



MINUTES OF THE 61ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LADIES' BRANCH
OF THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN CURLING CLUB HELD ON TUESDAY, 11TH MAY 2021 AT 14:00

PRESENT

Office Bearers: Corrie Lawrence (President), Lillian Carnegie (Vice President), Alison Taylor (Junior Vice President), Janine Wilson (Treasurer), Kate Caithness CBE (Honorary Vice President/Dalhousie Ladies), Gail Munro (Honorary Vice President/Castle Kennedy)

Past Presidents: Brenda Macintyre (Belmaduthy), Jennifer Bain (Carrington), Fiona Hardie (Crocketford), Margaret Nicol (Currie & Balerno), Ena Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Kathleen Scott (Dunkeld), Marion Craig (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Morag Wellman (Fossway Ladies), Claire McLaren (Lyndoch Ladies), Margaret Pottie (Nairn Ladies), Marion Fraser (Strathkinness), Kirsty Letton MBE (Troon Portland)

Centre Representatives: Michele Brodie (Abercorn), Lucy Tile (Border Ice Rink), Madeleine Sharp (Cawder House), Rona Craig (Corstorphine Ladies), Lillias Hyslop (Coulter), Janet Lynch (Errol), Michele Hartley (Falkirk Ladies), Sandra MacIver (Forres), Debbie Weir (Fossway Ladies), Karen Jack (Newark), Nancy Gallacher (Nithsdale Ladies), Kay Gibb (Northern Lights), Mary Anne McWilliam (Stranraer Ladies), Clare McCormick (Uplawmoor)

New Centre Representatives: Jane Patterson (Dumfries), Fiona McLaren (Highland Ladies), Marion Malcolm (Laurencekirk), Sheilagh Macfarlane (Panmure)

Invited Guests: Bruce Crawford (CEO), Graham Lindsay (Chairman), Andrew Kerr (RCCC Vice President), Jayne Stirling (Competitions Manager)

Individual Members: Isla Kinnear (Abdie Ladies), Alison Troup (Aberdeen Ladies), Fiona Glascodine (Aberdeen Ladies), Helen Dunford (Aberdeen Ladies), Ann Mitchell (Aberdour), Jill Grieve (Airleywight Ladies), Aileen Neilson (Avondale Heather), Elizabeth Tait (Ayr & Alloway), Linda Wilson (Ayr & Alloway), Kirstie Hepburn (Ayr Country), Lorna Alexander (Ayr Country), Liz Martin (Aytoun Castle), Roberta Forrest (Aytoun Castle), Margaret Lambie (Balcaskie), Margaret Robertson (Bathgate), Alison Barr (Bearsden), Gillian Haggart (Bellshill), Ann Naismith (Beresford Ladies), Helen Steele (Beresford Ladies), Isla Robison (Beresford Ladies/Ayr), Jacqui Taylor (Between the Sheets), Christine Cheape (Blair Atholl), Ann Turnbull (Cambo), Dorothy Moran (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), Fay Cowan (Castle Kennedy), Janet McMillan (Castle Kennedy), Maureen Parker (Castle Kennedy), Linda Y Haswell (Castle Kennedy), Eleanor McDougall (Cawder House), Ann Gibb (Cawdor), Ann Tait (Coldstream & Hirsell), Lyz Hogarth (Colinton Ladies), Carolyn Tough (Corstorphine Ladies), Isobel Edwards (Corstorphine Ladies), Kath Murray (Corstorphine Ladies), Maggie Barry (Corstorphine Ladies), Gillian Black (Corstorphine), Jenny Barr (Currie & Balerno), Gilli McCulloch (Dalhousie), Margaret White (Dalmellington Craigengillan), Eila MacLennan (Dundonald), Aileen Priestley (Dunfermline Ladies), Lynne Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Margaret Richardson (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Agnes Strang (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Christine Ross (Eskdale), Caroline Scott (Falkirk Ladies), Elizabeth Webster (Falkirk Ladies), Irene Campbell (Falkirk Ladies), Susan Catling (Falkirk Ladies), Val Saville (Falkirk Ladies), Janice Walls (Fettercairn), Morag Christie (Fettercairn), Fiona Boyd (Fifteen Club), Jean Waddell (Ford Ladies), Lyn Miller (Ford Ladies), Anne Cant (Forfar Ladies), Carolyn Smith (Forfar Ladies), Christy Barron (Forfar Ladies), Moira Haggart (Forfar Ladies), Margaret Mauchline (Forth Valley Ladies), Sarah Bruce Jones (Fossway Ladies), Alison Orr (Fotheringham), Carolyn Nicoll (Fotheringham), Alison Young (Fullarton), Ali Cunningham (Galston Haymouth), Elizabeth Boswell (Galston Haymouth), Elizabeth Jamieson (Glasgow Ladies), Judy Mackenzie MBE (Glasgow Ladies), Liz Paul (Glasgow Ladies), Sheena Boyd (Glasgow Ladies), Fiona Rutherford (Glenfarg Ladies), Helen Murray-Lyon (Gourock Ladies), Fiona Moffat (Hamilton & Thornhill), Kathleen Forster (Hercules Ladies), Pat Hughes (Hercules Ladies), Christine Marshall (Highland Ladies), Winifred Yvonne Birnie (Highland Ladies), Margaret Hastie (Inverness), Sheila Macnab (Kelso), Elaine Spain (Kinross Ladies), Pat Galloway (Kirkoswald), Barbara Sherriff (Kirriemuir Ladies), Sandra Menzies (Latham Grange), Jennifer Main (Laurencekirk), Glynis Knowles (Laurencekirk), Pam Painter (Lenzie Ladies), Sandra Hughes (Lenzie Ladies), Merle Tough (Lesmahagow Ladies Section), Eileen Fleming (Lesmahagow Ladies), Claire Milne (Letham Grange), Jane McCartney (Letham Grange), Mary McClintock (Logan), Jenny Arbuckle (Lundie & Auchterhouse), Allie Lyburn (Lyndoch Ladies), Liz Fraser (Lynedoch Ladies), Shelagh Fulton (Lynedoch Ladies), Gwendoline Highet (Maxwell), Anne Younger (Methven), Frances Henderson (New Abbey), Margaret Carruthers (New Abbey), Denise Barker (Nithsdale Ladies), Hazel Wales (Nithsdale Ladies), Mima Telfer (Nithsdale Ladies), Beryl Harley (Orwell Ladies), Elizabeth Glennie (Orwell Ladies), Maggie Saunderson (Orwell Ladies), Patricia Binnie (Panmure), Shirley Jeans

