



MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 15TH MARCH 2022
AT DUNBLANE GOLF CLUB & VIA ZOOM
AT 10.00 AM



Present

Lillian Carnegie (President), Alison Taylor (Vice President), Maureen Parker (Junior Vice President), Marion Malcolm (Aberdeen), Corrie Lawrence (Ayr), Jane Patterson (Dumfries), Madeleine Sharp (Glasgow), Sheilagh Macfarlane (Forfar), Fiona McLaren (Inverness), Debbie Weir (Kinross), Jennifer Kubrycht (Kirkcaldy), Lillias Hyslop (Lanarkshire), Rona Craig (Edinburgh), Janet Lynch (Perth), Karen Jack (Waterfront), Bruce Crawford (CEO, SC)

Apologies

Kate Caithness (Honorary President), Gail Munro (Honorary Vice President), Janine Wilson (Treasurer), Lucy Tile (Border), Clare McCormick (Greenacres), Marion Murdoch (Lockerbie), Michele Brodie (Stirling), Mary-Anne McWilliam (Stranraer), Michele Hartley (Minute Secretary)

1. Welcome

President Lillian welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Previous Minutes

Previous minutes have been seen with points raised:

- Clarification required about date of Joint meeting of 16 June? President Lillian will clarify this. Joint meetings are good, but are not fitting in with LSC meetings, so this should be sorted for next year.
- Minutes Secretary honorarium - Janine Wilson is liaising with Bruce Crawford and President Lillian requested that this is resolved.
- Is there anything which LSC need to discuss prior to the RCCC AGM? Bruce Crawford confirmed that a meeting is being held on Thursday this week with Memorandum and Articles Group (Bruce Crawford, Margaret Nicol, Graham Lindsay and Logan Gray) about any changes and how to consult with members. Following last year's AGM, Bruce advised the only changes which will be put forward this year are from a corporate governance perspective and nothing regarding structure of organisation or role of any of the standing committees.

4. Matters Arising

Clarification is required on the figure quoted in Kate Caithness' report for people put through testing or coaching (346m)?

5. Updates

Selection for World Championships (Bruce Crawford) - The process is not yet complete. Selectors made a decision on 28 February and following subsequent appeals there will be a selection meeting in next few days. However, some members of the selection panel are just arriving back from Beijing, or heading out to Canada, so there are logistical problems in getting full attendance. There are areas within the selection policy which have lacked clarity have been interpreted by different parties in different ways, so the panel needs to come together to provide clarity.

- Does Scottish Curling have any input into the selection panel? Bruce Crawford confirmed that the selection policy is just for this year's events, so Scottish Curling is asking that the new selection policy should provide criteria for all major competitions for the next 4 years and teams taking part in competition should be given opportunity to give their input on the new policy. The decisions on teams for the Mixed Doubles and Mens' Worlds will be made in the next few days.
- Why were the World Championships held so close to the Olympics? Bruce Crawford said that this year has been particularly congested following Covid restrictions, but the advantages of having the Worlds after the Olympics will help raise the profile of curling as a sport after Olympic success. The 2026 Olympics will be held in Italy, which will not be so onerous for teams with regards to time zone and travelling time.

Appointment of LSC Junior Vice President



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President Lillian sent an email to all LSC reps to advise them that Ann Johnstone is proposed as the next LSC Junior Vice President.

6. Competitions

Morton (*Lillian Carnegie*) - This will now be held at Curl Edinburgh on 22 March 2022, due to a plant failure in Hamilton. The first session will be at 12.30 with only one hour between games. Catering options were discussed, Rona Craig will get numbers from all participating teams. Restaurant only takes card payment, no cash. If meals are required afterwards then curlers to order and pay for separately. A discussion about catering will be held with the Morton secretary of each team involved, Rona Craig and LSC executive. President Lillian was asked about the decision on where Morton was to be played and she said that all 6-sheet ice rinks had been approached. Aberdeen, Murrayfield and Ayr all said that they could not organise given the short notice. The LSC Executive and Morton Secretaries involved discussed the best solution and Edinburgh was chosen, due to the best travel option for all teams. President Lillian is to confirm if the ice fee for Edinburgh is £10. (The finals ice is paid by Ladies Branch as the agreement was different for Hamilton ice from the previous bidding).

Henderson Bishop (*Lillian Carnegie*) - President Lillian received an email from Robin Henderson Bishop about what a good time he had at Forfar and as he received his tickets FOC for dinner. Mr Henderson Bishop would like to donate an amount to a curling charity and President Lillian suggested the Anne Malcolm Trust and everyone thought that was a good idea. This Trust responds to applications from young women's curlers who are looking for extra funding to subsidise training, travel, etc. Recently, it was used for 'This Girl Can Curl' campaign and paid for some of these costs. President Lillian will send information to Mr Henderson Bishop. Application for venue for next year has been extended to the end of the month. Hamilton ice rink will host the following year and we need to start thinking for year after that. The LSC Executive will discuss about writing something in rules within LB manual about how draw is made for the Finals. Traditionally the draw is done at the dinner, but there was some confusion this year.

7. AOCB

USA Tour Dates - Shirley Jeans is looking for LSC committee and reps and former tourists to play in bonspiel on 8 October at Stirling. LSC members asked to email Shirley Jeans on shirley.jeans15251@gmail.com. The tour leaves Edinburgh Airport on 17 October at 09.10 and returns on 12 November at 12.50.

Your Curler Magazine - President Lillian suggested that the Junior VP could possibly do an article for the Your Curler magazine. To keep LB regular articles interesting, it is suggested that the Junior VP approaches centres for input for articles/photos. Suggestion of results page where every ice rink send championship results. This will highlight different competitions in ice rinks and add links to ice rink website.

