TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
183RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN CURLING CLUB
WHICH WAS HELD VIRTUALLY ONLINE USING ZOOM'S WEBINAR PLATFORM
FROM: CAIRNIE HOUSE, INGLISTON SHOWGROUND, NEWBRIDGE, EDINBURGH EH28 8NB
ON: SATURDAY 26 JUNE 2021 AT 2PM

Present on the Virtual Podium:

President	Andrew Kerr (Troon Portland)
Chairman of the Board	Graham Lindsay (Forret)
Chief Executive Officer	Bruce Crawford (Abbotsford)

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. In Memoriam
3. Apologies
4. Letter from the Royal Patron
5. President's Report
6. Approval of the Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 June 2020
7. Annual Report of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club
8. Resolutions submitted by Member Clubs
9. Resolutions to update the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Byelaws
10. Resolutions submitted by the Board of Directors
11. Resolutions to amend the Rules of the Game
12. Submission and Approval of the Annual Accounts appropriately certified
13. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner
14. Approve the Annual Subscriptions for 2022-2023
15. Appointment of President
16. Appointment of Vice-President
17. Appointment of Directors
18. Appointment of Chaplain
19. Authorise the publication of the Annual
20. Fixing of the place and date of the next Annual General Meeting
21. Presentation of Club and Member medals
22. Any other competent business *(notified before the AGM, in accordance with Article 5.3)*
23. Address by the Incoming President

RECORDED ATTENDANCE

In alphabetical order by club:

Past Presidents: Bill Duncan (Bank of Scotland (Perth & District)), Patrick Edington (Boswall), Billy Howat (Cumnock), Jim Murdoch (Dundonald), Robbie Scott (Dunkeld), Jim Cullen (Earlston), Inglis McAulay (Falkirk), Alistair McCabe (Kennoway), Brian McArtney (Letham Grange), David J Henderson (New Abbey)

Board: Keith Prentice (Ayton Castle), Margaret Nicol (Currie & Balerno), Susan Kesley (Currie & Balerno), Janine Wilson (Letham Grange), Liz Burton-King (Reform), Kerra McKinnie (Independent Director), Kevin Troup (Independent Director), Stephen Farrow (Independent Director)

Areas Standing Committee: Mike Caffyn (Boreland), Ian Mackay (Dornoch), John Fingland (Drystanes), Philip Ross (Kirriemuir), John Ferguson (Limekiln Loch), Robert Carruthers (New Abbey), Trevor Dodds (Oxenfoord), David Haggart (Pitkerro), Jean Cousar (Reform), Norman Ainslie (Sauchie & Bannockburn), David McIntyre (Troon Portland), Tom Kirk (University of Dundee)

Staff: Elaine Mills (Administrator), Jayne Stirling (Competitions Manager), Nicola Glencross (Finance Administrator), Maggie Wilson (Head of Development), Pamela Graham (Marketing Officer), Suzy Wakefield (Office Manager), Fiona Harfield (Workforce Development Manager)

Individuals Members: Brian Yeats (Aberdeen), Norman Bruce (Aberdeen), William Rodger (Aberdeen), Ian Gerrie (Aberdeen & District Rotary), Alison Troup (Aberdeen Ladies), Ann Mitchell (Aberdour), Jill Grieve (Airleywight Ladies), Gary Rutherford (Auchterarder), Elizabeth Tait (Ayr & Alloway), Roberta Forrest (Ayton Castle), Gordon Gray (Balfron), Logan Gray (Balfron), Ailsa Anderson (Banchory), Wendy Smith (Bank of Scotland (Fife)), Willie Nicoll (Bank of Scotland (Fife)), Bill Linton (Bank of Scotland (Fife)), George Delgaty (Bank of Scotland (Perth & District)), Gordon Russell (Bank of Scotland (Perth & District)), Alison Wilson (Beith Morishill), Alistair Wilson (Beith Morrishill), Gillian Haggart (Bellshill), Iain Buchanan (Bellshill), Brenda Macintyre (Belmaduthy), Corrie Lawrence (Beresford Ladies), Christine Cheape (Blair Atholl), Alex Duncan (Bonnybridge), Derek Young (Borestone & Stirling), Norman Watt (Boswell), Jamie Erskine (Broomhall), Michael McCreadie (Braehead Wheelchair), Andy Boyd (Canadian), Gordon Nicholl (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), Ken Horton (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), Robin Shand (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), Dorothy Moran (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), Alison Dick (Carrington), Catherine Dodds (Carrington), Lindsay Scotland (Carrington), Mike Dick (Carrington), Jennifer Bain (Carrington), Scott Dakers (Carrington), Gail Munro (Castle Kennedy), Maureen Parker (Castle Kennedy), Gwendoline Highet (Cathcart Castle), John McGowan (Cathcart Castle), Madeleine Sharp (Cawder House), Drew Jolly (Cawder House), Ann Tait (Coldstream & Hirsel), John Dignan (Corstorphine), Paul Davis (Corstorphine), Kath Murray (Corstorphine Ladies), Rod Mickel (Crieff & Ochtertyre), David Hardie (Crocketford), Fiona Hardie (Crocketford), Stuart Biegala (Cupar), Jenny Barr (Currie & Balerno), Andrew Barr (Currie & Balerno), Jim Law (Currie & Balerno), Tom Pendreigh (Dalcross), Kate Caithness CBE (Dalhousie Ladies), Margaret White (Dalmellington Craigengillon), Robert McKenzie (Dalry Union), Bill Nicol (Darnaway), Rob Niven (Delvine), Robin Turner (Drystanes), Carolyn Tough (Duddingston), Iain Jamieson (Dumfries), Eila MacLennan (Dundonald), James Stevenson (Dunfermline), Ena Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Lynne Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Aileen Priestley (Dunfermline Ladies), Kathleen Scott (Dunkeld), Elizabeth Cullen (Earlston), Gordon Craik (Edzell), Michael Ferguson (Edzell), Janet Lynch (Errol), Fiona Macdiarmid (Falkirk Ladies), Jeanette Johnston (Falkirk Ladies), Neil Millar (Falkland), Eleanor Denholm (Ford Ladies), Jean Waddell (Ford Ladies), Sandra Jack (Ford Ladies), Moira Haggart (Forfar), Joyce White (Forfar Ladies), Lillian Carnegie (Forfar Ladies), Sandra MacIver (Forres), R Jackson Robb (Forteviot), Alison Smith (Fossoway Ladies), Dottie Burt (Fossoway Ladies), Morag Wellman (Fossoway Ladies), Debbie Weir (Fossoway Ladies), Sarah Bruce Jones (Fossoway Ladies), Carolyn Nicoll (Fothringham), Alison Young (Fullerton), Ali Cunningham (Galston Haymouth), Liz Boswell (Galston Haymouth), Jim Boswell (Galston Haymouth), Judy Mackenzie (Glasgow Ladies), Liz Jamieson (Glasgow Ladies), Liz

