

**Transcript of Proceedings of the  
179th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club  
Held at Braehead Curling Rink, Glasgow on Saturday 17th June 2017**

**Present on the Podium:**

President	Clive Thomson (Glasgow Academicals)
Chair of the Board	Alastair MacNish (Gourock)
Chief Executive Officer	Bruce Crawford (Abbotsford Curling Society)

**AGENDA OF BUSINESS**

- a) Welcome Remarks
- b) In Memoriam
- c) Apologies
- d) Letter from the Royal Patron
- e) President's Report
- f) Approval of the Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 June 2016
- g) Annual Report of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club
- h) Resolutions to alter the Rules of the Game. Details of the resolutions can be found on the RCCC's website;
- i) Submission and approval of the Annual Accounts appropriately certified
- j) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner
- k) Approve the Annual Subscriptions for 2018-19 – to increase by £1 (*£20 Ordinary/ Honorary Playing, and £7 Junior (under 21 years of age)*)
- l) Appointment of President
- m) Appointment of Vice-President
- n) Election of Directors
- o) Appointment of Chaplain
- p) Authorise the publication of the Annual
- q) Fixing of the place and date of the next Annual General Meeting
- r) Presentation of Trophies
  - Sir Richard Waldie-Griffith Trophy
  - 150 Year Medals (Club)
  - 50 Year Medals (Member)
- s) Presentation of Scottish Curling Awards
  - Young Curler of the Year
  - Grassroots Coach of the Year
  - Team of the Year
  - Ice Diamond Award
- t) Any other competent business (as notified before the AGM)
- u) Address by the Incoming President

## RECORDED ATTENDANCE

In alphabetical order by club:

**Past Presidents:** Alan Durno (Fochabers), Alistair McCabe (Kennoway), Bill Duncan (Bank of Scotland Perth & District), David Henderson (New Abbey), Jim Murdoch (Dundonald), Patrick Edington (Boswall), Robbie Scott (Dunkeld), Thomas Hinnigan (St Boswells), Billy Howat (Cumnock & District)

**Board:** Alastair MacNish (Gourock), Bruce Crawford (Abbotsford), Clive Thomson (Glasgow Academics), David Hardie (Crocketford), Graeme Adam (Reform), Helen Hally (Craigielands), Rob Niven (Delvine)

**Areas Standing Committee:** Albert Middler (AWW), Andrew Kerr (Troon Portland), Brian McArtney (Letham Grange), Graham Lindsay (Forret), Hugh Templeton (Kirkcowan), John Fingland (Drystones), Ian Young (Suttieside), Jim Cullen (Earlston), Jim Inglis (Glasgow Academics), Joe Barry (Livingston), John Smith (Ruthwell), L. Calder Benzie (Corstorphine), Robert Corbet (Giffnock), Tom Kirk (University of Dundee)

**Staff:** Aline Hardie (Competitions Co-ordinator), Barbara McFarlane (Performance Development Coach), Fiona Harfield (Workforce Development Manager), Helen Kallow (Disability Development Officer), Judith McCleary (Head of Development), Laura Barr (Administrator), Lindsay Booth (Welfare Officer), Nicola Glencross (Admin and Finance Administrator), Suzy Wakefield (Office Manager)

**Individuals Members:** Norman Bruce (Aberdeen), Tom Brydone (Airleywright), Daisy Neilson (Avondale Heather), William Neilson (Avondale Heather), Bob Edwards (Ayr), Margo Nicoll (Bank of Scotland Fife), Wendy Smith (Bank of Scotland Fife), Willie Nicoll (Bank of Scotland Fife), Alan Turner (Bellshill), Aileen Neilson (Braehead Wheelchair), Ritchie Stewart (Buchan), Alan Donaldson (Cadder), Ann Turnbull (Cambo Ladies), David Millar (Campsie Glen), Christine Stewart (Carmunnoch and Rutherglen), Hugh Stewart (Carmunnoch and Rutherglen), Robert Shand (Carmunnoch and Rutherglen), Frazer Shaw (Castle Kennedy), Hugh Nibloe (Castle Kennedy), John Dignan (Corstorphine), Fiona Hardie (Crocketford), Yvonne Chalmers (Crossmyloof), Reid Logan (Cumnock), Matt Brown (Cumnock and District), Margaret Nicol (Currie and Balerno), Susan Kesley (Currie and Balerno), Ken Hunter (DAFS), Jessica Skelton (Dalgety Bay), Robert McKenzie (Dalry Union), Jim Wyllie (Delvine), John Fineland (Drystones), Robin Turner (Drystones), Bill Marshall (Dumbarton), Sheena Murdoch (Dundonald), Albert Rae (Dunfermline), Jim Stevenson (Dunfermline), Kathleen Scott (Dunkeld), Elizabeth Cullen (Earlston), Graeme Cowe (Earlston), John Burns (Earlston), Lesley Cowe (Earlston), William Byres (Earlston), Agnes Strang (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Alison Allison (East Kilbride & Haremyres), David Affleck (East Lothian), Malcolm Richardson (Erskine), David Westall (Falkirk), Mike Watt (Fochabers), Susan Durno (Fochabers), Ian Mackin (Forest Hills Trossachs), Craig Lindsay (Forret), Morag Wellman (Fossway Ladies), Sheena Boyd (Glasgow Ladies), Sean Murray (Gogar Park), Sophie Sinclair (Gogar Park Young Curlers), William Mitchell (Greenland), Robert McPherson (Hamilton Wheelchair), Ronnie Dunachie (Helensburgh), Anne Malcolm (Hercules Ladies), John Morren (Huntly), Bob Smith (Inverkeithing), Phil Barton (Inverkeithing), Hilary Jackson (Jedburgh), Nanette McCabe (Kennoway), Lorna Higgins (Kilmacalm), Ruth Harkus (Kilsyth), Alistair Lindsay (Lammermuir), Colin Stirling (Lauderdale), James Stewart (Lesmahagow), Jane McArtney (Letham Grange), Ronnie Wilson (Markinch), Jim Cannon (Merchiston), Alex Forrest (Millport), Robert Forrest (Millport), Robert Pottie (Nairn), Margaret Pottie (Nairn Ladies), Frances Henderson (New Abbey), Robert Carruthers (New Abbey), Ian Keron (Oatridge), Christine Hope (Penicuik), Linda Hunter (Penicuik), Ronnie Hope (Penicuik), David Haggart (Pitkerro), Morag Erskine (Pitlessie), Harry Mitchell (Raith & Abbotshall), David Howard (Reform), Jan Howard (Reform), Judith Thomson (Rolling

