

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: THURSDAY 16TH JUNE 2022
AT DUNBLANE GOLF CLUB & VIA ZOOM
AT 10.00 AM



Present

Alison Taylor (President), Maureen Parker (Vice President), Ann Johnstone (Junior Vice President), Marion Malcolm (Aberdeen), Mara Lindsay (Ayr), Mary Anderson (Glasgow), Fiona McLaren (Inverness), Debbie Weir (Kinross), Pamela Craigie (Kirkcaldy), Marion Murdoch (Lockerbie), Isla Kinnear (Perth), Michele Hartley (Stirling), Kate Adams (Stranraer), Karen Jack (Waterfront), Janice Walls, Bruce Crawford (CEO, SC)

Apologies

Kate Caithness (Honorary President), Gail Munro (Honorary Vice President), Janine Wilson (Treasurer), Jane Patterson (Dumfries), Sheilagh Macfarlane (Forfar)

1. Welcome

President Alison welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially to new members of the LSC. She hopes that we can get to see everyone in person more frequently this year but understands that due to long travelling distances for some reps that Zoom will be needed at each meeting. Alison went around the table and introduced all those in attendance at the meeting. VP Maureen suggested using name badges for meeting attendees. Michele Hartley will produce these for all LSC Executive and reps which can be used at all physical LSC meetings. Alison welcomed Bruce Crawford, CEO to the meeting. She also presented Ann Johnstone with her Junior VP badge, as Ann was unable to attend the Ladies Branch AGM at Forfar.

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Previous Minute

Minutes of previous meeting had been circulated to all reps.

Proposer: Debbie Weir (Kinross) *Seconder:* Michele Hartley (Stirling)

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

5. Updates

Alison reminded all LSC reps that the Operating Manual for Ladies Branch is published on SC website under 'Ladies Branch' section. It is useful document for both new members and to refresh existing members of what is expected from a LSC Rep and from the Executive.

6. Competitions

Swedish Tour – the closing date was 8 June. There has been a tremendous response with thirty-five applicants for sixteen places, which is causing a bit of a headache for the selection panel! It is hoped that the number could be extended to twenty, but this is still to be confirmed.

Morton – there are four sections with four rinks in each for this coming season. There was concern that some sections have the same home and away fixtures as last year. Maureen explained that unfortunately due to the reshuffle of sections this year it was difficult to change these and find a balance which was fair. However, this will be rectified for next year. As mentioned in previous minutes, it is hoped that Lockerbie will come back into the competition in future years. Although Lockerbie is not taking part, Marion Murdoch (Lockerbie) asks that she is still included in Morton discussions and meetings for this season. Morton Secretaries have been contacted and some already have their fixtures sorted. A Morton Secretaries meeting is to be organised in the near future. Reps are asked to contact their Morton Secretary and make sure that the person who allocates the ice is involved in discussions. Over the years there has been some confusion and dilution of the philosophy and ethos of the Morton, so Alison will email this to all Reps to forward to members. The Morton will be advertised on the LSC Facebook page. There was a request for further discussion regarding flexibility of rules for playing positions in the Morton to help those centres who are struggling to put together enough teams.

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Henderson Bishop – 33 entries have been received so far. Reps are asked to encourage club secretaries to get entries in before closing date of 30 June. This is a premier ladies' rink competition with a few days of competition and fun. The final will be held at Stranraer 27Feb2023-02Mar2023.

Ladies Local Competitions – Reps are asked to contact Elaine at SC directly with details of any local ice rink competitions which reps would like to be advertised on the SC website to attract competitors from other centres.

7. AOCB

President's Report – not much has happened since the AGM. The Olympic gold medal ladies curling team and Coach, David Murdoch, have been awarded OBE or MBE in the Queen's birthday list. Alison has sent cards of congratulations to all of them on behalf of Ladies Branch. Alison has been getting to grips with the administration of being President and she is looking forward to her role. If there is anything she can offer assistance with, please let her know. She asks Reps to keep the communication going and to continue to help each other out. She is looking forward to further joint meetings with ASC and sharing ideas with them. Her first Board Meeting was held last week, which was very interesting. Proposals which were discussed at the Board Meeting will be discussed later at ASC/LSC Joint Meeting.

