Scottish Curling Competitions Committee Meeting

14 July 2020 – 14:00

Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Susan Kesley (SK), Nick Rennie (NR), Jayne Stirling (JS), Graham Lindsay (GL), Tom Kirk (TK), Gail Munro (GM), Andrew Kerr (AK), Bruce Crawford (BC), Kyle Waddell (KW; guest), Gina Aitken (GA; guest), David Murdoch (DM; guest)

1. **Apologies**
   Ian Young (IY) Gavin Fleming (GF)

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
   The minutes of the meeting on 15 April were agreed as accurate, with SK proposing and GL seconding this.

   ACTION – JS to publish minutes of 15 April meeting to Scottish Curling website.

3. **Matters Arising**
   GL asked BC if he and Brian McArtney had discussed the issue of European team selection, but he had not yet and will revisit.

   ACTION – BC to follow up with Brian McArtney to clarify the procedure for establishing who will represent Scotland at European Championships.

   DM raised that it was agreed at CPPAG (Curling Performance Policy Advisory Group) in November 2019 that the National Coach would be invited to attend the Competitions Committee meetings, and would be included on communications related to the committee. He noted that he had not been formally involved or received any communications until this point. GL will look at updating the Terms of Reference for the Competitions Committee to reflect this, and JS will include DM on communications and meeting invitations moving forward.

   ACTION – GL to look at updating Terms of Reference.
   ACTION – JS to include DM on communications moving forward.

4. **Bidding Update**
   JS confirmed that contracts had been issued for all competitions, with many already returned using the new digital signing format. Will be confirming the requirement for European Playdowns with DM so that a venue can be arranged if required. 2021-22 Bidding Documents are being prepared, and will be distributed around late July, with a return date in October. This timescale has been decided upon based on following consultation with rinks around their current priorities and capacity to commit time to the bidding documents. JS has also been streamlining and updating the format of the bidding documents to include more open questions and opportunities for rinks to share what they have to offer.

5. **Athlete Voice on Committee**
   KW and GA attended as guests representing athletes in the British Curling Programme. TK felt that having input from this group would be valuable. GM disagreed, and felt that the athletes having the opportunity to contribute to CPPAG would be more useful. NR checked with DM, and it was confirmed that this was also

being considered.
KW agreed with GM that there were some aspects of Competitions Committee where athlete input wouldn't be particularly useful, but said that he would be keen for the athlete voice to be heard at all groups/committees where decisions are made that affect them. He is keen to look at making a positive impact on the sport in general in the longer term, rather than just a quick fix for shorter term performance level issues. Highlighted that the athletes aren't just 'looking out for themselves'. KW also noted that he will be reporting back to other athletes, and will be looking at how they are going to move forward as a group of players.
GM commented that CPPAG should be revisited so that its purposes and the representation within that group are clear.
BC asked if British Curling were looking to have athletes represented on their board based on recent guidance from UK Sport on governance structures, but DM highlighted a number of difficulties with this due to confidentiality around athlete/team appraisal and financial details.
GA intimated that she'd be keen to see information being shared in both directions between relevant groups and stakeholders, and SK seconded that communication needed to be improved.
GL has no issues with athletes attending Competitions Committee meetings and taking part in discussions.
KW and GA happy to stay as contact points for meeting details and papers until formal reps selected.

6. **Format & Draws**

Maxwell: 10 entries received.
Consideration given to groups being adjusted to offer some new opposition, while being mindful of travel implications. GL was surprised not to see an entry from Kinross and will be following this up. SK confirmed with the committee that they would be happy to accept a late entry on this occasion. The group suggested that we try to encourage a twelfth entry, which would allow teams to be split into three groups of four (top team qualifies for semi-finals, plus highest ranked second place). A reduction in the number of fixtures was highlighted as being particularly appropriate and helpful for the coming season.
Group formats will be confirmed once finalised entry list is completed.

ACTION – GL to contact Kinross to see if they are keen to enter.
ACTION – JS to try to raise a twelfth team.