Stones), Cameron Bryce (Roxburgh), Jim Hogg (Ruthwell), Harry Dodds (St Boswell), Marion Fraser (Strathkinness), James Dixon (Swinton), David McIntyre (Troon Portland), Julia Craig (Troon Portland), Kirsty Letton (Troon Portland), Lillian McIntyre (Troon Portland), Lauchlan MacLean (Watsonian), Mary Morren.

**In attendance:**

**a) Welcome Remarks**

**CLIVE THOMSON (PRESIDENT):** Welcome everybody it is just after 2pm. Sister and Brother Curlers, Ladies and Gentlemen I extend to you a very warm welcome to the 179th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

As is the case on all these occasions we have to go through a little housekeeping. Whilst the dangers of fire aren't too great here I must point out the emergency exits to you particularly following the horrific fire in London this week. One at each corner behind you, those are the emergency exits. We are not expecting a fire alarm today so should it go off could you please make your way quietly without panic through the appropriate exits.

With the formalities over can I extend a very warm welcome to you all on this pleasant summer's day. Just before we start on the formal agenda most of you will have probably realised that this morning we had an announcement which is of great benefit to curling. Both Angie Malone and Alan Stanfield have been awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours. (Applause)

**b) In Memoriam**

**CLIVE THOMSON (PRESIDENT):** I would ask you all to stand and observe a minutes silence while the names of the deceased members are displayed on the screen.

Thank you very much indeed.

**c) Received Apologies**

**CLIVE THOMSON (PRESIDENT):** The apologies have been listed and will be available on the desk for those who wish to check them out after the meeting.

**In alphabetical order by club:**

**Past Presidents:** Arthur Beattie (Banchory), Kenneth Scott (Blairgowrie), Lord Elgin (Broomhall), Leslie Ingram-Brown (Carmunnock and Rutherglen), Andrew Stevenson (Cawder House), Andrew Hepburn (Corstorphine), Bill Marshall (Dumbarton), Inglis McAulay (Falkirk), William Muirhead (Glenfarg), Alex F Torrance (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Roy Sinclair (Highland), William Sanderson (Oxenfoord), Charlie Binnie (Panmure)

**Board:** Greig Henderson (Haddo House)

**Areas Standing Committee:** Christine Cheape (Blair Atholl), John Hodge (Duns), John McCall (Gourock), Ian Mackay (Haddo House), Ormond Smith (Inverness), Gordon Gilchrist (Lesmahagow), Alan Stuart (Leven), Jim Jamieson (Reform), Joe Kincaid (Sauchie & Bannockburn), Neil Calvert (West Linton)

**Clubs:** 37 Club

**Individuals:** Ann Mitchell (Aberdour), Brian Cuthbert (Ayr Country), Lauren Gray (Balfron), Alan Muat (Balruddery), Bill Linton (Bank of Scotland - Fife), George Delgaty

