

**Transcript of Proceedings of the
180th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club
Held at Border Ice Rink, Kelso on Saturday 16th June 2018**

Present on the Podium:

President	Jim Cullen (Earlston)
Chairman of the Board	Rob Niven (Delvine)
Chief Executive Officer	Bruce Crawford (Abbotsford)

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 17 June 2017
- g) Annual Report of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club
- h) Special & Ordinary resolutions to amend the Royal Caledonian Curling Club's Memorandum & Articles of Association and Bye Laws
- i) Resolutions to amend the Royal Caledonian Curling Club's Rules of the Game
- j) Submission and approval of the Annual Accounts appropriately certified
- k) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner
- l) Approve the Annual Subscriptions for 2019-20 – to remain unchanged (*£20 Ordinary/ Honorary Playing, and £7 Junior (under 21 years of age)*)
- m) Appointment of President
- n) Appointment of Vice-President
- o) Appointment of Directors
- p) Appointment of Chaplain
- q) Authorise the publication of the Annual
- r) Fixing of the place and date of the next Annual General Meeting
- s) Presentation of Trophies
 - World Curling Federation Curling Banner – World Mixed
 - Sir Richard Waldie-Griffith Trophy
 - 150 Year Medals (Club)
 - 50 Year Medals (Member)
- t) Presentation of Scottish Curling Awards
 - Young Curler of the Year
 - Grassroots Coach of the Year
 - Team of the Year
 - Ice Diamond Award
- u) Any other competent business (notified before the AGM, in accordance with Article 5.3)
 - Competition Draws, a question from Bank of Scotland (Fife) CC
 - Scottish Curling, a question from R & K Scott
 - Blue Blazers, a question from R & K Scott
- v) Address by the Incoming President

RECORDED ATTENDANCE

In alphabetical order by club:

Past Presidents: Bill Duncan (Bank of Scotland (Perth & Dist)), Kenneth Scott (Blairgowrie), Pat Edington (Boswell), Billy Howat (Cumnock & District), Bill Marshall (Dumbarton), Jim Murdoch (Dundonald), Robbie Scott (Dunkeld), Alan Durno (Fochabers), Clive Thomson (Glasgow Academicals), Alistair McCabe (Kennoway), William Sanderson (Oxenfoord), Tommy Hinnigan (St. Boswells)

Board: Bruce Crawford (Abbotsford), Susan Kesley (Currie & Balerno), David Hardie (Crocketford), Robin Niven (Delvin), Jim Cullen (Earlston), Hugh Templeton (Kirkcowan)

Areas Standing Committee: Harry Brodie (Abercorn), Christine Cheape (Blair Atholl), L. Calder Benzies (Corstorphine), Rod Mickel (Crieff & Ochertyre), John Hodge (Duns), John Finland (Drystones), Graham Lindsay (Forret), Jim Inglis (Glasgow Academicals), Alan Stuart (Leven), Brian McArtney (Letham Grange), Joe Barry (Livingston), Robert Carruthers (New Abbey), Joe Kincaid (Sauchie & Bannockburn), Ian Young (Suttieside), Andrew Kerr (Troon Portland), Tom Kirk (University of Dundee)

Staff: Jamie Fleming (Marketing & Communications Officer), Nicola Glencross (Admin and Finance Administrator), Fiona Harfield (Workforce Development Manager), Helen Kallow (Disability Development Officer), Eoin McCrossan (Competitions Co-ordinator), Elaine Mills (Administrator), David Ramsay (Performance Development Coach), Suzy Wakefield (Office Manager)

Individuals Members: Michele Brodie (Abercorn), John Mennie (Aberdeen & District Rotary), Ann Mitchell (Aberdour), Colin Martin (Ayton Castle), Gwen Prentice (Ayton Castle), Keith Prentice (Ayton Castle), Margaret Robertson (Ayton Castle), Roberta-Ann Forrest (Ayton Castle), Frank Forrest (Ayton Castle), Margo Nicoll (Bank of Scotland (Fife)), Willie Nicoll (Bank of Scotland (Fife)), Wendy Smith (Bank of Scotland (Fife)), George Delgaty (Bank of Scotland (Perth & District)), Eoin McCrossan (Barbarians), Corrie Lawrence (Beresford Ladies), Elizabeth Scott (Blairgowrie), Nina Clancy (Boswells), Alison Sloan (Bothwell Ladies), Alan Hannah (Cadder), Ena Smith (Cadzow), Billy Morton (Carnell), Frazer Shaw (Castle Kennedy), Robert Walker (Coldstream & Hirsell), Colin Baxter (Corstorphine), T Paul Davis (Corstorphine), Fiona Hardie (Crocketford), Grant Hardie (Crocketford), Margaret Nicol (Currie & Balerno), Norman Nicol (Currie & Balerno), Tom Pendreigh (Dalcross), Jessica Skelton (Dalgety Bay), Jim Wyllie (Delvine), Carolyn Tough (Duddingston), Sheena Murdoch (Dundonald), Robert Stevenson (Dunfermline), Ena Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Kathleen Scott (Dunkeld), George Whiteford (Duns), Graeme Cowe (Earlston), Graeme Wilson (Earlston), Jim Cullen (Earlston), John Burns (Earlston), Lesley Cowe (Earlston), Liz Cullen (Earlston), Ian Donald (East Linton), Debbie Kerr (Edinburgh), Bob Miller (Edzell), Anna Burnside (Falkirk Ladies), David Westall (Falkirk), Jennifer Hood (Ford Ladies), Marleen Salter (Ford Ladies), Joyce White (Forfar Ladies), Craig Lindsay (Forres), Morag Wellman (Fossway Ladies), Cameron Martin (Foulden), Michael Sutherland (Foulden), Euan Lawrence (Gangrels), Sheena Boyd (Glasgow Ladies), Alan Sloan (Glasgow XX), David Prentice (Greenlaw), Helen Mathieson (Greenlaw), Peter Colebrook (Greenlaw), Robert Duncan (Greenlaw), Robert Mathieson (Greenlaw), William Cleghorn (Greenlaw), William Mitchell (Greenlaw), John Good (Haddington), Graeme Maguire (Haddington), Bob Smith (Inverkiething), Phil Barton (Inverkiething), Lucy Tile (Jedburgh), Michael Frost (Jedburgh), Wendy Frost (Jedburgh), Janet Pollock (Johnston & District), Barbara McFarlane (Keir), David Kerr (Kelso), Nanette McCabe (Kennoway), Anne Porter (Kinross Ladies), Alistair Lindsay (Lammermuir), John Stirling (Lauderdale), Jim Stewart (Lesmahagow), Jane McArtney (Letham Grange), Steve McKenzie (Linthgow), Ronnie Wilson (Markinch), Rhiann MacLeod (Meldrum & Daviot),