(Panmure), Joan Simpson (Pentland Ladies), Sarah Millar (Pitkerro), Morag Erskine (Pitlessie), Fiona Maxwell (Portpatrick), Kate Adams (Portpatrick), Lyndsay Macpherson (Portpatrick), Jan Howard (Reform), Jean Cousar (Reform), Ann-Maree Davidson (Scheihallion Ladies), Aileen Pirret (Selkirk), Ruth Addinall (SIAE), Jane Hepburn (St Leonards), Margaret McIntyre (Stoneykirk), Janet Ritchie (Stra'ven Ladies), Janis Bryce (Stra'ven Ladies), Marianne Jenkins (Suttieside), Sharon King (Swinton), Janice Sutherland (Symington), Aileen McCorkell (Troon Portland), Christine Furey (Uplawmoor), Alison Young (Upperward Ladies), Annette Macdonald (West Stirlingshire Ladies)

1. WELCOME

President Corrie: Good afternoon honoured guests, sister and brother curlers. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Ladies Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

This is the second virtual meeting and thank you all for joining us.

You should have received a document, which would normally be on your seat at the meeting and have had time to read it over. This includes details of apologies, obituaries, new & resigned clubs and the Ladies Branch accounts. It is also available on the Scottish Curling website.

2. APOLOGIES

President Corrie: The apologies that we received prior to the meeting are also listed in the supporting document.

Past Presidents: none received

Centre Representatives: none received

Invited Guests: none received

Individuals: Isobel Morrison (AWW), Maureen McVey (Ayr & Alloway), Marjorie Errington (Beresford Ladies), Denise-Noelle Ross (Brora), Ann Campbell (Cawder House), Glynnice Lauder (Coldstream & Hirsell), Susan Skene (Dalhousie Ladies), Liz Cullen (Earlston), Liz Aitken (Edinburgh Ladies), Dottie Burt (Fossway Ladies), Elizabeth Shaw (Galston Haymouth), Mary Shaw (Galston Haymouth), Yvonne Chalmers (Glasgow Ladies), Shelagh Main (Haddington), Mo Simpson (Highland Wheelchair), Iphthime Millward (Moray Ladies), Kate McArdle (Nairn), Anne Jackson (Nairn Ladies), Millicent Copstick (Old Grammarians), Patricia Boulton (Penninghame), Gillean Hoehnke (Pentland Ladies), Lynda Blackwood (Stra'ven Ladies), Linda Owen (Waterbeck)

3. IN MEMORIAM

President Corrie: Because of Covid and ice rink offices being closed we cannot be sure that our in memoriam information is as up to date as in previous years and would be happy to receive details of any omissions or amendments.

As a mark of respect to those lady curlers that have died this year let us take a brief moment to remember them.

Individual Members (in alphabetical order by club): Betty Paterson (Ayr), Fiona Cameron (Ayr), Elma Stevenson (Ayr and Alloway), Jess Gilmour (Balcaskie), Fiona Gilchrist (Foulden), Pat Thomson (Beresford Ladies), Ruby Roberts (Beresford Ladies), Sandra Taylor (Bridge of Allan), Christine Taig (Broughty Ferry), Helen Ritchie (Edinburgh Ladies), Avril Inglis (Eildon), Susan Warren (Errol), Helen Dawson (Falkirk Ladies), Marjory McLachlan (Falkirk Ladies & Past Ladies Branch President), Sheena McKenzie (Falkirk Ladies (1960)), Muriel Thomson (Fordoun), Mary Campbell (Forfar Ladies), Gail McCallum (Forth Valley Ladies), Elizabeth Mill (Fossway Ladies), Fiona Turnbull (Foulden), Margaret Cadzow (Foulden), Etta Lawrie (Glenfarg Ladies), Gwen Poole (Glenfarg Ladies), Johan Baird (Glenniffer), Anne Gumley (Gogar Park), Winnie Duncan (Greenacre Ladies), Yvonne Rowand (Greenacre Ladies), Jenny Blore (Hamilton), Mary Radcliffe (Kinfauns), Lorna Gray (Lanark), Anne Ramsay (Lanark Ladies), Janet Gilchrist (Lanark Ladies), Elizabeth Lambie (Lesmahagow Ladies), Doris Clark (Leven), Margaret Paterson (New Monklands), Doreen Elder (Pentland Ladies), Margaret Macrae (Pitlochry Ladies), Liz McConnell (Strathaven), Helen Whiteford (Strathaven Ladies), Harriet Forrest (Troon Portland)

In addition to those already noted in the booklet should be: Elizabeth Clark (Erskine), Margaret Millar (Forfar Ladies)

President Corrie: Thank you

Now for a little bit of housekeeping before we move on. As with all meetings attendees may ask questions. Today this can be either in the question and answer section, or by the raise hand function as we go along. Both of which appear at the bottom of your screen. If you have a question that relates directly to one of the items on the agenda, at the end of each item there will be a pause for questions. It is at this point we would like you to use the raise hand. If you are invited to ask your question live, Jayne Stirling will ask you to unmute your microphone. Please state your name and your club before asking your question. If you have a question that has not been answered after an agenda item, please type this into the Q&A section which is being monitored.

I would now like to introduce the virtual top table, I am Corrie Lawrence, Ladies Branch President; Lillian Carnegie, Vice President, Alison Taylor, Junior Vice President and Janine Wilson who is our Treasurer.

Although I cannot see you, I would very much like to acknowledge our Past Presidents who I can see from the list of attendees have joined us today and I would like to thank them for their attendance.

We also have with us today Graham Lindsay (Board Chairman), Andrew Kerr (RCCC President), Susan Kesley (RCCC Vice President), Bruce Crawford (CEO) and Jayne Stirling (Competition Manager).

4. MINUTES OF THE 60TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

President Corrie: Thank you.

We now move onto to the minutes of our last AGM. I hope you have all had a chance to read and digest the minute of our the 60th Annual General Meeting held 9th June 2020, which have been published online. As no amendments have been notified to me, I would commend to you the adoption of these minutes. May I take these minutes as correct?

May I have a seconder please?

Seconders: Morag Wellman (Past Ladies President / Fossoway Ladies): Good afternoon, I am pleased to second the adoption of last year's minutes.