(Bank of Scotland Perth & District), Fred Bauer (Blair Drummond), Elizabeth Scott (Blairgowrie), Angie Malone (Braehead Wheelchair), Hon. David Bruce (Broomhall), Grace Brown (Cambo Ladies), Kath Murray (Corstorphine Ladies), Kate Caithness (Dalhousie Ladies), Susan Skene (Dalhousie Ladies), Val Saville (Doune), Kelly Schafer (Dun), Ena Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Eve Muirhead (Dunkeld), Linsey McGillivray (Earlston), Janet Lindsay (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Margaret Richardson (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Marjorie Liston (Edinburgh Ladies), Harry Johnston (Falkirk Ice Rink), Anna Burnside (Falkirk Ladies 1960), Sheila Swan (Glenfarg Ladies), Norman Campbell (Gourock), John Good (Haddington), Isobel Hannen (Hamilton and Thornyhill), Sophie Jackson (Holywood), Anna Sloan (Hutton), Helen Bell (Johnstone & District), Graeme Schreiber (Kelvinside Academical), Jessma Lindsay (Kirriemuir & District Ladies), Jackie Lockhart (Laurencekirk), Bobby Lammie (Leswalt), Sandy Wilson (Letham Grange), John A C Clark (Leven), Maggie Barry (Livingston), Janette Sloan (Loch Connel), Hannah Fleming (Lochmaben Castle), Hew Drummond (Logan), Joy Niven (Lynedoch Ladies), Rosie Andrews (Maxwell), Ian Cumming (Meldrum & Daviot), Gregor Ewan (Moray Wheelchair), Alan Chalmers (Musketees), Alan Stanfield (Nairn), Harold Forrester (Nairn), Kay Gibb (Northern Lights), Trevor Dodds (Oxenfoord), Mili Smith (Perth Junior), Ann-Maree Davidson (Perth Ladies), Sinclair Aitken (Pitkerro & Broughty Ferry), Vicki Adams (Portpatrick), Mary Anne McWilliam (Portpatrick), Ronnie Page (Raith & Abbotshall), Tom Jobson (Raith & Abbotshall), Jim Mason (Raith & Abbotshall), Karen Kennedy (Reform), Ruth Addinall (SIAE), George McQueen (St Andrews), Robin Duncan (St Martins), Katie Murray (Stirling Young Curlers), Naomi Brown (Stoneykirk), Norman Brown (Stoneykirk), Alan Muirhead (Stratheden), Fiona Motion (Stra'ven Ladies), Margaret Porteous (Threave Ladies), Harriet Forrest (Troon Portland), Jimmy Forrest (Troon Portland), Wendy Hollingworth (Troon Portland), Annette MacDonald (West Stirlingshire Ladies), Christine Cannon (Wigtown), Robert Parry (Wishaw), Cate Brewster, Glenn Howard

**d) Letter from the Royal Patron**

**CLIVE THOMSON (PRESIDENT):** The next item on the agenda is a letter from the Royal Patron. I have in my hand two letters one from the Chief Clerk at Buckingham Palace saying and this is in reply to our letter that we sent to our Royal Patron and offering our greetings to her.

**Letter from the Chief Clerk:** I have been asked to thank you for your kind letter containing a message of royal greetings to the Queen. As Patron of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club her Majesty was grateful to be kept informed of the international successes of the Scottish team during the 2016/2017 season. Your letter has been shown to the Queen and I now have pleasure of enclosing her reply.

**Letter from the Queen:** Addressed to Clive Thomson, President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Please convey my very warm thanks to the members of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club for their royal greetings on the occasion of their 179th Annual General Meeting which is being held today at the Braehead Curling Rink in Glasgow. As your Paton, I much appreciate your message and in return send my best wishes to you all those who are present for a memorable and successful meeting. Elizabeth R.17<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**e) President's Report**

**CLIVE THOMSON (PRESIDENT):** Last year past president Billy Howat began his report with the words "for those of you needing a break from the EU referendum debate hopefully you will leave this meeting well informed of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club's activities over the past year and plans for the future"

Well another year has passed and the referendum and another election has taken place but I would like to echo Billy's sentiments regarding leaving this meeting well informed. In fact, I hope many of you have been better informed this year about the activities of the RCCC through the website, your curler and information supplied by your areas standing committee representatives.

On the sporting front this year - Scottish Curling has had many successes and a few disappointments but the sport remains the friendliest and most enjoyable sport in the world, I have experienced this throughout my year in office both at home and abroad.

The RCCC is held in high regard and it has been an honour and privilege to be your President and to represent you over the past 12 months. The RCCC is an amazing organisation which is growing year by year. It is also a complex organisation with over 12,000 members, a main board looking after the governance of the organisation, an areas standing committee representing the members, full and part time staff and many dedicated volunteers.

My role as president of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club has taken me around the country where I have been overwhelmed by the welcome I have received and the friendship and generous hospitality that has been extended to me and to Judith.

This has been a very busy year and a most enjoyable one.

My first representative duty was to attend the 5th World Curling Federation Conference in Stockholm last September and it started well as I was in the winning rink at the bonspiel the night before the conference began. It was also an interesting evening for Judith as she played in the rink skipped by Annette Norburg, the two times Olympic champion.

This was a gathering of the great and the good of curling throughout the world. It was a full on conference with a number of break-out sessions on many topics including some future changes to competitions and new competitions being proposed.

The AGM saw 4 of the RCCC's 5 amendments to WCF's proposals carried, which again shows the standing of our club in the world game.

The European championships were next on the presidential agenda and it was a great event here at Braehead. Unfortunately we were unable to attract the spectators we expected however it was a great introduction to curling for over 2000 school children.

I was quite surprised to learn that if the President was going on tour he would take the role of captaining the team. This was a great experience and the 3 week tour to the USA was a major highlight of my year as President. The camaraderie within our 20 tourists was fantastic and the hospitality we received throughout the USA was overwhelming. This was an experience I will never forget.

My other overseas engagement was at the World Men's championships in Edmonton Canada. We were joined by a great group of parents, supporters and friends of team Murdoch, and although few in number we made ourselves heard, led admirably by Marion Murdoch with her team chants. I was delighted that team Murdoch qualified Great Britain for next year's Olympic Games.

At all the WCF events that I have attended, they have made me feel most welcome. My thanks to Kate Caithness, the WCF directors and their staff.

My diary was well filled during the year, attending and contributing to the many committees, representing the RCCC at dinners, courts, attending championships and competitions around the country.

These are too many to mention individually but my diary is listed on each of the Area Standing Committee minutes which have been posted on the club's website.

I have enjoyed my year as a director on the board and would like to congratulate Alastair MacNish for his astute and professional chairmanship of the board.