Robert Pottie (Nairn), Margaret Pottie (Nairn Ladies), Frances Henderson (New Abbey), Ian Keron (Oatridge), David Haggart (Pitkerro), Frank White (Pitkerro), Morag Erskine (Pitlessie), Euan Fraser (Raith & Abbotshall), Harry Mitchell (Raith & Abbotshall), David Howard (Reform), Jan Howard (Reform), Judith Thomson (Rolling Stones), James Porter (Rothes), Oliver Stark (Roxburghe), David Cunningham (SIAE), Ruth Addinall (SIAE), Harry Dodds (St. Boswells), James Dixon (Swinton), Janette Kennedy (Tullymet), Patrick Carnie (Uphall), Malcolm Patrick (Watsonian), John Dykes (West Linton), Kathleen Dykes (West Linton)

In attendance:

a) Welcome Remarks

JIM CULLEN (PRESIDENT): Good afternoon everybody and welcome to the 180th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

b) In Memoriam

JIM CULLEN (PRESIDENT): I would ask you all join with me and stand if you are able to observe a minutes silence for those members who have sadly passed away. Thank you very much.

c) Received Apologies

JIM CULLEN (PRESIDENT): The apologies have been listed and were available on the desk for those who wished to look at them prior to the meeting. Anyone that needs to be added to this list should contact the office on Monday.

In alphabetical order by club:

Past Presidents: Arthur Beattie (Banchory), Earl of Elgin (Broomhall), Leslie Ingram-Brown (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), Andrew Stevenson (Cawder House), Andrew Hepburn (Corstorphine), Matt Brown (Cumnock and District), Inglis McAulay (Falkirk), William Muirhead (Glenfarg), Alex Torrance (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Roy Sinclair (Highland), David Henderson (New Abbey), Charlie Binnie (Panmure)

Areas Standing Committee: Morgan Nicoll (Aberlady), Albert Middler (AWW), Boyd Houston (Dollar & Devonvale), John McCall (Gourock), Ian Mackay (Haddo House), Ormond Smith (Inverness), Gordon Gilchrist (Lesmahagow), John Ferguson (Limekiln Loch)

Staff: Judith McCleary (Head of Development), Pamela Graham (Marketing & Communications Officer), Lindsay Booth (Welfare Officer), Emma Lynch (Events Executive)

Clubs: East Kilbride & Haremyres

Individuals: Keith Rose (Abdie), Duncan McFadzean (Airleywright), William Frame (Avondale Heather), Lauren Gray (Balfron), Bill Linton (Bank of Scotland-Fife), Rosie Hutchison (Beresford Ladies), Morag Bisset (Bothwell Ladies), Alan Donaldson (Cadder), Ross Paterson (Cadder), Sandra South (Cairngorm Ladies), Hammy McMillan (Castle Kennedy), Robin Shand (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), Gwendoline Hight (Cathcart Castle), John Dignan (Corstorphine), Kath Murray (Corstorphine Ladies), William Warnock (Coulter), Ross Whyte (Crocketford), Sheila Watson (Cumnock & District), Jack Brown (Cumnock & District), Kate Caithness OBE (Dalhousie Ladies), Robert McKenzie (Dalry Union), William Nicol (Darnaway), Val Saville (Doune), Isobel Rainey (Dumfries), Kelly Schafer (Dun), Gordon Allan (Dundee), Eve Muirhead (Dunkeld), Thomas Muirhead (Dunkeld), Glen Muirhead (Dunkeld), Ena Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Tom Neilson (East Kilbride &

Haremyres), Sheila Miller (Edinburgh Ladies), Dr Anne McCrae (Edinburgh Medical), Caroline Manson (Falkirk Ladies), David Wilson (Forret), Mary Campbell (Forrest), William Allison (Fotheringham), Judy Mackenzie (Glasgow Ladies), Bruce Mouat (Gogar Park), Norman Campbell (Gourock), Helen F Armstrong (Greenock Ladies), Kyle Waddell (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Ian Parkinson (Heart of the Highlands), Yvonne Birnie (Highland Ladies), Anna Sloan (Hutton), Ritchie Strawhorn (Johnston & District), Colin Macnab (Kelso), Sheila Macnab (Kelso), Michael Goodfellow (Kilsyth), Anne Moore (Kinross Ladies), Patricia Galloway (Kirkoswald), Tom Brewster (Laurencekirk), Euan Kyle (Leswalt), Bobby Lammie (Leswalt), Hannah Fleming (Lochmaben Castle), Kate Drummond-Hay (Lyndoch Ladies), Shelagh Fulton (Lynedoch Ladies), Gordon Addison (Musketeers), Alister Asher (Nairn), Alan Stanfield (Nairn), Harold Forrester (Nairn), Fraser Kingan (New Abbey), Kay Gibb (Northern Lights), Trevor Dodds (Oxenfoord), Patricia Binnie (Panmure), James E Normand (Perth), Vicki Adams (Portpatrick), Bob Kelly (Reform), Kyle Smith (St Martins), Cameron Smith (St Martins), Marion Fraser (Strathkinness), Jim Bryson (Sorn), Vicky Gumley (Stewart's Melville FP), Kirsty Letton MBE (Troon Portland), Ian Mennie (Turrif), Annette MacDonald (West Stirlingshire Ladies), Viktor Kjell

d) Letter from the Royal Patron

JIM CULLEN (PRESIDENT): I have in my hand a letter from our Royal Patron.

Letter from the Queen: Addressed to Jim Cullen, President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. "Please convey my warm thanks to the Members of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club for their loyal greeting, sent on the occasion of their one hundred and eightieth Annual General Meeting which is being held today at the Border Ice Rink, Kelso. As your Patron, I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send my best wishes to all those who are present for a successful meeting. Elizabeth R. 16th June, 2018."

e) President's Report

JIM CULLEN (PRESIDENT): What goes in one year and out the other? The answer of course is the President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

But what a year it has been. A year that has taken me to Slovenia, Switzerland, Canada, USA, Sweden and Nairn (twice).