President Corrie: Thank you Morag

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

President Corrie: Does anyone have any question arising from these minutes?

Thank you there being no matters arising we can move on.

6. NEW CLUBS AND RESIGNATIONS

President Corrie: Again, these are also listed in your booklet

New Clubs 2020-2021: None this season

Resigned Clubs 2020-2021: None this season

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

President Corrie: We now move onto the treasurer's report, I would like to invite Janine Wilson.

Treasurer Janine: Honorary President Kate, President Corrie, fellow curlers and guests, I have much pleasure in presenting the Treasurers Report and annual accounts for the year ending 30th April 2021. A copy of the accounts has been circulated and is in your booklet.

Given the extraordinary circumstances this year there has been very little activity on the accounts, as you can see. We are delighted that four centres made a contribution to the international fund which was our only income in the year.

As you can see very little in the way of expenditure meaning only a small net £40 reduction in our account balance, which is £6,654.50. However, I do have to apologise here for an error in that the honorarium should have been £250 but I only put an income slip through for £200. That has been rectified and will be reflected in the current year.

There has been no movement on the merchandise stock, so still the same position and value as last year.

My thanks to Nicola at the office for her support during the year and I am happy to answer any questions.

There being no questions I would like to propose the accounts for the year 2020-2021.

Could I have a seconder please?

Seconders: Sandra MacIver (Moray Firth Ladies): I am happy to second these accounts.

President Corrie: Thank you

(See Annex A of these minutes for a copy of the Ladies' Branch Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2021)

8. RCCC REPORT

President Corrie: We move to the CEO, Bruce Crawford for his report.

Bruce Crawford: Good afternoon President Corrie, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for inviting me to join your second virtual AGM today and to give you a report on the business of the RCCC over the last year. I would like to express my thanks to Corrie, both personally and on behalf of the board, for your contribution over this challenging year when we have not met in person.

The government restrictions have prevented almost all club curling and all of the Scottish Curling competitions over 2020-2021. We have all been kept busy in the hope of getting the sport up and running through the season, and some of the work we have been doing in the down time will help us to hit the ground running when the sport returns for the 2021-2022 season, in just a few months time.

Our development staff have three key priorities for the coming season:

- Firstly to help get existing members to come back to the ice rinks and enjoy their curling again.
- Secondly to recruit new curlers, through existing junior initiatives and also targeting those over 50 to play.
- Our third is to derive legacy from the focus that we will receive on the back of the 2022 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games in 270 and 300 days respectively.

Over the coming months you will hear about new programmes and ways we will try to get more people to try curling and take up the sport in future.

A significant amount of time was spent preparing and updating the Return to Curling Guidance, that has seen a dozen versions keeping up with the endless changes in restrictions that the Scottish Government issued on a three-weekly basis. Unfortunately, these types of guidance will remain in place over the long term, but we hope that we can return to playing our games and enjoy the social aspects of curling in the new season.

From the earliest stage of the covid restrictions we have put the health and wellbeing of our members at the forefront of our plans. We have sought to support the ice rinks upon whom we rely for our sport, we lobbied government and ran a campaign with the Scottish Ice Rink Association that resulted in £2million being awarded to the independent ice rinks that has provided a lifeline that will enable them to reopen after the summer when the new season gets underway.

This year we have created new programmes such as Curl Up sessions and Watch Parties. We have consulted members on branding and produced new guidelines, improved our engagement and consultation procedures, formed a working group to consider the selection of Scottish Teams and used our new structure of Regional Development Managers to work more closely with each ice rink.

The current state of our membership post pandemic can be summarised in a few statistics:

The current number of female members including those paused is: 3,755 (of 10,408) 36%

The number of paused female members: 947 or 25% (compared to 17% of male members)

We held 32 courses with 352 attendees, of which 172 were female, nearly a 50/50 split.

This last season, five women reached fifty years of membership of the RCCC and should be congratulated on their commitment and participation in the sport.

They are: Joyce Wilson (Falkland), Mrs A J Lyburn (Lynedoch Ladies), Mrs Alexis Sinclair (Lynedoch Ladies), Mary Scobie (Stirling Ice Rink Senior Ladies), Mary Forster (Loch Connel)

Plus one who is celebrated now but reached the milestone in 2018: Mary Irving (Gretna & Border)

In early 2018, our then President and Ladies Branch President along with the other office bearers of that time, began discussions on how to address the inequality that had been silently present in RCCC for 180 years. They made a proposal to the board and the Structure Review Group was formed to examine the issues and come up with proposals. Three years later you might wonder what they have achieved.

The Structure Working Group had thought that a National Members Committee, filled equally with men and women, could be part of the solution to replace ASC and LSC. That idea has been dropped. There was strong feedback from members, including several here today, so thank you for your engagement with us. The only way that the constitution of the Ladies Branch can be amended is that any change must be approved in this forum - the Ladies Branch Annual Meeting. So, there is no threat to the existence or continuation of Ladies Branch unless you approve it.

The most exciting outcome and one that addresses the real inequality that has previously existed has been the rewriting of history that will see the Royal Caledonian Curling Club have our first woman in the role of President when Susan Kesley is appointed next month, on the 26th June 2021.

Only one item will be presented to the members at the AGM of RCCC, we will be asking members to approve the introduction of Junior Vice President and removal of Past President. You may recognise that structure being very similar to the Ladies Branch. The board have included in that proposal that, of the three Presidential office bearers, one will be a man and one will be a woman at all times. This is in part to ensure that Susan Kesley is not the last woman to be President of the RCCC. Those members attending the AGM in June will be asked to vote on that matter and we hope that we will get your support for this historic progress for women curlers.

I suggested earlier that you might wonder what has been achieved, well in my opinion a great deal has been achieved in securing the continuation of Ladies Branch, seeing the first woman become RCCC President and if approved the appointment of other women in the top position in future. We should now focus our attention and efforts on recovery from the covid imposed closures this last season, encourage curlers to come back into the ice rinks, bring new people in with you and help the sport to grow and be successful, long after we have hung up our brushes and shoes.

Thank you again for inviting me to join your meeting today and letting me share some of the progress we have made as an organisation and the achievements of women in our membership in this last year. I look forward to continuing to work with the Ladies Branch under the leadership of Lillian to pursue the Ladies Branch objectives, to encourage more women to play curling and promote friendship among women curlers worldwide.