This was a difficult year for the office with the extra work involved with the Europeans, two staff on maternity leave and a number of staff changes. I would like to thank Bruce and his staff for the immense amount of work they have put in during the year.

I am pleased to say that Barbara and Judith are now back at work and I would like to particularly thank David Ramsay for stepping into Barbara's shoes and carrying out his duties with tremendous enthusiasm. Much to the surprise of our chairman, the National Curling Academy is almost finished and we should get access next month.

During the year the board reviewed the operational plan and Bruce updated the various committees during the season. Board member, Helen Hally, was appointed as our 'equalities champion' and she has already made an impact in this important area. Board members received training on child protection and equality issues from our welfare officer Lindsey Booth and an equalities action plan was adopted.

The board approved the proposal from British Curling Performance director, Graeme Thompson that Olympic athletes would be allowed to compete in a play-off against the Scottish Champions for the right to represent Scotland at the 2018 World Curling Championships in North Bay Canada for the women and Las Vegas, USA for the men, this is necessary due to the clash of dates between the Olympics and our Scottish Championships.

The board has started the process of forming a finance committee which will be an important addition to the governance of the RCCC. Applications for membership of this committee close on 28th June and it is open to all members to apply. Details are on the website.

Later in the meeting Alastair MacNish, David Hardie and Greig Henderson will stand down from the board, and I would like to thank them all on behalf of the members for their contributions to the governance of our club. As you will know however, David is standing for re-election. The board recognise the challenges of retaining and increasing membership and the new member development committee was asked to seek to address this issue.

The committee has decided to organise a festival of curling to encourage outsiders, particularly in the age group 25 – 45 to learn about our sport with the hope that many will take up try curling opportunities. The majority of ice rinks have been enthusiastic about this initiative and it is proposed that the festival of curling will take place during October. Details are being finalised just now but I would ask you all to help promote this event to your friends and acquaintances.

One of my roles as president has been to chair the Area Standing Committee. This is the first year of the new areas and I think they have bedded down quite well. My aim at the beginning of the season was to share best practice and during the year the area representatives have reported on the work being done in their area at each meeting and I hope this will benefit the sport in the future. I would like to thank all the Area Standing Committee representatives for their contributions to the committee during the year; for their support and for covering for me when I was otherwise engaged.

I would also like to recognise all the volunteers around the country who have contributed at club, area, nationally and internationally and without whose help this sport could not function.

I should like to congratulate the winners of all the competitions and championships organised by the RCCC and these are listed in the annual report.

I would particularly like to recognise some great performances on the international stage.

We have had two remarkable come-backs from our junior girls' team and our wheelchair curlers.

Team Jackson won the world junior girls 'b' division in Ostersund and thus qualified for the world 'a' division where they went on to win the silver medal in South Korea.

Congratulations to Sophie Jackson, Naomi Brown, Milli Smith, Sophie Sinclair, Laura Barr and coach Kate Brewster. Our wheelchair team of Aileen Neilson, Gregor Ewan, Hugh Nibloe, Robert McPherson and Angie Malone also played in the world b division, where they finished in second place, thus qualifying for the world wheelchair curling championships in South Korea where they won bronze. Many congratulations to them also.

I also wish to congratulate our other medallists, Eve Muirhead, Anna Sloan, Vicki Adams, Lauren Gray and Kelly Schafer who won bronze at the women's worlds and bronze at the Europeans.

Jackie Lockhart, Christine Cannon, Isobel Hannen, Margaret Richardson and Janet Lindsay who won bronze at the World Seniors.

Cameron Bryce, Katie Murray, Bobby Lammie and Sophie Jackson who won bronze at the World Mixed Championships

And Bruce Mouat, Bobby Lammie, Gregor Cannon, Derek Sloan and Alastair Schreiber who won gold at the World Universities Championships.

I would also like to congratulate all our representatives at international level and those who won our own Scottish championship events.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Ladies Branch President Jan Howard throughout the year from our first event at the summer camp in Stirling to the ladies branch AGM last month. Thank you Jan for the huge amount of work you have put in during the year and for standing in for me when I was on tour.

I would like to wish incoming president Jim Cullen well in the coming season and thank him for his support in the past year. Also, best wishes to Margaret Pottie as she takes over as President of the Ladies Branch.

Just before concluding I would like to thank my wife Judith for her support during the year and for accompanying me to many events, throughout the season –

And to Suzy and her team for organising the AGM today.

Finally, thanks to you all for coming along today and for your continuing support of our great sport. (Applause)

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Brother and Sister Curlers can I firstly express my sincere thanks to Clive on behalf of the board and all of the RCCC members and wish Judith and Clive every happiness and best wishes for the future.

In my three years as chairman of the board the RCCC has been incredibly fortunate to have three outstanding and dedicated Presidents, no pressure on you Jim. I would also like to thank Jan Howard for her considerable contribution to the boards working over the last 12 months, thank you to all of you.

**f) Approval of the Minute of the Annual General Meeting on 13th June 2015**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Before I ask for a proposer and seconder of last year's minute I will try and explain the voting procedure for the various issues requiring a vote. With regards to the minute we have received 245 online or by post. There are 121 members present today of which 67 have chosen to vote. For those voting today will raise their voting cards either for or against the recommendations. Before I ask you to vote can I have a proposer of last year's minute.

