

NOTE OF JOINT MEETING
OF: AREA STANDING AND LADIES STANDING COMMITTEES
HELD ON: TUESDAY 13TH AUGUST 2024
AT: DUNBLANE GOLF CLUB AT 11:00 AM



Present

Alister Asher (President), Keith Prentice (Vice President), Jamie Mason (Area 1-Ayrshire), Jim Hogg (Area 3-South), Colin Martin (Area 4-Border), John McDermott (Area 5-Inverclyde), David Haggart (Area 6-Lanarkshire), John McGowan (Area 7-Greater Glasgow), Norman Ainslie (Area 9-Forth Valley), Derek Young (Area 9-Forth Valley), Mike Caffyn (Area 10-Fife & Kinross), John Taylor (Area 10-Fife & Kinross), Alan Chalmers (Area 11-Perthshire), Andrew Cowan (Area 13-Highlands & Moray), Ann Johnstone (President), Anne Gibb (Vice President), Isla Kinnear (Junior Vice President), Mara Lindsay (Ayr), Caroline McClymont (Border), Susan Morrison (Dumfries), (Joan Simpson (Edinburgh), Janice Walls (Forfar), Marion Duthie (Forfar), Liz Paul (Greenacres), Elaine Semple (Inverness), Kim Dalland (Kinross), Pamela Craigie (Kirkcaldy), Fiona Moffat (Lanarkshire), Lynda Blackwood (Lanarkshire), Trish Kennedy (Perth), Michele Hartley (Stirling), Karen Jack (Waterfront), Shirley Jeans (Minute Secretary), Eilidh McCall-Lawrie (SC-Head of Sport & Communities), Charlene Graham (SC - Major Events Manager)

Apologies

Jim Raeburn (Immediate Past President), Jamie Mason (Area 1 Ayrshire), Paul Davis (Area 8 Edinburgh), Frank Ross (Area 8 Edinburgh), Anna Martin (Area 11 Perthshire), Duncan Clark (Area 13 Highland & Moray), Philip Ross (Area 12- North East)

Welcome

President Ali Asher welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Shirley for agreeing to take the minutes today.

Apologies

As above

Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous joint meeting were not available. Questions were raised about the minutes of previous meeting not being posted online.

Matters Arising

None

President Updates

RCCC (*Ali Asher*): The World Wheelchairs will be held during the first fortnight in March. Many volunteers are needed for this event. If you have any experience or knowledge and would be available to help, please contact [Scottish Curling](#). You can sign up to volunteer [Here](#)

All SC sub committees also need volunteers to help promote curling. If anyone with expertise in any area, within your rinks and clubs can offer their time, it would be greatly appreciated.

The Scottish Championships are to be held in February at Dumfries and there is to be a Presidential Dinner Dance held in the Woodlands House Hotel on the evening of Friday 7th Feb. The finals take place the following day. This is a new venture which should add to the social aspect of the game.

Scottish Curling has a new sponsorship deal with Ambassador Cruise Line - some discounts are available.

More event sponsors are needed so if anyone knows of any personal contacts they could approach could you please send details to SC.

The Olympics are to be held in Italy in February 2026. This is a huge opportunity to attract new curlers. Rinks should be prepared to offer a range of events to attract new members. SC will leave a gap in the calendar to facilitate this. Being held in Europe the timing is more conducive to viewing as will be the Olympics in France in 2030.

Ladies Branch (*Ann Johnstone*): Since the AGM in May I have discovered that 'Curling never stops. We have organised all our meetings for the year ahead.

We have a fantastic 86 entries for the Henderson Bishop. The finals will take place from 24th to 27th February in Dumfries. Communication has been high on our agenda and WhatsApp groups are the way forward for sharing of information between different groups.

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Dundee has come back into the North Section of the Morton and we look forward to going to Dundee in March for the Finals. We now have 17 centres playing in the Morton.

Over the summer we have been gathering applications for the Canadian Tour which goes out in November 2025 and we have at present 29 applicants. Closing date is 23rd August and selection starts on 27th August.

An invitation has been sent to the USWCA for the Incoming USA Tour in 2026.