Thank you. I am happy to take any questions.

President Corrie: Thank you Bruce, do we have any questions

Q: Sandra MacIver (Moray Firth Ladies) - Can the CEO tell us if he thinks the media is being used to the best advantage of Scottish Curling (RCCC). Is there a member of staff that has media and social media as a responsibility. I am not speaking about marketing. I am particularly concerned about attracting new people to the sport and I think volunteers need a great deal more practical support in this area?

A: Bruce Crawford (CEO) - Thank you Sandra, I can confirm that Pamela Graham is our media person within the organisation and we work closely with British Curling; who also have somebody with a media remit who is dedicated around major events. Together they both work to expose the sport wherever possible and increase the coverage on curling, on all media platforms. We do issue press releases on a regular basis, as do British Curling, to the media. Unfortunately, the audience that curling has is smaller than many other sports. So, a sport like football that has millions of followers has more weight and is given more coverage from broadcaster like the BBC. We do some very effective work where we can, but we do not control all the media outlets, so it is very difficult to gain the kind of coverage that you and I would like to see in the mainstream media. I am sure you listened to the radio last week and at the end, and between games, the position that Scotland Women was given coverage in almost every sports bulletin. They do cover some pieces, but it was difficult when the competitions were held in Calgary under a different time zone and covid conditions has made it harder for media to get access. When Team Mouat returned to Scotland we then saw more media interest with interviews and running programmes with them. We are always learning from these situations and the board have discussed the need to increase our media presence, however this is not all within our control. We do have professional staff who have this in their remit and are doing everything that we can to gain the coverage.

President Corrie: Thank you Bruce and Sandra for your question. *(No further questions)*

9. LADIES COMPETITIONS

President Corrie: In a year when so little curling has taken place it seems sensible to address all competitions together. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Jayne Stirling, Competitions Manager, who will give us an update on all competitions.

Jayne Stirling: Good afternoon President Corrie, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The challenges of Season 2020-2021 meant that unfortunately we did not see any curlers take to the ice for Ladies competitions, or any others for that matter. Throughout the season, a number of partners worked extremely hard to navigate the ever-changing restrictions in the hope of holding competitions in the latter part of the season. I had an excellent working relationship with the Ladies Branch and would like to thank them for sharing their knowledge and creative ideas with myself and the wider Competitions Committee, as we looked to find solutions allowing the Henderson Bishop and Morton Trophies to take place.

The safety of all those involved with the competitions, as Bruce mentioned, was at the forefront of every decision, and as a result the Ladies Branch and Competitions Committee agreed that proceeding with these events was not feasible. These groups also worked in partnership to decide that the 2021 host rinks would be offered the opportunity to host in 2022, with both rinks gladly accepting. Scottish Curling looks forward to seeing members return to the ice for the Henderson Bishop Trophy at Forfar Indoor Sports and The Morton Trophy at Lanarkshire Ice Rink during next season.

I would like to thank President Corrie for her help and guidance throughout the season, keeping me right with all things Ladies Branch! I am looking forward to working with current Vice President Lillian in the coming months.

10. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Jayne Stirling: I will now move onto the International Competitions - With the cancellation of European and World Junior Championships, Scotland's women had their first opportunity on the international stage over the last fortnight.

Isolation and testing protocols navigated; it was time for Team Scotland to put all their hard work into practice at the World Women's Curling Championships in the Covid-secure Calgary bubble.

Our team demonstrated some excellent hammer efficiency in their first game against USA, averaging a score of two each time they had last stone advantage, securing them a 10-6 win against Tabitha Peterson's side to kick off the Championship.

10 points seemed to be the magic number for the Scots as they rounded off day one of the Championship with a 10-5 win over Japan. Both games were available to view on World Curling TV and members thoroughly enjoyed engaging in the Scottish Curling Watch Parties with experts on hand to provide insight and entertainment throughout.

Only one game for our team on Day 2 and they made the most of it by adding to their win tally against 3-woman Team Germany. Unfortunately, Germany's other team members were unable to take to the ice due to positive COVID-19 tests.

The first draw of day three had to be postponed due to COVID-19 being detected within the event broadcast team. Stringent protocols within the bubble meant that athletes and field-of-play officials had not had any contact with the broadcast team, and as such were able to resume the Championship later that day following appropriate testing. Scotland were due to face China in the morning draw, but that game was been postponed. The afternoon session saw Scotland drop their first game to 2018 Olympic Silver Medallists Korea.

A mixed day followed, with Scotland losing narrowly to Sweden but bouncing back into the win column against Italy.

It was a 6-5 win for Scotland against the Czech Republic to start off day five, followed by a 6-5 extra end loss in the hotly anticipated Scotland/Canada match up.

Team Scotland put up a strong fight but were not able to topple defending champions Switzerland in their first game of day six but posted a good win against World Championship debutants Estonia later.

Scotland were looking to continue their winning ways in their sole game of day seven of the Championship but were up against table-topping Russian Curling Federation, who managed to take two with hammer in the tenth end to secure a 9-8 win over the Scots.

Losses to Denmark and China on the final day of round robin play unfortunately left Scotland out of the playoffs, finishing with a record of six wins and seven losses and a final position of eighth place.

Scotland has a second chance to qualify Team GB for the Olympic Winter Games later this year in the Olympic Qualifying Event, due to take place in December.

Eve, Vicky, Jennifer, Lauren and Sophie have now safely returned from Canada, and it is a quick turnaround for Jennifer who travels to the Aberdeen bubble ahead of the World Mixed Doubles Championship with teammate Bruce Mouat. Bruce has had a little more time to recover from his trip to the Calgary bubble, where his team had a hugely successful run. Team Mouat brought home silver for Scotland at the World Men's Championships and then followed that up with back-to-back Grand Slam of Curling wins capturing both the Champion's Cup and Player's Championship titles. All at Scottish Curling congratulate Team Mouat on their outstanding achievements and look forward to cheering on Bruce and Jennifer as they pull on the Scotland tops once more. Thank you I am happy to take any questions. *(No questions)*

President Corrie: Thank you Jayne, it has been a challenging year for you, and you have been a delight to work with.

11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Corrie: The 12 months since our last AGM in June 2020, have been unprecedented in the history of Scottish and International curling.

