could videos of that evening please be destroyed?

President Fiona, Guests and Ladies. The last time I attended a Ladies Branch AGM was in 1994. I was five months pregnant and was giving a report on my silver medal in the World Women’s Championship in Oberstdorf, Germany. Now, twenty-years later, I find myself at the Ladies’ AGM giving a report this time on our gold medal in the World Senior Women’s Curling Championship and I am most definitely not pregnant.

After winning the Scottish Senior title in February, we planned as many practice sessions and games as work and time would allow. Practice ice was hard to come by in the lead up to the championships as most ice rinks had closed for the season – fortunately for me my local ice rink, Stranraer, stayed open right up to the start of the event.

Now to our week in Dumfries - what a week it was! We all met at our hotel on the Tuesday evening. There was no jet lag, no airport delays, and no lost luggage. Although

it did take 3 members of my team an hour to find the hotel after arriving in Dumfries, and they had been to the hotel before!

The Tuesday evening was the first chance that the six of us had to sit down together and discuss the week ahead. Due to work commitments it had not been easy to get us all in the same place at the same time.

Wednesday was practice day and a welcome reception. The Dumfries Organising Committee had transformed the ice bowl into a very impressive venue fit to stage the World Seniors and Mixed Doubles events.

Thursday was the opening ceremony in which 40 senior teams and 34 mixed doubles teams paraded around the main ice pad - quite a spectacle. We then played Canada in our first game. Not my best game I'm afraid and we lost rather heavily to Colleen Pinkney's team.

Our draw was not very favourable as we had no games on the Friday. After a defeat you want to get back on the ice and throw stones. Instead we had a leisurely day taking in some culture while discovering more about Robert Burns.

Saturday dawned with an 8.30 morning game and a 7.00 evening game. The alarm clock was set for 6am. We secured a win against Australia and then Russia.

Sunday we won against Finland and Monday our win against Italy secured our place in the play-offs. The only thing undecided was whether we would finish 2nd or 3rd in our section. Canada were undefeated and were going through top. We had Switzerland to play and we were both on one defeat. Looking at the permutations we felt that if we could qualify 2nd we would possibly avoid playing Canada until the final.

We played Switzerland midday on Tuesday and it did go down to the last stone but we managed to win and guarantee 2nd spot in our section.

The play-off was on Tuesday evening against Slovakia. We always felt in control of the game picking up 3 shots in the first end. The win secured our semi-final spot.

USA was our opposition at 8.00am on Wednesday so another 6am alarm call. We had not played Margie Smith and her team before but we knew that this was their 3rd time at the Worlds having previously finished 4th and they were keen to medal. After a tight game, which went to an extra-end, we achieved the win – one game left – the final against Canada.

Having finished a very disappointing 4th last year, it was such a relief to know we were going to medal the only thing left to be decided was what colour it was going to be. At 12.30 the stage was set – a World Championship final against Canada in Scotland with home support – it doesn't get much better.

After 6 ends we were behind 5-2. We decided that we were going to have to be more aggressive and take the game on. A 100% end from the team gave us our 2 shots. Going into the last end still trailing by one, and without last stone, we played another 100% end. Two perfect guards from Janet our lead, were then split to the side by two perfect tick shots by the Canadian lead. It didn't look very hopeful, however a jammed attempt to clear a guard changed the end and we ended up with 3 stones in the 4ft and a centre guard. The Canadian skip called a tap back on one of our stones on the edge of the 4ft – it over curled and came on to our own stone on the top of the four foot. When the stones came to rest we were lying 2 shots to give us victory. The rest is a bit of a blur. It was, a dream come true. The crowd had been incredible throughout the week but on the last day the noise and level of support will stay with us forever.

Thanks to the Dumfries Organising Committee who staged such a memorable event. The closing banquet was a wonderful end to the week and allowed all competitors and volunteers to party the night away.

Thanks to my team for their hard work and commitment this season. Janet has flown over from Canada 3 times this season to play whilst Margaret Robertson has taken part in the domestic competitions and was a dependable and enthusiastic 5th player at Dumfries. Margaret Richardson and Isobel as always are great to play with. It was a baptism of fire for Jackie Lockhart as she took on her first coaching post. She was enthusiastic in her duties and was a great multi-tasker - being able to watch our games, take our stats, update a blog and put her makeup on at the same time! She was up at 6am for our morning games and then found herself pairing stones with Margaret at midnight – that's dedication.

