

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2023

AT: STRANRAER ICE RINK - 10.30 AM

FOLLOWED BY LSC OPENING BONSPIEL



PRESENT

Gail Munro (Honorary Vice President), Maureen Parker (President), Ann Johnstone (Vice President), Karen Jack (Junior Vice President), Alison Troup (Aberdeen), Fiona Glascodine (Aberdeen), Janice Sutherland (Ayr), Alison Young (Ayr), Lucy Tile (Border), Susan Morrison (Dumfries), Joan Simpson (Edinburgh), Jane Bruce (Edinburgh), Janice Walls (Forfar), Terry Paterson (Greenacres), Fiona McLaren (Inverness), Sheona Reid (Kinross), Pamela Craigie (Kirkcaldy), Dorothy Browse (Kirkcaldy), Fiona Moffat (Lanarkshire), Merle Tough (Lanarkshire), Christine Ross (Lockerbie), Elaine Pryde (Lockerbie), Isla Kinnear (Perth), Michele Hartley (Stirling), Fiona Robertson (Stirling), Kate Adams (Stranraer), Angela Derry (Stranraer), Angela Watt (Waterfront), Vincent Bryson (SC CEO), Charlene Graham (SC Development Manager South West Scotland)

APOLOGIES

Kate Caithness (Honorary President), Val Saville (Treasurer), Mara Lindsay (Ayr), Caroline McClymont (Border), Sheilagh Macfarlane (Dundee), Clare McCormick (Greenacres)

1. WELCOME

President Maureen welcomed everyone to Stranraer and is pleased to see such a good turnout with reps and their guests. The reps were asked to give the meeting a brief introduction on themselves and their guests. Vinny Bryson (CEO) is joining us today along with Charlene Graham, the newly appointed SC Development Manager for Southwest Scotland. Maureen also introduced Gail Munro (Honorary VP) to the meeting. Gail has dedicated her life to manage Stranraer Ice Rink and local curlers and joined Ladies Committee back in 1994. She has been continually involved since then and tries to attend LSC meetings whenever she can. Gail gave the meeting a short talk on the history on her life in curling.

2. APOLOGIES

As above.

3. Previous Minutes (05Sept2023)

Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all reps. *Proposed:* Kate Adams *Seconded:* Susan Morrison

4. Matters Arising (President Maureen)

Generic Poster – Maureen met with Eilidh McCall-Lawrie (SC Head of Development) and Louise Watson (SC Content Creator) to discuss ideas. This is to be a professional, flexible poster which can be adapted to each centre. Maureen circulated a few drafts of a poster, created by Scottish Curling, to get some feedback from those in the meeting. She will ask Eilidh McCall-Lawrie to download the draft posters to Slack.

5. Treasurer's Report (Val Saville, Treasurer)

The bank balance remains at £5,765. There is suggestion that the LSC General Fund bank details are available on the SC website. Maureen brought along some merchandise ideas, e.g., beanies, case strap, calendar and she would like feedback on these and more ideas are welcome. Merchandise is required to top up LSC funds.

6. President's Report (President Maureen)

Since the last meeting Maureen met with Jimmy Raeburn and discussed now the last joint meeting could be more streamlined. From feedback received from attendees, reps will be asked to submit their centre/area report to Elaine at the SC office prior to the meeting elaine@scottishcurling.org. These will be collated and sent with the agenda prior to the meeting, so that only issues/action items from the reports are raised at the meeting. The reports should be a short update on what's happening at your ice centre and include ideas/initiatives on how we can increase membership. Communication is important. LSC encourages all reps to sign up to the LSC Committee WhatsApp group, online Slack and Facebook page called; 'The Royal Caledonian Curling Club Ladies' Branch'. Both President Maureen and Anne Johnston (VP) update the page regularly and by using the private message facility via Facebook is a good way to communicate with both Maureen/Anne. Please can all Reps Like/Share the Facebook page. Elaine updates the SC website.

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Maureen is again so sorry for the closure of Ayr Ice Rink and she asks that Ayrshire curlers let her know if there is anything LSC can do to help.

- 7. Report from Vincent Bryson (CEO):** Vincent confirmed that New Balance is appointed as the 2023/24 kit supplier for the national teams and off-ice outfits are now available from British Curling Supplies. British Curling Supplies are happy to come to next ASC/LSC meeting on 24 October to sell curling clothing items and equipment. He also gave the meeting an update on his current priorities and commitments and the challenges facing curling: membership numbers have reduced and currently stand at circa 9,000 members. The membership was circa 12,500 5 years ago, so Covid has had a big impact and fee income has decreased by £100k since mid-2000's. The membership fee income is the main source of income for Scottish Curling, so it is vital that ice centres work at how to increase membership ice centres and are reminded that they can access development funding from Scottish Curling to help with any new initiatives to encourage people into the sport. The drop in membership also has an impact on the funding SC receives from sportscotland, which is based on membership numbers for the sport. Recently one ice rink has closed and there are potentially another three centres at risk. Scottish Curling is also working at reducing costs internally has reduced the number of staff from 14 to 12. They are losing a member of the Marketing team later this week. They will not replace this member of staff and reduce the Marketing resource for the short-term. Vincent will also be speaking to British Curling about the costs for international travel.