**Lauchlan MacLean (Watsonian):** Chairman, an error appears in the list of apologies from Past Presidents, under the name Arthur Beattie his mother club is shown as Edinburgh Rotary. Now I took the trouble to look up the annual and Arthurs name does not appear as a member of Edinburgh Rotary. I did look up Banchory as that where he used to be a member of and that's where he appears to be still.

The omission is the name of Leslie Ingram-Brown from the members present of the past presidents last year. His name doesn't appear to be in the list of Past Presidents but I know Leslie was there because he spoke to me and the end of the meeting and remarked on how quiet I had been and that I had raised any trivial points however confirmation that he was there is in the photograph on page 16 of the RCCC Annual. When I looked at Leslie's application for the board this year, dreadful writing and I am not surprised at all that the office couldn't make out his signature.

I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the minute, thank you. (Applause)

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Can I have a seconder for the minute please, thank you.

**Proposer:** Lauchlan MacLean (Watsonian)

**Seconder:** Robert Corbet (Giffnock)

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We will also make the adjustment as pointed out by Lauchlan, thank you very much. The minute is approved.



**g) Annual Report of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now move on to the annual report which has been posted along with the account on the RCCC website, Bruce our CEO will now highlight the main business aspects of the annual report. He will be happy to take any questions you may have after his presentation.

**BRUCE CRAWFORD (CEO):** Thank you Alastair and Clive. The President has described a year of amazing experiences and adventures so he has left me with the thrilling task of sharing the more mundane business of the RCCC this last year.

The 2016/17 annual report has been published so I hope that you have managed to find time to locate it on the website and study it and learn in great detail about the activities of the last year. As I stated in the finance section of the annual report the net position at the end of the year saw a loss of £140,000. On the face of it, this is slightly misleading due to the two significant items that cost the organisation £75,000 each. There were the donation of £75,000 to the Scottish Curling Trust to invest funds that will be used for the future curling development, headquarters and museum. Moving this amount of funds to an investment company will take it out of the cooperation tax environment that it would be in if it was in the RCCC. So it may be viewed as putting down a payment towards the future facilities that we will be able to build in the coming years. So the money hasn't be spent but moved to a more efficient environment.

The other item was the loss at the European Curling Championships here at Braehead. Without these two items there would have been a small surplus of £9,266.00 so we tightened our belt this year and reined in costs and I think we have been prudent with our resources.

The first graph I will show you, illustrates the distribution of the income received by the RCCC. Grants from the funding bodies are distributed under the headings coaching, development, performance, management and governance. But our largest self-generating income is the left hand column which is the income from subscriptions from members and then the next largest self-generated income is from competitions which are obviously a core part of our business.

This next graph shows the direct costs associated with the operations of the organisation and the two most significant costs being competitions and development.

My last finance slide shows the cost of running the office and keeping the cogs of the organisation turning, on this one the staff is the most considerable cost by long way.

On the screen now is an organogram of the staff structure for the organisation so that you can see the range and scope of the people we employ. The development team are listed on the left side under the leadership of Judith McCleary and the local development officers are in the large box in the middle. The office HQ team are on the right-hand side lead by Office Manager, Suzy Wakefield. I am delighted for the first time this year RCCC staff has tested our maternity policies and even more pleased that both Barbara and Judith chose to return to work in the last couple of months. We are very fortunate to have a great team working for the sport and I would like to thank them all for their commitment and dedication to the sport again this year.

The European Curling Championships came here to Braehead in November and I thought I would say a few words on this, particularly as it had an impact on the finance. It was a tremendous undertaking and I will give you a few of the highlights on the positives and the negatives. We had over two thousand school children from 51 schools

attending the championships and many have gone on to try the sport for the first time. The ice quality in the arena was world class; the volunteers and officials did a great job and worked long hours. Team Scotland men and women both finished inside the top 7 and qualified Scotland for the World Championships that followed. The Scottish women's team won bronze medals and made history by achieving their seventh consecutive European medal result. It is also worth noting that a late attendee to the party was the BBC who aired 20 hours of curling on BBC sport.

It wasn't all good, the event lacked something of an atmosphere, partly because there was no fan zone, the socialising area was within the arena environment where the spectators were all moved out at the end of each game. Tickets sales didn't meet our target and were £40,000 under budget. We were unsuccessful in managing to secure any significant sponsorship and the cost of de-humidification escalated as extra equipment was required for the event, costs were cut but it made a loss of £75,000.

We have undertaken a review and we have learned lessons which will be carried forward to our future events. We also plan to recover from this loss over the next two years and are already making progress in this regard.

Looking ahead to this next year in 2017/18 it is a hugely important year for all winter Olympic sports, particularly curling and we have a number of significant events on top of our normal activities that we see up and down the country. The World Junior Curling Championships are planned at Curl Aberdeen next season from the 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March, starting the weekend after the Olympic Games, that same weekend the returning Olympians will be playing a playoff match against the Scottish Champions with the winners to go the World Championships.

I would like to thank the board who have contributed to help and guide the organisation and supported the staff to develop Scottish Curling over the last year. Particular thanks to Alastair MacNish as chairman, Greig Henderson, David Hardie as directors and Clive Thomson as President all retiring from the board today, it has been great to work with you and advance the game of curling and I look forward to working with some of you in the future.

I would like to thank you all for turning out in the middle of summer to attend the AGM and finally thank all the volunteers who have given their time today and throughout the year at the various events and committees. Thank you for your support and contributions and many people working behind the scenes who help keep the sport moving forward.