We had a great week of fun, laughter and friendship – to culminate in the gold medal was just so special. (*Applause*)

President Fiona: Thank you Christine and to the team, well done.

12. Tours

President Fiona: I would now like to call upon Corrie Lawrence, captain of the Scottish Tour to Sweden to give her report. (*Applause*)

Corrie Lawrence (Beresford Ladies): Lady President Fiona, Vice President Mary Anne, ladies - on behalf of the 16 ladies who comprised our 2013 Tour team I am delighted to report that we had a hugely successful, enjoyable and memorable Tour to Sweden in November 2013. It was an experience which will live with us all for a very long time. Importantly, the Tour reinforced in a positive fashion the strong curling relationship between Scotland and Sweden and I am pleased to report that the Swedish ladies are already looking forward to visiting Scotland in 2018 and to partaking in our Scottish hospitality.

As everyone who has ever been on a Tour knows, it is the camaraderie and long lasting friendships which are the highlight of Tours – within both the Scottish team and the host opposition - and I can confidently say on behalf of the 2013 ladies that we achieved everything we set out to in terms of curling fellowship and representing the Royal Club. On behalf of the team I would express our gratitude to the Ladies Branch for selecting us to go on the Tour and allowing us to enjoy such a wonderful experience.

For the benefit of future Ladies Tours to Sweden a separate report – including suggestions and recommendations - will be made regarding the organisation and mechanics of the 2013 Tour but in this brief report to this AGM, I simply wish to highlight three areas which featured strongly on our Tour: culture, hospitality and curling.

The Tour lasted from 1st to 11th November 2013 and during those 11 days we travelled more than 1000 kilometres through Sweden starting and finishing in Stockholm. The Tour took us from Stockholm to Uppsala, Karlstad, Jonkoping, and Norrkoping before returning to Stockholm for the final curling matches and the climax of Tour social activities. We enjoyed fantastic scenery on each leg of our journey in very comfortable buses and on smooth roads – there is a noticeable absence of potholes in Sweden. Pit-stops en-route had all been planned well in advance which was greatly appreciated by the team members given the amounts of coffee, schnapps and “Morning Class” which custom demanded we consume.

We were met at Stockholm airport by Anta, one of our two Swedish chaperones, wearing traditional national costume and between games we were taken to various places of interest including the world's only match museum, the famous Polkaris candy factory at Granna, the centre for Muslim Civilisation and 1001 inventions museum, and finally the Abba Exhibition in Stockholm. And of course we were let loose on a couple of shopping expeditions.

Our enjoyment and appreciation of Sweden on the Tour was greatly aided by Anta and of course Tita who travelled everywhere with us and were always on hand to guide us and make sure that all the small details were in place. The role of the host liaison is central to the organisation and success of any Tour – something which needs to be borne in mind for 2018.

The hospitality at all the venues throughout the Tour was first class whether in hotels or with hosts. Most nights we were accommodated in small Swedish hotels which allowed us to bond as a group but our time spent in Swedish homes was both humbling and highly memorable. Nothing was too much trouble for our hosts and we chatted long into the night.

The warmth of the welcome we received at every stop was very special. In terms of food, we enjoyed some fantastic offerings and great care had been taken by all our hosts to ensure that we sampled the best food and drink which Sweden had to offer – with no repetition at different venues. We remember the delicious Smorgasbord; the wild boar caught and cooked by local curlers; the wonderful salmon; and truly memorable cloud berries (a Swedish cross between a bramble and a raspberry) to mention just a few highlights. We also enjoyed a formal lunch in the city chambers with the lady mayor in Norkopping, and were hosted by the Swedish Curling Association at Anta's beautiful home in Stockholm on our last evening.