When I took over the reins from President Morag in June last year, we were in week 7 of the first national Covid lockdown. Nevertheless, there was an air of positivity as the new Executive met, socially distanced, in Ochil House in early July, with Gail Munro, to do the draw for the Henderson Bishop. Considering the circumstances, we were pleased that we had over 90 entries and looked forward to a good competition.

Given, however, the international uncertainty at that time about the pandemic, we understood, but were not too downhearted, by Canada's decision to postpone the Canada Ladies Tour to Scotland scheduled for November 2020, until November 2021. All the preparation had been made for the Tour, with a full itinerary in place and it was felt that we could easily roll the arrangements forward by a year. At that point, there was no sign of a vaccine, face coverings were introduced and large numbers of the population were on furlough, so with such uncertainty, it was a sensible decision. We talked regularly with Tour Captain, Cathy Hughes and her executive.

The summer months were busy, setting up a small group to review and update our Operating Manual and also attending the first of 7 working group meetings, to standardise the Royal Club's use of Logos and Branding.

Considerable effort also went into finding a replacement minute secretary for the LSC and we are thrilled to have found Michele Hartley, who is proving to be worth her weight in gold. Thank you, Michele.

Because we were unable to meet in person, I felt it important to stay in touch with our LSC reps over the summer months and to this end, set up a series of small group zoom meetings to make contact with existing LSC members and to welcome our new reps. Zoom has now become a way of life; it is convenient and inexpensive and the business of the Ladies Standing Committee has been run from kitchens and sitting rooms across Scotland. This does not however compensate for the loss of face-to-face contact and a good natter, so the LSC is keen to meet in person again as soon as we are able.

Meetings were held in early August with President Andrew and CEO Bruce to schedule curling events into our diaries. In August it looked like there was going to be a busy and fulfilling year ahead for the LSC. In addition to looking forward to travelling around Scotland and visiting all our ice rinks and Ladies Branches, I looked forward

to trips to Beijing and Switzerland for the World Juniors and Women's Worlds respectively. We were hoping for the best at that point whilst secretly preparing for the worst.

Zoom meetings to update the Operating Manual, the Logos and Branding Group and meetings with the Board went ahead as planned, but in early September the decision was taken to cancel the first joint meeting with the LSC & ASC due to take place in Dunblane. The LSC convened its next Zoom meeting on 21st September and I am pleased to report that we had a full attendance. But the writing was on the wall; our LSC reps were worried; teams were beginning to withdraw from the Morton, fearful of travelling together to other ice rinks. In late September in conjunction with Jayne, our competition manager, the Morton was cancelled.

On a brighter note, one of my pleasant duties was to communicate with Robin Henderson Bishop, the grandson of Arthur Henderson Bishop, who donated our magnificent Henderson Bishop trophy in 1929, more than 90 years ago. Robin has kindly offered to sponsor a new low road runners-up trophy for the Cherrystone at the Henderson Bishop. In collaboration with Kirsty Letton and her team it was decided to approach David Furz, the woodturner on Arran, who had created the original Cherrystone. This was done and I am delighted to show you the new Cherrystone Bowl which has been approved by Robin and which we hope will be competed for in Forfar in 2022. Although changes to the Operating Manual were completed by November 2020, we have held off from formally introducing the changes as we awaited the outcome of the Logos and Branding working group and also the group which is now reviewing the Articles and Memoranda. The updated Operating Manual will now be in place for the start of next season.

As Covid matters escalated and lockdowns began again in early November a further Zoom meeting was held with the Incoming Canada Tour Executive. A request was made by the Canadians for a further delay of their tour to Scotland until Spring 2025; as they wished all tourists and hosts to be safely vaccinated before travelling. We were sad, they were sad, but we all understood that safety for our Canadian friends and our own curlers must be our over-riding priority.

On further consideration the tour date was changed to November 2024 as this date did not clash with other incoming or outgoing tours in the RCCC Tour Schedule. We keep in regular contact with our Canadian friends, in particular with Tour Captain, Cathy Hughes. Unfortunately, preparations for this tour will have to begin again from unfortunate scratch, after such a time lapse, but I am sure Scotland will rise to the occasion.

Again, on a happier note, the outgoing Ladies tour to USA is still on target to travel in January 2022 and we wish Captain Shirley Jeans and her ladies every good wish in their preparations. Shirley has produced a report for you today, which you can enjoy, at your leisure, in the minute of this meeting.

(See Annex B of these minutes for a copy of this report)

Despite most ice rinks being closed, the LSC Executive Committee and the LSC continued to meet regularly by Zoom. We met 13 times during the course of the year and we were never short of items for discussion. In early November there was a joint meeting of the LSC with the ASC to discuss the Structure Review which had been in abeyance since March 2020. The LSC Executive then conducted a survey of its reps to ascertain their thoughts on the proposed Presidential Structure and the creation of a Members National Committee, which would ultimately herald the demise of the Ladies Branch. Views were sought, collated and fed back to the Structure Review Group and the Board. Views expressed indicated a wide range of options for the way ahead, but an overwhelming support for Ladies Branch Presidents to have a seat on the RCCC board as a voting director.

Following representation to the board by the LSC Executive, I was co-opted to the Board of Scottish Curling, on the 9th December 2020. The decision by the Board to make me a director was considered to be a huge step forward for ladies Branch and we believe it has enhanced communication between the Board, the LSC and its members.

In early December the LSC met for a Christmas social event on Zoom and wished each other well for the festive period. We were all making the best of a very difficult situation.

January saw Lockdown No.3 begin with all its implications for day-to-day life and our beloved sport of curling. Undaunted, the LSC and its Executive set about finding a suitable candidate to take on the role of Junior Vice President. We believe that we have found that candidate in Maureen Parker.

Since early February 2020, the Structure Review has been revived, with two consultation webinars held, where views continue to be diverse and with little sign of any real consensus. As we await its conclusions, the Ladies Branch Executive hopes to safeguard the seat we have on the Board and that is why ladies, we seek your approval to take our proposed motion to the main AGM in June.

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to my executive, who have supported me wholeheartedly this year. I know I am leaving Ladies Branch in safe hands.

My grateful thanks must also go to Honorary President Kate and to Honorary Vice President Gail, who have attended most LSC meetings and offered us wise and valuable support.

We wish incoming RCCC President Susan every success in the year ahead and President Andrew thank you for the chats and mutual support given throughout this challenging year.