Some of you may be wondering what I am holding in my hand and I can explain that this is a talking stick which was presented to the West Tour on their visit to Canada in 2013 and I am proud to have it with me today.

The year started with a visit to Slovenia for the World Curling Federation Congress in September. A gathering of the curling nations of the world. The various sessions, debates and presentations were of great interest but what struck me was the high regard and respect that the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, the mother club of curling, has in this curling world.

And then the season started and most weekends were taken up attending curling events, whether presenting trophies and medals or speaking at dinners. I can't possibly go through all these events but wish to mention some of the highlights.

In October I attended the CurlFest here in Kelso and this was a great success as it was in many Ice Rinks. We had a lot of fun here and at the same time managed to introduce a good number to the sport. I am pleased that this excellent initiative will continue next season.

That same week Grant Hardie and his team of Rhiann MacLeod, Billy Morton and Barbara McFarlane were in Champéry and won the World Mixed Championship. A fantastic achievement and many congratulations to them. (Applause)

Switzerland was also the venue for the European Championships and I had the pleasure of presenting Gold Medals to Eve Muirhead, Anna Sloan, Vicki Adams, Lauren Gray, Kelly Schaffer and coach Glen Howard and Silver Medals to Kyle Smith, Thomas Muirhead, Kyle Waddell, Cammy Smith, Glen Muirhead and coach Viktor Kjall at the European Championships. Both teams played superbly well throughout that event. (Applause)

Whilst in Switzerland news came through that Bruce Mouat and his team had become the first Scottish Men's team to win a Grand Slam event in Canada. Well done to them. (Applause)

December saw the culmination of the Under 21 Slam series at Lockerbie, with winners Team Davie in the women's event and Team Craik in the men's. Well done to them. (Applause)

I have had the pleasure of attending various junior events throughout the year and you can't fail to be impressed by the level of skill on display and also the dedication of the parents and coaches, who support the juniors throughout the season and not forgetting the hard work of the organisers of these events.

This year saw the opening of the National Curling Academy at Stirling, an excellent facility and one which should help Scotland take and maintain its position in world curling. I would hope that all members of the RCCC try and make good use of this facility.

As a member of the winning Strathcona Cup team in 2013, I was delighted to welcome the Canadian Tourists to Scotland in January. I would like to thank and congratulate all those involved in the organisation of the tour, as I know the tourists very much enjoyed their visit. These tours are a very important part of the traditions of curling and the friendships and memories made, really do last a lifetime. Unfortunately we had to concede the Trophy to the Canadians on this occasion, but a great time was had by all.

This of course was an Olympic year and our European medallists represented Team GB at the Winter Olympics. With so much going on at home I opted to stay home and like most of you would be glued to the TV. Sadly no medals on this occasion but it simply emphasises the commitment and effort required by our elite athletes to be able to compete at the highest level. We had no representative in Mixed Doubles but hopefully the qualification process will be looked at for the future.

Meanwhile it was off to Perth for the Scottish Championships. The women's event was won by Hannah Fleming, Jennifer Dodds, Alice Spence and Vicki Wright and the Men's by Bruce Mouat, Grant Hardie, Bobbie Lammie and Hammy McMillan, with both teams earning a play-off with the returning Olympians for the right to represent Scotland at the Worlds.

Then to Braehead for the finals of the Scottish Seniors where Gordon Muirhead, Norman Brown, David Hay and Hugh Aitken won the Men's and Susan Kesley, Fran Stretton, Vicky Gumley and Morna Aitken won the women's. Well done to both teams. (Applause)

One major disappointment of the year was that I was unable to attend the Henderson Bishop, due to the heavy snowfall in the Borders. I have it on good authority that a good time was had by all.

And so to the play-offs. It was a privilege to witness our top curlers in action and as we all know the Scottish Champions prevailed in both events.

Next up on the podium it was the turn of Ross Whyte, Robin Brydone, Euan Kyle, Duncan MacKenzie and coach Alan Hannah, winning Silver at the World Juniors in sunny Aberdeen. (Applause)

In the women's event Team Morrison found the going tough against some strong opposition but I'm confident they will benefit from the experience.

Meanwhile at the Winter Paralympics, Team Neilson posted some excellent results but a couple of narrow defeats put the semi-finals beyond them.

Then off to frozen North Bay, Canada, where Team Fleming posted some notable wins at the World Women's and that was en-route to sunnier climes for the World Men's.

Then it was off to sunnier climes for the World Men's. Las Vegas was quite a unique experience. It is not often that you will need to pack sunscreen and shorts when you attend a World Championship. Congratulations go to Bruce Mouat, Grant Hardie, Bobbie Lammie, Hammy McMillan, Ross Paterson and coach Alan Hannah on winning Bronze medals. (Applause)

I think you could safely say that the huge and noisy travelling support was delighted at the outcome.

Not long to recover before flying out to Sweden to support our Mixed Doubles and Seniors Champions. Teams Muirhead and Kesley both qualified for the final stages of the Seniors event. In the Mixed Doubles, Frazer Kingan and Jayne Stirling made the last 16 only to lose out to Japan, but then went on to win all their remaining games. In Sweden I also had the opportunity to support our members playing for other nations.

Mixed Doubles is of course the new kid on the block, designed principally for a TV audience, as an abbreviated version of the game. It requires a great deal of skill and tactical awareness and I can see it growing in popularity in the coming years. Many of our members have yet to embrace the concept.

My final presentation of the year was at the NCA which hosted the Scottish Mixed Curling Championships with Gold medals presented to Robin Brydone, Rebecca Morrison, Ross Whyte and Leeanne McKenzie. Well done. (Applause)

This week we had the news that the Queen has honoured Kirsty Letton with an MBE. Congratulations Kirsty on an award which is thoroughly deserved. (Applause)

In January the name Scottish Curling was adopted, principally to modernise and promote the sport. I had many varied and interesting discussions with members regarding the adoption of the name Scottish Curling. I fully supported the move and have sought to reassure the members that the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and its 180 year history is still with us.

As a Social Media on looker rather than a contributor I was aware that hashtag Royal Caledonian Curling Club or hashtag RCCC was not going to work. When I met Aileen

Campbell, the Minister for Sport in January, she was tweeting about Scottish Curling and not the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. The adoption of the name has been well received and, in my view, the right decision.

My year as President has not been without its lighter moments.