In terms of our actual curling I am pleased to report that the Scottish Team managed to come out on top but it was a very close thing with the outcome ultimately hanging on the result of our last two matches. Prior to these two games we had been behind Sweden throughout the Tour in terms of overall shots - particularly early on while we were still getting used to playing together. The gap was narrowing however with each game and I can assure you that it was more than a little nerve wracking going into the last day of curling with a score-line of Sweden 136 Scotland 135 knowing that we had to come from behind. However, we managed to do so thanks to every member of each team playing her heart out and an extra helping of "Morning Class" prior to the games!! Overall we won by 18 shots, the final score being Sweden 159 Scotland 177. A highlight of the Tour for me, and many of the ladies, was the standard of the curling arenas and ice halls we visited. These were first class with several of the venues owned, built and operated by very proud and committed Club members. In several venues the "iceman" was in fact a woman and one of our curling opposition.

Another notable feature was the number of safety helmets worn on the ice compared with at home – these were mandatory for all beginners.

The Swedish version of "points" is similar to ours but more accessible in that each arena has weekly competitions for men and women, results are centralised, with a district winner every season. A great way to improve each individual curler's game.

All our curling games were played in a friendly spirit against a variety of international and Club curlers. In Sweden many games are played in the early evening as almost all Swedish lady curlers work. It is an interesting fact that although the standard of curling in Sweden is very high, only about 20% of curlers are ladies because of this fact.

Language of course was not a problem as all our Swedish hosts spoke excellent English. Several members of our Team had a go in Swedish but English was definitely the easier option!

In conclusion I would reiterate our gratitude to the Royal Club for the opportunity to have gone on the Tour – the experience of a lifetime - and look forward to Scotland hosting the Swedish Tour in 2018.

The Swedish ladies are already looking forward to coming to Scotland in 4 years-time and our task is to ensure through careful planning and organisation that their Tour to Scotland is as varied and memorable for them as our Tour was in 2013. Thank you. *(Applause)*

President Fiona: Thank you Corrie.

13. Presentations

a. Morton Trophy

President Fiona: Can I please call on new Ayr rep Margaret White to come forward and accept the Morton Trophy on behalf of her centre. *(Applause)*

b. Scottish Champions

President Fiona: Can I please ask Rhona Howie, head coach, to come forward and accept the winners' badges on behalf of the Scottish champions. *(Applause)*

c. European silver medallists

President Fiona: In addition to these presentations I also have gifts for the European silver medallists. Can I please ask Vicki Adams to come forward and accept these gifts on behalf of the team? *(Applause)*

d. World Senior Champions

President Fiona: I also have gifts for the World Senior Champions, can you please come forward. *(Applause)*

14. Election of Office Bearers

President Fiona:

a. Election of President (Season 2014-2015) – Mary Anne McWilliam (Portpatrick)

President Fiona: I am now delighted to formally propose Mary Anne McWilliam for election of President of the Ladies' Branch for 2014-2015. It has been a pleasure working with Mary Anne. She has been a great support to me throughout the season. I know she will be an excellent president and will carry out her duties with much enthusiasm and commitment to Ladies' Branch, and I have no hesitation in nominating her to you. *(Applause)*. Can I have a seconder please?

Seconder: Maureen Parker (Castle Kennedy): President Fiona, Honorary Vice President Kate, Past Presidents, Sister and brother curlers, and invited guests. I have known Mary Anne for a long time and I am delighted to second the nomination of Mary Anne McWilliam as President of the Ladies' Branch. Mary Anne started her curling career in Ayrshire where her family the Lyburns were a well-known and enthusiastic family of curlers. When she met and married Alastair she moved to Wigtownshire where she continued curling with Portpatrick Curling Club and Stranraer Ladies.

She has served as president of Portpatrick and has been involved in coaching and encouraging young curlers. In fact her son Jay has been part of young team Hardie in recent years and has had many successful tournaments. Jay won the Scottish Pairs with Colin Smith in March 2007. He won silver at the European Youth Olympics in Poland 2009, was 5th man at the World Juniors in Perth 2011, in which he had to play in all positions when the team was hit with a gastric bug. Mary Anne was often present to support. Her daughters Catherine and Sarah also take to the ice when time allows.

Mary Anne will be an excellent president with her background in curling and experience on committees. Her knowledge of the world of curling, her organisational skills and her lively outgoing personality will be an asset to the role.