Paul (Glasgow Ladies), Yvonne Chalmers (Glasgow Ladies), Sheena Boyd (Glasgow Ladies), Carol Crawford (Glasgow Young Curlers), David Rutherford (Glenfarg), Fran Stretton (Gogar Park), Rona Craig (Gogar Park), Sean Murphy (Gogar Park), Mike Williamson (Gogar Park), Heather Davis (Gogar Park), Katherine Howes (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Jesme Brown (Hamilton Ladies), Archie Fulton (Helensburgh), William Wilson (Hercules), Christine Marshall (Highland Ladies), Fiona McLaren (Highland Ladies), Winifred Yvonne Birnie (Highland Ladies), Alex Bryden (Holywood), Tom Ross (Holywood), Bob Smith (Inverkeithing), Robert Tait (Inverkeithing), Margaret Hastie (Inverness), Lucy Tile (Jedburgh), Steven Wilcox (Kinross), Hugh Templeton (Kirkcowan), James Galloway (Kirkoswald), Barbara Sheriff (Kirriemuir), Bill Creevy (Largo), Laura Mutch (Laurencekirk), Jim Stewart (Lesmahagow), Alison Taylor (Lesmahagow Ladies), Merle Tough Lesmahagow Ladies), Claire Milne (Letham Grange), David Piggot (Letham Grange), Kirstina Fairweather (Letham Grange), Mairi Milne (Letham Grange), Neil Gallacher (Loch Ness), Clive Heap (Lockerbie), John McClelland (Lockerbie), David Wightman (Lothian Wheelchair), Karen Smith (Lundie & Auchterhouse), Claire Mclaren (Lyndoch Ladies), Allie Lyburn (Lynedoch Ladies), Liz Fraser (Lynedoch Ladies), Shelagh Fulton (Lynedoch Ladies), Colin Forrester (Markinch), David Beck (Markinch), Ian Sankey (Markinch), James Gibb (Markinch), Bert Ward (Markinch), Stuart McLachlan (Meldrum & Daviot), Alex Forrest (Millport), Catherine Hughes (Montreal West), Stewart Combe (Muthill), Alan Stanfield (Nairn), David Harold Forrester (Nairn), Michael Mcinnes (Nairn), Margaret Pottie (Nairn Ladies), Robert Wallace (New Monkland), Karen Jack (Newark), Christine Kennedy (Newark), Ian Rose (Newlands & Tarthwater), Nancy Gallacher (Nithsdale Ladies), Eileen Thomas (Orwell Ladies), Shirley Jeans (Panmure), Jean Noble (Penicuik), Joan Simpson (Pentland Ladies), Frank White (Pitkerro), Harold Haggart (Pitkerro), Nigel Forrest (Pitlessie), Brendan Todd (Portpatrick), Kate Adams (Portpatrick), Harry Mitchell (Raith & Abbotshall), Frazer Erskine (Reform), Gillian King (Reform), Graeme Adam (Reform), James Jamieson (Reform), Rhona Howie (Reform), Jan Howard (Reform), Bob Kelly Reform), Ian Gillespie (Reform), Ann-Maree Davidson (Scheihallion Ladies), Aileen Pirret (Selkirk), David Cunningham (SIAE), Jon Addinall (SIAE), Ruth Addinall (SIAE), Jackie McQueen (St.Andrews), Vicky Gumley (Stewart's Melville FP), Mary Anne McWilliam (Stranraer), Alan Muirhead (Stratheden), Paul Stevenson (Stray Dogs), Alan Caldow (Troon Portland), Jack McCorkell (Troon Portland), Kirsty Letton (Troon Portland), Aileen McCorkell (Troon Portland), Janette Kennedy (Tullymet), Ian Mennie (Turriff), Clare McCormick (Uplawmoor), Alison Young (Upperward Ladies), Annette Macdonald (West Stirlingshire Ladies), Walter Scott (Yester)

INTRODUCTION

Bruce Crawford (CEO): Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, I would just like to take a few moments to go over some housekeeping arrangements before the meeting starts. Due to the continuing Covid restrictions we have chosen to use the Zoom Webinar platform again for the RCCC AGM. It provides the right level of security whilst making the meeting accessible to all members. When the meeting starts you will hear from the President, Chairman, CEO, the new President and the new Vice President, like a normal AGM. There are no other presenters planned for this meeting. As with all meetings attendees may ask questions either via the Q&A function or by the raised hand function as we go along, with all questions not addressed during the meeting being answered at the end in AOCB.

In order for the meeting to proceed this year, and to be quorate, as was the case last year, our lawyers advised that all votes should be cast using the proxy of the Chairman. This is merely a procedural method and the Chairman was not able to see the votes that members had cast, nor learn the outcome, until after the tellers had completed their verification of the voting process yesterday afternoon.

It is now my pleasure to hand over to the RCCC President Andrew Kerr to formally open the meeting. Thank you.

1. **WELCOME**

Andrew Kerr (President): Good afternoon Sister and Brother curlers, ladies and gentlemen. May I extend a very warm welcome to this, the 183rd Annual General Meeting of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, the 2nd to be held entirely online. There is now some light at the end of this dark Covid tunnel and hopefully this will be the last time we are not able to hold the AGM in person.

Please bear with us if there are any technical issues. During the last year we have unfortunately had to become accustomed to meetings being held on Zoom and fingers crossed there will be no glitches today.

In terms of housekeeping, I can advise that there are no fire alarm tests scheduled for this afternoon so, if you hear my alarm going off it means that Aileen has burnt the tea.

2. **IN MEMORIAM**

Andrew Kerr (President): We will start by remembering those who are no longer with us. On the ice of course, there is no rank but we particularly think of our patron at this time whose husband, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Past President and Honorary Member, passed away in April.

It has been a very difficult year for many. Personally, I have lost too many good curling friends this year, including Lesley Ingram-Brown who was President in 1995/96. I would ask you to please take a minute to remember all those no longer with us as their names now appear on the screen. Thank you.

