

NOTES OF ASC & LSC MEETING
HELD ON: TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2023
AT LANARKSHIRE ICE RINK & VIA ZOOM
AT 11.00 AM

Present

Mike Ferguson (RCCC President), Jimmy Raeburn (RCCC Vice President), Alison Taylor (LB President), Ann Johnstone (LB Junior VP), Yvonne Birnie (LB Interim Treasurer), Graham Lindsay (SC Chairman), Kate Caithness (LB Honorary President), Albert Middler (Aberdeen), Jamie Mason (Ayrshire), Mara Lindsay (Ayr), Robin Copland (Edinburgh), Trevor Dodds (Edinburgh), Mike Caffyn (Fife & Kinross), Janice Walls (Forfar), Norman Ainslie (Forth Valley), John McGowan (Glasgow), Clare McCormick (Greenacres), Fiona McLaren (Inverness), Debbie Weir (Kinross), Pamela Craigie (Kirkcaldy), Jim Hogg (Lockerbie), Isla Kinnear (Perth), Michele Hartley (Stirling), Mary Ann McWilliam (Stranraer), Kate Adams (Stranraer), Karen Jack (Waterfront) also zoom attendees not recorded on day

Apologies

Vincent Bryson (RCCC Interim CEO), Maureen Parker (LB Vice President), Liz Cullen (Borders), Ann Gibb (Highlands & Moray)

1. Welcome *(Mike Ferguson & Alison Taylor)*

Mike Ferguson (RCCC President) welcomed everyone present and thanks for making effort to come along in person or joining online. A particular welcome to both Kate Caithness (LB Honorary President), who is joining via Zoom and to Graham Lindsay (Scottish Curling Chair). Mike has enjoyed working with Alison and Jimmy during his term in office and he formally thanked them both for personally supporting him. Alison Taylor (LB President) is delighted to see such a large turnout for the meeting, with twenty-four attending in person at Hamilton. The Meeting Owl would have been useful for such a large meeting today, the purchase of this has not been a priority due to changes in the executive within Scottish Curling.

2. Apologies

As noted above. Vincent Bryson (RCCC Interim CEO), he has other meetings today, but will try to join meeting later.

3. Previous Minutes *(25Oct2022)*

Due to technical issues at the last meeting, with no wi-fi and Zoom facility, the minutes were not complete. Alison would like to record that the ladies won the Priestfield Trophy, which was played following the meeting October.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising. As noted in 'Welcome' above, an upgrade to IT requirements for external meetings is required and will be raised with new CEO.

5. Discussion

Review of Season – *(Mike Ferguson/Alison Taylor/Graham Lindsay/Jimmy Raeburn)*

Mike Ferguson (RCCC President) - there were successful trips to Füssen and Ottawa with excellent support from family and friends. At Füssen the Scottish girls did exceptionally well and became Junior World Champions, the boys also did very well to come third and gain a Bronze Medal. Mike was disappointed he could not be there at the finals, but his priority was to return home to support to club competitions. Alison went out to Füssen on Thursday, after attending the Henderson Bishop dinner in Stranraer. It was a great honour for her to be able to present the Gold Medal to the Girls and Bronze Medal to the boys. Congratulations to both teams, coaches, and support staff.

It was a great honour to present the Gold Medals to the Scottish men's team in Ottawa. Mike does believe that around the country, curling communities, ice rinks, curlers, coaches, umpires, etc are doing a great job in making sure we recover from the Pandemic. Praise should be given to those who have been encouraging new curlers to the sport and organising fundraising events. It is pleasing to see everyone pulling together and there are still a lot of challenges ahead for curling, which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Mike joined for last week of the Strathcona Cup Tour. Team spirit in all tour teams was excellent. There was an unfortunate incident in the first match when Keith Wilson (Tour Secretary) was injured and was unable to take part in all the other tour games, which was sad for Keith given all the hard work he had done for the tour. Thanks to the Canadians for looking after Keith and his time in hospital. Thanks to John Sheean of Canada for putting out very strong teams and for the organisation and the closing dinner with previous Strathcona players, which was excellent. The tour came in on budget and all aspects of the tour were a great success. A debrief meeting was held to receive opinions and feedback from those on the recent tour. This will help create a 'bible' for future tours. A Strathcona Family database has now been created for everyone who has taken part in this tour over the years, which will help