With her enthusiasm and dedication towards Ladies curling we are in safe hands.

So on behalf of the Ladies of Stranraer Ice Rink and the Rhins O Galloway Province we pledge our support and wish her a successful term as lady president. *(Applause)*

Outgoing President Fiona: It gives me great pleasure to hand over the badge of honour to President Mary Anne, and the Presidents' Rose Bowl. Mary Anne, I wish you a happy and successful year in office. *(Applause)*

President Mary Anne – Introductory Speech: Past President Fiona, Honorary Vice President Kate, Past President, Sister Curlers, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you all for your kind words, support and good wishes. It is a great honour to be appointed President and it is with great pleasure I accept the office of President of Ladies' Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

Thank you Fiona and Maureen. I am delighted to have the support of Stranraer Ladies and my club Portpatrick, a special thanks to all from Stranraer and Portpatrick who are here today.

The only previous president of Ladies' Branch from Stranraer was Betty Grierson from 1981 to 1982. Betty cannot be here today but she spoke to me on Saturday and passed on her congratulations to Fiona for a successful year in office and wished me all the best on my year ahead.

I will work hard to ensure the role of Ladies' Branch and the Ladies' Standing Committee and make sure it remains a strong force within the structure of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

The Ladies' Standing Committee have been very supportive of me during the past two years and I am looking forward very much to working with them, and supporting the incoming President David Henderson in his year as President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

My family has been involved in the sport of curling for many years and they have all pledged their support over the next year. My husband Alastair says he will be happy as long as the deep freeze is kept topped up! I would like to thank my mum Helen, my aunt Gugs, my sister Jean and my daughter Catherine for their support here today.

Now Fiona, I would like to say a huge thank you to Fiona on behalf of all Scottish lady curlers for all the hard work she has done for Ladies' Branch and the Royal Caledonian Curling Club during her years in office.

Fiona you may be a petite lady but you have left me huge shoes to fill. Fiona it has been an absolute pleasure to work with you and the Ladies' Standing Committee over the past two years and I thoroughly enjoyed accompanying you to Flims, Switzerland for the 2014 World Junior Curling Championships. I was able to watch you carry out your presidential duties in your usual quiet, capable and very gracious manner.

It has been a very busy year for you and you have been a very busy enthusiastic supporter of all our national teams at the various championships you attended at home and all over the world. You are due a very well deserved rest now. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank your family – David, David Jnr, Aline and Grant for supporting you and Ladies' Branch throughout your presidential year.

Fiona, please accept the Past Presidents badge and also this gift as a mark of our appreciation for all the work you have done for Ladies' Branch. *(Applause)*

b. Election of Vice-President (Season 2014-2015) – Marion Fraser (Strathkinness)

President Mary Anne: Now for the election of our Vice President for season 2014-2015. It gives me great pleasure to propose Marion Fraser as Vice President of Ladies' Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Marion has been a great support to Fiona and me this year and she is a very capable and enthusiastic member of the Ladies' Standing Committee. I look forward to working with her during the year ahead. Can I have a seconder please?

Seconder: Margaret Lambie (Balcaskie): President Mary Anne, Honorary Vice President Kate, President Alan, Past Presidents, Sister Curlers and invited guests. It is with pleasure that I second the nomination of Marion Fraser as Vice President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club's Ladies' Branch. Marion is a very keen curler, a past president of her mother club Strathkinness, a past president of East Fife Province and Kirkcaldy Centre Ladies' Branch. She is currently President of Cambo Ladies Curling Club. She has completed her year as Junior Vice President of Ladies' Branch having carried out her duties and engagements with enthusiasm and diligence while acquainting herself with many new people and the new practices of the RCCC. It is with confidence that I second Marion and wish her all success on behalf of Ladies' Branch Kirkcaldy Centre and East Fife Province. *(Applause)*

Vice President Marion Fraser: Honorary Vice President Kate, President Mary Anne, Immediate Past President Fiona, and all the past presidents in front of me here, sister curlers and guest. Thank you Mary Anne for your kind words and Margaret for your encouragement. I am honoured to accept the post of Vice Chairman of the Ladies' Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

In this last year it has been a pleasure working with and learning from Fiona, Mary Anne and Gail. What a team they have been! I have also appreciated the friendship and shared sense of purpose with the wider curling community.

