

NOTES OF ASC & LSC MEETING
HELD ON: TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024
AT: LANARKSHIRE ICE RINK - 10.30AM



Present

Alister Asher (RCCC VP), Maureen Parker (LB President), Ann Johnstone (LB VP), Ann Gibb (LB JVP), Val Saville (LB Treasurer), Alison Troup (Aberdeen), Mara Lindsay (Ayr), Jamie Mason (Ayrshire), Caroline McClymont (Border), Susan Morrison (Dumfries), Sheilagh Macfarlane (Dundee), Joan Simpson (Edinburgh), Mike Caffyn (Fife & Kinross), John Taylor (Fife & Kinross), Janice Walls (Forfar), Derek Young (Forth Valley), John McDermott (Inverclyde), Fiona McLaren (Inverness), Sheona Reid (Kinross), Pamela Craigie (Kirkcaldy), David Haggart (Lanarkshire), Louise McCutcheon (Lanarkshire), Fiona Moffat (Lanarkshire), Philip Ross (North East), Isla Kinnear (Perth), Alan Chalmers (Perthshire), Jim Hogg (South), Michele Hartley (Stirling), Kate Adams (Stranraer), Karen Jack (Waterfront), Angela Watt (Waterfront), Shirley Jeans, Paul Davis (Edinburgh), Vincent Bryson (SC CEO), Eilidh McCall-Lawrie (SC Head of Sport & Communities), Suzy Wakefield (Head of Operations), Nicola Glencross (SC Finance Officer), Elaine Mills (SC Administration Officer), Catriona Morton (SC Dev. Manager), Charlene Graham (SC Dev. Manager), (Faye McInnes (SC Dev. Manager), Scott Andrews (SC Academy Manager), Rhiannan Butterfield (SC Disability/Inclusion Dev. Officer), Fiona Harfield (SC Workforce Dev. Manager)

Apologies

Jim Raeburn (RCCC President), Norman Ainslie (Forth Valley), Andy Cowan (Highland & Moray), Liz Cullen (Border), Robin Copland (Edinburgh), Trevor Dodds (Edinburgh), Mary Anne McWilliam (Galloway), John McGowan (Greater Glasgow), Clare McCormick (Greenacres), Christine Ross (Lockerbie), Albert Middler (Northeast), Tom Kirk (Northeast)

1. Welcome *(Maureen Parker)*

Welcome to our last joint meeting of the season. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for our attendance here today and for all the work you have contributed to supporting curling throughout the year. It is vital that we continue to work together to develop our sport and encourage and grow our membership, as well as representing our members at these meetings. A warm welcome to all our Scottish Curling staff who have joined us today. This is an opportunity to meet the people we often speak to on the phone. I'm sure we will have questions for them later in the meeting and I hope you will get a better idea of what our committees do for our membership and how we operate. We do communicate well between our curlers at local level and our committees and gain and share information. I feel we could do a better job at communicating with Scottish Curling and the Board. I would like to introduce, Rhiannan Butterfield, the Disability & Inclusion Development Officer with Scottish Curling. Rhiannan is our guest speaker today.

2. Apologies

As noted above.

3. Previous Minutes *(24Oct2024)*

The minutes of our last meeting in October were circulated and published on the website.

Proposed by: John McGowan *Seconded by:* Alister Asher

4. Matters Arising

At the last meeting, Vincent mentioned the restructure which had taken place in Scottish Curling, that staff numbers had been reduced to twelve from fourteen last year. This review has been necessary to cut overhead costs, as income has reduced significantly due to the downturn in RCCC membership numbers over the last 14 years; which has had a detrimental effect on fee income into the organisation. Vincent gave an update to the meeting and said that he will continue to look at strategic direction of the organisation. He praised all the Scottish Curling staff who work hard, over and above their remit, to keep the organisation alive and thanked them for their commitment. Maureen reiterated the hard work of volunteers within the ASC, who represent all members of RCCC within their Area and serve on committees. LSC reps represent all female members at their ice rink and this is a necessary and important committee to ensure the organisation of women's competitions. Reps don't turn up for meetings, they work hard behind the scenes at their ice rink and she thanked them for their efforts throughout the year.

