

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2024

AT: DUMFRIES ICE BOWL AT 10.30AM



Present

Ann Johnstone (President), Ann Gibb (Vice President), Isla Kinnear (Junior Vice President), Mara Lindsay (Ayr), Caroline McClymont (Border), Susan Morrison (Dumfries), Sheilagh Macfarlane (Dundee), Joan Simpson (Edinburgh), Janice Walls (Forfar), Liz Paul (Greenacres), Fiona McLaren (Inverness), Sheona Reid (Kinross), Pamela Craigie (Kirkcaldy), Fiona Moffat (Lanarkshire), Christine Ross (Lockerbie), Trish Kennedy (Perth), Kate Adams (Stranraer), Karen Jack (Waterfront), Shirley Jeans (Minute Secretary), Vincent Bryson (SC-CEO); Peter Joyce (Digital Community Co-ordinator)

Also in attendance- Elizabeth Shaw, Mary Shaw, Ann Redpath, Janice Craig, Jane Bruce, Marion Duthie, Helen Jamieson, Elaine Semple, Elaine Spain, Elaine Pryde, Gillie McKee, Linda Haswell, Yvonne Brown,

Apologies

Kate Caithness (Honorary President); Val Saville, (Treasurer); Alison Troup, (Aberdeen); Fiona Glascodine, (Aberdeen); Michele Hartley, (Stirling)

1. Welcome

Ann welcomed the LSC Reps and or Ice Rink Representatives to the meeting and thanked them for making the effort to travel to Dumfries to take part in the meeting and the LSC Opening Bonspiel. It gives us all an opportunity to support each other by giving and sharing ideas to keep this great sport of curling alive and thriving going forward. We as a committee are proud to promote and foster every woman to take part in the sport at any age. I would like to welcome Vinny Bryson, our CEO for Scottish Curling and Peter Joyce our Digital Community Co-ordinator. Both will be able to answer any questions later in the meeting.

We have a busy schedule today. After the meeting we will have lunch, followed by our Bonspiel which Isla has very kindly organised.

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were available on the RCCC Website -Ladies Branch.

Proposed: Liz Paul

Seconded: Sheilagh Macfarlane

Matters Arising

- *Correction - Item 8 Tours* - Last paragraph, should read The Tour are visiting Kinross (not Kirkcaldy)
- *Discussion of Costs for incoming tours where rinks are sharing* - This was discussed again and clarified that it should be proportional; discussed and agreed by the centres involved.
- *Elaine and Nicola (Ex RCCC office staff)* Flowers have been sent to both, in appreciation of their support and help working with Ladies branch.

4. Presidents Update

Since our last meeting it has been pretty hectic We have now selected 24 curlers for the Outgoing Canadian Tour in November 2025. I would like to wish them all a fantastic year ahead organising their trip. A lot of work to be done, I am sure! It has also been a busy time at all ice rinks getting ready for the incoming Canadian Tour, 4 years later than planned. A lot of extra work is involved, in fundraising, organising and finding people to curl against them. I am sure the trip will run smoothly in the capable hands of Alison Taylor, Fiona Hardie, Lillian Carnegie and Margaret Richardson.

Here at Dumfries we are getting organised for the Henderson Bishop in February. Again the amount of fundraising required to hold the event is not so easy in today's financial climate.

I would also take the opportunity to stress to you as already members of RCCC Scottish Curling, how important it is to keep the history and knowledge alive and how proud it feels to be a member. Apart from

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being able to take part in tours, incoming or outgoing, and national competitions, it cements us as a great curling community. I ask you to encourage those, who have not already, to become a member of Scottish Curling. Apart from the enjoyment, friendship and camaraderie, Scottish Curling work hard to provide training in many areas- umpire training, coaching, time keeping courses, workshops and seminars. It also provides insurance for curling related activities. We have leaflets for you to collect today which will give you all the information about being a member, including how to find it all online. Vinny and Peter are here today to give more advice on this and answer any questions you may have. I know we are preaching to the converted and canvassing constantly but we need to keep trying to encourage others on board. On that note the Olympics are just around the corner, Feb 26, so again get involved with the activities that will be happening at your rinks. Another reason to become a coach or helper. Share ideas about what your ice rink is doing !

5. Treasurers Report (*sent in by Val Saville*)

No Change to the accounts and the balance remains at - **£6411.33**

Can everyone get their contributions to the Internationals Fund in now please?