We have been promoting the new Scottish Open at Forfar.

Fiona Harfield (SC-Workforce Development Manager) will be coming to our next LSC meeting to talk about Coaching programmes.

Area/Rink Updates

Mara Lindsay apologised for there not being a written report available and gave a verbal report on the area. Most of the curlers from Ayr are now playing at Greenacres, so they have done well from us being homeless. The Steering Group have been working very hard to receive charity status. They updated members last week as to where they were. They are now preparing a business plan to seek funding. We don't have a home, but we are alive and kicking.

Comment - the circulation of the reports did not reach the LSC reps. It highlights the importance of getting your reports in early.

National Curling Day (15th November 2024)

Eilidh McCall-Lawrie (SC-Head of Sport & Communities): This is an annual event and should be used to promote curling around all the rinks. It highlights curling around the country and to the media. If your rink does not have ice on that day, please try and hold an event or gather footage on the lead up to the 15th to promote on your social media platforms on the day.

Scottish Curling sent out a save the date earlier in the year and this will be updated so that ice rinks, curling development groups and clubs can use as promotional material. This will be sent out via email to rinks and development groups, Ann Johnstone and Ali Asher, and put on the Slack Channel along with hashtags that can be used.

The member development committee has a National Curling Day subgroup which has been set up. Any further information/themes from this group will be circulated accordingly. If you have any ideas to share, please contact the Development Managers. You can also post directly onto the Slack Channel. If you are unaware of Slack or don't think you have access to it, please let us know.

The incoming Ladies Canadian Tour are in Scotland in November and at Kinross on the 15 November which would be a great way to promote NCD.

Charlene Graham (SC- Major Events Manager): updated us on the many exciting projects in the pipeline and encouraged everyone to look into these on the Scottish [Curling Website](#).

The World Wheelchair Championships are taking place in March 2025 and we are looking for volunteers for the events. More information and the recruitment form can be found here: <https://www.scottishcurling.org/join-us-in-making-a-difference-at-the-world-wheelchair-curling-championships-in-march-2025/>

You can see all the other exciting news from Scottish Curling [here](#).

Catriona Morton (SC Development Manager): has moved from the Central region to the South West. SC has now recruited for the Central post and Liam Duncan will be commencing the role on 2nd September. Liam is very enthusiastic, looking forward to meeting people and will be a great asset to the team.

The Slack Channel is an App which can be used by groups to share information. The managers are all on the channel and if you share an idea on there it can reach a wide range of people.

Four Nations (Ali Asher)

This is an opportunity to represent your country, this year being held in Preston from 24th - 26th January.

We currently have 16 applications. We play against England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There are competitions for men, women and mixed teams, with lots of fun to be had along the way. We need about 30 people for this event and the deadline to apply is 16th October.

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AOCB

AA - [Scottish Amateur Open Curling Championships](#) -being held at Forfar from 5th - 8th December.

Charlene Graham: This is a new event and will include male and female sections. The format will depend on the number of entries. A social media post will be out soon to advertise this event. Members have asked for competitions that are not directed at elite squads, so hopefully the entries for this will be good.

Junior Slams are all oversubscribed. Good problem to have.

Isla Kinnear (LSC Junior Vice)- Perth's first International Bonspiel will be held from 20th - 22nd September and is open to curlers of all levels. There is also a coaching course in Perth that weekend as well. Still places available for this.

Derek Young (Area 9 Forth Valley) - Swiss Tour - As we are going to be subsidising meal costs from central funds could all reps please get back to Derek with an indication of 'per-head' meal costs and he will advise of the subsidy amount available. Because they are bringing two drivers and two couriers the cost will be higher so this will be subsidised from central funds. The total costs for tourists were collected Pre -Tour and are then held by Areas for distribution as required.

Question- who was now on the [Competitions committee](#).

Charlene: The player rep (male or female) and the male rep positions have been filled. There were not many applications for the female rep so we will try to co-opt someone from these applications.

