

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



Present

Ann Johnstone (President), Ann Gibb (Vice President), Isla Kinnear (Junior Vice President), Val Saville (Treasurer) Shirley Jeans (Minute Secretary), Fiona Glascodine (Aberdeen), Alison Troup (Aberdeen), Mara Lindsay (Ayr), Sheilagh Macfarlane (Dundee), Joan Simpson (Edinburgh), Janice Walls (Forfar), Marion Duthie (Forfar), Liz Paul (Greenacres), Fiona McLaren (Inverness), Sheona Reid (Kinross), Pamela Craigie (Kirkcaldy), Fiona Moffat (Lanarkshire), Trish Kennedy (Perth), Michele Hartley (Stirling), Kate Adams (Stranraer), Karen Jack (Waterfront), Vincent Bryson (CEO, Scottish Curling); David Cameron (Operations Officer), Fiona Harfield (Workforce Management Officer), Kate Caithness CBE (Honorary President)

Apologies

Carolyn McLymont (Border), Susan Morrison (Dumfries), Christine Ross (Lockerbie)

1. Welcome

Ann welcomed the LSC Representatives to the meeting and three officials from Scottish Curling, Vinny Bryson CEO, David Cameron, Operations Officer and Fiona Harfield, Workforce Operations Manager.

2. Apologies - As Above

3. Previous Minutes

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

Proposed: Ann Gibb

Seconded: Janice Walls

Matters Arising - None

4. Presidents Update

President Ann congratulated our Honorary President Gail Munro who has recently been awarded 'The Order of the British Empire' (OBE) in recognition of her contribution over 40 years to the sport of curling in Scotland. Gail's commitment and passion for the sport has singularly contributed to the growth of the game as not only a competitor and coach but also by inspiring generations of players to take up the sport at the rink in Stranraer.

In connection with that her daughter Robyn Munro won a gold medal at the Mixed Doubles in Torino alongside Orrin Carson from Dumfries. Robyn then went on to win the Scottish Championship last week with Team Henderson, what an achievement at a young age. We wish the team- Faye Henderson, Robyn Munro, Haley Duff and Katie McMillan luck for the rest of the season.

The Four Nations was the next event in my calendar and a storm did appear which unfortunately meant that 8 players were not able to attend the event hosted by Wales at the Flower Bowl in Preston. However we all played extra games and came home with quite a few trophies.

The Connie Millar - Scotland v England (Women)

The Tom Ballantine (Men)

The Guy Dingle - Scotland v England (Mixed)

The Big Bertha - Scotland v Wales

The Marshall Millar - Scotland v Ireland

The following week the Masters were to be played so it was a quick turn around, but after the first day unfortunately the plant developed a fault and the competition was abandoned. It now looks like October before the remainder of the games will be played.

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



The Scottish Championships followed last week in Dumfries and was a tremendous week of fantastic curling. A well organised event and well attended in person and online. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors, 'Hardie Engineering' for being the main sponsor and the effort that Dumfries put into making the week successful. Well done to everyone involved.

5. Treasurers Report - Val Saville

LSC Meeting 11th February 2025 - Finance Report

Year to Date summary

Opening balance on 1st May 2024 £5671.33

Balance on 10th February 2025 £9651.32

Income

Morton Ice fees (from Ayr, Inverness, Borders and Lanarkshire) (Note 1) £720.00

Ice Rink Donations for 24-25 season (Note 3) £760.00

Repayment from Canadian Tour (Note 3) £2499.99

Total Income £3979.99

Expenditure

Past President Badges (x4) £412.71

Engraving of Morton Medals and Scottish Championships £80.00

Total Expenditure £492.71

(Expected Balance on 14th February 2025) £9158.61

An additional £100 from 2 reps was paid on the day so this figure will now be £9258.61

Note 1 - Collected following misunderstanding of who would pay for the ice for the finals.

Note 2 - Collected from Ayr, Borders, Edinburgh, Greenacres, Inverness, Kinross, Kirkcaldy, Lanarkshire, and Lockerbie. (+. today from Dumfries and Perth)

Note 3 - Repayment of money lent from Ladies Branch to help with prepayment of accounts before the 2024 incoming tour arrived. £2000 'borrowed' and £2499.99 returned due to lots of fundraising.

Note 3 - Expected to be paid by 14th February 2025.

This month Val has contacted accounts and Gemma seems to be dealing with the paperwork, but Suzy seems to be able generate a print out of the bank statement halfway through the month before the Statement comes out, so it would be useful if we could set this up as a regular fortnightly thing. Val cannot see the account personally so she is reliant on Scottish Curling to share this.

There were no questions for Val on the accounts.

6. Competitions

Henderson Bishop - Dumfries 24th - 27th February

Planning is going well and all coming together.

