

NOTE OF AREA STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON: WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE 2024

AT: LANARKSHIRE ICE RINK - 10.30 AM



Present

Jim Raeburn (RCCC President), Alister Asher (RCCC VP), David Haggart (Lanarkshire), Jim Hogg (South), Frank Ross (Edinburgh), John McDermott (Inverclyde), Paul Davis (Edinburgh), Norman Ainslie (Forth Valley), Derek Young (Forth Valley), Tom Kirk (North East), Philip Ross (North East), John Taylor (Fife & Kinross), Mike Caffyn (Fife & Kinross), Andy Cowan (Highland & Moray), Anna Martin (Perthshire), Vincent Bryson (SC CEO)

Apologies

Jamie Mason (Ayrshire), Liz Cullen (Border), Mary Anne McWilliam (Galloway), John McGowan (Greater Glasgow), Albert Middler (North East)

1. Welcome (RCCC President)

Jim welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming along today.

2. Apologies

As noted above.

3. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

As the minutes had not been taken Jim/Vincent were to check if the Zoom had been recorded.

Scottish Open/Amateur Championships to be introduced. Six expressions of interest to host.

Rink & Province Championships – rule change to be introduced to restrict teams to one elite athlete per team to encourage entries from more club curlers.

4. Reports/Updates

President: Scottish Curling had made a loss. High cost of athlete travel & accommodation were a significant factor. Vincent was also keen that RCCC staff get out & about the ice rinks to be more visible, hence significant increase in travel costs.

Subs proposed to increase by £1 for season 2025/26. Some discussion as to whether this should be higher.

Vincent emphasised the need for ASC to advocate for membership of RCCC. We put £100k+ directly back into ice rinks via competitions. Be part of the second biggest curling community in the world. Send teams to represent us on a world level and hosting international events. Working on a 'Supporter's Membership' category. If members or non-members don't know or don't like what we do, let us know what they do want and expect from us.

Scottish Championships to go to Dumfries. Best option for RCCC financially and they have been proven to run a good event.

Possible Scandinavian Tour after personal approaches by representatives of Swedish & Norwegian [Christian Lange] Curling Associations. The cost of incoming tours was raised and whether there was demand for another [fourth] Men's Tour. Feedback on this to Ali Asher.

AGM approaching along with votes for Board Members and Vice President.

CEO: PVG safeguarding cost. Could be up to £70 per licence which is a huge cost for the sport. Discussions within all sporting bodies were ongoing. It is a cost proposed to be imposed or passed on by Government agencies who currently administer it. Paul expressed concerns, but some [better-funded] clubs or rinks could pay for or subsidise this. Four hundred and seventy six curling coaches.

Seniors playdowns & finals both in Forfar. David expressed his displeasure. Vincent stated it was primarily a financial decision through an agreed bidding process. Rink Championships have moved to Perth.

World Curling have challenges finding suitable hosts for most events.

Perth Ice Rink – D Hay & P Loudon have done a fantastic job on this issue. Hopeful of the retention of Dewars rink for the next 3-5 years.

Paul asked about the condition of stones at Perth. Vincent said the matter had not been raised with him but there were interest-free WC loans available if required.

Areas: the importance of getting reports submitted prior to the meetings was emphasised; so that any issues can be highlighted and discussed at the meetings. Some reports had been submitted other were read out on the day. A couple of points made at this time were useful to note:

'New Stones' [Gateway] club had a pool of curlers which all other Murrayfield clubs were encouraged to use as subs.

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Try Curling – Edinburgh don't subsidise it as its often tourists only there for the weekend. They charge £25 and it is perceived as great value.

Forth Valley keen to re-introduce the 'British Open' but needs a social facility.

5. National Curling Day

15th November 2024 – use to promote the game on all media, different events etc.

6. AOB

Structure update: A lengthy discussion on this matter. Key points:

Structure is more about communication than competition organisation.

The principal is communication from Board to Sub-committees to ASC to members. It fails in certain areas sometimes due to confusion as to who is responsible for what.

Jim asked for more ASC members on sub-committees but it was felt they are all already committed to various other roles within their clubs, provinces or areas.

Decisions made that affect members must be communicated to ASC then to members.

Tom asked about 'Terms of reference' for committees. He understood ASC members had been replaced by 'regular' curlers some years ago to provide different and diverse input.

Conclusions for Structure Review to consider were an Ice Rink based [elected] representative rather than Areas. One named person [with a junior to cover in busier rinks] so it is clear who the representative is.

Jim used the term 'National Curlers Committee' rather than ASC.

Website: needs to be kept up to date. Sub-committee minutes should be on there. This could be because minutes need to be ratified at the next meeting which could be some time after. In which case a 'report' on a meeting could be posted instead.

Indoor Grand Match: Strong support for the 2025 Indoor Grand Match to continue. The biggest member-participant event we have. Possibly on National Curling Day which is a Saturday. Ensure no clashes with other events held around then. North v South. Who would assist in arranging it? Is this within the Grand Match Committee remit? If not, then a separate sub-committee should be set up. ASC happy to assist with this.

Incoming Swiss Tour: Andy expressed disappointment that incoming Swiss Tour 2025 were only spending 2 nights up north.

Coaches: Paul concerned at standards of some Level 1 & 2 coaching. He understood the resource issues but there needed to be more and better assessment of coaches.

7. Future Meetings

Joint Meeting (ASC/LSC) – August 13th, 2024 – Dunblane Golf Club

RCCC AGM – 29th June 2024 at 14:00 – Hamilton Park

8. Close

Jim thanked Tom Kirk on his retiral for his eight years of service to ASC.

Ali thanked Jim for chairing the meeting and for his year of service as President.

The meeting closed at 13:15