3. **RECEIVED APOLOGIES**

Andrew Kerr (President): A list of apologies was posted on the Royal Club website prior to the AGM. Please contact the office if anyone requires to be added to this list.

In alphabetical order by club:
Past Presidents: Matthew Brown (Cumnock & District), Charles Binnie Snr. (Panmure)

Areas Standing Committee: Harry Brodie (Abercorn), Alan Chalmers (Musketeers)

Staff: Sophie Jackson (Academy Manager), Iain Stewart (Development Manager-North & East), Scott Andrews (Development Manager-South West), Lindsey Booth (Welfare Officer)

Clubs: None received

Individuals: Michele Brodie (Abercorn), Joan Inglis (Beechnuts), Chris Ormerod (Cadder), Robin Copland (Currie & Balerno), Jock Christie (Dunning), Anna Burnside (Falkirk Ladies), Elizabeth Shaw (Galston Haymouth), Mary Shaw (Galston Haymouth), Jim Inglis (Glasgow Academicals), Holly Davis (Gogar Park), Ian Keron (Oatridge), William Sanderson (Oxenfoord), Elizabeth Ramsay (Panmure), Jean Noble (Penicuik), Richard Smith (St.Ronans), Janice Ogilvie (Stirling Senior Ladies)

4. **LETTER FROM THE ROYAL PATRON**

Andrew Kerr (President): Upon the death in April of his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh we sent our condolences to our Patron, and we also sent our loyal greetings to Her Majesty ahead of today's AGM. I now have in my hand a letter from Her Majesty the Queen, Windsor Castle; addressed to Andrew Kerr President Royal Caledonian Curling Club which I will read out.

Letter from the Queen:
"Please convey my warm thanks to the Members of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club for their message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their One Hundred and Eight-Third Annual General Meeting which is being held today.

As your Patron, I was interested to learn of the Club's recent success in the World Men's Curling Championship and the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship.
I send my best wishes to you all for a most memorable and enjoyable virtual meeting".
Elizabeth R 26th June 2021

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Andrew Kerr (President): Well Brother and Sister curlers, Ladies and Gentlemen, what a year this past 12 months has turned out to be. This time a year ago the Covid situation was not good, but we were fairly optimistic that things would improve by the time we were going to be back on the ice. Does that sound familiar? Let's hope that this year our optimism is not misplaced!
As the 20/21 season drew near a huge amount of effort was put in by the staff and by the ice rinks to ensure as safe an environment as possible. I lost count of the number of revisions to the Return to Curling guidelines produced by the team in the office! Even so, there was a fair amount of hesitancy amongst the curlers and some rinks made the decision to postpone opening, whilst some decided that they would stay closed for the whole season.
Those which did open were quickly faced with varying levels of Covid restrictions and very soon all curling came to an end, with the exception of the athletes in the National Academy.
With next to no income having come through the door there was a genuine fear that some of the privately owned rinks would go to the wall, which would have been disastrous for curling. We are indebted to the Scottish Ice Rinks Association under the chairmanship of Mike Ferguson for pulling together the facts and figures to demonstrate why the rinks needed to be considered a special case for financial support and to Bruce Crawford for his contacts at sportscotland, which resulted in some £2m being allocated by the Scottish Government. A great combined effort by Mike and Bruce.
The restrictions put paid to all my good intentions of getting around the rinks and meeting the curlers. I had made arrangements early on to play in the Highland Province bonspiel with Ian Mackay and maybe it was just as well that it fell victim to the restrictions as Ian had enlisted Alan Durno to skip the rink and I'm not sure my alcohol capacity quite matches Alan's!
Another regret was not getting back to the Nairn Dinner. I had deputised for Past President Brian McArtney the year before and survived and was looking forward to a return visit.
Another disappointment was the necessary postponement of Dundonald Curling Club's 200th Anniversary celebrations, the more so as Dundonald is one of my own clubs.
However, my greatest regret was not being able to be in Calgary when Team Mouat won silver and again, closer to home in Aberdeen when Jennifer Dodds and Bruce Mouat took gold in the Mixed Doubles.
Huge congratulations to Bruce, Grant, Bobbie and Hammy, not forgetting Ross, Alan Hannah and all the back-up team for representing Scotland so magnificently in Canada, and to Bruce and Jen likewise in Aberdeen.
Although the Olympic selections have not been announced it would be a major surprise if they don't go forward to represent Team GB in Beijing.
Fingers crossed that our women's team will succeed in the Olympic Qualifying Event later in the year. I'm sure they will.
With no curling there were only a few presentations to be done, but I was delighted to hand over the Grass Roots Coach of the year last year to one of my local Ayr curlers, Bob Forrest. More recently, I was able to hand over a 100-year medal to my Mother Club, Troon Portland and just this past week I was able to present Jim Dunlop from the Crosshill Club in Ayrshire with his medal for 50 years continuous membership.
Well done again to them and to all the individuals and clubs being acknowledged today.

While I have not been gallivanting around the country nor able to support our teams abroad, I have had to become used to attending meetings online. It's just not the same as being able to meet face to face but another necessary result of the Covid restrictions.

The first issue that was tackled after last year's AGM was when and where it was appropriate to use the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and/or Scottish Curling logos and branding.

A working group was set up and a membership survey was carried out. This generated an excellent response from the members and it became clear that both names had a place with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club being most appropriate on membership matters and Scottish Curling most appropriate for marketing.

That's maybe simplifying the result a little, but it was also very clear that the name, the history and the traditions of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club are quite unique and to be highly valued.

I would urge Bruce, the staff and you the members of this club, not to fall into the habit of assuming everything is Scottish Curling and by so doing, diminish the Royal Caledonian Curling Club by default.

Another working group was set up as a result of the angst last year over selection policy. Susan Kesley chaired this group which brought together both sides of the discussion and the manner in which she was able to bring harmony augers well for her year as President.

A joint ASC/LSC meeting was held in November, at which Jim Cullen gave a presentation on the Structure Review and membership webinars followed in April. As a result of the feedback the only thing that is clear is that there is no consensus on the way forward.

On the whole there has not been a great deal for the Area Standing Committee to discuss this year, but I've kept the Reps updated as best I can.