5. President Updates

Alister Asher *(RCCC Vice President)*: Vice President Alister read out the report from Jim *(RCCC President)* as he was unable to make the meeting today.

NOTES OF ASC & LSC MEETING
HELD ON: TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024
AT: LANARKSHIRE ICE RINK - 10.30AM



Maureen Parker (*LB President*): Congratulations to our World Curling Championship medal winners; team Mouat. I also had the privilege of attending the Women's World Curling Championship in Sydney, Nova Scotia last month. Team Homan (Canada) won Gold, Swiss team won Silver and Korean team won Bronze. Our Scottish team; Rebecca Morrison, Sophie Jackson, Jennifer Dodds, Sophie Sinclair and Gina Aitken won 5 of their 12 games. They also came a very close second in a couple of games. They ended up finishing 8th overall and this secures them 6 points towards their Olympic qualifications with the opportunity to gain further points at the next 2 Europeans and next year's Worlds, in South Korea for anyone planning to support our Scottish team.

Morton: the Morton Final at Greenacres. After the round robin which involved 48 teams from the 4 areas, we had 4 centres in the semi-final which was drawn on the day namely: Inverness (North), Ayr (South), Borders (East) and Lanarkshire (West). Congratulations goes to Ayr beating Borders in the final with Lanarkshire coming third. I'm delighted to say that Dundee will be participating in the Morton next year.

Henderson Bishop: at the end of February, we had the Henderson Bishop finals at Lanarkshire Ice Rink. 84 teams from 18 ice rinks having participated we had a representative from each qualifying for the Finals. After 4 days of fantastic curling, as well as great food, drink, retail therapy, entertainment and socialising, we had a final. Lanarkshire played Aberdeen; Aberdeen won the runners-up pewter plate. In the Low Road, Dumfries played Stirling in the final having beaten Edinburgh 2 and Forfar. Ann Johnstone and the team from Dumfries won the Cherrystone and Stirling won the runners-up Cherrystone Bowl. A huge thank you to the Lanarkshire women for their fantastic organisation. It was much appreciated by us all. We are looking forward to the Henderson Bishop in Dumfries in 2025.

The Masters: at the beginning of February saw the Masters Championship in Greenacres. 11 entries and a fantastic final after a very sociable weekend of curling. The winners were Team Cannon and her Lanarkshire teammates. They beat team Wilcox from Kinross. I encourage you all to enter this very sociable competition if you qualify. Our new LSC committee will be proposed and ratified at our AGM in May. Please can I finish by saying what an honour it is to be nominated as President of Ladies Branch, the Committee representing female membership. What a thought knowing many of the woman who had gone before me, but how proud I was to accept the role and all that it entails, and then to find I had a fantastic enthusiastic committee of women to work with was the icing on the cake. My greatest support has been Elaine, Administrative Officer at Scottish Curling, who ensures the timely and smooth running of LSC with general administrative support. I'd like to thank our Minute Secretary, Michele Hartley for all her work over the last 4-5 years and producing timely minutes. I would like to introduce Shirley Jeans who has agreed to take over this role after the AGM. President Maureen wishes Ann Johnstone and her committee good luck with their term in office.

6. Scottish Curling Update (*Vincent Bryson*)

Vincent gave a report on his hard work with Peter Loudon and Peter Hay of Perth committee to save the ice rink in Perth with discussions on location of a potential new ice rink and implications for curling whilst any development takes place. The main challenge for Scottish Curling is looking at how to grow RCCC membership after a 14 years' decline in membership numbers; so, it will take some time to get numbers back up.

