

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2024

AT HAMILTON ICE RINK AT 10.30 AM

(ALSO ON ZOOM)



Present

Kate Caithness (Honorary President), Maureen Parker (President), Ann Johnstone (Vice President), Alison Troup (Aberdeen), Fiona Glascodine (Aberdeen), Mara Lindsay (Ayr), Lucy Tile (Border), Susan Morrison (Dumfries), Sheilagh Macfarlane (Dundee), Joan Simpson (Edinburgh), Janice Walls (Forfar), Clare McCormick (Greenacres), Fiona McLaren (Inverness), Sheona Reid (Kinross), Pamela Craigie (Kirkcaldy), Fiona Moffat (Lanarkshire), Marion Murdoch (Lockerbie), Trish Kennedy (Perth), Michele Hartley (Stirling), Kate Adams (Stranraer), Karen Jack (Waterfront), Alison Taylor (2024 Incoming Canadian Tour Co-ordinator), Vincent Bryson (CEO SC), Eilidh McCall-Lawrie (Head of Sport & Communities, SC), Holly Burke (Winter Youth Olympic - Gold Medallist)

Apologies

Gail Munro (Honorary Vice President), Ann Gibb (Interim Junior VP), Val Saville (Treasurer), Christine Ross (Lockerbie), Isla Kinnear (Perth), Angela Watt (Waterfront)

1. Welcome

President Maureen thanked all those who have travelled to Hamilton and those joining via Zoom for taking the time out from busy curling schedules. Welcome Vincent, Eilidh and a special welcome and congratulations to Holly Burke, Gold Medallist at the recent Winter Youth Olympics in Gangwon, South Korea.

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Previous Minutes (05/12/2023)

Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to all reps. *Proposed:* Mara Lindsay *Seconded:* Fiona Moffat.

4. Matters Arising

LB Junior Vice President/Vice President - Ann Gibb is Interim JVP, following the resignation of Karen Jack. At the AGM, Ann will become VP, therefore LB is now looking for someone to join the committee as Junior VP. Reps are asked to advertise this position at their ice centres and to advise Maureen if anyone is interested.

LB Past Presidents' badges – Four badges have now been purchased at a cost of £114 + VAT.

LB Minute Secretary – LSC is still actively seeking someone to take on this role, as Michele Hartley is standing down, from the AGM, after 5 years in the position. Please advise Maureen if you know of anyone who would be interested.

SC Board Members – SC is actively seeking to fill RCCC Vice President and Board member positions. Applications to be submitted by 1 March 2024.

International Women's Day – Friday 8 March – many ice centres have nominated a woman to feature in an article about IWD, but Sandrine Wyrich, Communications Manager at SC, is still outstanding completed forms from the nominees. Reps are to ask their nominees to complete and email their form to Sandrine as soon as possible; sandrine@scottishcurling.org

5. Report from Winter Youth Olympics (Holly Burke)

President Maureen welcomed Holly Burke, to started curling at Lanarkshire, to tell us about her experiences at the recent Winter Youth Olympics in South Korea, where she returned home with a Gold Medal along with her team member, Tia Laurie from Dumfries, beating Denmark in the final. Holly brought along her gold medal to show the meeting. The Scottish Curling Academy athletes brought home two sets of gold medals from the Winter Young Olympics Games 2024, so many congratulations to Tia Laurie, Holly Burke, Logan Carson and Archie Hyslop who prevailed in the mixed team and to Callie Soutar and Ethan Brewster who triumphed in the mixed doubles competition. <https://www.scottishcurling.org/academy-athletes-excell-with-double-gold-at-winter-youth-olympics/>

Holly gave an enthusiastic, confident and interesting talk to the meeting about her experiences in South Korea and she also gave the meeting an insight into how she got into curling in 2018 and how the Academy has helped her progress so quickly in the sport. Maureen thanked her and said she is an inspiration and role model to all young women in sport.

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6. Updates

LB President's Report (*President Maureen*) – I'd like to start my report by congratulating our newly crowned Scottish Champions who earned their gold medals at Dumfries Ice Bowl last weekend. Team Henderson was the only team to win 10 out of 10 games. Faye Henderson from Dumfries and her team of Hayley Duff, Amy McDonald and Katie McMillen played Team Morrison, last year's winners, in the final and won convincingly by 9-2. Scottish Curling and Dumfries Ice Bowl organised a great tournament, sponsored by Hendricks Gin, 9 men and 6 women's teams competed. Gold team Henderson, Silver team Morrison, Robyn's Munro Scottish Junior Winners came Third.