Mike Ferguson and Tom Brewster are the new WCF Representatives, alongside Margaret Richardson and Susan Kesley. There was discussion at the meeting about communication from Scottish Curling about the World Mixed Curling Championships at Aberdeen 14-21 October 2023. Vincent advised that it will be televised and that the World Curling Federation controls the publicity for the event. Information can be found on WCF website link <https://worldcurling.org/events/wmxcc2023>

8. Reports/Updates

Update from Centres: due to time constraints at the meeting, reps are asked to send their report to Elaine for inclusion at next meeting; it is suggestion that LSC liaise with their ASC rep to create just one report between them.

Morton Trophy: centres seem to be on track with dates/games being finalised.

Henderson Bishop: all centres are on track with organising their qualifying rounds.

Tours: Outgoing – Sweden – 3-14 November 2023 (Terry Paterson, Tour Captain): Our tour preparations started over year ago and in August 2022 when we first met, it seemed like a long time till November 2023. We have come long way since then and now all the hard work and preparation are over. It's great to see 9 of our tour ladies here today. Our invitation bonspiel is this Friday at Hamilton and we look forward to our photoshoot with the Doddie's Foundation and then welcome our guests to our bonspiel. Now the fun begins and the excitement is building day by day It's only 21 sleeps till we go. £26,000 paid two weeks ago to Sweden so that us left with a little pot for us. We fly from Edinburgh 3/11/23 departure 13.20 via Amsterdam, 14/11/23 departure from Stockholm to arrive Edinburgh 22.05. Our Doddie pashminas arrived on Friday last week and we get to wear them in our photoshoot with the foundation on Friday. They we're made especially for us. Nataliya is still working on the blazers, but it was good to see most completed when we met in Kinross two weeks ago. She is coming to Hamilton hopefully with all the others. These blazers have sometimes been a source of concern not least one Saturday when a few ladies were getting fitted and there was a debate to decide how many buttons should be on the front; I have to say that morning the mobile phones were going berserk not least with calls to Alison Taylor and Jimmy Raeburn.

Gifts are more or less complete and purchased. We are still working on our entertainment and the hotel manager at Kinross last week offered his private room again for us, as he said we needed more practice. Some may be revealed on Friday! We have been curling together here at Stranraer, at our invitational bonspiel at Hamilton, followed by the Kelso Open and Kinross Open. Our brooms are here and are already being used. We know where we will be in Sweden and when.

Pia has checked through the tour schedule and we play 11 games. There will be 2 in Gävle, 1 in Uppsala, 2 in Norrköping, 2 in Jönköping, 2 in Karlstad and 2 in Stockholm (=1 in Danderyd and 1 in Sundbyberg).

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Accommodation will all be in hotels and we will share rooms, changing room sharing. We have no home hosting and I wonder if Covid has affected that too. We have our luggage bags now with team logos Broom bags from The Strathcona Cup men's. We have tried to cost our trip and are spreading the cost over a few months. We now have a better idea of what's still to be paid. We also have purchased some things individually so this has also spread our costs out over the year. Things still to do; tour bible for each day, decision for morning class (Limoncello and Liqor43). Hamish, our mascot, is now doing the rounds of Scottish ice rinks.

In summary, we have had a very productive few weeks and everything we can put in place is in place. I thank my executive committee and the rest of my team members. I feel so chuffed that they are all so supportive of me and each other. Our FB page is 'Scots to Sweden Curling 2023' and it's up and running, so feel free to share. Our final objectives are to win the cup, continue to raise money and awareness of MND, have fun and forge good friendships which I think we are already doing for the tour. We have paid £3.5k each.

Incoming – Canada – 7 Nov 2024: update on this will be given at the next meeting.

9. Events

International Women's Day – 8 March 2024: last year a magazine was produced. Maureen put an idea on Slack with something previously done in the USA. Reps are requested to find someone inspirational from each ice centre who can provide a photo and short introduction on themselves for this year's publication.

10.AOCB

Charlene Graham: Charlene gave the meeting an update on role and there was some concern at the meeting about Charlene not continuing with overseeing competitions as there is no mention about a Competitions Manager on the SC website. Charlene said she is the Strategic Lead for competitions and she would ensure the website is updated.

Karen Jack: gave details of the teams for today's Opening Bonspiel.

11.Future Meetings

Tuesday 24 October – Lanarkshire Ice Rink - ASC/LSC meeting in Lanarkshire + Priestfield Cup – reps asked to advise Elaine elaine@scottishcurling.org of their availability for playing in the Priestfield Cup, so that teams can be made up

12.Close

President Maureen thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. She looks forward to seeing everyone on 24 October.

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.