



MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2023

AT LANARKSHIRE ICE RINK

AT 11.00 AM

Present

Alison Taylor (President), Maureen Parker (Vice President), Ann Johnstone (Junior Vice President), Yvonne Birnie (Treasurer), Mara Lindsay (Ayr), Rona Craig (Edinburgh), Sheilagh Macfarlane (Forfar), Janice Walls (Forfar), Mary Anderson (Glasgow), Clare McCormick (Greenacres), Fiona McLaren (Inverness), Debbie Weir (Kinross), Pamela Craigie (Kirkcaldy), Lillias Hyslop (Lanarkshire), Michele Hartley (Stirling), Karen Jack (Waterfront), Vincent Bryson (RCCC Interim CEO), Terry Paterson (Tour Captain, Sweden Ladies Tour 2023)

Apologies

Kate Caithness (Honorary President), Lucy Tile (Border), Jane Patterson (Dumfries), Liz Paul (Glasgow), Marion Murdoch (Lockerbie), Isla Kinnear (Perth), Kate Adams (Stranraer)

1. Welcome (*President Alison*)

A particular warm welcome to our guests this morning; Vincent Bryson (RCCC Interim CEO) and Terry Paterson (Tour Captain of the Swedish Ladies Tour 2023). More from them later.

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Previous Minutes (*from 06/12/2022*)

Minutes of previous meeting circulated to all reps.

Proposer: Lillias Hyslop (Lanarkshire) **Seconder:** Debbie Weir (Kinross)

4. Matters Arising

There is an amendment to Point 5. President's Report, 'Marguarite Roberts Quaich', should read 'Marguerite Roberts Quaich'.

5. Treasurer's Report (*Yvonne Birnie*)

The last bank statement I have is dated 15th February and at this point our account had £5,655.63. We have spent £1461.72 on brooches and badges - £417.18 and £1044.54. We have total income of £761 - from Centres £515, Merchandise of £165, Bonspiel £81. Centres who have donated so far are; Ayr, Borders, Lockerbie, Inverness, Stranraer, Murrayfield, Lanarkshire, Dumfries, Stirling and I believe Perth and Glasgow have, or are about to, donate. Merchandise – in stock 2 pks of cards at £10 each and hessian bags and 72 x tea towels which have still to be sold. It may be that some centres are holding stock? Can I ask if there is any expected expenditure to come – room hire, honorariums, gifts etc. I think it would be helpful that the treasurer would be able to view the bank account and not to have to ask for a copy to be sent from Scottish Curling. There was a query raised at the meeting as to why centres are asked to donate to LB and why Scottish Curling does not give any funding to LB as ladies pay a RCCC fee as well as levy to their ladies branch. LB funds are used for purchase of medals, but who funds the medals for mens' national competitions? President Alison to look into this and reps asked to make enquiries with their ASC rep at their centre about how levies are used. Yvonne has a letter from Gail Munro which explains why we donate to LB and she will forward this on to reps. President Alison confirmed that the cost of her flights/accommodation for trips on LB business is covered by Scottish Curling and not LB funds.

6. Welcome Introduction – Interim CEO (*Vincent Bryson*)

President Alison warmly welcomed Vincent Bryson to the meeting. Vincent joins us from a background in Scottish Hockey, Scottish Archery, Scottish Fencing and 5G Communications. He brings many skills and fresh ideas. We look forward to working together. Vincent has been out visiting ice centres and has visits to Stranraer and Lockerbie next week. He has set up a strategy group of 11 people with a gender positive split (7/4 split female/ male) with the main objective to look at the future direction for Scottish Curling and to ensure it is financially strong. A Strategic Plan is to be completed by 20 March and put to the Board for approval by end April. He is aware of challenges facing curling and ice centres and he has been out speaking with local authorities. There are currently 13 members of staff at Scottish Curling and Vincent is looking to try and change working processes within the organisation. His role is a



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short-term role for 6 months and he hopes that the new CEO will feel the impact of the changes made so far. Vice President, Maureen Parker, thanked Vincent for his update and said that Ladies Branch will be happy to assist in Strategic planning.

7. Proposals *(Fraser Montgomery)*

Unfortunately, Fraser Montgomery was unable to attend the meeting. He is a non-executive Board member and his background is in finance. He has no background in curling. He has some good ideas and proposals which he would like to bring to LB and we will hear about these in due course.