To the many Ladies Branch Past Presidents who have been at the end of the phone to offer sound advice and reassurance, thank you all for your unwavering support and counsel.

Thanks are due too to Elaine, Suzy, Pamela and Nicola in the office who have offered administrative backup to me during my term in office, you have been great.

Thank you, Jayne, our competition manager, who has collaborated well with Ladies Branch to make some difficult decisions throughout the last 12 months.

To the ladies of the LSC – you have been tremendous this year!

I have enjoyed your company, your support and your hard work on behalf of your centres. You are the volunteers who give unstintingly to our sport and to your clubs. I am delighted so many of you are staying on next year to build on the base we have established. I hope you will keep in touch.

My husband, Euan, as always, has been there for me and supported me during the successes and disappointments of this unique year for Scottish and international curling and has earned himself lots of golfing brownie points. We have not seen our grandchildren in over 18 months so a family trip to Mallorca is now on the cards as soon as restrictions allow.

In conclusion, it has not been a year any of us would have wished for as virtually no curling has taken place at local level. Our beloved sport faces a possible crisis in membership in the months and year ahead. Governance, structures and policies are important within any organisation, but not as important as people.

This pandemic has caused havoc in many lives, but it has made us reassess the important things in life; family, friends, good health and the freedom to enjoy life's simple pleasures.

As we prioritise our safe return to curling and making our ice rinks once again the sociable, thriving places we have previously enjoyed, I wish each of you a very healthy, happy summer and a safe return to curling in the Autumn.

12. VOTE

President Corrie: We now come to the part of the meeting where we are seeking your approval to present a motion to the RCCC AGM in June. At a physical AGM this would be done by a show of hands and a simple majority but because we are in a virtual world this will be done electronically.

We are going to ask you a simple question: Do you agree that future Ladies Branch Presidents should have a seat and a vote on the Royal Caledonian Curling Club Board?

Firstly, let me give you a little background. For the last seven years from 2014 the Ladies Branch President has been invited to attend RCCC Board meetings, as an observer, and although playing a full part including serving on working groups has not been a director and therefore has no vote. Following representation to Scottish Curling in 2020 I was co-opted onto the board as a director, only for the duration of my term in office. The LSC executive, backed strongly by the LSC representatives, believe that by having a seat and a vote on the board we can enhance strong links with our clubs and our membership and help prevent any disconnect between the board and the Ladies Standing Committee. We also consider that with the now paused Structural Review it is critical that Ladies Branch is represented at board level, to ensure that any replacement structure going forward enhances the role of local representatives in the running of their sport.

Are there any questions at this point?

Susan Kesley (RCCC Vice President/Currie & Balerno) – President Corrie, sister and brother curlers. Thank you for allowing me to speak on this point. As a woman and a member of the ladies branch, I would like to offer an alternative perspective.

A few members feel that the problem of this being put to our club AGM at this time undermines the gender equality aspect of the presidential structure proposal that Scottish Curling is putting to the AGM. It may alienate 60% of our membership, who may perceive that there would be an imbalance, leaning towards favouritism for women. The result being that neither of the proposals would reach the required 75%. We are putting our energy into something that is no longer an issue. Four of the six current elected board directors are female. The board already co-opted Corrie this year and is likely to do likewise for future Ladies Branch Presidents anyway. Would it not be better to put our energy into and achieve gender equality at the top of the tree first. I may be going to be the first female president of the RCCC, but I certainly do not want to be the last!

I would encourage you not to support this proposal, at the current time, and that we put our energy into supporting the presidential re-structure. Ensuring that we have a regular female president of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Thank you

President Corrie - Thank you Susan. I think that we feel strongly that Ladies Branch wishes to safeguard the seat that we have already achieved on the board. We have not been given any guarantees that future Lady Presidents will be co-opted onto the board and we feel that this kind of guarantee should be sought here.

President Corrie: The question you are going to be asked will appear shortly on your screen. There will be a 'yes' and 'no' option, if for any reason you wish to abstain, please select the 'skip poll' option, and then click submit.

At this point I would respectfully ask President Andrew Kerr, CEO Bruce Crawford and Board Chairman Graham Lindsay to sit on their hands for a moment or two whilst the vote takes place, now.

Q: Do you agree that future Ladies Branch Presidents should have a seat and a vote on the Royal Caledonian Curling Club Board?

Result: Yes – 87.01% (121 votes) No -12.9% (18 votes)

Thank you, ladies, we have a mandate, thank you for your support. We can now take this proposal to the RCCC AGM in June in the hope of having the Articles amended to give our President a seat on the board as a voting director.

13. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT

President Corrie: We now come to the point in the proceedings where I hand over the presidential reins. It gives me great pleasure to nominate my vice president Lillian Carnegie of Forfar Ladies as President of Ladies Branch for the coming year.

Can I have a seconder please?

Secunder: Carolyn Nicoll (Fotheringham): Honorary President Kate, President Corrie, brother and sister curlers, invited guests. It gives me such great pleasure to second the nomination of Lillian Carnegie as President of Ladies Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

I have known Lillian for around 40 years through Inverarity Primary school, Inverarity Church and as an Inverarity Cub leader. Lillian has curled for more than 20 years joining Forfar Ladies in 2001 and then later in 2013 the mixed club of Fotheringham. Lillian has served as President at Forfar Ladies Branch and has been a member of Ladies Standing committee. She was on the Ladies Canadian Tour in 2015. She has a friendly outgoing personality and on the many committees she has served is always enthusiast and willing to give her best.

Lillian, I have every confidence that you will fulfil your role as President with the same enthusiasm and on behalf of Forfar Ladies Centre we wish you well in the post and offer you our full support in your year of office.

Thank you

President Corrie: Thank you Carolyn, Lillian would you like to say a few words now

President Lillian - Introductory Speech: Honorary President Kate, Honorary Vice President Gail, immediate past President Corrie, past Presidents, brother & sister curlers ladies & gentlemen.

Thank you Carolyn for your kind words and I still hope I can get to curl with you from time to time during my year of office. I would also like to thank my clubs, Fotheringham, Forfar Ladies & Forfar Curling Centre for their support of my time in office so far and in the year to come.

I am delighted to be given the opportunity to take on the role of President of Ladies Branch and look forward to working with Alison, Maureen, Janine and the ladies of the LSC and also alongside our very first Lady President of the RCCC Susan Kesley & the ASC; also the team in the office, who I am sure will point me in the right direction when required. Forfar has had 2 lady Presidents in the past Helen Caird in 1985/86 and Kate Caithness in 1997/98 both in place before I started curling. I have a hard act to follow, especially as we all know how well Kate has done since.