7. Updates from Area/Rink

Maureen thanked the committees for their reports which were submitted to Scottish Curling prior to the meeting for discussion. They are a great way to share activities, ideas, positives and issues as there are some great things going on at ice rinks. The issue of the number of provinces at some ice centres was discussed and some areas would like to see a move away from provinces. Vincent advised that this is a topic for the structure review group, which includes himself and some ASC/LSC representatives. They will be meeting on 25 April to discuss proposals for the future structure of curling committees. The main priorities for the structure group are; a reduction in the layers of committees within curling communities, look at more democracy within the membership, looking at how to increase membership numbers and also to restructure the membership fee.

8. National Curling Day|15 November 2024

A day for your diary to celebrate the sport at your ice rink in whatever way you can think to promote curling within the wider community. A reminder of this date will be sent out on all social media platforms.

NOTES OF ASC & LSC MEETING
HELD ON: TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024
AT: LANARKSHIRE ICE RINK - 10.30AM



9. Presentation (*Rhiannan Butterfield (SC Disability & Inclusion Development Officer)*)

Rhiannan gave us an insight into her work with Scottish Curling. Having joined 4 months ago and has been busy creating a strategy plan for Disability & Inclusion in the sport, updating this area of the SC website and getting out and about to market her services to various disability communities. Rhiannan was a sports coach from a young age and knew then that she wanted to help children with disabilities and she also had experience of teaching curling when she worked as a schoolteacher. Curling is one of the most inclusive sports and anyone can take part. There is no age barrier, so you can play 8 to 80, in a wheelchair or have a visual impairment. Floor curling allows those who can't get on the ice to still take part in the sport and there is a demand to supply more floor kits. Rhiannan gave an in-depth presentation to the meeting on her current and future plans in her role.

Maureen thanked her for her presentation and for showing such enthusiasm.

10.AOB

International Women's Day e-book: this is to promote women who quietly volunteer behind the scenes and do a lot of work for the sport. 17 women from across all ice rinks in Scotland were nominated by their LSC rep to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March 2024. Please take a look at the e-book created by Sandrine at Scottish Curling, which celebrate this day. <https://www.scottishcurling.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/International-Womens-Day-2024.pdf>

Trophy for Women's Sweden Tour: Corrie and Robbie have been investigating the Swedish Tour history. This year, Corrie and Pia Hasselborg from Sweden decided we needed a trophy for the women's Swedish tour. Corrie created a document detailing the history, which will be sent to SC for inclusion in the LB Operating Manual. The new trophy, a glass Curling stone, was won by Scotland in Sweden in November 2023.

Lord Elgin: RCCC member, Lord Elgin, celebrated his 100th birthday this year and both Presidents Jim and Maureen were invited to his birthday party. Jim presented Lord Elgin with a specially labelled bottle of whisky in recognition of his lifelong commitment to curling. A letter of thanks was received from Lord Elgin, who is delighted to be recognised for his involvement with the sport.

Bidding for Competitions 2024/2025: Charlene (SC Dev. Manager) confirmed that bids for 2024/2025 competitions have been submitted and that bids for 2025/26 season are to be in by the end of Summer 2024.

Curling Tours:

Women's Incoming Canadian | November 2024: Alison Taylor, Tour Co-ordinator, has confirmed all ice rinks have booked ice, most centres have confirmed their itinerary. Curl Edinburgh and Inverness itineraries still to be clarified. Some useful information for ice centres is that Scottish National Trust properties can be accessed for Canadian National Trust members at a reduced rate. Request for no more cashmere scarves as gifts. Alison thanked everyone for the work they are doing. Request for Alison Taylor to confirm the cost of tour badges to ice centres.

Men's Incoming Swiss: January 2025

Women's Outgoing Canadian: November 2025, awaiting invitation.

Women's Incoming USA: 2026

11. Future Meetings

Pre-AGM - 14 May 2024 – 10.00 (Stranraer)

LB AGM - 14 May 2024 – 14:00 (Stranraer)

ASC Meeting - 11 June 2024 – 11:00 (Lanarkshire)

RCCC AGM - 29 June 2024 – 14:00 (Hamilton Racecourse) *lunch beforehand at Lanarkshire Ice Rink.*

12.Close

President Maureen thanked everyone for their attendance and attention.

Meeting closed at 12.21