I also attended and played in the National Masters Women's Championship at the beginning of the month at Greenacres Curling Rink. Eleven women's teams entered. This is very competitive, but always a very sociable competition. The finals were between Maggie Barry's team from Edinburgh and Christine Cannon from Stranraer and her Hamilton team of Marg Richardson, Isobel Hannan and Janet Lindsay with Christine coming out on top. Christine has now won The Scottish, The Seniors and now the Masters and two of her team have also won The Scottish Juniors.

I attended the 4 Nations at the Flower Bowl, Preston at the end of January. 34 Scottish applications were selected and played, each having 2 games over the weekend. This is a very sociable occasion which was organised by the English Curling Association this year, namely John Brown. Out of 7 trophies we only won one. Scotland won the Connie Miller Trophy, played for by Scottish vs English women. Next year the 4 Nations will be organised by the Welsh Curling Association, back at the Flower Bowl on the weekend of 25/26 January 2025. Get your applications in early and encourage your members to give it a try and win back some of the trophies. This is a very enjoyable competition, and the Flower Bowl is a very novel design.

The Scottish Senior Women's Championships are being played at Lanarkshire later this week, as is the Henderson bishop from 26-29 February. Details have been shared of the teams competing. Awaiting delivery of fabric badges, so teams are asked to bring a needle and thread as they may have to sew on their badge at the event. Next week is the World Junior Curling Championships in Finland with Robyn Munro and her team competing and Team Carson from Dumfries representing the boys. I'm off to the World Curling Championships in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada next month. We don't know yet which team will represent Scotland.

We also have representation in World Wheelchair Champions and Wheelchair Mixed Doubles in Gangwon, South Korea at the beginning of March with Meggan Dawson Farre and Charlotte McKenna, part of each of these teams. It's a busy old time of year in our own ice rinks with our women's competitions. We were going to try and compile a diary of these competitions and reps are asked to post local competition dates on our LSC WhatsApp, where they can be shared.

Treasurer's Report (*Val Saville*) – in the absence of Val, Michele Hartley (Stirling) read out Val's report. Since the last meeting on 5 Dec 2023, £380 has been received from 3 Centres. This makes the total donations received £790 from 11 centres. I am still hoping to receive money from the outstanding 6 centres (Aberdeen, Ayr, Borders, Dundee, Perth and Waterfront). To date there has been no expenditure. Opening balance on 1 September 2023 was £5,765.73. Closing balance on 31 January 2024 was £6,555.30. Maureen advised that there will be costs for engraving of badges, purchase of Past President's badges, Scottish Women's Curling Championships 2024 and gifts for presentation at the AGM.

LSC Centre Reports - No centre reports were given due to time constraints at the meeting.

Competitions

Morton Finals – 12 March 2024 at Greenacres – if you are not competing, please come along and watch. All sections completed qualifying games apart from East Section. Ayr, Inverness, (East section still to complete all matches). Greenacres confirmed that the cost is £120 per sheet = £15 per head per game. Greenacres will free provide bacon rolls on arrival. There was a query raised at the meeting about an experienced skip who is injured, and wonders if she can skip, but play lead stones? The Morton rules in RCCC handbook do not allow for this. The ethos of the Morton is that newer curlers play at 1 and 2 and experienced players at 3 and 4 and positions cannot be swapped between 1/2 to 3/4 and vice versa. There was much discussion at the meeting about the possibility of relaxing some of the rules of the competition to make it easier on ice centres who struggle to fill 3 teams for each of their matches. Maureen agreed to organise a Morton secretaries' meeting prior to the AGM to discuss these issues.