I would be happy to take any questions if you have them now. (There were none)

Thank you. (Applause)

## **h) Resolutions to alter the Rules of the Game**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now come the exciting part. The resolutions requiring approval:

Resolution 1 – All proposals by the Rules Committee and supported by the Board to add new rules and amend the Rules of the Game (3a to 3e)

3a) The first one is the amendment to Rule 3 (d) (ii). This amendment brings the RCCC into line with the existing WCF rule. 245 members have cast their votes in advance of today, 67 today can vote. Can I ask those in favour of the amendment to raise there

cards please, thank you. Those against the resolution please raise your cards, thank you. The resolution is approved.

3b) Moving to the next resolution, Sweeping Rule 7 (a). Again this amendment brings the RCCC into line with the existing WCF rule. 245 members have cast their votes in advance of today, 67 today can vote. Can I ask those in favour of being able to sweep in any direction please raise their cards, thank you. Those against, okay thank you. The amendment is approved.

3c) (i) Moving on to the next one, Rule 8 (a) touching a moving stones twice upon release. Again this amendment brings the RCCC into line with the existing WCF rule. 245 members have cast their votes in advance of today, 67 today can vote. All those in favour of the amendment, thank you. Those against, okay thank you. The amendment is approved, thank you very much.

3c) (ii) Rule 8 (d) Again new text, those in favour please raise your cards, those against. Thank you, the amendment is carried.

3d) Rule 10 (d) changing type of brush, this is additional text again. 245 members have cast their votes in advance of today, 67 today can vote. It is particularly relevant to specific RCCC competitions. Can I ask all those in favour of the amendment to please show their cards, thank you. Those against, thank you very much. The amendment is carried.

3e) Rule 11 (a) The scoring, those in favour of changing the word from 'mathematically' to 'arithmetically' please show your cards, thank you very much. Those of you who would prefer to keep the word 'mathematically' in the rule book please raise your cards. The amendment has been carried.

4a) Rewording of Rule 3 (c) for clarity. All those in favour of this re-wording please show their cards, thank you very much. Those against and the re-wording is approved.

**i) Submission of the Annual Accounts appropriately certified**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now turn to the submission and approval of the annual accounts which have been published on the website. Any questions on the accounts, okay if not can I ask those in favour of the approval of the annual accounts to raise their cards please. Those against, thank you. The accounts are approved.

**j) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now move to the appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner for the RCCC. Can I have your approval for the re-appointment of Drummond Lawrie Chartered Accountants, Grangemouth, they have done a great job this year. Can I ask for your support, thank you for very much.

**k) Fixing of annual subscriptions**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now come to the annual subscriptions for 2018/19, you'll see that the Scottish Curlers Supporters Membership is not shown as any increase from the £5, the reason being we do not have any of these members. The initiative we tried last year hasn't raised one member to be a Scottish Curling Supporter.

**LAUCLAN MACLEAN (WATSONIAN):** I understand that in the last year 2016/17 the number of Scottish Curling Supports is that there are no subscriptions. My question is what steps are taken to get members to join this?

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** The big push was going to be the European Curling Championships, so we would try and get people in who were not curlers. The fact that we didn't have a fan zone was the first part where we didn't get anyone. I think we have got to try and continue to support it. If we get some into the category it will also help us with our sportscotland funding, so your point is absolutely valid we do need to try and develop this and I will pass it over to the new board.

**LAUCLAN MACLEAN (WATSONIAN):** Does a Scottish Curling Supporters membership have any voting rights?

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** No, they have no voting rights.

All those in favour of raising the subscriptions for the 2018/19 season raise your cards please, thank you. Those against, thank you. This is the first time in five years that the subscriptions have been increased.

**l) Appointment of President**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Moving now to the appointment of the President. I am delighted to ask Jim Cullen of Earlston Curling Club to join us on the stage as our incoming president. (Applause)

Clive would you please present Jim with his President's badge and flash for his blazer. (Applause)

Jim would you now please present Clive with his Past President's badge. (Applause)

**m) Appointment of Vice-President**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Next we move on to the appointment of our Vice President, Graham Lindsay of Forret Curling Club, his nomination is uncontested so can I ask you to join me in acclaiming Graham as our incoming Vice President, welcome Graham. (Applause).

Before asking Graham to say a few words, Jim can you please present Graham with his Vice President's Badge. (Applause)

**GRAHAM LINDSAY (Vice-President):** President Jim, Sister and Brother Curlers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

For those of you out there who don't know me and aren't aware that I am a person of few words I will give you a very brief resume of myself.

My mother club is Forret Curling Club in Fife, I am also a member of Airleywright in Perth. I have been curling since the mid-eighties when I started playing in the Construction League in Dundee. I have served on the Area Standing Committee for the past 3 years and will be Convener of the Umpire Committee next year

I am semi-retired, which seems to be a prerequisite for my new position and for the following progression. Having worked in construction for some 40 years, my current involvement in the industry is with a small development company in the private housing sector.

I have no wish to prolong today's meeting but I would like to take a few minutes to say that today is the culmination of an amazing year for myself personally.

Last summer I was invited by the WCF to umpire at the European Championships at Braehead in November, I played in the Masters Qualifiers and managed to qualify for the finals but failed to win I'm afraid, I played in the Seniors qualifiers and again we qualified for the finals but this time we managed to win, so it was then off to Canada to play in the World Seniors.

Until this year I had always thought that being part of a winning Strathcona Cup Tour to Canada would be the pinnacle of my curling career, but no, whilst playing at the Four Nations earlier this year I was asked how I would feel about being nominated for Vice President of the RCCC.