Having to keep my coat on at lunch on finals day at the Europeans in case I splashed gravy on my shirt and tie.

Having my photo taken with Elvis and Marilyn Monroe in Las Vegas; only to discover Elvis turned out to be a bit more friendly than Marilyn.

On a road trip to the Grand Canyon, having an encounter with a member of the Arizona State Police (not my choice) and having spoken to him for some time being asked which of the four occupants of the car spoke the best English. On second thoughts that was only a lighter moment for the other occupants in the car.

Hearing "nice shot mummy" added to the extensive repertoire of supporter's chants.

As President you have the privilege of attending the various committee meetings and it is only by doing so that you gain an insight into the many facets and workings of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and have the opportunity to see at first hand the wide ranging and challenging work undertaken at Ochil House.

I would like to thank Bruce Crawford for his support and guidance throughout the year and also Judith, Suzy and all the staff for their help and encouragement. I attended many meetings at Ochil House and was always welcomed with a coffee and a hob nob.

I would like to thank Rob Niven for his guidance and help and my fellow Board members for their support.

A special thanks to Graham Lindsay, firstly for agreeing to stand as my Vice-President but also for his contributions and assistance. I wish you well Graham.

My thanks also go to Ladies Branch and in particular Past President Margaret Pottie for her support and company at events throughout the year. I also take this opportunity to wish Margaret Nicol well in her year.

Thank you to all the members of the Area Standing Committee for your contributions and in particular to those retiring members Andrew Kerr, Joe Barry, Boyd Houston and Ormond Smith.

To all the umpires, time keepers, organisers, coaches and volunteers, I offer a big thank you.

To the members of Earlston Curling Club and Border Ice Rink, please accept my sincere thanks for your support and understanding throughout the year. To Graeme, Chris and Stuart for helping to make today happen.

And lastly a very special thanks to my wife Liz for her patience, companionship, and good humour and for helping to make my time as President a very enjoyable and special year. Thank you. (Applause)

I will now hand over to our chairman Rob Niven.

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Can I firstly express my sincere thanks to Jim on behalf of the board and all of the RCCC members it's been a huge commitment and you have done an outstanding job, we all wish Liz and Jim every happiness and best wishes for the future.

f) Approval of the Minute of the Annual General Meeting on 17th June 2017

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Firstly, I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the minute, does anyone have any comments or questions on these, no, thank you.

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Can I have a vote for the adoption of the minutes from 17th June 2017 please. The minutes have been adopted, thank you.

g) Annual Report of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): We now move on to the annual report which has been posted along with the account on the RCCC's 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 Rob and Jim.

The 2017-18 Annual Report has been published on our website. I hope that you have seen it and can agree that this has been another successful year for curling in Scotland and for many of our teams abroad. This Olympic and Paralympic season has seen the sport in the spotlight, with great coverage online and on TV. We have seen success in the new CurlFest, more people at Try Curling and our World Playoff event, to mention just a few of the additional things we did.

We are at the end of the third year of our current four year strategy and have made good progress against our long term targets. As we commence the preparations for our next strategy, we will be consulting with members in the coming weeks and months and I encourage you all to participate in the online survey or at open meetings.

We continue to develop the policies that govern our work and among these we have updated our data protection systems and procedures to comply with GDPR. We have also provided help for our clubs by putting templates and supporting documents on our website.

The board spent time at meetings discussing the amendments being proposed to you today to make changes to the Articles of the company. Some of these changes were designed to help the organisation to comply with the UK Governance Code for Sport and others were designed to make the organisation more inclusive and to reduce the risks that we face.

We currently have 27 people employed in the development and administration of curling in Scotland, 19 are employed directly by us while 8 are employed by our partners. We have 15 that are based in our Stirling office. Earlier this year the board asked Helen Hally to conduct a staff survey; this was prompted by a number of changes in personnel in the previous year. Helen created a thorough process, using a written set of questions and 1:1 interviews, the resulting report, is now referred to as the Hally report. It led to a series of 8 recommendations which are being implemented by the management team for the benefit of all staff.

Our finances are in good health. Turnover was up due to the World Junior Championships which we ran in Aberdeen. This was a successful event on several

levels. Scotland's Junior Men were unbeaten in all their games, apart from the final. Curl Aberdeen gained some legacy benefits with school engagement, the new PA system, lighting and time clock system and the event made a small profit of around £5,000.

To illustrate where our money comes from and where it gets spent, these graphs (shown on screen) show the comparative income and expenditure across the last 2 years. The figures for 2018 are shown in light blue and 2017 in dark blue.

In the last year we have supported an application for the new floor and development of Murrayfield Curling Rink with a loan secured from the World Curling Federation. We also saw the opening of the National Curling Academy in Stirling. Offering year round curling for club curling and is the principal base for the Curling Performance Programme.

We will also be conducting reviews in the coming months:

- Strategic Plan – that will direct our work over the 4 years from 2019-2022
- Competitions – to determine whether the range of competitions we run are appropriate for the need of current members.
- Membership – looking at the membership categories
- Clothing – to review the use of branding and clothing designs

I hope that you will find the time to engage with those areas that are of interest to you.

The local organising committee for the World Juniors in Curl Aberdeen did a great job in the second of our 4 International WCF events. The next event is World Wheelchair Curling Championship in March 2019 in Stirling. There will be a new format with 12 teams playing for medals and Paralympic qualifications points. We will advise members when the tickets go on sale. The last event in this series is World Men's which will be coming to Glasgow in 2020. This event will be taking place in the iconic Emirates Arena, next door to the Chris Hoy velodrome. This is a change from the original choice of venue and all the partners are thrilled to be using this iconic 6,000 seat venue. This change has followed several months of planning and due diligence.

In the autumn of 2018 our sister organisation Scottish Curling Trust will be holding a temporary curling history exhibition at Hampden Stadium in Glasgow. We will be advising members about this event nearer the time.

On a personal level, as well as on behalf of the members, I would like to thank the staff who have worked for the sport over the last year; they have all shown tremendous commitment and dedication.

I would like to thank the directors who have given freely of their time, attending meetings and providing wise counsel, to myself and our staff to develop Scottish Curling over the last year.

Lastly I would like to thank all of the volunteers who have, yet again, contributed their time and expertise at meetings and events across the country in ice rinks and all of the clubs.