I look forward to further involvement with Mary Anne and the Ladies' Standing Committee, supporting all lady curlers, from our world class competitors to those new to the sport, who we hope will be joining us after the tremendous success of the Olympic Try Curling. Working together, all of you here, continuing the successful role of the Ladies' Branch within the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. *(Applause)*

President Mary Anne: Thank you Marion.

c. Election of Junior Vice-President (Season 2014-2015) – Jan Howard (Reform)

President Mary Anne: And now on to the election of Junior Vice President. I am pleased to propose Jan Howard as Junior Vice President of Ladies' Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Jan is the representative of Greenacres Ladies on the Ladies' Standing Committee. She has been involved with coaching juniors for many years and many of you will know her daughter Gillian a well-known lady curler. I am sure Jan will be a great asset to Ladies' Branch and I am looking forward to working with her. Can I have a seconder please?

Seconder: Elaine Telfer (Greenacres Ladies): President Mary Anne, Honorary Vice President Kate, Vice President Marion, Past Presidents, Sister Curler, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am delighted to second the nomination of Jan Howard, for the position of Junior Vice President of the Ladies Branch, RCCC. Curling is in Jan's blood, so to speak, as there have been four generations of curlers in her family. Her late grandfather introduced her to the "Roaring Game" and her husband David, daughter Gillian and grandson David Miller are each well known in the curling world. Jan was a founder member of the under 25's mixed club at Crossmyloof in the late 60's and is now a member of Reform and Secretary of Greenacres Ladies. She is best known, and easily recognised, by her curling dress style of a Black Watch tartan kilt! Jan is now retired from a career in education, spanning secondary schools to Local Authority management, throughout Scotland. All of the above experience will stand her in good stead for the position of Junior Vice President of Ladies Branch, RCCC. As Jan says "curling is my passion". Finally, may I, on behalf of Greenacres Ladies Centre, reassure her of our full and ongoing support. Thank you. *(Applause)*

President Mary Anne: Thank you Elaine. Are there any other nominations? No. I would like to ask Jan to come forward and accept her badge of office and say a few words.

Junior Vice President Jan: President Mary Anne, Honorary Vice President Kate, Vice President Marion, Past President Fiona, Sister Curlers, Invited Guests. Thank you. Special thanks to Past President Fiona, President Mary Anne and Vice President Marion for their support and encouragement, without which I might not be standing here today. I am delighted and honoured to accept the office of Junior Vice President of the Ladies' Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

I am truly looking forward to working with the team and sharing their enthusiasm in carrying out the tasks expected of me over the next few years. I will further my commitment to promoting the interests both of our sport in general and in particular those of the Ladies' Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

It's not just an honour to be a part of this curling community, it's a privilege which I am fortunate enough to have been granted. I will continue to work hard with my coaching,

coach-training and junior commitments. Again that's what I do, that's where I am in curling. I am devoted to my coaching commitments.

Again, my grateful thanks to all on the team, but one last thank you to Elaine Telfer who has been a great support for me, and I know she will be an able and enthusiastic Greenacres representative on the Ladies' Standing Committee. *(Applause)*

President Mary Anne: Thank you Jan.

d. Election of Treasurer (Season 2014-2015) – Gail Munro (Castle Kennedy)

President Mary Anne: Now to the election of a very important person – our treasurer. In proposing Gail Munro as our treasurer I am pleased to announce that she has agreed to be re-elected as Treasurer of the Ladies' Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Not only does Gail look after our finances very efficiently, she looks after the merchandising as well. This includes sourcing the goods we sell, ordering, purchasing, distributing and stocktaking. Gail also represents Ladies' Standing Committee on the Competitions and Performance committees of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

Gail we are glad to have you on our executive with your knowledge and enthusiasm for the game of curling and on all of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and Ladies' Branch matters. May I have a seconder please?