Interclub Medal: 15 two team entries, 39 one team entries.
Draw completed using online randomiser, and then some potential adjustments highlighted to avoid very long journeys for teams. JS to check for repeats of recent fixtures, and then will circulate a finalised fixture list to be confirmed.

ACTION – JS to check for repeats and finalise fixture list for circulation to committee.

Waldie Griffith: 11 entries.
Draw completed using online randomiser. JS to check for repeats and try to raise a twelfth entry. Will circulate finalised fixture list to be confirmed by committee.

ACTION – JS to check for repeats, try to raise a twelfth entry, and finalise fixture list for circulation to committee.

U21 Slam Event 1 Greenacres: 6 Ladies, 11 Mens entries.
1 group for girls, and 2 groups for boys. With both of the top two teams from last season's Men's Slam entering again this season with intact line ups, there was a discussion around seeding of teams, and it was decided that those two teams should be seeded and thus placed in separate groups. The online randomiser was used to determine which team would be in which group, and then used again to split the remaining teams into the groups.

7. **Senior Mixed Date Change**
   Committee was keen to change the date, and would be happy with the potential date shared by Border Ice Rink in November, or perhaps an even later date. Dates of other Scottish Curling competitions, Caledonian Tour events and Stranraer weekends, and any other events aimed at a similar group will be avoided where possible.

   ACTION – JS to continue dialogue with Border Ice Rink to secure a new date for the competition.

8. **Dumfries U14/U17 Request**
   Dumfries had enquired about hosting an U14 and/or U17 event in the future. GM mentioned that Stranraer had informally noted an interest in this previously too, and that other rinks may also be interested. It was agreed that the Slam formats and how events are decided upon would feature in an overall Competition Review discussion at the next meeting.

   ACTION – JS to add this to agenda for next meeting.

9. **Scottish Championships Eligibility**
   Following an enquiry for a member, the committee discussed the possibility of members competing in Scottish Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles Championships who were ineligible to represent Scotland, provided that their team accepted that they would not be considered for selection as the World Championship team.
   GM – didn't feel this was a direction we should be going in.
   KW – doesn't feel that it would be well received if competitors at the event weren't necessarily eligible for selection.
   GA – noted the heritage and history of the event being very strong, and feels this should be preserved; the group agreed.
   DM – noted that he still very much sees the Championship as a qualifying event, and so eligibility to represent Scotland is important.
   Other factors were discussed, such as the selection policy only being confirmed for Season 2020-21 at the moment, and so it was agreed unanimously that the eligibility criteria would not be changed in light of the move to selection.

10. **District/Interclub Medal Naming**
    A number of members have been in touch about the renaming of the District Medal to the Interclub medal, with concerns around the history of this competition being lost. AK suggested 'District Interclub Medal'. SK noted that it's important to balance the needs of the modern member while respecting the significant history. There is a lack of clarity over what a 'district' is, but a member has provided a useful history which JS will circulate to the committee.
    There was a short discussion around the previous quality of the medals, and whether a higher quality medal could be reinstated.

    ACTION – JS to add to agenda for next meeting.
    ACTION – JS to circulate email with information around the history to the committee for consideration.
    ACTION – JS to look at medals and potential to update these.

11. **Scottish Mixed Update**
    NR has spoken to Active Stirling and they don't think that holding the Championship in late August/early

September will be feasible. GM noted that Greenacres and Lanarkshire may be open around late August/early September, but DM noted and it was agreed that running a competition at that stage would be challenging given current stage in pandemic.
It was agreed that the winners of the most recent Scottish Mixed Championship should be approached as potential representatives for 2020 World Mixed Championships in Aberdeen. Their winning lineup would be approached, but if they requested to change their team line up by one player (as per their entry for the 2020 championship) that would be acceptable.

12. **AOCB**
KW was grateful for the opportunity for himself and GA to join the meeting and said that they really valued the opportunity. It is hoped this will be a positive step forward in improving the channels for athlete voices. SK asked KW and GA to keep the committee up to date with their progress in establishing new channels of communication.

13. **Date of Next Meeting**
Next meeting to be held via Zoom on: **Tuesday 25 August at 09:30**