As we all know it is going to be a challenging year in more ways than one, but I will endeavour to do the best I can for curling in Scotland, as must everyone here today, to keep the sport we love flourishing in these difficult times. I hope we can all get back on the ice in September or October while adhering to the rules, that will inevitably be in place, we can all enjoy our sport again.

Now to Corrie, although this year has been difficult for all of us Corrie kept her head down and dedicated her lockdown year /year in office to Curling in the Office in her house. She may not have clocked up as many miles, flights and social activities that others before her have done but rest assured, she has done a huge amount of work for Scottish Curling and has clocked up the most zoom meetings, emails and WhatsApp chats of any President before her. Her English teaching & technology skills have definitely been put to good use.

I have enjoyed working with you Corrie & I am sure if I have any queries, you will still be available at the end of the phone, if you are not off on your much awaited travels to see your family. I am sure your husband Euan will be looking forward to having his wife back too.

On behalf of Scottish Lady Curlers - I thank you and I would like you to accept your Past Presidents' badge and the small token of appreciation which I hope arrived at your door this morning. Thank you

Outgoing President Corrie: Thank you they certainly did, some beautiful flowers which arrived this morning and my Past Presidents brooch arrived the other day.

I wish you every success madam president and would be delighted to hand over the beautiful Presidents Rose Bowl the first time we can meet in person. Congratulations Lillian and well done.

President Lillian: Thank you very much Corrie, I also have my President badge.

VICE PRESIDENT

President Lillian: We now come to the election of Vice President; I am delighted to propose Alison Taylor of Lesmahagow Ladies.

Can we have a seconder please?

Secunder: Lillias Hyslop (Coulter): Honorary President Kate, President Lillian, Past Presidents, sister and brother curlers, it gives me great pleasure to second the proposal to appoint Alison Taylor as Vice President of the Ladies Branch.

Alison is a keen and competitive curler with Lesmahagow, her mother club, and East Kilbride and Haremyres Curling Clubs. She is a past Ladies President of Lanarkshire Ice Rink and currently a director on the Board at Hamilton. Her knowledge and support on all curling matters is invaluable. She is enthusiastic, very well organised and a lot of fun to be with - all credentials that will serve her well in the coming year.

I have every confidence in Alison and on behalf of her many friends and fellow curlers at Lanarkshire I offer her our support and wish her well in her new post. Thank you

President Lillian: Thank you Lillias, Alison could you say a few words.

Vice President Alison Taylor: President Lillian, Honorary President Kate, Honorary Vice President Gail, Past Presidents, Sister and Brother curlers. Congratulations President Lillian, thank you for the nomination as Vice President, thanks also to Lillias, who on behalf of Lanarkshire Ice Rink, has seconded my nomination. Thank you also to Lesmahagow Curling Club and East Kilbride & Haremyres Curling club for their messages of support. I am looking forward to supporting you as we work to safely re-establish curling next season and encourage the growth of our sport.

During the past year as JVP I have had a very active year - although not visiting ice rinks and supporting competitions or even throwing a stone! Like everyone, it has not been quite as we had envisaged. It has been a busy and intense year deepening my knowledge of the challenges facing us.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank Past President Corrie for her diligence and the huge amount of work that she has put in in the last year, and in particular ensuring that Ladies Branch is well informed and ready to face the challenges of the future.

It is a great honour to accept this post and brooch, I will do my utmost to do my best for Ladies Branch and curling. Thank you.

President Lillian: Thank you Alison. I am glad you received your badge safely.

JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT

President Lillian: Now to our Junior Vice President, I am delighted to propose Maureen Parker (Castle Kennedy)

Can I have a seconder please?

Secunder: Maryanne McWilliam (Stranraer Ice Rink): President Lillian, Vice President Alison, Past President Corrie, Past Presidents, Honorary President Kate, Honorary Vice President Gail, sister and brother curlers, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure and an honour to second the proposal of Maureen Parker for Junior Vice President of the Ladies Standing Committee, for the year 2021-2022.

Maureen follows in her parents' footsteps; Bob Grierson was a past President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club 1966/1967 and Betty Grierson was a past President of the Ladies Standing Committee 1981/1982. They both played for Loch Connel Curling Club and supported Stranraer Ice Rink and were presidents of the respective committees there too. They would have been extremely proud today.

Maureen plays for Castle Kennedy Curling Club, is the current President of Stranraer Ice Rink (our first lady) and is a past President of the Ladies section.

Maureen spends a great deal of her time coaching on the ice, particularly beginners young and old alike, she is passionate about encouraging people to play the great game of curling.

A lifelong friend and often my skip on the rink, Maureen is the perfect choice for this position. The ladies and all curlers at Stranraer wish her well and pledge their support to her during her term in office. Thank you

President Lillian: Thank you MaryAnne, Maureen would you like to say a few words

Junior Vice President Maureen Parker: Honorary President Kate, Honorary Vice President Gail, President Lillian, Vice President Alison, immediate Past President Corrie and all past presidents here today, sister and brother curlers, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you Lillian for the nomination to become the JVP of Ladies Branch, thank you Maryanne for seconding my nomination and for your kind words. You know me so well. I am truly honoured to be invited to become JVP of the Ladies Branch of the RCCC and have much pleasure in accepting, I look forward to the challenge and will do whatever I can to foster and encourage the game of curling.

Thank you very much Alison for posting out my badge, it arrived safely. I would like to thank the members of my mother club Castle Kennedy and also Stranraer Ladies and Stranraer Ice Rink CC for their support and words of encouragement. As Maryanne said I was born into a curling family and have followed with a keen interest the Royal Clubs progress and development over many years. I have previously served on LSC and know the valuable work they do networking, organising, communicating and supporting our members. I see my role and that of the LSC as going to be more important than ever, when Ice Rinks open and Covid is under control, for us to encourage and support new curlers to take up the game, and also to support existing curlers to get back to our great game with confidence. I look forward to this coming year working with the LSC and the Ladies Branch Executive Thank you.

President Lillian: Thank you Maureen

TREASURER

President Lillian: Our treasurer Janine Wilson has very kindly offered to stay in office for another year and we thank you for your work over the last year. I am delighted to propose Janine Wilson (Forfar Ladies) for the post of treasurer.