Co-option of Ladies Branch President to the Board - Alison received a unanimous show of hands from those attending the meeting (and on Zoom) to make a formal request to the Board for her to be co-opted as a Board member with full voting rights, as offered to her predecessors, Past Presidents Corrie Lawrence and Lillian Carnegie.

Ladies Coaching Audit – this is published on SC website under 'Coaching and Development'. Alison encourages members to use this to promote the take up of coaching and development at ice rinks. More curling coaches are required to provide assistance to coaching development staff and coaching courses are available to anyone interested. Fiona Harfield of SC sent out questionnaire to ascertain what ice rinks required, as she is interested in offering Level 1 or Level 2 coaching courses and she has also given 3 different dates for child protection and welfare training, which all coaches require to undertake. Reps to make their coaches aware that this is available and this is done on Zoom. At Ayr last year they put people through a Coaching Assistants Course, where the participants came along and assisted a coach during a Try Curling session and it worked very well. Many of them then decided to go on to a Level 1 Coaching Course, so other ice rinks should consider this route.

LSC attendance at meetings – Alison would like to encourage all LSC reps to attend meetings in person, if possible, as this makes for better discussion and more productive meetings. It is also beneficial to meet up in person with other reps and discuss initiatives and ideas. Meetings will also continue to be held on Zoom, but it can prove difficult to hear everyone around the table. It is suggested that attendees sit theatre style in front of camera rather than around a table. Venue for future meetings has not been decided as some venues charge to hire a room. The SC office in Edinburgh is available free of charge, but space is tight. Bruce Crawford, CEO suggested using Hamilton ice rink as a possible venue which is free. Dunblane is a good venue as easy to get to and Executive to also look at moving venue around to suit those further afield.

Support ice rinks - Alison wrote a letter to Bruce Crawford asking what the Board is doing to support ice rinks. Bruce attended a recent Scottish Ice Rink Assoc (SIRA) meeting this week. Scottish Curling is lobbying the government for £2m support for Covid and Development Managers, Scott and Catriona are covering all ice rinks to ensure development plans in place to support ice rinks. Try Curling website drives a lot of traffic to get people into ice rinks for participate in curling and get people into ice rinks. There has been other initiative of 'This Girl Can Curl' which was a success last year is also planned for this summer. Need to encourage more women into curling as women only represent 40% of membership. With energy prices increasing, this will have a knock-on effect on our ice fees so important we encourage as many people into the ice rinks at this time, or we risk ice rinks closing. Bruce will organise for some development staff to come to a future meeting to give feedback on research about what other sports are doing to encourage people to take part. Query about funding for schools to Try Curling and provide transport? There is lottery funding called 'Awards for All' but Scottish curling cannot apply for this. If ice rinks can organise a few of their clubs to organise a primary school festival, which includes travel, and then they are able to access this funding. Scottish Curling can provide information and advice about this funding if ice rinks are interested. Reps are reminded to also look into Council funding which might be available to them.

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Debbie Weir (Kinross) advised that Kinross have lost all ice technicians. They had three ice technicians, one took voluntary redundancy and the other two have left their jobs. These jobs are advertised and reps are encouraged to share on Facebook. Fiona Harfield is working with SIRA to put together the right training for ice technicians.

LSC congratulated on their Facebook posts and this has raised profile of Ladies Branch.

Competitions calendar – would it be possible to move, e.g. The Masters, to earlier in the season as from January to end season is too congested with competitions. This will be discussed at the Joint meeting later.

8. Future Meetings

Details of all future proposed meeting dates for LSC and Joint meetings will be sent out shortly.

A few dates to note: -

26 July - meeting cancelled

9 August - 10.00 - LSC meeting on Zoom only - to discuss any motions/proposals for the AGM

20 August - 14.00 - RCCC AGM, Curl Edinburgh

4 October - LSC Bonspiel & Lunch at Lanarkshire Ice rink.

Please could LSC reps confirm their attendance to Maureen

Vote of thanks to Chair by Maureen.

The meeting closed at 11.00