Keith Prentice then suggested that some of the LSC ladies at the meeting might consider applying for this position. There was no response, but Ann Johnstone asked if Keith could elaborate on what would be involved e.g. What commitment, how many meeting etc.,

Charlene replied on what would be involved - 5 meetings a year, mostly on Zoom during the curling season, only one meeting in person for a full day. The committee looks at entries / draws for competitions, rule changes and any improvements for different competitions, especially open competitions. They also send out a survey to all participants. The main purpose of the group is to seek out ways to improve competitions, e.g. What rules should apply to a competition. This then goes to the rules committee for adoption. There are 10 committee members and 4 years is the normal time to serve on the committee. It was advertised on social media and by email.

Question - Could there be more flexibility on entries to the Junior events? Some larger rinks with undersubscribed entries do not accept late entries which could possibly boost their funds.

Response - Closing dates are there for a reason as Ice Rink entries are based on available sheets. Cost wise these events need to run in one day so as not to incur additional expense to players and their parents. SC look at entries from previous years and set limits with that in mind. Late entries would result in a redraw for the whole competition. We always try to accommodate as many teams as we can.

PVG's (Protecting Vulnerable Groups)

Question- Some people have been waiting for months for approval to PVGs sent in and they are needed for the start of the season. What is the situation with these?

Eilidh - There have been some changes in the PVG process across the sporting sector and across Scotland because of updates in legislation. Information on changes to the PVG process will be communicated next week. To summarise the changes: two additional elements are now required. 1. Consent is required from the organisations that are submitting the application for the PVG. This could be the club, the curling development group or ice rinks. 2. The individual who is applying for or renewing their PVG scheme membership will also be required to give consent, which will be the membership file on the database. There is a legal obligation to do this. Once updates and further information has been circulated, any questions can be directed to a new email address which has been set up: pvg@scottishcurling.org

For more information go to [PGV Scottish Curling](#)

It is taking about a week and a half to process applications at the moment through Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services. The time of processing will vary due to consent being given, and applicants follow up on links sent by Disclosure Scotland.

Eilidh explained that at present the PVG lasts a lifetime- however in April 2026 this will change and PVG Scheme Membership will have a finite time associated. More information will be shared before this comes into place.

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Eilidh - told us that coaching courses are available to sign up for and are on the website. There will be five Level 1s over the season and the new Level 2 will be arranged shortly. Coaching courses have an online element on Bright Space and a practical element. CWPS courses are also available to book onto. The Coach Development Conference and the Umpire Refresher day in September are also available to book onto: <https://www.scottishcurling.org/coaching-officiating/course-dates/>

SC will be applying to sportscotland for funding in order to provide subsidies for coaching courses. If successful we will be able to provide subsidies for Under 21's, Women in Coaching, Disability and Inclusion projects and SIMD areas 1 and 2. Fiona Harfield has a note of interest form which is on the website and was circulated on the Slack channel and email.

An email has been sent out to all Area 13 Clubs to update their details on the database. All match Secretaries have also been notified to keep their details up to date. Incorrect data on the database/website can cause major problems.

Indoor Grand Match 2025 - It is likely that this will happen on the 15th November 2025 which is National Curling Day. This is the biggest member participation event we have so we look forward to that. An Indoor Grand Match Committee will convene to discuss next steps.

Close

Ali thanked everyone for coming along and giving up their time and said he was looking forward to the next meeting at Perth for the Priestfield Cup, where the annual ASV v LSC will take place.

There was a Vote of Thanks for the chair.

FUTURE MEETINGS

LSC: September 3rd, 2024 – Dunblane
LSC: October 8th, 2024 – Dumfries (& Bonspiel)
Joint Meeting: October 29th, 2024 – Perth (& Priestfield Cup)
ASC: December 4th, 2024 – Edinburgh (& Archers Match)
ASC: January 28th, 2025 – Perth (& The Cairn (previously Tamnavulin))
LSC: February 11th, 2025 – Dunblane
Joint Meeting: April 15th, 2025 – Lanarkshire
ASC: June 10th, 2025 – tbc
LB AGM: May 13th, 2025 – Dumfries
RCCC AGM: June 28th, 2025 – venue TBC

Meeting closed at: 12 noon