The sport is in good health and we all need to pull together to continue the good work that has been done over the last 180 years. Thank you. (Applause)

h) Special and Ordinary Resolutions

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Thank you Bruce.

We now come to the special and ordinary resolutions and the following changes to the Memorandum of Articles of Association and Bye Laws proposed by the Board.

Special Resolution 1 – To replace the abbreviated name “Royal Club” with “RCCC”, this is a grammatical change throughout, for consistency. 124 members have already voted. Can I ask those members here today in favour of the amendment to raise their cards please, thank you. Those against the resolution, thank you. This requires a 75% majority. The special resolution is approved.

Special Resolution 2 – To change the age of voting rights for Associate Members from 21 to 18. 124 members have already voted. Can I ask those here today in favour of the amendment to vote now please, thank you. Those against, thank you. This requires a 75% majority. The special resolution is approved.

Special Resolution 3 – To introduce appointment of Independent Directors, one being a Senior Independent Director to the Board. 117 members have already voted. Can I ask those here today in favour of the amendment, thank you. Those against, thank you. This requires a 75% majority. The special resolution is approved.

Special Resolution 4 – To change the appointment of chairman to be openly recruited. 116 members have already voted. Can I ask those here today in favour of the resolution to vote, thank you. Those against, thank you. Again this requires a 75% majority. The special resolution is approved.

Special Resolution 5 – To increase the break required for directors being re-appointed after serving a full term, to 3 years after serving six. 119 members have already voted. Can I ask those here today to vote now, thank you. Those against, thank you. Also requires a 75% majority. The special resolution is approved.

Ordinary Resolution 1 – To delete Bye Law 1.12 concerning “initiation”. 120 members have already voted. Can I ask those here today in favour of the deletion of this bylaw to raise their cards please, thank you. Those against, thank you. This also requires a 75% majority. The resolution is approved.

Ordinary Resolution 2 – To add a new Bye Law concerning the Adult Protection Policy. 120 members have already voted. Can I ask those in favour of the addition to raise their cards please, thank you. Those against, thank you. This also requires a 75% majority. The resolution is approved.

Now to the resolutions to approve the following changes to the Rule Book, these have been proposed by the Rules Committee and supported by the Board.

Resolution 1 - To amend Rule 3 Teams (d) (i)

Continue play with the remaining three players, *in which case the player who left the game may only re-join the game at the start of an end.* A player may leave and return to a game only one time in any game. 118 members have already voted. Can I ask those in favour of the amendment to vote please, thank you. Those against, thank you. This simply requires a majority. The amendment is approved.

Resolution 2 - To amend Rule 5 Delivery (l) Where the wrong team start an end:

(i) *If the error is discovered after only the first stone has been delivered, the end shall be replayed.*

(ii) *If the error is discovered after the second stone of the end has been delivered, play continues as if the error had not occurred.*

122 members have already voted. Can I ask those in favour of the amendment, thank you. Those against, thank you. This simply requires a majority. The amendment is approved.

Resolution 3 – To amend Rule 6 Free Guard Zone (b)

If, prior to the delivery of the *sixth stone* of an end, a delivered stone causes, either directly or indirectly, an opposition stone to be moved from the Free Guard Zone to an out-of-play position, then the delivered stone is removed from play, and any displaced stones are replaced to their original positions, by the non-offending team, to their positions prior to the violation taking place. 123 members have already voted. Can I ask those in favour of the amendment to raise their cards please, thank you. Those against, thank you. This simply requires a majority. The amendment is approved.

Resolution 4 – To amend Rule 11 Scoring (a)

The result of a game is decided by a majority of shots at the completion of the scheduled ends of play or by pre-determined time or when a team concedes victory to its opponent, or when one team is arithmetically eliminated (in the case of a game requiring only a win/loss decision) provided the minimum number of ends has been completed. *Once the minimum number of ends have been played a team that has been arithmetically eliminated may complete the current end but no new end may be started. However, if a team is arithmetically eliminated in the last end of a game, the game should stop when this occurs and the end will not be finished.* In the event of the scores being equal at the end of a game play may be continued for one or more ends to determine a winner, or as provided for by the conditions of the competition.

If the time signal has not started when the last stone of the last played end has come to rest and any stone(s) whose movement has been generated by that stone has also come to rest or gone out of play then another end will be played.

119 members have already voted. Can I ask those in favour of the amendment to raise their cards please, thank you. Those against, thank you. This simply requires a majority. The amendment is approved.

i) Submission of the Annual Accounts appropriately certified

ROB NIVEN (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 thank you. 112 members have already voted. Can I ask those in favour of the approval of the annual accounts. Those against, thank you. The accounts are approved. Thank you.

j) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Can I have your approval for the re-appointment of Drummond Laurie Chartered Accountants, Grangemouth as the Independent Financial Examiner for the RCCC. 112 members have already voted. Can I ask for your support to re-appoint them for next year, thank you for that; approved.

k) Fixing of annual subscriptions

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): The proposal is for annual subscriptions for 2019/20 to remain the same for that year, that being:

Hon. Members (playing)	- £20.00
Ordinary Members	- £20.00
Junior Members (U21)	- £ 7.00
Hon. Members (non-playing)	- Nil

This simply requires a majority. 127 members have already voted. Can I ask those in favour, thank you. Anybody against, thank you. Approved. Thank you.

l) Appointment of President

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): I am delighted to ask Graham Lindsay of Forret Curling Club to join us on the stage as our incoming president. (Applause)

Jim, can I ask you to present Graham with his President's badge and flash please.

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

m) Appointment of Vice-President

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Next we move on to the appointment of our Vice President, Brian McArtney of Letham Grange Curling Club, his nomination is uncontested, so there is no ballot. Can I ask you to join me in acclaiming Brian as our incoming Vice President, welcome Brian. (Applause).

Graham can you please present Brian with his Vice President's Badge. (Applause)

BRIAN McARTNEY (Vice-President): President Graham, Sister and Brother Curlers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It was a great honour, in February, to be nominated by my mother club Letham Grange Curling Club, for the position of Vice President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

Let me tell you a little bit about my sports involvement in the past and now. I am now retired but was involved in coaching schools hockey from the start of my teaching career and progressed to work with the international youth teams as coach and manager, over a number of years. As a senior office bearer I also helped bring Youth and Senior Hockey together forming the Scottish Hockey Union.