Unfortunately, the ASC was not consulted over the proposed changes to the Memorandum and Articles being proposed by the Board today. Had they been, perhaps some of the pitfalls could have been avoided and we would not have had the situation which developed last week with the Reps penning an open letter to the Board.

Frankly, in a membership organisation as we are, there is something far wrong when those representing the members feel the need to take the action they did and hope the board recognise this. I'm sure that there were no ulterior motives when the proposals were drawn up. After all we elect six of the Directors from amongst ourselves. I might suggest a lack of foresight perhaps as evidenced by the need to subsequently issue the frequently asked questions information and as I've said to Bruce and Chairman Graham, sometimes communication, while factually correct, comes across as being dismissive.

We need to reset the tone of our communication efforts to carry the membership with the decisions being taken by the Board, although I would say the Board have been trying harder this year to engage with the wider membership.

Successive Boards though have failed to engage with the ASC and the LSC. Unless that changes, it won't make any difference to what finally comes out of the Structure Review as the body to represent the members.

It is a great pity that we have landed back where we were last year at the AGM with the Board on the receiving end of criticism for a lack of consultation.

Whatever happens with the voting later we need to move on. We have a huge problem on our hands encouraging curlers back on the ice come the Autumn.

Our numbers are falling year on year and I suspect that many in our aging membership profile may well just call it a day after having had a year out.

We have the Olympics coming up but we cannot simply rely on a membership bounce from them and I was pleased that the Board recognise the need for a marketing campaign. We need to be a lot more proactive than we have been in the past if we are to put the brakes on the falling membership numbers.

I would be telling a lie if I said that I've had a great year as your President. It has been a huge honour though and there was nothing any of us could have done to change things. Hopefully, next year will be better, if not exactly the way it was before.
It is a new era for curling with Susan stepping up as the first female President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. She won't be the last, I'm sure. Susan brings a huge amount of quite different knowledge and experience to the position from her involvement with the WCF and competing internationally and I am sorry that we haven't had the chance to do more together this past year.
I have absolutely no doubt that Susan will be a great ambassador for our sport assisted by either Trevor Dodds or Mike Ferguson, two outstanding candidates for Vice President.
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Immediate Past Ladies Branch President Corrie Lawrence for her support, the coffees and all the chats over the past two years.
Congratulations to Lillian Carnegie on taking on the mantle as Ladies Branch President and to Alison Taylor and Maureen Parker, her Vice Presidents. I wish you well Ladies.
Thanks too to the ladies and the gents on the ASC. It has been a difficult year and I have valued your support and input throughout.
Finally, the Board is due our gratitude. Most of them are curlers like you and I. They are there trying to put something back into curling. They put in many hours and make decisions with the best of intentions. Thank you, Graham and team, for all that you do for the sport.
That concludes my President's Report, Ladies and Gentlemen and I would now hand over to Graham Lindsay to chair the business meeting. Thank you.

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): Many thanks for your presidential report Andrew, I really feel for you in what must have been an extremely disappointing year as RCCC President. I expect you were looking forward to attending competitions, dinners and other functions throughout the year, only to spend the year in Ayr. It will go down in history as the year of Covid, hopefully a once in a lifetime event memory never to be repeated. Can I also say the same the president of the Ladies branch, Corrie Lawrence, who like Andrew spend a year in Ayr. Many thanks to you both for all your contributions to the RCCC over the past twelve months.

Now to the business elements of the meeting.
May I remind members that if you have a question during the meeting, please use the raise hand feature on your screen and we will invite you to speak at the end of the topic.
Alternatively, you can type a question into the Q&A area and when we get to AOCB on the agenda we will read out and answer a few of the most liked questions that have been asked.

For all motions and resolutions voted by members:
The online voting closed on Thursday 24th June 2021 at 2pm.
Postal votes also closed on 24th June.
The online and postal votes were checked and have been verified by independent tellers.
There were two spoiled ballots.
The results were given to the Chair and CEO to allow them to prepare for the meeting, the figures have been added to the slides but not disclosed to anyone before the meeting.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 27 JUNE 2020

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): The first item on the agenda today is to approve the Minute of the AGM held virtually online using Zoom's Video Webinar platform.
310 members voted by post and online. This requires a simple majority.

For	Against	Majority
306	4	98.7%

The minute is approved. Thank you

I would now like to invite Chief Executive Bruce Crawford to present the Annual report.

7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN CURLING CLUB

Bruce Crawford (CEO): Thank you Graham, good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm delighted to present the Annual Report to our members again this year. This being my tenth AGM after what has been the most challenging year on so many levels. The full Annual Report has been published on the website and provides a great deal of information; I hope you have found it interesting. I would really like to delve into all of the detail that is included in the annual report but given time restrictions I have selected a few of the highlights this year.

Coronavirus has dominated all of our lives over the last year and our priority has been the welfare and safety of our members, ice rinks and staff. It has led to the frustration and disappointment with the vast majority of our members being unable to play curling at all and a significant number paused their membership. We created and regularly update our Return to Curling Guidance but had to reflect the restrictions imposed by the Scottish Government, with each version having to be approved before being published. We lobbied government for support and sought input from ice rink managers, through the Scottish Ice Rink Association. We influenced those responsible for policy approval regarding the unique physical and environmental capacity involved in curling indoors non-contact sport. These close working relationships helped us secure the £2m fund from government to support independent ice rinks and I know that this has been greatly valued. We had to cancel all of our domestic competitions, refunding or rolling the fees over to the next season. The online delivery of training courses has been very effective and we look forward to getting the on-ice elements back in action soon. Embracing technology we ran a number of successful Curl-up sessions with a good range of interesting topics to give members the opportunity to watch and talk about curling together.

The ongoing restrictions prevented us from meting up in person but this week we saw the publication of the latest strategic framework from Scottish government which describes the next steps towards recovery and the reduction in physical distancing requirements, which will enable a more normal game of curling to take place in the new season,

The board appointed two independent directors, Stephen Farrow and Kerra McKinnie, and co-opted Corrie Lawrence into the board for the last six months.

A governance group was established to review our progress against the industry standards based on The Nolan Principles. The board created a nominations committee, among other things, it will monitor the skills and experiences of the directors to be able to give recommendations to the board. Jim Cullen led a time-consuming project to identify areas of improvement to the Memorandum & Articles that govern the organisation. I am sure we will have more to do in that regard after this meeting.

The staff and board are currently reviewing the strategic plan as we are mid-way in the 2019/2023 cycle.