Can I have a seconder please?

Seconder Michele Brodie (Abercorn): It gives me great pleasure to second the proposal of Janine Wilson as Treasurer.

President Lillian: Thank you Michele

14. AOCB

President Lillian: We now come to any other business.

- The Henderson Bishop Final will be in Forfar Indoor Sports – 28th February-3rd March 2022
(The entry forms will be available soon and we look forward to the entries flooding in).
- The Morton Final will be in Lanarkshire Ice Rink – 8th March 2022.
- Next year's Ladies Branch AGM will hopefully be on Tuesday 10th May 2022, in Forfar Indoor Sports Centre
- The RCCC AGM is on 26th June 2021 at 2.00pm via Zoom

Do we have questions, or does anyone have AOCB?

Margaret Richardson (East Kilbride & Haremyres) – Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I would just like to mention there are four candidates standing for two positions of director of our national board at the AGM on 26th June. One of those candidates is Mairi Milne who will be known to a number of you.

As well as being successful in competitive front, being the current Scottish Senior Champion. Mairi has also been involved in coaching and administration side of our sport; both at club level and most recently at national level on the review of selection group. She has considerable knowledge of the game and is passionate about the sport, at all levels.

I think Mairi would be a great addition to our national board and she would work hard to represent the views of all curlers. So, can I please encourage you to use your vote and support Mairi's candidacy for director.

Thank you very much Lillian and can I wish you well in your year residency

President Lillian: Thank you for that Margaret. As we have no further questions we will now go to Janice for our vote of thanks.

15. VOTE OF THANKS

President Lillian: Can I now call upon Janice to give the vote of thanks.

Janice Sutherland (Symington): Good afternoon Madam President, Past Presidents, invited guests and sister curlers. On behalf of Ayr CC Ladies Branch I am delighted to give the vote of thanks.

Corrie, you have done an amazing job as President, which given your great organisational skills and attention to detail, has come as no surprise to any of us.

Unfortunately, your role this season has been unlike any other due to the pandemic. No attending competitions, trips to officiate and support our curlers home or abroad have been possible, in fact I believe you have only had two club curling games this season before our ice rink at Ayr closed.

Despite all of this you have embraced your role, attended and held many virtual meetings and supported our curlers and Ladies Branch tirelessly. We all appreciate and thank you for your efforts under such difficult circumstances. We hope you can now relax and hand over the reins to your successor.

Lillian we all wish you success in your coming year as President of Ladies Branch also Alison, Maureen and the rest of your committee, and we sincerely hope that the new curling season will be able to take place.

Many thanks to all the staff at Scottish Curling for their help and hard work behind the scenes. In particular our thanks go to Suzy and Elaine for enabling our Zoom AGM meeting today.

Lastly, thank you to everyone for attending our 2nd virtual Ladies Branch AGM and I wish you all a lovely summer. Thank you

President Lillian: Thank you very much Janice

Ladies, the business of our 2021 AGM is now concluded. Unfortunately, we cannot have our usual chat and delicious cakes but hopefully over the next year we will.

Thank you all for attending and as Janice said, hopefully we will see you on the ice soon.

Thank you very much

Ladies' Branch Annual Accounts 2020-2021

RCCC Ladies Branch Income and Expenditure Account - year to 30 April 2021

Income		Expenditure	
2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21
£	£	£	£
385.00 Contributions to International Fund	190.00	250.00 Honarium	200.00
287.00 Sales from Merchandise	-	1,357.02 Gift/Donations	30.00
307.61 Tour Income	-	2,000.00 International Fund Expenses	-
170.00 Ladies Branch Bonspeil	-	54.15 Tour Expenses	-
2,785.56 Deficit for year	40.00	224.00 Ladies Branch Bonspeil	-
		50.00 Other	-
<u>3,935.17</u>	<u>230.00</u>	<u>3,935.17</u>	<u>230.00</u>

Opening balance at 1 May 2020	6694.50
Deficit for year	40.00
Bank balance at 30 April 2021	<u>6654.50</u>

Ladies Branch Merchandise

as at 31st March 2021	Retail Value	Cost	Stock Units	Cost Value	Retail Value
T- Towel (White)	1.00	2.04	110	224.40	110.00
T- Towel (Pink)	1.00	2.04	90	183.60	90.00
Canvas Bag	2.50	2.26	65	146.90	162.50
				<u>554.90</u>	<u>362.50</u>

NOTES

1. There has been no movement in stock in the year to April 2021
2. The 110 white tea towels are to be sold to the 2022 outgoing USA tour @£1 per unit
3. 25 of the canvas bags will be gifted to the next incoming Canadian Tour

USA Tour 2022



In November 2019 we were all very excited with the news that we had been selected for the USA Tour in January 2021. Since then the world has turned upside down and taken us, and all our plans, with it. We are now focusing on our rearranged date of January 2022.

Our aim from the beginning has been to build relationships and create friendship bonds with our tour buddies and our American sisters, so when we arrive in the USA we will be well prepared for the challenge and exciting experiences we know a curling tour can provide.

We have rearranged some of our pre tour practise games to ensure we can make up for lost time once ice rinks have reopened. Games at the Flower Bowl in July, Ayr in October, Dundee in November and Forfar in December are already booked into the diary.

Digital links have been a godsend over that last year and many meetings both business and social have kept us all informed and entertained. We are grateful to Donna Pearson from the USWCA, who will be our Tour Courier, for joining us in some of these meetings and keeping us up to date with what is happening across the pond.

Our purchases so far include our tour dresses, outer coats, boots, brooms, hand luggage, suit carriers and some smaller items. Our blazers are in the process of being made and our RCCC tartan skirts will be made during the summer. We have designed our on-ice kit with Foxglove and hope to finalise this and try on sizes in May.

Our flights have been booked to Minneapolis, leaving from Edinburgh on Monday 3rd January at 09.15 and returning on Saturday 29th January at 12.50. From Minneapolis our tour will take us to Denver, Milwaukee, Chicago, Detroit, Portland, Cape Cod and Boston, visiting many ice rinks and seeing some amazing places along the way.

There is still much to do before we gather in Edinburgh and take to the air but we live in the hope that all will be well and we embark on our journey to the USA with curling being the only thing on our minds.

Shirley Jeans

2022 USA Tour Captain