Loss of Ladies Clubs at Stirling - President Lillian received an email from Michele Brodie to advise that sadly Stirling ice rink has lost 3 ladies clubs this year: Falkirk Ladies 1960, Kilsyth Ladies and West Stirlingshire Ladies. Most of remaining members in these clubs have moved to Strathendrick and it is hoped that Strathendrick will join Ladies Branch.

How are members are appointed for sub-committees - Bruce Crawford advised that when a committee is looking for new members it is advertised in Your Curler asking people to come forward. Some sub-committees mostly involve members of the Board as they are focusing on corporate governance aspects of the business, e.g. Audit committee. Reports from various committees are circulated prior to the Board meeting and if only if there is a particular issue that Board feels they need to action, then that is brought to the Board meeting.

World Championships - Alison Taylor went to Glasgow Airport on Sunday to see half of Team Scotland going off to Canada and to wish them every success. President Lillian and Vice President Alison depart for Canada on Friday. President Lillian mentioned that the FB post with Alison at the airport, along with some of the team, had made 14k hits, the most we'd ever had.

Scottish Championship Medals - Scottish Curling medals were presented at this event instead of RCCC medals. This is last year of Scottish Curling medals as they were bought in bulk and were pre-engraved, so expectation is that a new medal design will be available for next year's competitions.



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RCCC Memberships - Membership numbers are reported at every Board meeting. The current figure is 9,694, which is available on membership database. There is encouragement that there will be a number of new members joining this year and member numbers will increase next year. The number of junior members is back up to 906 from around 600.

Updates from ice centres

President Lillian asked centres for an update on what's happening at their rinks:

Inverness – ice rink approached about holding Henderson Bishop, but after consulting local Ladies Branch it was agreed that there was not enough time to raise funding. Try Curling in Inverness is very active at the moment.

Ayr – tremendous efforts being made internally to bring people into sport and important to keep bringing people back. Ayr also keen to host HB, but ladies branch is quite an achievement and a lot of work and not right for just now. Ayr is currently closed for curling due to Covid infections between ice rink employees, however the ice rink will be up and running on 25 March for Four Nations.

Kirkcaldy – thanks to USA tour who had teams taking part in their Open, which meant 10 teams took part. Very good day and hoping more ice rinks will send teams next year. It is predominantly ice hockey and skating at Kirkcaldy with only Monday and Tuesday given to curling, so challenging to get times for all people wanting to curl.

Waterfront – problems with ice plant so just hope ice will be available to end of season. There have been a few successful Try Curling sessions. Karen will be remaining as LSC rep for another year.

Perth – Open not held this year as not enough ladies. Successful Mixed Doubles were held recently. Lots of Try Curling sessions, but not sure how that has benefitted Gateway club. No catering available at ice rink but able to get outside caterers for competitions.

Kinross – held successful Pairs competition. Open is being held next week and good number of entries for that. Huge numbers for Try Curling. Too short notice for Kinross to organise Henderson Bishop, but willing to apply again. LSC looking for proposal for venue in 2025 which is 3 years away. Ice rinks should not get carried away about how much money they need. It doesn't have to be an expensive event for ice rinks. Players pay their own way.

Forfar – new Vice President is Janice Walls. Fred Macaulay did entertainment at Henderson Bishop dinner and donated his fee to diabetic charity.

Aberdeen – hoping ice rink will take over running of things. Successful Scottish Schools competition which was won by Stewarton Academy. Noticeable how many schools attended from around Aberdeen. There has been no Ladies Open this year. Good input into Try Curling sessions. Currently no Gateway Club in Aberdeen, so Aberdeen to look at setting that up as that would bring new curlers together and they would receive RCCC membership at half price. Scottish Curling got £2m funding for ice rinks and Aberdeen got largest award of any ice rink. Had it not been for SC doing work behind the scenes and in political circles then the ice rinks would not be so comfortable as they are now. SC is trying to keep the sport moving and growing. All LSC reps reminded about using the links to member discounts.

Hamilton – curling season has come to an abrupt finish. Disappointment for the Development Officer who introduced 'Curl and Dine' option which was popular but now they have to go back to everyone to cancel due to ice rink closure.

Edinburgh – Try Curling very successful, but not enough coaches to help at Try Curling. Lease for restaurant is not being renewed so not sure yet what catering will be available at the curling rink in the future.

Glasgow - this year's competitions have been successful with lot of entries. Hope that Glasgow City Council will get ice rink set up, but not heard much recently on developments. Greenacres has been fantastic and made curlers feel welcome. Hope that Glasgow ladies branch can continue. It is at the discretion of LB whether finish as Braehead or continue for another couple of years.

Stranraer – Scottish Pairs held at ice rink at the weekend and delighted to see a 14 years' old and 16 years' old won that and beat local players. Well done to the team from Dumfries. There were entries from all over Scotland. We have missed schools coming in this season. National Disability Day on Thursday. Coaches are always an issue and we are always challenging development officer to help with coach training and encouragement. A lot of people for Try Curling are hotel residents, who will not continue curling at Stranraer. Lyburn Open held in February and USA tour helped by entering teams for this.



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Dumfries – only Jane Patterson and President Lillian attended the drinks reception with Board after the curling. Good afternoon and evening, but hopefully better organised for next year. Suggestion to hold this when curling is on to swell numbers watching the teams.

8. Future Meetings

Tuesday 5 April – LSC meeting (Zoom meeting)

May (date tbc) – Joint Meeting

Tuesday 10th May – LB pre-AGM & AGM (physical and via Zoom)

Duration of meeting = 1.44 hrs