I am relatively new to curling, especially when we celebrate later those who have been involved for fifty years in our sport. During my twenty years involvement I have managed to be my Club and Province President twice, while serving for four years on the Area Standing Committee. Over the past two years I have been Convenor of the Coaching Committee. I am a qualified coach working with Active Schools Co-ordinators to develop the indoor 'Roll on Curling' (Stones on wheel), after which pupils join an 'After School Club' before moving into Forfar Juniors as members.

I also work with Forfar Virtual Curling Club developing new players from the 'Try Curling' and 'Beginners Courses', along with clubs and rink promotional events to attract new members. At the grass roots level there are many great examples of the work being done to increase membership as well as improving skill levels and it is these that we need to be able to share better.

I'm privileged and delighted at now being elected as Vice President and I am looking forward to supporting Graham and Margaret in their year as President. While promoting and sharing all the good practice across Scotland to ensure Scottish Curling continues to be strong and fair and the game itself enjoyable at all levels thus appealing to new members. Thank you. (Applause)

n) Appointment of Directors

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Thank you very much Brian, we now move to the appointment of Directors to the Board. As Susan Kesley (Currie & Balerno) and Rob Niven (Delvine) are uncontested there will be no need for a ballot, and therefore they are appointed and accepted as Directors.

o) Appointment of a Chaplain

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): I am delighted that Rev Alan Donaldson (Cadder) has again agreed and is happy to continue as our chaplain. (Applause)

p) Authorisation of the publication of the Annual

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): We now move to the authorisation of the publication of the Annual. 116 members have already voted. Can I ask those here today 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

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): The 181st AGM will be held on Saturday 15th June 2019 at the Dewars Centre, Perth.

r) Presentation of Trophies and Awards

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): We now come to the presentation of trophies and awards, can I ask Jim and Liz if they would please present the trophies. Thank you. (Applause)

a) Eight Ender Awards

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): The first one is the Eight Ender awards, there were seven awards presented during this season (2017-18). The names are on the screen for you to see.

b) Sir Richard Waldie Griffith

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Moving on to the Sir Richard Waldie-Griffith trophy and the winner this year is Midlothian Province. Can I ask David Cunningham to come forward to collect the trophy please. (Applause)

c) 150 Year Club Medals

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): This medal is presented to clubs who have been affiliated to the RCCC for 150 years. The only club this year to achieve this medal is Bishopshire Curling Club. Morag Wellman is going to collect the medal on their behalf. (Applause)

d) 50 Year Medals

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Next the 50 Year Medals these are awarded to members who have been affiliated to the RCCC for 50 years, with 22 medals having been awarded this season. Members unable to attend today to collect their medal are: William Frame (Avondale Heather), Sandra South (Cairngorm Ladies), William Warnock (Coulter), Jack Brown (Cumnock and District), Sheila Watson (Cumnock and District), William Nicol (Darnaway), Gordon Allan (Dundee), Tom Neilson (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Mary Campbell (Forret), David Wilson (Forret), William Allison (Fotheringham), Ritchie Strawhorn (Johnstone & District), James E Normand (Perth) and Jim Bryson (Sorn). Congratulations to them all. (Applause)

Those in attendance today to collect their medals are: Janet Pollock (Johnstone and District), Anne Porter (Roths, Kinross Ladies), Margaret A Robertson (Ayton Castle), Ena Smith (Cadzow), John Dykes (West Linton), Euan Fraser (Raith & Abbotshall), Malcolm Patrick (Watsonian) and Robert Pottie (Nairn). Congratulations. (Applause)

s) WCF Commemorative Banner

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): The WCF Commemorative Banner is presented in recognition of the winners of a World Championship competition. The 2017 World Mixed Curling Champions were Team Scotland: Grant Hardie (Skip), Rhiann Macleod (Third), Billy Morton (Second) and Barbara McFarlane (Lead). (Applause)

Scottish Curling Awards

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): We now move to the Scottish Curling Awards, the winners were announced on the website. Can I ask Jim and Liz to present them as well.

Young Curler of the Year – The nominees were Bobby Lammie, Layla Al-Saffar and Ross Whyte. The winner is Bobby Lammie, unfortunately Bobby is unable to attend to today but well-done Bobby. This season saw Bobby winning the Scottish Men's Curling Championship and the World Championship Play-off playing second with Team Mouat. He went on to win bronze at the World Men's Curling Championship and was named in the All Stars Team for the event – selection based on the shot success percentage in each position throughout the round-robin stage. Bobby's average was 88%. In addition to international success, Bobby also won his first Grand Slam of Curling Event, the 2017 Boost National, Ontario and four World Curling Tour competitions: the Stu Sells Oakville Tankard, Oakville; the Aberdeen International Curling Championship; the Biosteel Oakville Fall Classic; and the Dumfries Challenger Series. (Applause)

Grassroots Coach of the Year – The nominees were Michael Goodfellow, Colin Keir, Graeme Maguire and Hector Snoddy. This year there was a two-way tie for first place - Graeme Maguire and Michael Goodfellow.

Graeme Maguire: Graeme, an RCCC Level 1 qualified coach, has coached 40 sessions, including 10 Try Curling groups and four in-school Wellness Days, with three more to come, this season. The latter being particularly well received by schools, with one school teacher saying, "the children had a great time at curling". Known for his trademark fancy trousers, Graeme is a warm, friendly character who welcomes newcomers onto the ice with encouragement and humour. (Applause)

Michael Goodfellow unfortunately couldn't be here today. Michael, an RCCC Level 1 qualified coach, regularly coaches at a number of Active Stirling programmes, from Curling's Cool sessions through to Stirling Virtual Club sessions. He has a very patient and compassionate style, and helps those under his guidance to develop their skills and confidence. In addition to Active Stirling sessions, Michael has provided technical coaching support within the Scottish Curling Academy programme as well as presenting at a variety of seminars around the country. He is willing to share his stories and encourages pupils by talking in schools and promoting the Try Curling programme. Michael is currently working towards a UKCC Level 2 qualification. (Applause)

Ice Diamond Award – The nominees were Alan Sloan and David Owen & John Graham. The winner is Alan Sloan. Alan has been the chairperson of the organising committee for the Glynhill Ladies International since 2012. Over the past six seasons he has led the team of volunteers from the front, dedicating a great deal of time and always willing to go the extra mile to ensure the success of the tournament. Alan has also served on several RCCC committees over the years, notably as an active member on the Areas Standing Committee. He is part of the successful Charles Lees fundraising team, which saw the iconic painting 'The Grand Match at Linlithgow Loch'