8. Nominations Sought *(President Alison)*

- a. LB JVP – President Alison is delighted to announce that Karen Jack (Waterfront) has been nominated as the new JVP.
- b. Treasurer – LB is still looking to fill this position. Reps to make President Alison aware if they have anyone who would be interested. Yvonne Birnie (interim Treasurer) said she can talk about the role to anyone who is interested.

9. Updates *(President Alison)*

- a. **Braehead Centre Future** – how do we keep the Glasgow ice rink represented as it's been three years since Braehead closed? There was discussion between Clare McCormick (Greenacres) and Mary Anderson (Glasgow) about what would be best, as Glasgow needs to have clarity before their AGM on 20 March. As most Glasgow clubs are now playing at Greenacres, except for one, it was suggested that both LSC committees should dissolve/cease and come together under a new name to be decided. Vincent Bryson (interim CEO) suggested to President Alison that she makes a recommendation to the RCCC board and asks them to accept the new entity. LB will have a further meeting to discuss this as there are financial implications to work through.
- b. **Henderson Bishop Plans** – programme for week Sun 26 February – 2 March – President Alison thanked the committee in Stranraer for organising an exciting looking line up of events. We are looking forward to a great event and seeing many spectators and supporters. Dundee is taking part for the first time. Sheilagh Macfarlane advised that Dundee hopes to have a LB committee in place from next curling season.
- c. **Venue for 2025 Henderson Bishop Finals** – Lanarkshire is hosting event in 2024 (dates to be issued soon). It is suggested that Dumfries may host the event in 2025? President Alison to enquire with Dumfries. The event is usually held in the week at end of Feb.
- d. **Morton Update** – the finals will be between the winners of sections; Inverness (North), Stranraer (South), Stirling (West), Curl Edinburgh (East). Lillias Hyslop (Lanarkshire) gave an update on schedule for this year's finals:
Timings: ice sessions 10.00-12.00, 1.30-3.30. Ice fee = £14. Catering = total £10 (hot roll on arrival + lunch of soup, sandwiches, tea/coffee and tray bake). Supporters can get lunch = £10. President Alison showed the meeting the new Morton pins which are still to be engraved with the year. Ayr is hosting the Morton Final in 2024. It was highlighted that ice allocation requests from Scottish Curling for HB, Morton, Masters have been sent direct to ice centre management and therefore LB reps are not made aware of requests.

10. Tours

- a. **Incoming 2024 Canadian Tour** *(President Alison)* – host availability and ice scheduling – Canadians plan to arrive on a Friday in November 2024 (1/11 or 8/11?). President Alison is pushing to get Scottish Junior Championship date confirmed to avoid a clash of dates. There are 2 past Canadian Tour ladies on the organising committee. More details to follow once available. **(A discussion took place as to those centres who had previously been asked to home host. Alison asked for an indication of those centres still able to do so. This is ONLY an indication at this point).*
- b. **Outgoing 2023 Swedish Tour** *(Terry Paterson, Tour Captain)* – Nov 2023. Tour Captain Terry gave the meeting an update on preparations for the Tour which flies out on 3 November at 13.20 hrs from Edinburgh Airport to



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Amsterdam and then on to Stockholm. Tour arrives back on 14 November at 22.05 hrs into Edinburgh airport. The tour will be wearing the Doddie tartan, which covers the colours of both the Swedish flag and Scottish flag. They will have 11 games in total.

- c. **Incoming USA Tour** (*President Alison*) – the USA ladies would like to be invited to come over in 2026, but this is still to be confirmed. The ladies who were on the last outgoing USA tour said it was best to go out in October/November, rather than in January, when the weather can be an issue. President Alison said that we would also look at changing the schedule for all incoming tours.

11. International Women's Day – 8 March 2023 (*President Alison*)

The date seemed months away when President Alison had an idea to try and suggest something for us all to do at our ice centres, but unfortunately there was not enough time to put anything in place, so with the help from Louise Watson in the SC office, she would ask reps to make magazine contributions of women's events at ice centres. This can be photos, or any articles about changes in women's curling over the years (anything to promote the profile of women's curling) and to post these on to the online SLACK platform.