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Henderson Bishop (*President Maureen*) – 26-29 February 2024. Fiona Moffat (Lanarkshire) gave the meeting an update on the arrangements for the event and programme for the evening entertainment. There was discussion raised about the increasing cost for teams to attend the event and if LB would look at streamlining the event in future years to make it more affordable. Hosting centres do their best to subsidise costs wherever possible and organise fundraising to help keep costs as low as possible for entrants. Some ice centres, like Stranraer, who have hotel accommodation on site for instance, are able to reduce costs to curlers, but not all ice centres have the luxury of having facilities next to the ice centre. Individual ice rinks are asked to look at holding fundraising events to help subsidise their HB team and to keep a separate HB fund. They should also book overnight accommodation, as soon as the venue for next season is announced, to obtain competitive rates for booking so far in advance. President Maureen advised that only Dumfries has submitted a bid to host the HB next season. The venue for the HB in 2025 will be announced at the LB AGM in May.

Tours

Outgoing Canadian Tour – 2025 – awaiting invitation. Invitation to apply will be sent out soon.

Incoming Canadian Tour – 1-22 November 2024 (*Alison Taylor*) – unfortunately Alison was unable to stay on into the meeting to give an update of the tour arrangements due to a personal commitment, but she distributed an updated itinerary to the meeting. She asks that centre reps keep her up to date about what they have organised, to avoid any duplication in the tour programme. She advised that the Canadians now have 22 players instead of 24 and they will not be replacing the 2 players who have pulled out, so each centre is asked to find extra 2 players to play in Canada team.

USA Tour in 2026 – President Maureen will be sending out an invitation prior to AGM.

7. The Way Forward (*President Maureen & Vincent Bryson*)

A group of ASC/LSC members including Vincent and President Maureen/President Jim have been meeting regularly to look and discuss the role of ASC/LSC in a new structure within curling and how we can reduce the burden on volunteers' times on committees and make the sport more accessible for young people. President Maureen asked centre reps to send her feedback from their ice centres prior to the meeting with any ideas/concerns. President Maureen received a few emails from ice centres which were read out at the meeting. From the feedback, it is recognised that LSC works effectively and that ASC could do a better role, but there is also concern over democracy (one person/one vote), province and area structures, etc. There is definite consensus that we need to streamline things, but this is going to take time.

Eilidh reported that there were no females on the British Curling Apprentice Coach Scheme. There are a number of young female curlers coming forward, so we need to look at the development and support for the female athlete and to educate male coaches on female health and wellbeing. Scottish Curling will be resurrecting 'Team Finder'. Vincent advised that Scottish Curling will be looking at how they communicate with members and looking at social media analytics to see where the spikes are on social media for the different age demographics. SC will look at using TikTok as this is popular with the younger curlers.

Vincent asks that ice rink's link/tag their Facebook page to the Scottish Curling Facebook page to reach bigger audiences. SC will also look at streamlining how membership fees can be booked and recorded online.

A survey has been carried out to find what schools have the floor curling kit and the results were surprising as schools in very remote parts of the country have the kit. SC need to find out what schools they are spending their budgets on, as SC may be able to help some schools with funding to help get school kids into the ice rink. However, some schools just don't want to know of any activity which brings risk into the school environment.

Rhiannon Butterfield, Disability & Inclusion Development Officer, is in her post until April 2024. President Maureen would like to extend an invitation for Rhiannon to come along to the Joint ASC/LSC meeting on 16 April 2024.

8. AOCB (*President Maureen*)

- a. New Centre reps – please advise President Maureen of new rep details and outgoing rep to introduce their new member at the LSC Pre-AGM meeting.

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- b. Women Curler Deaths – please email Elaine at Scottish Curling with deaths of women curlers during the last year for inclusion in the AGM booklet, by end April 2024.

9. Future Meetings

Joint Meeting (ASC/LSC) on Tuesday 16 April 2024–10.30am – Lanarkshire Ice Rink

LB Pre-AGM Meeting on Tuesday 14 May 2024–10.30am – Stranraer Ice Rink

LB AGM on Tuesday 14 May 2024–2.00pm – Stranraer Ice Rink

The North West Castle Hotel in Stranraer is offering a deal for overnight stay of £45 B+B or £65 D+B+B.

Reps need to book this accommodation themselves. All reps and new reps will be invited to the AGM and to supper on the evening of 13 May at President Maureen's house. Details to follow.

10. Close

President Maureen thanked those in attendance at the meeting and thanks to guests; Vincent, Eilidh, Holly and Alison.

Apologies to those joining on Zoom for the drop in wi-fi connection during the meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.31pm.