I think you can see why the past year has been one I never imagined would happen. I am honoured, privileged, and totally surprised, to have been nominated and elected, to the position of Vice President of the RCCC but am extremely thankful. I can confirm that I will do all I can to pay back the belief and faith shown in me and that I look forward to supporting Jim in his role next year. Finally, I would also like to congratulate Clive a successful year last year. Thank you. (Applause)

**n) Appointment of Directors**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Thank you very much Graham, we now move to the appointment of Directors. We have six nominations for the three vacancies. Before I announce the result of the ballot I would like to express publicly the RCCC's sincere appreciation to each of the candidates for putting their names forward for consideration regardless of the outcome. Also, can I personally thank David and Greg for their support to me as chairman and for their significant contribution to the working of the board. Also as this is my last AGM as chairman a thank you to the board as a whole who have been consistently supportive to me over the last 3 years. I wish we had done a lot more for grassroots curling as our sport like all others faces challenging times. I hope the new board move the agenda forward. However I am sure there are people waiting to hear the result of the ballot.

Votes cast in alphabetical order as follows:

- Robert Corbett (Giffnock) – 88
- Trevor Dodds (Oxenfoord) – 103
- David Hardie (Crocketford) – 239
- Leslie Ingram-Brown (Carmunnock and Rutherglen) – 54
- Susan Kesley (Currie and Balerno) – 252
- Hugh Templeton (Kirkcowan) - 117

Therefore David Hardie, Susan Kesley and Hugh Templeton are elected to the Board of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. (Applause)

**o) Appointment of a Chaplain**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now move to the appointment of the Chaplain and I am delighted Alan Donaldson has again agreed to continue as our chaplain. Can I have your acclamation please? (Applause)

**p) Authorisation of the publication of the Annual**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Authorisation of the publication of the Annual, 245 members have cast their votes in advance, 67 can vote today. Can I ask those in favour of publishing the annual to please raise their cards? Those against, thank you very much. The publishing of the annual is approved.

**q) Fixing of the place and date of the next Annual General Meeting**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** The 180th AGM will be held on 16th June 2018 and we hope it will be at the Border Ice Rink in Kelso.

**r) Presentation of Trophies & Awards**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now come to the presentation of trophies and awards can I ask Clive and Judith if they would go over to the side of the stage to present the trophies. Thank you.

**a) Eight Ender Awards**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** The first one is the Eight Ender awards, as you can see there were five awards presented during this season.

**b) Sir Richard Waldie Griffith**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Moving on to the Sir Richard Waldie-Griffith trophy, and the winners are Lanarkshire Province. Can I ask David Haggart to come forward to collect the trophy on behalf of the Lanarkshire Province? (Applause)

**c) 150 Year Club Medals**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** The only club this year is St Martins Curling Club, unfortunately there is no representative. However Bill Duncan at the end of the AGM will collect the medal and pass it on to them, thank you.

**d) 50 Year Medals**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Next is the 50 Year Medals and you will see the list of the members unable to attend today to collect their medals: Sinclair Aitken (Pitkerro, Broughty Ferry), Helen Bell (Johnston & District), Leslie Ingram-Brown (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), David Bruce (Broomhall), John Clark (Leven), Hew Drummond (Logan), Jack Duncan (Kilsyth), Tom Jobson (Raith & Abbotshall), Harry Johnston (Falkirk/Falkirk Ice Rink), Alan Lauder (Broomhall), Jessma Lindsay (Kirriemuir & District Ladies), Inglis McAulay (Falkirk), George McQueen (Cambo, St Andrews), Alan Muat (Balruddery), Joy Niven (Lynedoch Ladies), Ronnie Page (Raith & Abbotshall), Margaret Porteous (Threave Ladies), Janette Sloan (Loch Connel).

Those in attendance today to collect their medals are Jim Cannon (Merchiston), William Mitchell (Kelso, Greenlaw), John Morren (Huntly), William Neilson (Avondale Heather), Albert Rae (Dunfermline). (Applause)

**s) Scottish Curling Awards**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now move to the Scottish Curling Awards, the winners were announced on the website on the 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Young Curler of the Year –** The nominees were Cameron Bryce, Sophie Jackson and Bobby Lammie. The winner was Sophie Jackson, unfortunately Sophie is unable to attend to today but well-done Sophie.

**Grassroots Coach of the Year –** The nominees were Scott Dakers, Campbell Ross and Sandy Wilson. Again, sadly the winner is unable to attend today. The winner was Sandy Wilson.

**Ice Diamond Award** – The nominees were Lindsay Allison and Ken and Linda Hunter. The winners were Ken and Linda Hunter. Since 2011 the Edinburgh International Curlers Gathering has been led by Ken and Linda, a competition inspired and founded by Colin McColl, a member of Penicuik Curling Club, in 2005. Supported by Penicuik Curling Club volunteers, and held at Murrayfield Curling Rink, the three-day non-profit, grassroots-led tournament has flourished and matured, principally through Ken and Linda's dedication, warmth and leadership. Since its inception, around 1,000 curlers from dozens of countries have been attracted to Edinburgh to play and socialise with an equal number of curlers from across the south of Scotland. The commitment of Ken and Linda, with their small band of volunteers, extends far beyond simply organising a tournament. They arrange hotel reservations, greet all players at Edinburgh airport, transport them to their hotels, organise the evening dinner, the (in)famous ceilidh, and after three packed days ensure that they return home safely, happy and buzzing about Scottish hospitality. Ken's attention to detail, and Linda's effervescence, has enabled Penicuik Curling Club and Murrayfield Curling Rink to host generations of families and entire clubs. The tournament embodies the heart of curling; enduring friendships, developed on the ice, that stretch around the globe and over the years. Ladies and Gentleman, Ken and Linda Hunter (Applause)