The financial position of the RCCC is reasonable, as seen through the annual accounts which have been independently produced by Drummond Laurie, Chartered Accountants and approved by the board of directors. The headline is a small deficit of £6,887. Income and expenditure are both lower last year for obvious reasons and the paused membership led to a reduction in £55,000 on the income side.

The board appreciates those members who continue to subscribe this year and your contribution has enabled us to keep developing curling and support our ice rinks across Scotland. The board approved the office relocation back to Ingliston from Stirling and received a grant from the energy saving trust to support some of the energy saving measures in refurbishing the building. The board has also approved for the accounts to be fully audited next year which will cost an additional £5,000 but feel that the scrutiny that that provides will give members reassurance. Copies of the graphs shown on screen now will be available on the website. Members will be

keen to see that we are still spending a large percentage on development and given the reduced levels of activity this year, there is no competition income and a very small amount of competition expenditure which covers salaries and overheads within competitions. This skews the financial picture for this year. All of the information will be available on our website.
The year ahead is a key year for us as we emerge from Covid, we wish to engage with existing club members to encourage them to return to the sport. To make sure that everyone is comfortable coming back into the ice rinks and we hope that we have a busy season throughout all ice rinks across the whole country. The board has approved an increase in the marketing spend in the coming year that will be used to attract new people to curling. We are hoping that the impact and legacy from the Olympic and Paralympics will have a lasting effect increasing the membership and benefitting the sport for the future.
Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions if there are any.

Q: Ruth Addinall (SIAE): What about abstentions? Do you not record/report them?
A: Bruce Crawford (CEO): Our normal procedure is to provide the 'for' and 'against' numbers on the day at the AGMs, we don't have the abstentions at the moment. However we will be able to publish the abstentions for the voting following the meeting today.

Q: Gordon Craik (Edzell): Moving forward and entering hopefully an equal representation era, is there a requirement for The Ladies Branch?
A: Bruce Crawford (CEO): When the Structure review group began its work, suggestions were put forward that there maybe wasn't a need. However during the last year or so it has become apparent that there is a passion and feeling amongst the ladies branch members that wish to see the ladies branch continue. The Articles in Bye Law 8 require any changes made would need to be approved at the Ladies Branch AGM. If the ladies branch themselves wish to change this it has to come directly from them, not the main RCCC membership.

Q: Hugh Templeton (Kirkcowan): Do we not normally approve the appointment of our auditors?
A: Bruce Crawford (CEO): Yes, this will come up later in our agenda.

Q: Brian McArtney (Letham Grange): Has the Scottish Curling Engagement and Consultation Plan been implemented?
A: Bruce Crawford (CEO): Yes, the board approved the Engagement and Consultation plan earlier this year and that is a live policy document that exists. We will be taking this openly to members and engage with everyone going forward with this.

Q: Bill Nicol (Darnaway): What assistance are Provinces etc going to get between September and the Olympics in promoting the sport to existing and new curlers? Olympics 6 months away from opening.
A: Bruce Crawford (CEO): Our development team have been working on the Olympic legacy planning for the last year and they will be releasing information over the summer in the lead up to the new season. The activities will be through clubs, ice rinks and some nationally. I will pass this question the development team to ensure that we maximise the benefits for all.

Thank you for your questions and I will now pass you back to the Chairman Graham.

8. SPECIAL RESOLUTION, MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER CLUBS

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): Thank you Bruce.
The next item is to approve, by Special Resolution, motions submitted by Member Clubs as set out in the Notice of the General Meeting posted on the Scottish Curling website and prescribed in Article 5.3. These were noted as 4a and 4b in the voting form.

Resolution 4a – (Special Resolution)
Proposal by Letham Grange Curling Club, to approve no change should be made to the Presidential Structure of the RCCC until the whole membership has the chance to meet, discuss fully and vote on any suggested changes.
This requires a 75% majority. 464 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
333	131	71.8%

The special resolution has not been passed.

Resolution 4b – (Special Resolution)
Proposal by Castle Kennedy Curling Club, to amend Article 6 "The Board of Directors" to ensure that the President of the Ladies Branch is a Director on the Board.
This requires a 75% majority. 500 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
346	154	69.2%

This special resolution has not been passed.

9. APPROVE CHANGES TO THE MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION AND BYELAWS

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): Next we move to approve changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Byelaws proposed by the Board of Directors as set out in the Notice of the General Meeting posted on the Scottish Curling website and prescribed in Articles 4.1 and 4.3. These were noted as 3a to 3f in the voting form.

Resolution 3a - (Special Resolution)
To approve changes to modernise the RCCC's Memorandum of Association.
This requires a 75% majority. 474 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
268	206	56.5%

This has not been passed.

Resolution 3b - (Special Resolution)
To approve changes to modernise the RCCC's Articles of Association.
This requires a 75% majority. 467 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
245	222	52.5%

This has not been passed.

Resolution 3c - (Special Resolution)
To change the age for voting rights for Associate Members from 18 to 16 in line with ages used at Scottish Elections.
This requires a 75% majority. 508 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
325	183	64.0%

This has not been passed.

Resolution 3d - (Special Resolution)
To elect a Junior Vice President each year at the AGM. Not more than two of the posts of President, Vice President and Junior Vie President shall be held by Associate Members of the same gender.
This requires a 75% majority. 494 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
278	216	56.3%

This has not been passed.

Resolution 3e - (Special Resolution)

To amend Article 5.3: In order to be valid, a Motion or Resolution intimated by Local Club requires to be supported by at least 50% of the Associate Members of that Local Club and seconded by another Local Club.

This requires a 75% majority. 492 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
168	324	34.1%

This has not been passed.

Resolution 3f - (Ordinary Resolution)

To approve changes to modernise the Byelaws of the RCCC's Articles of Association.

This requires a simple majority. 471 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
254	217	53.9%

This resolution has been passed.

Before we move on, I would like to make the following comment. I clearly recall my comments last year before giving the result of the voting on the New Abbey Curling Club motion. I recognised that we needed to change to properly engage, improve communication and consult with our members as never before; so that we are all fully aware of the consequences of our actions. I truly feel that over the past year, and despite Covid restrictions, we have worked hard to improve our actions in all of these areas.

We have carried out webinars, surveys, consultations and formed working groups to look into a number of contentious issues. However, we recognise that we still need to do more and I will look to do more in the next year in an attempt to reach out to members.