12. Local Curlers (*President Alison*)

The reason President Alison wanted to know this information was to use it to see if we had ideas of engaging better with all women curlers at ice centres. We represent them, but we could improve incorporating them into our LB/RCCC competitions and how you could benefit from more women for your events. Ideas should be shared on the SLACK platform.

13. Reports

- a. **U21 Slam, Dumfries** (*President Alison*) – Congratulations to Team Mitchell (Amy Mitchell, Robyn Mitchell, Hannah Farries, Kirsty Gallacher (Greenacres) and Team Strawhorn (Jack Strawhorn, Hamish Gallacher, Rory MacNair, Kaleb Johnston (Dumfries) who have clinched the Asham Under 21 Slam overall trophies for 2022-23. They each received a cheque for £1,000.
- b. **U17 Slam, Hamilton** (*by President Alison*) – A well supported competition. Good to see teams up from the Flower Bowl in Preston taking part in this. It coincided with the English Mixed Doubles in Dumfries and preceded the 4 Nations in Aberdeen the weekend after. 18 teams took part. High Road winners were Team hare from Stranraer and the young team from Curl Aberdeen were winners of the Low Road. Very well done to all who took part. Dedicated parents to be commended. Due to a few problems with the computer system and program, results were unable to be posted other than on Facebook on Ladies Branch page. This has now been resolved. President Alison would like to encourage the Competitions Committee to add a bit onto the draw schedule about what catering (if any) is available and make it clear that if a venue has an in-house catering facility, that no food should be brought in from outside and consumed on the premises. This is only fair to the caterer and manners to the venue.
- c. **Four Nations, Curl Aberdeen** (*President Alison*) – 32 Scottish curlers took part in this friendly, competitive and very enjoyable competition. Each year it is organised by the host Nation. This year it was Northern Ireland who were organising and they chose Curl Aberdeen 27-28 January. This made it a long way for the Welsh curlers. They were unable to field a team and unfortunately had to withdraw, thus making it 3 nations and a total re-draw of the teams and games played. It was a huge job sorting this all out at short notice, but we got there. I would recommend this to you all and encourage you to enter. Unfortunately, we lost the Connie Millar Trophy played for by Scotland women v England women. A very enjoyable dinner and social evening was held on Saturday night. Thank you to all who entered and played. It will be the English Curling Association to host next year and this will be at the Flower Bowl, Preston. A very interesting venue and would encourage you to go.
- d. **Masters National Championships, Greenacres** (*Maureen Parker*) - this year we had 12 men and 12 ladies team entered. The men had a playdown for their place in the last 12, but the ladies only had the 12 entries in total. Unfortunately, one ladies' team withdrew before the competition started. The Masters is a very sociable competition with old friends and new, meeting up over 4 days. We were all looked after at Greenacres with



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fast and true drawing ice. We were also treated to a lovely supper on the Friday evening. The curling, as always, was competitive and closely fought. There were teams from Edinburgh, Kinross, Forfar, Waterfront, Stranraer, Borders, Inverness and Ayr. After two sections playing a round robin, 4 teams progressed to the semi-final. Team McIntyre from Waterfront beat Team Prentice after a very close game. Team Adams from Stranraer beat Team Parker (yes, my Team), who was from Forfar, Kinross and Murrayfield, and went on to win in the final. Congratulations to Kate Adams, Catherine Dodds, Jill Florence and Louise Kerr. The mens' final was between Gray and Horton, both from Edinburgh with Gray coming out on top. I would encourage ladies to enter a team next year for this really enjoyable competition.