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to create a greater bond with the Canadians. There have been 9.5k views on Strathcona Cup Facebook page, so there are lessons to be learned from the Strathcona Cup with regards to how we use communications/social media

Alison Taylor (LB President) – Alison reiterated Mike's comments and thanked all LB centres for working hard to get curlers back on the ice post Pandemic. We are always looking for more players for LB competitions and LSC Reps are requested to continue to encourage ladies to come up with new ideas and initiatives to increase curler numbers. Alison would like to formally thank Earnside Coaches for all their business and support over the years and wishes the Rutherford family a happy retirement.

There is an incoming ladies' Canadian tour in November 2024, which had been postponed from 2020. Alison met with the Canadian Tour Captain, whilst at the World Championships in Ottawa. There has been a huge amount of interest generated about the Strathcona Cup in Canada and they have had many ladies coming forward who wish to sign up for a tour. There will be further discussion about perhaps offering a shorter Canadian tour (outgoing and incoming) which would attract more ladies.

Graham Lindsay (RCCC Chair) - there is still a lot of work to be done for AGM in 8 weeks' time. Things will be moving forward in the next few weeks with regards to seeking a new CEO. Three applications have now been received for positions of Independent Director and these will be discussed soon. An announcement will be given shortly regarding the new Chair, to replace Graham. Planning for next 4 years' cycle will be finalised in next few weeks, with the same financial support from Sport Scotland and funding from Performance Foundation due in shortly.

Jimmy Raeburn (RCCC VP) – Jimmy gave an update on the recent incoming USA tour. The tour was a great success, however there were a few issues with flights. The visitors were at Greenacres for their first match and representatives from the local Council welcomed them. Unfortunately, the final result didn't go in Scotland's favour and USA took the trophy home. All emails received from the tourists were very positive about their time in Scotland. Jimmy thanked Alex Dickson (Dumfries) who did a wonderful job with all the arrangements and organising a successful tour. There was comment about the hefty cost on local curlers to take part in incoming Men's tours and it was suggested that the ASC should look at how they can raise and retain funds to help with future incoming tour costs at ice centres. Alison advised that ladies pay an annual levy to their local Ladies Area Branch to play in local competitions and this levy income is used by the local ladies' branches to help with covering the cost of incoming tour visits. The ASC Reps are asked to take this initiative back to their local rinks to see how this could work for future men's incoming tours.

Energy Crisis (*Mike Ferguson, RCCC President*) in his role as RCCC President and Chair of SIRA (Scottish Ice Rink Association) Mike met with Sport Scotland and government bodies, with over 8-10 meetings on Zoom, to discuss the energy crisis. Vincent Bryson (Interim CEO RCCC) is doing a lot of work behind the scenes and lobbying the Scottish government with regards to energy crisis. There is no money, but they don't want to see ice rinks close. £63m was mentioned in the UK budget for leisure centres, but this did not include ice rinks, so this will be taken up further with the UK government. Mike asked for data from each ice centre to formally present to RCCC and Scottish government, which he is still waiting to receive. There has been no response from Local Authority owned ice rinks. In order to have a co-ordinated response to lobby the Scottish government, Sport Scotland, etc, reps are asked to chase the request for data from their ice centre. Recently the Scottish government have cancelled two meetings with Mike and Vincent and another date has been set, so Mike hopes this meeting will go ahead. The fight goes on...!

New Ideas – (*Alison Taylor, LB President*) - at the last LSC meeting, committee chatted around table about ideas to increase participation. Kate Caithness CBE (LB Honorary President) suggested members refer to the WCF initiative run by Scott Arnold. 'Business of Curling'. There is a Facebook page and she encourages members to look at that to see if there are things we can take back to our own ice rink. We need to 'think outside the box' to attract people into the curling community. The LSC and Scottish Curling are using 'Slack', an online platform set up by SC, to share ideas and improve communication. At the recent World Championships in Ottawa, both Alison and Maureen Parker (LB VP) were looking forward to the opportunity to mix with influential WCF members to gain some good ideas to bring home. However, both felt slighted and embarrassed when their entry pass to WCF area was taken off them, others were permitted entry. This issue will be followed up with both SC and WCF. So much happens at WCF level which grassroot curlers in Scotland do not hear about, so there was suggestion that WCF reps should attend SC Board meetings and report to ASC/LSC so useful information can be passed down to ice centres. Mike will take this forward to the Board and will also look at posting information on the Slack online platform. Maureen has written to Hugh Milliken and is keeping a relationship with WCF.