Without members the Royal Caledonian Curling Club will cease to exist and we are mindful that our members voices need to be listed to. Thank you.

10. APPROVE, BY RESOLUTION, TO AMEND RULES OF THE GAME

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): To approve amendments to the Rules of the Game proposed by the Competitions Committee, supported by the Rules Committee and the Board. As set out in the Notice of the General Meeting posted on the Scottish Curling website and prescribed in Article 4.2. These are noted as 5a to 5l in the voting form.

Resolution 5a: To amend Rule R1 Sheet Layout (a)

This requires a simple majority. 401 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
383	18	95.5%

This resolution has been passed.

Resolution 5b: To amend Rule R3 Teams (b)

This requires a simple majority. 384 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
370	14	96.4%

This resolution has been passed.

Resolution 5c: To amend Rule R5 Delivery (d)

This requires a simple majority. 404 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
390	14	96.5%

This resolution has been passed.

Resolution 5d: To amend Rule R6 Free Guard Zone

This requires a simple majority. 412 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
399	13	96.8%

This resolution has been passed.

Resolution 5e: To add a new part to Rule R10 Equipment (d)
This requires simple majority. 397 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
383	14	96.5%

This resolution has been passed.

Resolution 5f: To amend Rule R10 Equipment (d) and (e)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)
This requires a simple majority. 386 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
368	18	95.3%

This resolution has been passed.

Resolution 5g: To add an additional part to Rule R5 Delivery (n)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)
This requires a simple majority. 389 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
371	18	95.4%

This resolution has been passed.

Resolution 5h: To amend Rule R11 Scoring (c)
This requires a simple majority. 404 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
390	14	96.5%

This resolution has been passed.

Resolution 5i: To amend Rule R11 Scoring (j)(i)(ii)
This requires a simple majority. 385 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
370	15	96.1%

This resolution has been passed.

Resolution 5j: To amend Rule R12 Interrupted Games
This requires a simple majority. 391 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
379	12	96.9%

This resolution has been passed.

Resolution 5k: To amend Rule R14 Doubles Curling (e)
This requires a simple majority. 377 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
365	12	96.8%

This resolution has been passed.

Resolution 5l: To add Rule R15 Wheelchair Doubles Curling (a)(b)
This requires a simple majority. 363 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
354	9	97.5%

This resolution has been passed.

11. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): We now go to the submission and approval of the annual accounts. These accounts were independently prepared by Drummond Laurie Chartered Accountants and approved by the Board of Directors.

This requires a simple majority. 312 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
302	10	96.8%

The accounts have been approved.
As there are no questions on the accounts we will move on.

12. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): Now to the appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner. RCCC board have extended the contract with Drummond Laurie Chartered Accountants for a further year. At the end of the current financial year as well as preparing the annual accounts the board have contracted Drummond Laurie to undertake a full audit.

13. FIXING OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR SEASON 2022/2023

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): Now to the proposal for annual subscriptions for 2022/2023:

Hon. Members (playing)	- £25.00
Ordinary Members	- £25.00
Junior Members (U21)	- £10.00
Hon. Members (non-playing)	- Nil

513 members voted by post and online. This requires a simple majority.

For	Against	Majority
261	252	50.9%

This has been approved. Thank you.

14. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): It gives me great pleasure to confirm the appointment of the new President for the Royal Caledonian Curling Club; Susan Kesley of Currie & Balerno Curling Club. At this point we would normally do the traditional presentation to exchange the badges and flashes of office, however we will arrange for them to be posted as soon as possible following this meeting.

It falls to me to confirm the appointment of the new President of the RCCC Susan Kesley not only the past President of Currie & Balerno, a member of Gogar Park and Airleywight Ladies but now the first female President of the RCCC. Susan has been involved in curling for many years having represented Scotland at either end of the age spectrum, junior and senior. Susan has also been involved in coaching and is a volunteer at World and European competitions, as a statistician and ice assistant. She has been one of the RCCC WCF representatives since 2015 and has been involved in developing future policies, overseeing rule changes and looking at the way forward for our competitive game. Elected to the board in 2017 she has been the convener of the competitions over the last three years and was the convener of the group in charge of looking into the RCCC election policy. Warmest congratulations Susan. We will hear from Susan later in the meeting. I would also take this opportunity to congratulate Lillian Carnegie in her appointment as Ladies Branch President for the next year.

15. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-PRESIDENT

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): Next to the appointment of our Vice President, two valid nominations were received for the position of Vice President. 485 members voted by post and online.
The candidates and votes received for each are:

Trevor Dodds	(Oxenfoord)	- 201
Mike Ferguson	(Edzell)	- 284

I can confirm that Mike Ferguson has been elected as Vice President and I would like to invite Mike to say a few words.

Mike Ferguson (Vice President): Brother and Sister Curlers, Ladies and Gents. I am obviously delighted to have been voted in as Vice President of the RCCC. Importantly by you the members, which in my view are the single most important commodity in our great sport. Thank you very much I'm truly humbled. Several other thank yous are appropriate.
Firstly, to Trevor, thank you for a fair fight and thankfully without us having to step into a ring. I'm 100% certain who ever won between us would serve the members to the utmost of their capabilities, thank you Trevor.
To everyone who took the time and effort to vote, again thank you, it is appreciated.
I look forward to working with and supporting Susan and I thank Andrew for doing such an excellent job in truly testing times.
I think we all know the sport has major challenges ahead of us. Simply watching the list of departed curlers at the start of this meeting was a sobering sight indeed. It's down to all of us who truly love curling to pull together to make sure we get through this. Get more curlers on the ice and keep our ice rinks trading. I would also dearly love to see the social aspects of the game return so we can all enjoy it, both on and off the ice. So let's all get down to work with a positive and approach to all that we do and get curling back to where it truly belongs.
I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible throughout my term in office. Thank you very much.

16. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): Thank you Mike and we look forward to working with you as well. We now move to the appointment of Directors to the Board.
Before we move onto the election, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the current board of directors for all the time and work that they have put in over the past twelve months. For their assistance support for what has been a very busy and at times difficult year. It is greatly appreciated many thanks to you all.
I would like to say a special thanks to Susan Kesley and Jim Cullen who are standing down from the board at this AGM, having completed their respective terms on the board.
I would like to thank Andrew Kerr and Corrie Lawrence for their time on the board over the past year. Our most recently appointed independent director Kerra McKinnie who is having to stand down from the RCCC board due to appointment at another position. Kerra brought a fresh approach to marketing & sponsorship and will be greatly missed. I'd also like to thank Louise Burke who left in the autumn after serving two years.