Secunder: Shelagh Fulton (Lynedoch Ladies): President Mary Anne, Past Presidents, sister curlers and guests. It gives me great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Gail Munro as Treasurer and I can vouch for everything that Mary Anne has said. She is a wonderful treasurer and a great asset to Ladies' Branch. *(Applause)*

President Mary Anne: Thank you Shelagh, and thank you Gail.

15. AOCB

President Mary Anne: We have come to the final item on the Agenda today, and I would like to ask if anyone has any other competent business that they would like to raise at this time. No, we'll move on! Just finally some dates for your diaries:

- The Royal Caledonian Curling Club AGM will be held at Dewar's Centre, Perth on Saturday, 14 June 2014 at 2pm. The Scottish Curling Awards will be presented during the AGM.
- The Royal Caledonian Curling Club will have its usual stand at the Royal Highland Show which will be open on Thursday, 19 and Friday, 20 June 2014. Refreshments and home baking will be served. And any ladies that would like to hand in anything into Cairnie House, it would be much appreciated.
- The Henderson Bishop Finals will take place at Border Ice Rink, Kelso from 23 to 26 February 2015. Entry forms which are available on the RCCC website must be returned to the RCCC by 30 June 2014.
- The European Mixed Curling Championship will be held in Taarnby, Denmark from Saturday 13 September to Saturday, 20 September 2014.
- The Morton Trophy Final will be held on Tuesday, 10 March 2015 at Kirkcaldy Ice Rink.
- The Ladies Branch AGM will be held on Tuesday, 12 May 2015 at North West Castle Hotel, Stranraer.

President Mary Anne: I would now like to close the meeting and wish you all a very good summer and a safe journey home. Can I please call Maureen Woods from Dumfries Centre to give the Vote of Thanks? *Applause)*

16. Vote of Thanks

Maureen Woods (Nithsdale Ladies): President Mary Anne, Past Presidents, Honorary Vice President Kate. I am delighted to give the vote of thanks this afternoon on behalf of the Dumfries Ladies Centre.

Firstly to Fiona for chairing the first part of this meeting and her interesting and comprehensive presidential report, you have had a busy year representing and supporting ladies curling, a job well done! Enjoy a well-deserved rest.

Congratulations to our new president Mary Anne, we wish you and your committee a successful year. Thank you for chairing the second part of this meeting.

Thank you to the winning skips and their representatives who reported on some hard fought curling. To Corrie Lawrence for reporting on the enjoyable Scottish Ladies Tour to Sweden.

I hope you all have enjoyed your visit to Dumfries and the Easterbrook Hall, within the beautiful Crichton Campus. We've even had the sunshine out for you. Thank you to the Easterbrook staff, for afternoon tea which is about to be provide, and an enormous thank you to the Dumfries Ice Bowl Ladies Curling Association who have rose again to the challenge of providing home baking!

Finally thank you all for travelling her today and wish you a safe journey home.

(The meeting finished at 16:10)

**Income & Expenditure Summary for Ladies Branch
for the 13 months to 30th April 2014**

		2	2014	2013
Income			£	
Opening bank balances	b/f Current Account	Notes	3295	3239
	b/f Deposit Account		7124	7067
VAT on Sales			360	428
Merchandise sales			1799	2177
Refund from RCCC for EWCC 2011			0	500
International Fund			825	608
Donation			10	0
Bank Interest			6	57
			<u>13419</u>	<u>14076</u>
Expenditure				
Merchandise Costs			1898	1547
Gifts & donations Made			55	0
Special Events (Glynhill)			250	250
Honoraria			450	400
Miscellaneous Costs			836	1153
Irrecoverable VAT		1	92	307
Closing bank balances	Current Account c/f		9838	3295
	Deposit Account c/f		0	7124
			<u>13419</u>	<u>14076</u>
			2014	2013
Value of Stock in Hand			<u>£2,818</u>	<u>£1,681</u>

Notes to Accounts

1 - This the amount of VAT paid on purchases by the Ladies Branch.

VAT is not generally recoverable by the Royal Club.

2 - The Royal Club has changed its financial year end to 30th April from the 31st March

Certified a true extract from the Royal Club's accounts:

Alastair Hibbert (Finance Manager)
30th April 2014

Gail Munro (Treasurer, Ladies' Branch)
30th April 2014