

MINUTE OF THE AREA STANDING COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2022

VIA: ZOOM AT: 10.00

Position	Name	
President	Mike Ferguson	<i>Present</i>
Vice President	Jim Raeburn	<i>apologies</i>
Chief Executive Officer	Bruce Crawford	<i>Present</i>
Board Chairman	Graham Lindsay	<i>Present</i>
Immediate Past President	Susan Kesley	<i>apologies</i>

Area (no.)	Area Rep (1)		Area Rep (2)		Area Rep (3)	
Ayrshire (1)	Jamie Mason	Present				
Galloway (2)	Mary Anne McWilliam	Present				
South (3)	Robert Carruthers	apologies				
Border (4)	Liz Cullen	Present				
Inverclyde (5)	Jean Cousar	Present	John McDermott	apologies		
Lanarkshire (6)	David Haggart	apologies	Louise McCutcheon	apologies		
Greater Glasgow (7)	John McGowan	Present	<i>vacant</i>	<i>n/a</i>		
Edinburgh (8)	Trevor Dodds	apologies	Robin Copland	Present		
Forth Valley (9)	Harry Brodie	Present	Norman Ainslie	Present		
Fife & Kinross (10)	Nigel Forrest	Present	Mike Caffyn	Present		
Perthshire (11)	Alan Chalmers	apologies	<i>vacant</i>	<i>n/a</i>		
North East (12)	Tom Kirk	Present	Philip Ross	apologies	Albert Middler	Present
Highlands & Moray (13)	Brenda Macintyre	Present	Ann Gibb	apologies		

1. Welcome

Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting, first one since the AGM. Apologies that this meeting is being held over zoom, on this occasion. I would like to have face to face meetings wherever possible. Can I just go through each area to establish who are present and which areas need help in filling vacancies, in which happy to help fill them. I'd like to thank Susan again for her time last year as President. I will be working closely with Jim (VP) as it is important we work as a team and liaise with everyone.

2. Apologies

As above - also from Alison Taylor (*LB President*).

3. Minutes of last Meeting/Matters Arising

The minutes from ASC meeting of 14th April 2022 - approved by John McGowan and seconded by Tom Kirk.

4. Matters Arising

Mentioned that the LSC had raised a point about good ideas/good practice being accessible for all on the SC website or similar platform. Bruce stated that it had been raised at the LSC by the previous head of development and was now being picked up by Eilidh who had taken over the role. Eilidh is in the process of finding a suitable platform for this type of discussion, as the SC website is not suitable for this, and will hopefully source something this month to get it up and running.

Mike mentioned that ASC have a new WhatsApp group for more efficient communication and open discussion with reps

Robin mentioned the issue of the RCCC AGM date on which a motion had failed at the AGM; however the date should still be considered. Bruce advised that this was being discussed and the next board meeting, taking place this evening. However, the accounts were not available until July due to the end of season dates for accounts. There is a lot of pressure with various other events taking place in June this year. This all needs to be balanced with the accountants as well as previous comments from all.

5. Presidents Update *(Mike Ferguson)*

As this is my first report as there have been no meetings since the AGM. I will be attending the board meeting later today. As mentioned at the AGM we are facing the rising cost of utilities and increase of charges, along with the cost of living crisis. There are no easy answers to this and we may have another season of simply surviving. My passion is with grass roots curling and would like everyone to do their bit in encouraging new blood into the sport and start to reverse the current trend of declining numbers. With my dual role as RCCC President and SIRA chairman I will be doing all I can to help fight the cause to support curlers and facilities.

I would like to heighten awareness for area reps; with pictures, contact information and details clearly displayed in all ice rinks. Use local rinks social media to spread the ASC message, Encourage contact with the local curling community, councils etc. Making sure everyone at local ice rink level knows who their local ASC rep is and how they can reach them. I want ASC members to feel valued and empowered. We need to protect and develop our sport as much as possible and communicate to all whilst providing a pool of expertise. I will ensure ASC members views are fully represented at board level whenever appropriate.

Our new WhatsApp group is working well already and can be used to keep everyone in the loop, increasing communication and knowledge. No need to wait for the next meeting to raise items for discussion.

6. Board Update *(Bruce Crawford)*

We have first board meeting tonight where various items will be discussed, including the selection policy regarding British Curling and performance areas. Looking for Scottish Curling to take over control of selection policy for season 2022-2023 and eventually having policy for 4 years in place by end of 2022. The new policy should be less ambiguous than the previous one and do what we need it to do.

Memorandum of Understanding with British Curling should also be linked as we look after the interests of curlers. At the moment sportscotland deals with Scottish Curling and UK Sport with British Curling.

UK Sport are more and more demanding regarding the monies they give out with high performing athletes getting an APA (Athlete Personal Award). However even athletes that do not receive an APA will also benefit by being in the programme. I'm also discussing with Scottish Government to see if there is any help for facilities with the rising energy costs.

Bruce is also looking forward to working with Mike, who has his own way of working. Mike will also, going forward this season, write the introduction section for YourCurler to allow all member to hear from our president.