I'm really pleased that we have four capable curlers that have stepped up to the mark and have chosen to put their names on the ballot paper. To volunteer to serve on the board of directors for the next three years. Sadly we are unable to accept them all as we only have two spaces. I would like to thank them all for standing before we announce the result.
With 932 votes being received. The candidates and votes received for each are:

Jim Cullen (Earlston) - 156
Logan Gray (Balfron) - 266
Mairi Milne (Letham Grange) - 332
Fraser Shaw (Castle Kennedy) - 178

Congratulations to Logan and Mairi. We look forward to working with you both in the coming years and I know that you will both be valued members of the board.
To those who were not successful on this occasion I thank you for putting yourselves forward for election. It is reassuring that individuals are prepared to contribute to the work of the organisation and I hope that you will consider standing again in the future.

I would like to thank Jim who has served as a director for the last four years, your contributions have been greatly appreciated. Bringing your legal expertise, integrity and good humour to the board, making sure we do the right things for the right reason. Thank you all.

17. APPOINTMENT OF A CHAPLAIN

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): I am delighted that Rev. Alan Donaldson (Cadder) has indicated that he is happy to continue as our chaplain, and is therefore adopted once again as chaplain, thank you again Alan.

18. AUTHORISATION OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE ANNUAL

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): Now to the last vote of today's proceedings, the Authorisation of the Publication of the Annual.

This requires a simple majority. 398 members voted by post and online.

For	Against	Majority
364	34	91.5%

This has also been approved. Thank you.

19. NEXT AGM

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): I can confirm that the 184th AGM will take place on Saturday 20th August 2022. The venue is still to be confirmed.

20. PRESENTATION OF CLUB AND MEMBERS MEDALS

Graham Lindsay (Chairman):

a) **150 Year Club Medals**

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): Broughty Ferry, Earlston, Laurencekirk, St.Ronan's and Tulliallan have all reached the milestone of 150 years membership of the RCCC, having been admitted in 1871.

b) **50 Year Medals**

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): Next the 50 Year Medals, these are awarded to members who have been affiliated to the RCCC for 50 years, with 20 medals having been awarded this season to: Gordon Craig (Abdie), Alan Prentice (Borestone & Stirling), Laurence Hervey (Bridge of Allan), Ken Horton (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), James Dunlop (Crosshill), Duncan McConnell (Darnaway), Robbie Scott (Dunkeld), G F Milligan (Durisdeer), Joyce Wilson (Falkland), Mary Irving (Gretna & Border), Kenneth Irving (Gretna & Border), Donald Burns (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Ewan Hay (Heart of the Highlands), David McFarlane (Keir), Roy McFarlane (Keir), Mary Forster (Loch Connel), Allie Lyburn (Lynedoch Ladies), Alexis Sinclair (Lynedoch Ladies), John Stewart (Oxenfoord), Mary Scobie (Stirling Ice Rink Senior Ladies).

21. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): We now come to any other competent business. We have not received other business in advance of the meeting. We will now answer questions from members that have been raised through the Q&A section.

I will now hand over to Bruce.

Bruce Crawford (CEO): Thank you Graham.

Philip Ross (Kirriemuir): I note that for the voting of most of the resolutions the numbers were a relatively small percentage of the overall membership, perhaps about 5%. Can the board commit to finding new and effective ways to engage with wider membership so that not only are we democratic but raising our standards so we strive to get consensus, as this will be important as we try to modernise our club and increase membership.

Bruce Crawford (CEO): I think that we are very quick to be hard on ourselves that we get what may at first seem like a low percentage of our members voting. Compared to many other sport governing bodies it is higher. I do like the sentiment of the question and I think that it is entirely appropriate that we do look at finding out other ways that we can engage with members so that we can get a greater percentage engaged in the democratic process. I will take this to the board to consider how we can achieve this. Thank you

Jim Murdoch (Ayr County): Andrew Kerr had a very important voice earlier in the meeting. He said that there was a letter from ASC forwarded to board. No mention has been taken of that today. Why has the ASC not been involved the way they should be, it seems like the board have taken control without using the ASC members who are voted on by the local clubs/areas to represent them. Just wondering what your views were on this letter?
Bruce Crawford (CEO): The board discussed this letter at a meeting and replied to the signatories on the letter through the president who had forwarded it to the board. The incoming president is committing to engage with all of the ASC and working to make sure that there is better use of skills and knowledge that that group provides. There was no deliberate act to bypass them as a group, there was a lack of opportunity for them to meet in the last year, they will be consulted under the leadership of the new president who is committed to doing that.

Gwendoline Highet (Cathcart Castle): Why so many special resolutions and why the need for a 75% majority?
Bruce Crawford (CEO): The Articles determine the requirements for each resolution.

Jean Cousar (Reform): All of the ASC signed the letter?
Bruce Crawford (CEO): No, not all of the ASC signed the letter.

Bill Creevy (Darnaway): Are the proposed changes for the virtual clubs going to be adopted for next year?
Bruce Crawford (CEO): One of the unusual anomalies that the changes to the Articles was looking to address was virtual clubs, which have been in existence for many years, which are not provided for in the Articles so there isn't a specific place for them. However they have existed alongside the Articles and will continue to exist and evolve. Although not in the legal structure which is what the Articles provide, we will be working with virtual clubs to support new members to get involved. The absence will not stop us from working with them going forward.

Harry Mitchel (Raith & Abbotshall): Why is the next AGM in August?
Bruce Crawford (CEO): The date has been moved to allow for the accounts to be finalised timeously. Since the financial year end was moved, the accounts and scrutiny required to produce the report is to the wire for the June date. So by moving the AGM back this allows time for the accounts and the full audit for next year, that has been committed to, to be produced and reported in time for the AGM.

Billy Howat (Cumnock and District): why are the board minutes not up to date on the website?
Bruce Crawford (CEO): I think the board minutes should be up to date now. However we do work with some delay after each board meeting, as we approve the minute at the following meeting prior to publishing. This will be why the last meeting will be later to appear online.

Alison Dick (x): Why did the Board propose a 50% voting requirement of clubs in order to raise a motion at an AGM, when only about 5% of members vote at AGM and CEO responds that 5% is a good percentage and we shouldn't be hard on ourselves?