(1849) restored. He was also the driving force behind the successful 2012 USA Incoming Tour. Well done Alan. (Applause)

Team of the Year – The Nominees for the Team of the Year Award are Team Scotland/Hardie and Team Scotland/Mouat. The winners are Team Mouat / Scotland; Bruce Mouat (skip), Grant Hardie (third), Bobby Lammie (second), Hamilton McMillan (lead), Ross Paterson (alternate for WMCC) and Alan Hannah (coach) – Grant Hardie and Alan Hannah are in attendance today. Team Mouat won the Scottish Men's Curling Championship, and World Championship Play-off to win the right to represent Scotland at the World Men's Curling Championship in Las Vegas, USA. They went on to win bronze. In addition to international success Team Mouat won back-to-back World Curling Tour events at the Oakville Curling Club capturing the Stu Sells Oakville Tankard and Biosteel Fall Classic. On both occasions they defeated Team Chang-Min Kim in the final. Team Mouat then returned to the Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling at the 2017 Boost National and caught fire taking down the giants of the league from Brad Jacobs (tie-breaker), Kevin Koe (quarter-finals) and Mike McEwen (semi-finals) before defeating Kim one more time in the championship game. Bruce Mouat made history as the youngest men's skip to win a world curling tour title in the series at age 23. An outstanding season. (Applause)

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Now can I ask Jim to present a bouquet of flowers to Margaret Pottie immediate Ladies Branch Past President. (Applause). Margaret has done great work over the year, attended many ladies branch meetings and has been a valuable member of the board over the past year. Thank you. (Applause)

Finally, Jim if I could ask you to present a bouquet of flowers to; Liz (Applause)
Thank you

Now there is a season review to highlight the competitions held throughout the year in a short slide show which has been put together by Jamie. (Applause). Very inspiring, congratulations to all our teams and many thanks to Jamie for putting this together.

Just before we move on I just wanted to say that no AGM will be the same without Lachlan McLean. I was looking forward to and will miss his wit and contribution at the AGM sadly he passed away recently, so very sad news.

t) Any Other Competent Business

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Three items of business were submitted by members for inclusion and were submitted six weeks before as required by the article 5.3. I will just go to them point by point.

- (1) Competitions Draws, a question from Bank of Scotland (Fife) CC Members of our Club have played regularly in Scottish Curling's National Championships including The Masters, The Province Championships and The Rink Championships. During the last four years, the draws for these specific tournaments have not been advised to participants until somewhere between two and five weeks before the events. Notwithstanding that the closing dates for applications has been the 30th June, the inordinate delays in Scottish Curling advising details of the draws to participants does not allow sufficient time for Clubs to arrange travel, or hotel accommodation and leads to many late cancellations of Clubs from these events.

Can you outline the steps that will be put in place to ensure that every effort will be made to advise teams of the draw for competitions, as early as possible?

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): We have had draws late for several reasons at the start of the season, partly to personnel in the early part and we are taking steps to get draws out on time. We had an unprecedented number of teams withdrawing but we are getting there, new procedures are being put in place to rectify this and schedules will be posted online, with blanks if necessary.

We hear you and we will make every effort to turn the draws round and get the draws out as quickly as we can for this season.

- (2) Scottish Curling, a question from R & K Scott

Can you please advise the members here today why the members of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club were not consulted on the adoption of the trading name "Scottish Curling" before it was announced publicly on Television?

What are the subsequent implications for the use of the name "Scottish Curling"?

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Jim touched on this in his review. The name is still The Royal Caledonian Curling Club we are not losing that, and we will not lose that, we re-branded to Scottish Curling. The board heard compelling feedback from a public consultation and we had positive feedback on Scottish Curling as the brand. Scottish Curling has been used as a brand/trade name for the past five years and Scottish Curling clearly explains what we are, and it also helps to promote what we do; being easily understood by people new to curling as well.

It was timed to take effect before the Olympic Paralympic Games. With a comprehensive Q&A article being posted online at the start of the year.

To answer the second part - The brand Scottish Curling will be used in our public facing and promotional activity across all platforms, social media, website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn.

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club will be reserved for the AGM, Finance and Company business. Along with Legal documents, HMRC, Contracts (goods, services, employment) and recognition such as medals.

- (3) Blue Blazers, a question from R & K Scott

Concern is being expressed by some members that the Royal Caledonian Curling Club may lose its "Blue Blazer" which is recognised, respected and identified as the hallmark of the Royal Club throughout the curling world.

Can you advise the members here at the AGM on the plans to address the future provision of blue blazers for the RCCC representatives?

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): No decision or change has been made on the blue blazers. In January, linked to the re-branding we stated: "We will be consulting with committees and athletes over the coming months to seek input towards representative blazers & ties". Coincidentally, in January our supplier advised that the light blue fabric is no longer made which was supplied for Blue Blazers that have been used since the early 1970's. We are currently looking into other suppliers as part of the planned review and consultation this summer. There will be a new blazer for next season and the detail will come out of the consultation and procurement process.

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Does anyone have any questions on these three points?

KEN SCOTT (BLAIRGOWRIE CC): The change of the name the RCCC to Scottish Curling may seem to you to be insignificant, but perhaps not so to the members. If they are going to have alterations to the running of the club, should they not pay attention to the Articles of Association of the Royal Club, in particular article 4 where it asks for any changes to the Articles to be put to a general meeting. If there has been a general meeting, then I have missed this.

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Thank you Ken, to be clear we are not changing the name of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club and we are not changing the name in the Articles of Association. We have created the brand of Scottish Curling to act as a trading name and a brand. The Royal Caledonian Curling Club remains the name of the company, it has not been altered in the Articles of Association at all, so there was no need for a general meeting or a vote on it.

KEN SCOTT (BLAIRGOWRIE CC): Can you tell me now that the competitions in the Royal Club have been running for all these years and now suddenly they change to Scottish Curling?

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): The brand is Scottish Curling and the competitions have been called the Scottish Curling Championships for as long as I have been playing in them. This brand has been around four/five years or longer and I have been on the board for three years; with my jacket having Scottish Curling brand on the back and The Royal Caledonian Curling Club on the front. We are not losing our title our entity; we will always be The Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Scottish Curling describes who we are and what we do. It's the way we promote our competitions to encourage entries, new members, to gain sponsorship and keep a continued interest in our sport. That's the drive behind it.