Mike mentioned that he wants the government to look at businesses as well as people at this troubling time for all. The costs are varied for all ice rinks depending on ownership, as private or council owned.

Graham Lindsay also welcomed Mike and was looking forward to first board meeting with him.

7. Area Updates/Reports

Ayrshire *(Jamie Mason)* – Costs are up as with everyone else, numbers up though, but season still uncertain. I am new rep this year and would welcome any help if needed from ASC members.

Galloway *(Mary Anne McWilliam)* – North West Castle under new ownership but Gail Munro in charge of rink. Finding it hard to fill rink after Covid although they have The Henderson Bishop Finals and SWCA British Open Wheelchair event taking place this season.

Border *(Liz Cullen)* – Kelso has a new roof. Have set up a temporary group to deal with issue of Ice techs. Now have Mark Callan to help with starting up and a trainee tech who is coming from Elgin. Not sure about bar or catering yet. Starting on October as planned. This season may be very interesting.

Inverclyde *(Jean Cousar)* – Greenacres fees are up. We are hiring staff (bar & clerical), should open in a couple of weeks.

Lanarkshire *(Mike)* – Still having plant problems but will have a delayed start to season.

Greater Glasgow *(John McGowan)* – Just to hep with Greenacres, they should eb opening end September.

Edinburgh *(Robin Copland)* – Ice is now £19 in evening. We are losing the club rooms and kitchen/bar area this season but will redevelop and hopefully have something in place for 2023-2024. Season starting 26th September through to March 2023.

Forth Valley *(Harry Brodie)* – The Peak opened 31st August. Prices are I believe £11. There is no bar or function area, room has to be hired for this at a cost. *(Norman Ainslie)* – numbers were down a bit with not all sheets being utilised. Some teams having difficulty raising numebrs.

Fife & Kinross (Mike Caffyn/Nigel Forrest) – Kinross bookings looking healthy. Price now £14.75 max. Area competitions allocated. Two new ice techs Ross McLeary and Duncan Menzies they will be assisted by Tom Brewster and Mark Callan for start of season ice. Opening 10th September.

Mike - it appears that after furlough a lot of techs left probably due to long work hours etc. Curl Aberdeen holding an Ice Tech Course in October.

Perthshire (from Graham) – Prices up slightly from last season. Competition details have been distributed.

North East (Tom Kirk) – we have already started engaging with members and having face boards up at rink. Set up an Area Management committee for help competitions. More entries this year for area competitions. Looking to have increased visibility and transparency. Dundee development group back in place. Tour meeting in Forfar. Season length reduced slightly and prices up slightly. On a positive note bookings were up, ice fees remain same.

Aberdeen (Albert Middled) – Opening 26th September. Management meeting held mostly talking about the power situation. Meeting with incoming tour committee, well on the way with all required. Bookings up and ice up £1.

Forfar (Mike) – Opening 1st October, Gas increased by 620%. Prices are up £2 evening and £1 day time. Bookings are healthy, we have tried to condense ice bookings which has led to a few problems with club bookings however it is to help with ice efficiency.

Inverness (Brenda Macintyre) – Opening 12th September. Entries are up. We are only open Monday to Thursday and Saturday for bonspiels, if enough interest. Also with skating and Ice Hockey camps.

Have done some diversifying with a Ginverness (Gin Event) and a Whiskyoverice. These went well and the suppliers themselves were very enthusiastic to run similar ones in the future. Ice £12 for members. There is a new Development Officer in place.

Moray (Brenda Macintyre) – Moray will open later. New iceman now Greg Smith and his deputy starts mid-September.

8. **Tours** (Mike Ferguson)

All believed to be in hand and taking shape well for the tours. If you are looking for more information contact your rink or drop me an email

USA Tour in January, incoming - which appears to be well in hand. Ian Young (Forfar) co-ordinating.

Strathcona Cup Tour to Canada, out-going in January/February 2023 - the management committee meet every two weeks or so and the next meeting will be at Forfar on 2nd October for clothes fitting, games, and a bacon butty or two.

9. **Future Meetings**

Some dates were discussed to ensure everyone was involved with the decision however it was felt that a closer look was required to avoid competitions where members may be involved.

Joint Meeting (& Priestfield Cup) – 25th October in Lanarkshire. *This date will be looked at due to the clash with the Masters, Mike will come back on this.*

All agreed to have a mixture of both Joint Meetings and ASC meetings this season.

As Archers Match date is booked for 7th December in Curl Edinburgh at 14:30, all agreed to go with 10:00 on 7th for and ASC meeting prior to lunch and the game.

Tamnovulan in February in (poss Inverness/Perth) proposed date is 15th February with meeting at 10:30. This date may clash with the Seniors. Again will come back on this.

Joint Meeting is in February – do we want to hold this meeting at the Scottish Championship and look for the meeting time to match with actual curling. So this will be a date within the Scottish Championships.

- Next meeting (*where this minute will be ratified*) and future dates will follow.

10. **AOCB**

None

11. **Close**

Vote of thanks to Mike for his first meeting.

(Meeting closed at 11:30)