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6. Reports

- a. **LSC Report** – (*Alison Taylor, LB President*) – Outgoing Swedish Tour 3-14 Nov 2023 – itinerary is being finalised. Incoming Canadian Tour 8 Nov 2024 (date tbc) – Alison meeting Canadian Tour Captain to discuss proposed dates and itinerary. As hotels, etc now charge for using functions rooms in addition to dinner cost, the LSC will be discussing alternative ways to host the Canadians. With the closure of Braehead three years ago, the ladies branch at Glasgow and Greenacres have voted at their individual AGMs to agree to merge, so there will be a new committee formed. This is seen as a positive move for Glasgow and Greenacres which will be strengthened with the merge and there will be meeting next week to adopt a new Constitution. A successful Henderson Bishop Finals was held in Stranraer and well done to the ice centre for a well organised competition. Congratulations to the team from Forfar who triumphed over a close game with Stirling in the final to win the Henderson Bishop Trophy and to Stranraer who won the Cherrystone Trophy and Aberdeen who won the Cherrystone Bowl, winners and runners up in the Low Road final.
- b. **Morton Trophy** Three ladies' teams from Inverness, Stranraer, Edinburgh and Stirling all qualified to the Morton Final at Lanarkshire. Congratulations to Stranraer who retained the Morton Trophy for another year. Alison Taylor hopes to welcome back Lockerbie to the competition next season.
- c. **Maxwell Trophy** (*Mike Ferguson, RCCC President*) – Congratulations to Stirling who were the overall winners. There are encouraging signs from other ice rinks willing to get involved in the competition next season.
- d. **Rinks Championship** (*Mike Ferguson, RCCC President*) – Dunning CC won for another year. It was a good weekend and great to see club curlers coming out to support competitions. Forfar ice rink held a Newcomers competition with experienced and new curlers in a team, which was well supported and it was encouraging to see so many new curlers coming along. Bruce Mouat presented the prizes.
- e. **Representative Reports** (*Mike Ferguson, RCCC President*) – all reps present at the meeting and on Zoom were asked to 'round the table' and give a brief report on their ice centre at the meeting. An issue raised in a report is that Gateway Club members think they are not members of a Province, so they are not entering comps. There is ongoing debate over Provinces/Areas to continue in the present format. Most ice rinks still require to have Province and Area competitions, but the problem is getting representatives to come forward to support local Province committees.

7. Updates

- a. **AGM Planning** – Mike is looking for volunteers to help with planning for RCCC AGM on 1st July.

8. AOCB

- a. Good luck to teams Walker and Connell in the World Seniors Championships in South Korea; also to Jen Dodds and Bruce Mouat in the World Mixed Doubles Championship.
- b. An itinerary will be put together for Joint ASC/LSC meetings for next season. Jimmy will meet with LB executive to draw this up.
- c. Mike is working with Charlene, Competitions Officer to put together the curling calendar for next season. Reps asked to email competition dates to Charlene at Scottish Curling; competitions@scottishcurling.org. RCCC competition dates will be issued soon.
- d. Over the summer, Mike asked everyone to keep talking about curling, spread the word and encourage people to come to 'Try Curling' sessions.

9. Future Meetings

- a. LB AGM – 13 May 2023 (Lanarkshire Ice Rink) – 2.00 pm
- b. RCCC AGM – 1 July 2023 (Forfar Indoor Sports) 2.00 pm

10. Close

Mike and Alison thanked Michele Hartley (Stirling) for taking notes of the meeting. Mike wishes Kate continued good health. Alison thanked Mike for chairing the meeting.

The meeting closed at 1.50 pm.