- e. **Scottish Championships, Dumfries** (President Alison) – Team Morrison (Rebecca Morrison, Gina Aitken, Sophie Sinclair, Sophie Jackson) defended the Scottish Curling Women's Title at the 2023 national championships held at Dumfries Ice Bowl. The Aberdeen side went unbeaten throughout the tournament, culminating in a comprehensive win over Team Young (Lesley Young, Jennifer Marshall, Eilidh Yeats, Rachel Dakers, Maggie Wilson) (Forfar) in the gold medal game. I was delighted to present the girls with the magnificent Jubilee Rosebowl on the day. Team Young, who had formed specifically for this championship, were the big surprise of the week. Although the 4 friends had only got together mere weeks before the event, they kicked things off with a win in the opening draw and added another four to qualify second in the table. They bounced back from defeat in the page play-off with victory over Team Blair (Lucy Blair, Lisa Davie, Susie Smith, Holly Hamilton) (Greenacres) in the semi-final that took them to the medals. Second place overall means Team Young bagged the Women's Amateur Prize for this season. Congratulations to them, quite an achievement! Team Dumfries skip Jodi and Team Barr skip Emma were tied on votes for the sportsmanship trophy. I was delighted to be able to present Jodi with the sportsmanship trophy at the finals. She will share this with Emma who unfortunately had gone home. Team Morrison, along with Team Mouat, were both confirmed yesterday as the teams going out to represent Scotland at their respective World Championships 18-26th March 2023. The Women's is in Sandviken, Sweden and the Men's is in Ottawa, Canada. Maureen and I are fortunate to be going out to support the women in Sweden. We wish Team Morrison all the very best of luck for a successful and enjoyable competition. We send our very best wishes to Team Mouat too in Ottawa, 1-9th April 2023, at their world championships. We also send our very best wishes to the Scottish Junior Champions Team Henderson and Team Orrin Carson who fly out on Wednesday to Füssen in Germany to represent Scotland in the World Junior Championships. I have sent a good luck card to them both on behalf of all the Ladies Branch. Follow the scores online on the SC website.
- f. **Scottish Seniors Championships, Lanarkshire Ice Rink** (President Alison) - Congratulations to Team Lockhart (Jackie Lockhart, Mairi Milne, Wendy Johnston, Katie Loudon) (Aberdeen) and Team Connal (Graeme Connal, Alastair Scott, Mark Fraser, Mark Brass) (Perth) who are the 2023 Scottish Senior champions and have earned the right to represent Scotland at the World Senior Curling Championships 2023 in South Korea. We were treated to a great few days of curling here in Lanarkshire last week as well as great galleries coming in to watch and meet up. We wish both teams safe travels and a successful and enjoyable adventure to South Korea. Again, the results will be online through the WCF website.

14. Centre Updates

President Alison read out an update report (from Isla Kinnear, Perth), who is unable to attend the meeting today in person. Some action points:

- Morton – hoped that Morton secretaries can have a pre-season Zoom meeting as face-to-face contact is helpful. It is sad that teams dropped out this year, so would a 2-team format make things more manageable? It is hoped that teams who withdrew this year will be back next year.
- Henderson Bishop – the dates of the finals being during the week this season are a reason for full-time working curlers in Perth being reluctant to enter. Is there a possibility of reducing the number of weekdays in HB Finals and play 3 games a day to attract ladies who work to enter? It was agreed unanimously that it is not possible to play 3 games per day. What is the format for HB qualifying rounds? If a centre has +5 teams entering, then it is played as a knock-out with a team/s having a bye in first round.



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15.AOCB

- a. **Local Competitions** (*Sheilagh Macfarlane, Forfar*) - can we try to avoid clashes of ladies local competitions as there have been 4 clashes in 4 months? Sheilagh Macfarlane has agreed to compile a list of competitions, which reps can put up on their local ice rink noticeboard. Reps are asked to post local competition dates on to the LSC WhatsApp group for Sheilagh to pick up from there.
- b. **Concussion Awareness** (*Rona Craig, Edinburgh*) - reps asked to search and read information on this topic on the SC website as we should all be promoting the wearing of protective headgear.
- c. **New Reps for 2023/24 season**

Edinburgh - Joan Simpson

Lanarkshire - Fiona Moffat

Kinross - Sheona Reid

Forfar - Janice Walls

Waterfront – tbc

Greenacres/Glasgow - tbc

16.Future Meetings

Tuesday 28 March 2023 - 10.00 -LSC meeting - via Zoom

Tuesday 18 April 2023 - 10.30 -Joint ASC/LSC meeting – Lanarkshire Ice Rink

Saturday 13 May 2023 -Pre-AGM 10:00 followed by lunch, LB AGM 2023 14:00 - Lanarkshire Ice Rink

17.Close

Maureen Parker (Vice President) thanked President Alison for a successful meeting.

The meeting closed at 13.40.