KEN SCOTT (BLAIRGOWRIE CC): May I say, I rather think that the membership should be consulted in a proper way if a decision is made and not just an announcement on TV.

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Thank you very much Ken. Does anyone have any other questions?

IAN KERON (OATRIDGE CC):

I would like to raise a couple of points. Firstly the use of the name Scottish Curling. The documents for competitions for next year say the rules of Scottish Curling not the rules of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club. I think you need to be very careful with documents that are issued in the future refer correctly.

My second point concerns competitions. Specifically, the changes to the competitions calendar, consultation, the customers experience and the impact of cancellations and lack of refunds. Thank you

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): Thank you for your input Ian. It is something that we are aware of and we have put in place a competitions review. This review will look at all aspects of our competitions and clearly with so many withdrawals, we need to ensure your feedback is picked up in the review, so that our future competition structure reflects what the membership wants. Thank you for raising these points.

Does anyone have anything else. Ok, thank you very much

u) Address by incoming President

ROB NIVEN (CHAIRMAN): I would now like to ask our new president Graham Lindsay to address the meeting and offer a vote of thanks. (Applause)

GRAHAM LINDSAY (NEW PRESIDENT): Chairman Robin, Past Presidents Jim and Margaret, Ladies Branch President Margaret, Sister and Brother Curlers, Ladies and Gentlemen. If I have missed anyone please accept my apologies.

I would like to start by thanking you for electing me to the position of President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. I find myself humbled, honoured and, as a well-known football manager said, I am proud, very proud, of being elected to this position. I realise that this position comes with a degree of responsibility to serve the members, all of the members of the RCCC and I can give you an assurance that I will do all I can to fulfil that task.

As I said last year, never in my wildest dreams and believe me I have had some wild dreams, did I think that I would be President of the RCCC, so I must thank Jim for shocking me at the Four Nations in January 2017 when asking if I would be interested in being his Vice President. I did take a week or two to think about the offer but it wasn't a hard decision really. Jim, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you over the past year and I am sure that we will continue to work together in the future. So many thanks Jim.

Past incoming Presidents have made reference to the standards set by previous Presidents and I will not deviate from that route. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim and Margaret, most sincerely, on your behalf, for all their hard work over the past year and wish them well for the future. I will try do my utmost to try to emulate their contribution to Scottish Curling.

I'm really pleased to have Brian as my Vice President and am looking forward to working with him as we have similar views on many issues. As you may know Brian sat on the ASC for 4 years and has been convener of the Coaching Committee for the past 2 years. I will return to the thank you trail in a minute as there are others who are deserving of, and require our thanks.

This is an exciting, and as politicians say, challenging time, for Scottish Curling. Politicians never have problems only challenges so why should be any different.

Looking at the challenges first. Modernisation has started with the new trading name Scottish Curling being introduced, a move which I fully supported and which seems to have been well received generally. Further changes are ongoing with more to follow I'm sure.

I am delighted that this year's AGM is being held in Kelso. As I feel this is a move forward as well as it shows that we are not only a central Scotland based sport and I look forward to future AGM's being held out with the central belt of Scotland.

The updated web site has a much more modern feel about it, although there are a few clitch's still to resolve. The use of social media has been greatly increased and whilst not being against social media I would caution moving away from other tried and tested forms of information spread completely. We should be mindful of the current age demographic within curling, not everyone uses social media. The need to encourage more people into curling is probably the biggest challenge we face as it is in many other sports. I know that much work is ongoing in this area and I would ask all of you to

assist wherever and however you can, with any and all initiatives that are brought forward. We cannot afford not to try any route to increasing RCCC membership.

We need to look at ways of retaining members and of getting curlers who are not registered members of the RCCC, or clubs who are not affiliated to the RCCC, into the RCCC. Another initiative that is being looked at is the Supporter Member; i.e. one who does not actually curl but who supports curling, family and friends could fall into this category and might be an easier route to increase membership numbers.

We also need to look at what our members actually receive from RCCC membership and how we put this over to them. I know this currently being looked into by the Member Development Committee.

Curling is not alone with these problems as many other sports are facing identical situations, so we need to look at possible changes to the game itself, i.e. triples, 6 end games etc; as other sports are doing.

On the exciting side. We are lucky to have a large contingent of young, skilled curlers at present and this bodes well for the future, on both the national and the international stage. It must also be stated that we are getting a stronger and stronger senior curling group as well. However national and local competition is in general on the downward slide and methods to reverse this are to be looked at with a review of all competitions to take place over the next year.

We have a tremendous resource in the National Curling Academy within The Peak; which apart from being used by our elite curlers for training is also available for club curling and could possibly be used for some competitions as well. The Scottish Mixed was held there at the end of last month.

The World Wheelchair Curling Championship is to be held at The Peak in Stirling next March; which I am sure will be a success and which will along with last year's successful World Juniors at Aberdeen will give us confidence for holding the Men's Worlds in 2020.

Returning to the thank you trail. Can I start by thanking Jim and Rob for chairing today's meeting with such ease.

I would like to thank the staff at Border Ice Rink for looking after us so well today.

I would pay thanks to Robin as Chairman, or should that be Chairperson or simply Chair, in this world of equality and his fellow Board Directors for all their efforts and commitment to the RCCC.

Thanks are due to our CEO, Bruce Crawford and his team, for not only organising today's AGM but for all their work and efforts throughout the past year.

I think it is worth mentioning that after a fairly large turnaround in staff in the year to June 2017 and in the early months of the season just past; things seemed to have settled down and hopefully we can look forward to the current team remaining in place for a reasonable period in the future.

I would like to thank our Jim for saying Grace earlier in Alan's absence.

Whilst Jim has thanked the retiring Area Reps, I would like to welcome David McIntyre, Harry Brodie, Nigel Forest and Trevor Dodds to the Area Standing Committee.

Finally, to all the volunteers who work tirelessly for the RCCC, the umpires, the time clock operators, the coach's, Area and LSC Reps, Area & Province Sec's & Treasurers, and all those who in some way give of their time to help Scottish Curling. A huge thank you, without you we would really struggle.

Can I conclude by saying that my door is always open to any RCCC member and that I will do all I can to help anyone requiring assistance.

With that I thank you for your attendance today, the 2019 AGM will be held on 15th June at Dewar's Rink, Perth and I now close the meeting.
Thank You. (Applause)