Bruce Crawford (CEO): This is a very pertinent point. We asked for the members to consider this as, since the "one member one vote" was introduced some 18 years ago, the structure within the Articles requires that a motion needs to come from a Local Club. This was to protect the relevance and the structure of the clubs within the organisation. The board felt that to honour that commitment and to keep clubs at the heart of the organisation it was appropriate that the majority of the members of a club should be consulted and supporting a motion. A number of people have corresponded since, stating that with "one member one vote" everyone should have the right to ask a question. This is something that we need get the view of the members to ensure that is it appropriate.

Kristina Fairweather (Forfar Virtual): How do you expect to engage people in the system of the Virtual Club if they play by all of the Rules set out by the RCCC but get no say? They get no vote, by virtue of the fact that they only pay half the membership fee but that is the fee set by the RCCC?

Bruce Crawford (CEO): I don't have an answer to that at the moment Kristina. However, our development team do all they can to support all clubs. Virtual clubs do get a limited period at reduced membership before joining a main club. However the Articles prescribe that a full membership fee must be paid in order to have a voting right. We would need to look at this and consider a proposal to change the Articles if it was felt this was required.

Alison Taylor (Lesmahagow Ladies): Is there an answer to the two previous questions on the number of proxy votes given to the chairman?

Bruce Crawford (CEO): My understanding this year is that there were 12 online and 7 on paper, so a total of 19 proxy votes were given to the chair this year.

Thank you for your questions and as there are no further questions I will now pass back to Graham.

S) ADDRESS BY INCOMING PRESIDENT

Graham Lindsay (Chairman): It now gives me great pleasure to call upon our new President Susan Kesley to address the meeting and offer a vote of thanks.

Susan Kesley (New President): Chairman Graham, Past Presidents Andrew and Corrie, Ladies Branch President Lillian, Honoured guests, Sister and Brother curlers, Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope that covers everyone.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for bestowing on me the great honour of becoming your President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. I am truly humbled and delighted. I am only too aware that I am the first female to hold this position in our 183-year history but I see the significance being for all women as we stride towards running our sport in a more gender balanced way.

I would like to thank our Past Presidents Andrew and Corrie for all the hard work they have done over the year. All the hours of Zoom calls and meetings behind the scenes. The year has been disappointing with no competitions, presentations and dinners to attend but I know that you have both worked tirelessly for our sport. I'm sure you are both looking forward to some well earned leisure time.

It is sad that yet again we are unable to meet in person and that I am facing you from my house, all dressed up with nowhere to go! Let's hope that we get the better of this awful virus and that the vaccine does what it's supposed to do so that we have a much better Season in 21/22 and that we can meet in person next year.

Congratulations to Mike Ferguson on your election to Vice President. I'm looking forward to working with you and tapping into your vast knowledge of the sport. Congratulations to Logan Gray and Mhairi Milne on your election to the Board, good luck and I hope you enjoy your tenure. Our sport needs enthusiastic volunteers at all levels.

To all the coaches and umpires at local, national and international level. To Club secretaries and committees and those that run our rinks. To the Ladies Centres, the Province and Area Representatives, the ASC and the LSC and the Board. All are volunteers and work tirelessly to help promote and run our sport. Without them this sport that we all love so much would not exist. I thank you all for your contributions.

Another thank you is to all the Scottish Curling staff who are committed and dedicated, putting in many hours for the good of curling in Scotland. Your work is appreciated by the members, whether organising competitions, camps, workshops and courses, supporting committees and keeping the records straight, promoting the sport and marketing curling to new audiences or lobbying and influencing politicians.

Another thank you is to Jim Cullen for his valuable contribution to the Board for the last five years. Jim, you have worked tirelessly and given so much of your time to Scottish Curling. Thank you.

I must congratulate our fantastic Scottish teams. Wow, I don’t know who to mention first.

I suppose I should start with the golden pair, World Champions: Bruce Mouat and Jen Dodds, we are so proud of you, what an achievement. You kept us all on the edge or our seats, right up to the end.

And then there’s the Men’s Team, Bruce Mouat, Grant Hardie, Bobbie Lammie, Hammy McMillan and Ross Whyte – World Silver and then on you went to win back-to-back slams. An achievement that I for one am in awe.

Scotland’s Women’s Team of Eve Muirhead, Vicky Wright, Jen Dodds, Lauren Gray and Sophie Sinclair, continue to be great ambassadors. You fought hard, had close games and came out the wrong side of qualifying for the playoffs. I know you will be very disappointed but Scotland has another chance to get that coveted Beijing ticket, and I have no doubt Scotland will achieve, so we can have three teams at the Olympics.

The 2021 World Wheelchair Championship was postponed. I am looking forward to supporting Team Scotland in October and hope you book a place for the 2022 Paralympics.

Since the AGM last year, a great deal has been achieved, there was a Branding and Logos Working Group, a Selection Working Group and the Structure Review Group. All strived to communicate with members in many ways and there were some very informative Webinars. I hope this way of consulting continues between Scottish Curling and our members. Communication is not perfect yet but it has come on – Rome was not built in a day!

I write this at a time not knowing the results of the many votes taking place, like you, I only heard the results earlier in the meeting. I am aware that there was some controversy about some of the motions, I read the banter just like everyone else. It is great that we have a democratic system and that everyone can have their say and vote for what they want.

I would also encourage anyone interested to get involved and volunteer.

There is a great deal of effort currently going into the Marketing and Development of Curling next season. We need to encourage our curlers back, welcome new curlers to come and try and hopefully take up our wonderful sport. There are all sorts of plans in place to take advantage of the Olympic and Paralympic Legacy. There is also a group working hard to improve our Scottish Championships and make sure it remains the flagship event that it should be.

What would I like to achieve in my year?

As your President and convenor of the ASC I would like to work with the Area Representatives to create a plan for what we can collectively achieve in the coming year and deliver it.

I would like to work with Lillian Carnegie to bring the ASC and the LSC together, to help serve the needs of all curlers in Scotland, regardless of age or ability, supporting the work of the staff to grow the sport and keep the ice rinks open.

I will need your support and hope that members will join me in keeping the Royal Caledonian Curling Club as a progressive organisation that members can be proud to be part of. I would

like to improve communications between all parties and make sure there are no surprises so we can achieve more together.
My final thank you is to all of you for attending this Zoom AGM, let us hope that we will be able to meet in person next year.

Thank you for attending, I now declare this meeting closed.