

Competitions Committee Meeting

27 May 2021 – 09:00

Zoom Meeting



Members Present: Susan Kesley (**SK**), Jayne Stirling (**JS**), Graham Lindsay (**GL**), Tom Kirk (**TK**), Bruce Crawford (**BC**), Keith Prentice (**KP**), Gavin Fleming (**GF**), David Murdoch* (**DM**; guest, partial attendance), Kyle Waddell (**KW**; guest)

1. Apologies

Andrew Kerr (**AK**), Gail Munro (**GM**), Ian Young (**IY**), Gina Aitken (**GA**; guest)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved as accurate. Proposed by **KP**, seconded by **TK**.

ACTION – **JS** to publish to website.

3. Matters Arising

None noted.

4. 2021-22 Season Update

a. Calendar Update

JS updated the committee on the 2021-22 calendar, where almost all competitions are confirmed. Final confirmation of date suitability to be sought from Greenacres, Lockerbie, and Border.

b. Competition Retendering

JS let the committee know that Ayr had declined to roll their 2020-21 contract into 2021-22, owing to the events no longer being financially viable. **GF** enquired about the background of this decision. **JS** explained that a small subgroup comprising herself, **BC**, **SK** and Nick Rennie had met and agreed that if a rink proposed a significant alteration to their previously agreed contracts, then the events would be re-tendered. Ayr had proposed a significant increase to their ice charges for both the Junior Club Challenge Divisions 1&2 and the Scottish Schools Curling Championship, citing a projected decrease in business in the coming season and a disappointing outcome from their government grant application as reasons. As such, those events will go out to tender.

KP enquired about the lengths of contracts for those events, and **JS** will review and liaise with Ayr as necessary on this.

The committee agreed that we should go out to tender and give rinks the opportunity to bid for multiple year contracts for both events should they wish to.

ACTION – **JS** to progress retendering process.

c. Entry Forms

The committee discussed the opportunity to extend entry deadlines to encourage a higher number of entries. **GL** highlighted potential challenges with umpire allocation, but it was agreed that previous entry numbers could be used as a guide.

The necessity for some competitions to have summer entry deadlines was discussed, and **SK** suggested that those competitions which require club secretary entries retain their earlier deadline, and those with individual entries are extended as far as possible. **GF** felt that the start of the season would be good timing. **KW** suggested that strong advertisement of individual events might also boost entries.

d. *Indoor Grand Match Postponement*

BC and **SK** updated the committee that the Indoor Grand Match has been further postponed to 2022, to ensure that the event can go ahead with all of the associated social aspects. Uncertainty around travel restrictions and member confidence mean that moving the event to 2022 seemed the most sensible thing to do. A new date will be confirmed following consultation with rinks.

5. **Rule Updates for AGM**

The committee approved the addition of the new R5(n) to the list of rules from Appendix 1 of the Rulebook which will be put to members at the AGM for approval. **BC** requested **JS** make small wording update.

6. **External Competitions**

GF raised the subject of the Goldline Scottish Curling Tour (GSCT). He gave a brief run through of how the tour came about in its current form, and highlighted the Galbraith Trophies that are awarded as having been donated to Scottish Curling and loaned to the tour to be awarded. Previous meetings have been held between the Board and GSCT representatives to look at bringing the tour under the Scottish Curling umbrella, and it was agreed that this would be reviewed one year later. COVID-19 has caused a delay to this, and **GF** believes this should now be reviewed once more. The addition of the British Players Curling Championship (BPCC) was noted, and it was felt that there may be increased demand for an adult tour moving forward.

SK asked how **JS** would feel about adding these events to her workload, and **JS** agreed that she would be able to set up and facilitate linescoring and some promotion of the events, but not much beyond that.

BC asked which events are currently included in the tour, and Dumfries Open, Braehead Open, British Open and Forfar Open were noted as being involved in recent years by **GF**.

SK and **KW** discussed that it would need to be clear who the tour was aimed at.

GF agreed this would be important, but felt that was for a future development discussion and wasn't part of the current discussion of whether to bring GSCT in as part of Scottish Curling.

JS suggested that if we moved forward with this then a small sub group/sub committee could be formed to look after the tour and look at developing it with the relevant partners.

BC suggested bringing representatives from Competitions Committee, GSCT and BPCC together would be a good first step. **GF** agreed this would be a good first step in bringing together these groups who have broadly shared objectives.

KW noted that careful timing of tour events as 'preparation' events could help to boost entries from a variety of audiences.

KW noted that the GSCT events have a long way to go before being 'high profile' and gaining significant media coverage. **JS** highlighted that those are maybe the objectives of events aimed more at elite level curlers, and that participation is the main objective of the tour events being discussed. **SK** noted that Nigel Holl at British Curling is working on developing elite level provision in Scotland, while the tour events we are looking at here would be looking to provide for the next level, and taking in GSCT would be a good place to start when looking to increase provision and participation at that level. **KP** agreed that we need more provision for competitive, non-elite curlers.

GF suggested that we approach BPCC representatives to have an open conversation about how they might look to move forward and what we would be able to offer.

7. **Scottish Championships Working Group**

SK gave an overview of the remit of the group, and **JS** spoke about current plans and objectives, including an increased focus on the honour of being a participant in the event in contrast to the current focus on winning the event.

GF enquired if the group was seeking to engage sponsors, and **JS** confirmed that that was the case, and that the group was looking to hear from some professionals in that field.

DM was pleased to hear of progressions with the event, and noted that we need to be brave and take steps to move forward in order to achieve some objectives eg. increased broadcast coverage.

8. **Committee Member Rotation/Recruitment**

GF will be standing down after five years on the Competitions Committee, and it was noted that **IY** will also be standing down from the Umpire Committee so will no longer represent that committee on Competitions Committee. The Umpire Committee vacancy does not require direct action from Competitions Committee, but we will need to recruit a new Member Representative to fill the vacancy left by **GF**.

The committee approved the advertisement drafted by **JS**, with one small amendment to clarify that the new committee member would be invited to join from July 2021.

JS enquired about the application review process, and **SK/BC** shared that there would usually be a subgroup of the Competitions Committee formed featuring the Board Director, Convener, CEO and Competitions Manager.

The committee agreed that continuity of committee members is important, and as such a four year term would be preferable. There are currently 3 rotating member positions, and so it was felt that increasing that to four would allow for a smooth rotation and good continuity.

JS is to advertise for applications, and the committee will remain open to inviting up to two new committee members.

Post-meeting note: Committee Terms of Reference to be consulted ahead of recruitment process.

9. **AOCB**

No points were raised.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

Following confirmation of entry dates, **JS** will circulate a doodle poll with potential meeting dates. These are likely to be around July/August.

Meeting closed 11:35