**Team of the Year** – The nominees were Team Scotland / Jackson, Team Scotland Muirhead and Team Scotland / Neilson. The winners were Team Scotland / Jackson. After Scotland were demoted to the B-Division in February 2016, Team Jackson won a qualifier in November 2016 to represent Scotland at the World Junior-B Curling Championships. In January Sophie and her junior team dominated the championship, winning GOLD and promotion to the top division with an undefeated record. Less than two weeks later Team Jackson won the Scottish Curling Junior Championship title, Sophie Jackson and Naomi Brown's second consecutive title, again with an undefeated record. Less than five weeks later, representing Scotland, the girls won SILVER at the World Junior Curling Championships in Gangneung, Republic of Korea. Unfortunately Sophie Jackson, Naomi Brown and Mili Smith are unable to attend today but can I ask you to recognise Sophie Sinclair and Laura Barr please. (Applause)

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Just before we move on Clive could I please ask you to present a bouquet of flower to the Ladies Branch Past President Jan Howard. (Applause)

Lastly a bouquet to your wife Judith from the RCCC. (Applause)

We now have a short presentation to highlight the 2016/17 season. (Applause)

I huge thank you to Suzy Wakefield for putting together the wonderful and encouraging slide show. (Applause)

**t) Any Other Competent Business**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** There will be a board meeting straight after the AGM for the all the board and new board members to meet.

**u) Address by incoming President**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** It gives me great pleasure to ask our new president Jim Cullen to address the meeting and offer a vote of thanks. (Applause)

**JIM CULLEN (NEW PRESIDENT):** Chairman Alastair, Bruce, Past Presidents Clive and Jan, Ladies Branch President Margaret, brother and sister curlers, ladies and gentlemen.

Firstly, I'd like to say what an honour and privilege it is to stand before you today as President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. I recognise that, with that honour comes a responsibility to serve the members of the Royal Club. I will not take that responsibility lightly and will do my best to fulfil my duties in the role of President.

In the last few years I have observed successive Presidents raise the bar in terms of their commitment and enthusiasm and Past President Clive is no exception. In addition to his duties as President, Clive captained the Men's Tour to the USA and whilst the overall result may not have been favourable I have it on good authority that tour was an outstanding success. I have very much enjoyed working with Clive would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for his substantial contribution as President.

I would also like to thank Jan for keeping the Ladies Branch under control and I look forward working with and supporting Margaret in the coming year.

The forthcoming season promises to be exciting and challenging. Members of the Royal Club will represent Team GB at the Winter Olympics in South Korea and I wish them well. As with the last Winter Olympics I anticipate that interest in curling will be considerable and that there will be many non-curlers watching and supporting our teams. The supporters will be keen to try curling and already plans are being laid to harvest this interest with Try Curling sessions timed to take full advantage of the exposure that the Winter Olympics will bring. The key to the success of this will be to keep the Try Curlers curling.

One of the major sporting events in Scotland will be the World Junior Championships in Aberdeen. This promises to be a superb event and one deserving of your full support.

An innovation for this season will be the World Championship Qualifying Event between the Olympic teams and the Scottish Champions for the privilege of representing Scotland at the Women's World Championships in North Bay, Canada and the World Men's in Las Vegas. Yes, high stakes indeed.

In January, I am very much looking forward to welcoming the Canadian Men's Tour to Scotland and defending the Strathcona Cup. Having been on the last tour to Canada this promises to be quite special. The planning for this is well underway and my thanks to Vice President Graham and those involved to date. Graham is also taking over as Convenor of the Umpires Committee and I look forward to working with him.

The new National Curling Academy at Stirling will be open and I would stress that this facility is not just for elite curlers but will be available to all members.

The Royal Club now organises in excess of 60 competitions and this requires a considerable amount of work to ensure that these competitions run smoothly. Competitions are constantly under review and I would encourage participants to provide feedback as this greatly assists the work of the committees and the decision making process.

I would like to thank Alastair MacNish for providing a safe pair of hands as Chair of the Board.

One thing I have discovered in my time on the ASC and as Vice President is that there is never a dull moment. I would encourage you to take the time and study the Annual



Report which has been presented and you will get a sense of the amount of work done for and on behalf of the members of the Royal Club.

I would like to thank the staff at Braehead for looking after us and Bruce, Suzy and the staff of the Royal Club for their organisation of the AGM. Thanks to Chaplain Alan Donaldson for his Grace at lunch.

Thanks also to the members of my own club Earlston and the members of Border Ice Rink for their kind words, good wishes and support.

Thanks to Clive and Alistair for chairing the meeting and keeping us all in good order. And finally thanks to all the members of the Royal Club who give up their time whether it be coaching, umpiring, timing, assisting at events, attending the AGM or in whatever capacity, your contribution is much appreciated.

Curling is faced with many challenges and I look forward to working with the Board, the various committees and Areas Standing Committee in promoting and supporting a sport of which we can all be proud.

Thank you. (Applause)