

# Competitions Committee Meeting

6 October 2021 – 15:00



## Zoom Meeting

**Members Present:** Rachel Ireland (**RI**), Graham Lindsay (**GL**), Tom Kirk (**TK**), Bruce Crawford (**BC**), Keith Prentice (**KP**), Maggie Wilson (**MW**), John McGowan (**JM**), Kaye Paterson (**KAYE**), David Murdoch (**DM** guest), Elaine Mills (**EM**)

### 1. Apologies

Susan Kesley (**SK**), Gail Munro (**GM**), Kyle Waddell (**KW** guest), Gina Aitken (**GA** guest),

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Copy sent onto New Committee Members **JM** & **KP**, Approved as accurate. Proposed by **KP**, seconded by **JM**.

**ACTION** – **RI** to publish to website.

### 3. Matters Arising

None noted.

### 4. Draws for 2021-22

- a. Scottish Senior Men's Championship
- b. Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles
- c. Scottish Curling Men's Championship
- d. Scottish Curling Women's Championship
- e. Confirmation of entries for Scottish Curling Junior Championships
- f. Additional Discussions – Skills Award Challenge, Schools Championship

- a. The SC Senior Men's Qualifiers draw was completed using an online generator and witnessed by the committee. Seeding was discussed and agreed as the same format used in previous years. Appropriate teams were seeded and a random draw was done on these to spread between the 4 sections (2 Sections at Ayr & 2 Sections at Forfar). As per previous season's results these were – Prentice, Duff, Muirhead, Philip Wilson and Clark. Agreed Team Harvie could not be seeded as no line-up was provided. **RI** had prepared a draft of the draw prior to the meeting with Section 1 & 2 playing in Ayr and Section 3 & 4 playing in Forfar.

**RI** had emailed previous Senior Womens Teams and this seasons Ladies Masters Teams to request more entries to the SC Seniors as only 5 teams entered, no entries were gained. Due to this no qualifiers are required and it was agreed to keep the entry open until the end of November and more promotion would be done on this. It was also raised that we could open it to individual entry and form a team using the Team Finder that Scottish Curling have.

- b. Seeding discussed but as there was no real season last year due to COVID it may be hard to determine standings. **DM** advised that last year British Curling had held a Mixed Doubles Event at the end of last season that included everyone from the British Curling Program plus some from out with the program e.g. Fraser & Jane. Might be helpful to factor this event into the seeding as the last Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles held 27<sup>th</sup> Feb-1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2020 is too far back to be reliable. **MW** advised we may get more seeding from the Scottish Curling Event due to the team line-ups.

Passed to Committee to discuss – **JM** agreed with both points but noted it may be best to look at the most up to date results (BC Event) to evaluate seeding. **KAYE** added that seeding is usually done from the previous championship. **DM** raised the question of 'Do we go by the last season played and base off 1

competition or should it be seeded by world ranking? A lot of changes have been made in the last year or so'.

**MW** – From the entries this season in the Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles we have 4 teams that have the same line-up as played in the BC Event at Aberdeen and 3 of these teams made the semi-finals (Muirhead/Lammie, Dodds/Mouat & Brydone (SC), Wright/Hardie (BC).

Point raised – Do we seed by individual or only teams?

Agreed that the 4 teams named above are seeded top and one team would go into each section. Concern arose regarding the random draw for remaining teams as all BC Teams could be in one section. NOTE: All teams except 4 of these are British Curling Teams.

**JM** suggested taking the next top teams and sharing these equally between the sections then random draw the remaining as there may be multiple seeds required depending on ranking.

**KP** noted to be aware of how much seeding is done as there should still be a random draw while still being as fair as possible. From this **MW** raised the point of how we select the next level of seed as there are no rankings available for these to accurately compare them.

**GL** noted usually only top 4-6 teams chosen to be seeded into sections. Otherwise, it may be hard for the Competition Committee to judge as they do not know or work with the athletes/players.

**KAYE** pointed out that if we are proceeding with levels of seeding for the Mixed Doubles what about other competitions, **KP** agreed that all should be done the same, thus should the Seniors draw be re-drawn? **BC** advised usually we use previous competition results that are seeded from the top down so that finalists are not in the same section. If there are no fair measures of level then a random draw is done.

**DM** follow this up by adding that 2 years ago a formula was created bringing World Ranking from team event as an individual to their Mixed Doubles Team. On the back on this **MW** advised that the World Rankings are not up to date due to a lot of missed competitions.

Looking at seeding **MW** confirmed the new teams for the Mixed Doubles this year are Lucy Blair/Struan Carson, Holly Davis/Adam Keron, Adam McDermott/Joanna Sutherland & Lewis Logan/Alex Mackintosh. Suggested that they are seeded as the untested teams (Not played in SC or BC Event) and are seeded 1 team into each section. Agreed this would be a good way to narrow down the randomised teams and still keep it fair.

Alternative option raised to hold off on the draw and have a further meeting once more rankings and data can be collected. **DM** advised that the last draw made for this competition took account of previous results that were ranked, if the team/players played in an event in Scotland (Mixed Doubles, Aberdeen) this was ranked then a hybrid system was created. Key Part of Event – To encourage people to play more events. British Curling Mixed Doubles confirmed for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Committee agreed to hold off until January to finalise the draw to allow a ranking to be created as the SC Mixed Doubles is at the beginning of March 2022. **MW** & **RI** to create a points ranking format to allow teams to gain seeding from playing over the season \*Attached for reference\*. We can ensure teams are aware of the reason for a delay in a full draw being published but a draft draw can be created in the meantime. Format of event confirmed as Round Robin Games, Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals & Finals.

c./d. **RI** - The Scottish Championships currently have 7 Mens Teams and 5 Womens Teams entered however we are expecting that the Mens Olympic Team and possibly J Craik's Team will have to withdraw due to the Olympics and World Junior Championship. This would leave 5 mens teams. **MW** went on to advise the womens section is slightly more complicated as it depends on the OQE and the Junior Women ranking well in the World Junior B Championship.

Confirmed it would be best to hold off making the draw until after the Scottish Curling Junior Championship on 23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Regardless of the results a double round robin is required in both sections.

- e. For the SC Junior Championship **RI** advised there are 10 mens teams and 6 womens teams. This does mean that no qualifiers are required.

As per the rules book, We do not require to separate the teams into different sections and no double round robin is required thus no random draw needs to be made. Draw to be formulated and sent to participants.

Point raised for future discussion – For lower entry numbers should a double round robin be played? To be brought up with Competition Committee & Rules Committee for next season.

- f. Following on from the point raised over the Junior Championship, **MW** raised the discussion of the rules change regarding 7 or less team entries as this means a double round robin. This could be a little excessive and make the competition very long which isn't great for getting time off work, etc. Might be good to drop this to 6 teams next season - To be brought up again with Competition Committee & Rules Committee.

Schools Championship in Aberdeen entries already extended by **RI** to the end of October as only a couple entries. **JM & KAYE** agreed this would be a good idea as a lot of juniors not yet back on ice. **MW** confirmed normally there is a pre-qualifier but Tom Brewster happy to extend the dates as required if we gain more than 24 teams entered.

Skills Award Challenge – **RI** had emailed Gail Munro to discuss options as entries due to close and only 3 entries have been made. Gail was unable to make the meeting to discuss in person, **RI & MW** to follow up with her and entry form extended until the end of October. **JM** advised it may be advantageous to make it later in the season to allow the Juniors to get back on the ice and complete some of the Skills Awards.

## 5. **AOCB**

None raised.

**Date of next meeting** – To be decided via Doodle Poll to Competition Committee

**Meeting closed 16:20**