6. Competitions

Morton- Nothing to report other than there have been reports last week of good ice at Dundee, the venue for the final.

Henderson Bishop- Draw for the Final was made by the Reps, pulling names from the bag. President Ann had the badges for the Qualifiers and gave them to Ice Rink Reps. Please look after these as they cannot be replaced if lost !

7. Tours

Outgoing Canadian 2025: The list of successful applicants has been distributed and they are having their first meeting at Hamilton next Sunday 13th October.

Incoming Canadian 1st-22nd Nov 2024: Canada have now sent a list of their teams and player Bio's but still no Dietary Requirements. Vinny said the Tour Booklets would be going to the Printers on Monday 14th Oct. The Opening Banquet information will be coming next week. It will be £40 for a 3 course meal and a glass of wine at the North West Castle in Stranraer - 6.30 for 7pm. Tickets from Fiona Hardie. The Closing Banquet will be held in Hamilton, also £40. A question was raised about who would be doing the 'Vote of Thanks' for the Canadians after games at all the rinks, as this could be listed in the rinks own programme for the visit. Question re 'top tables' was also discussed and each rink to make their own decision depending on how formal their event would be. Anthems before the game are optional as is a ceremonial throwing of a first stone.

Condolences were sent to Alison Taylor on the recent loss of her father.

8. Future Meetings

October 29th 2024 - Perth + ASC v LSC Priestfield Cup Bonspiel

December 2nd - Zoom Meeting. Addition to programme

February 11th 2025 - Dunblane

April 15th 2025 - Lanarkshire (Joint Meeting - ASC)

May 13th 2025 - Ladies Branch AGM -Dumfries

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9. AOCB

- Local Ice rink Competitions - these are on the Ladies Branch page on the Website. Aberdeen recently rekindled the Betty Kitson with a very successful day of curling.
- The Scottish Amateur Open (for curlers not in a current Elite Programme) to be held at Forfar in December has a very low entry and is in danger of being cancelled. There is a £3000 prize pot for this with a gender split of £1500 going to both the men's and the women's sections. Entries have to be in by the end of OCTOBER.
- Corrie Lawrence sent in a question - Would there be a Presentation to Elaine Mills and Nicola Glencross in recognition of their work with Scottish Curling? Vinny gave a straight answer of no. Justification for thence by restructuring was approved unanimously at July 2024 board meeting and the minutes of this meeting can be found online. Major reason was financial, with membership plateauing. Sixty applications have been received for the new post of Operations Manager.
- National Curling Day - 15th November : Ideas being circulated.
- Local Sports Centres could organise a promotional day with floor curling and sharing information about Curling .
- Local Media - radio/ newspapers/ posters - SC have 3 sub groups looking at this led by Eilidh McCall -Lawrie, Head of Sport and Communities.
- Focus on all the Scottish Players in the Grand Slam of Curling App - there needs to be fair coverage on all the teams involved from all media outlets. Absence of "independent curling media" in any form within the UK leaves an expectation on Scottish Curling for media coverage.
- Judith McLeary, CEO Judo Scotland has been in contact, offering to connect Ladies Branch with Maureen McGonigle at Scottish Women in Sport, should we wish to engage. This organisation is doing great work to support Women in Sport at all levels. Judith in her current role has also been driving forward a female engagement programme with a number of elements that would easily transfer to curling and is offering her help at any time. Isla has offered to meet up with Judith later this month and then report back .
- There was then a discussion once again on whether we should be called 'ladies' or 'women'. An anonymous voting slip was then distributed and the results were- Change 13, No Change 16, No Preference 3 .

Vinny Bryson - CEO of Scottish Curling

Vinny gave a comprehensive outline of the financial situation within Scottish curling and the reasons behind the Staff restructuring decisions taken by the Board.

Vinny updated on a number of topics including media and the situation relating to Perth Ice Rink. We currently have 5 mens teams in the top twenty rankings. Other than the Olympic fortnight, curling has a problem attracting a significant audience so BBC are not keen to produce it. If someone else produces the footage then BBC might take it and stream it. Our key assets for promotional material are Scottish Juniors, Scottish Championships and athletes themselves.

He outlined many of the costs involved in the Operation of RCCC/ Scottish Curling.

He introduced Peter Joyce the new Digital Community Co-ordinator who will be happy to support clubs and rinks with their digital objectives.

10. Close The meeting closed at 12.30 and everyone headed for a lovely buffet lunch prior to taking to the ice for the LSC Opening Bonspiel.

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