Time table of events are as previous years. (*timetable of events printed below*)

All qualified teams were contacted in January with full details of all events and costs, which includes ice for all four games, Tuesday Supper and Wednesday's Dinner. All team entries, payment and meal choices were due back yesterday, 10.02.25. Many thanks to the 19 teams who met the deadline - a gentle reminder has been sent to the team still to reply (Stirling). Once team names have been received, these will be sent off to Scottish Curling asking them to upload the team details onto their website. Supporters are all welcome to come along and watch all sessions and also join the teams at Tuesday and Wednesday's events. Still time to reserve tickets up till 16.02.25. A poster has been shared with all the details.

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



We are also hoping for all games to be streamed live via YouTube. We have also arranged for various stalls to be in attendance from Monday - Wednesday.

Schedule of Events

Monday

- Curling sessions- 9.30- 12.00- 14.30
- Drinks Reception courtesy of Dumfries Ladies Section, followed by Barbours of Dumfries Fashion Show- Dumfries Ice Bowl 17.30 - 19.00

Tuesday

- Curling Sessions 9.00 - 11.30 - 14.45 -17.15
- Supper and Strike Drive , Woodlands House Hotel, 19.30 for 20.00

Wednesday

- Curling Sessions 9.30 - 12.00 - 14.30
- Formal Dinner at Woodlands House Hotel 18.45 for 19.15- draw for the Semi-Finals will be made at the dinner.

Thursday

- Semi Finals 10.00
- Finals 13.30
- Presentation of Prizes - 16.00 approx

Usually the venue for the 2026 HB, is announced at the Dinner. The bid would normally be in by September and decided before Christmas but that did not happen this year due to other events which are being held in 2026, Olympics and Scottish Championships . We were asked if we could alter the date of the 2026 HB but there was not enough information to make this decision.. A bidding document went out on the 2nd March. President Ann passed this to Vinny for a response as we usually hold it the week of the 23rd February and we have been asked to move to the 9th or 16th February or the 2nd March

Vinny - So many competitions and the Olympics make it difficult to fit everything in. Qualification for the Olympics is a priority and events in Kelowna, Canada and the Europeans affect the situation. SC would like to hold the Scottish in November to free up the period after Christmas but may not be possible. We do not want the HB to clash with the Scottish as it is an important event on the calendar. A degree of flexibility will be required. It may be that holding it the week of the Olympics could be an option. It has happened successfully before. Bidding for Four Nations and The Morton are currently out. A new bidding form will go out if we are to change the date. The 8 weeks around the Olympics give us opportunities to do some amazing things and we have interested sponsors following the great week at Dumfries in the Scottish Championships.

Kate Adam (Stranraer) Traditionally the HB has always been the last week in February and the Ice rinks worked together and managed the competitions to avoid clashes. That seems to have broken down - last year the date of the senior mixed was changed and some rinks were affected as they could not be available for the rearranged date.

Vinny -This can happen as ice rinks reduce their opening times and may occur again in the future.

President Ann -It does not have to be a Monday to Thursday. Aberdeen recently held it successfully over a weekend. We need to have a bit of flexibility. Can we make a decision today ? (Response was Yes) Discussion followed on the pitfalls of the event being moved to a new week and the difficulty of holding it on the w/b 23rd as it clashed with the olympics. SC would not be able to support or resource the competition this week and there was only 1 rep in favour.

Dates voted for 16th Feb- (Olympic Week) or 2nd March (Highland Week)

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



The date of 2nd March was voted for by 13 Reps. But there is no venue arranged at the moment and we can return to the traditional week in the following year. In future we should aim to have the bidding out 18 months prior to the event.

Joan Simpson (Edinburgh) asked if there was any chance that a draw could be rearranged where two teams from the same centre were drawn in the same section. The company agreed that this could not happen as the draw was made randomly at the LSC meeting in October and seen to be fair.

Morton

One game in the north still has to be played.

President Ann has contacted Charlene for information in preparation for the finals at Dundee on 11th March. Who will send out the information to the qualifying teams and details of what will happen on the day ? Does she have a copy of the original bid from Dundee? Has a bidding form gone out for the 2026 Finals?

There will be a play off game for 3/4 places.

Sheilagh Macfarlane - Dundee Rep

Will organise tea/coffee for players on arrival, lunch and tea/coffee after the games.

Games at 10.30 and 13.30

Ice costs £20 for 2 games. Includes food on arrival and lunch.

Dundee is a huge stadium with lots of room for spectators!

VP Ann - Last year the lady at Greenacres set out all the information on costs etc to the qualifying teams.

Sheilagh did not see the bid so does not have the relevant information but will find out.

President Ann then read out a dilemma received from Pamela Craigie at Kirkcaldy.

“Unfortunately next year Kirkcaldy is unlikely to have an active Ladies Branch representative on the LSC. At this moment in time no one has come forward to take over from Pamela. However the Ladies who are members of clubs affiliate to Fife Ice Arena and members of Scottish Curling would still like to participate in the Morton next year, and play out of another ice rink where they curl regularly, although their club is not affiliated to that ice rink.”

President Ann -Overall it is important to retain as many curling women as possible to stay curling. I am sure going forward they will actively seek a representative, but however short term we can continue to support them and communicate with a contact for the season ahead.

Everything is a fine balance at Kirkcaldy at the moment. They will be very welcome to take part in the Morton from whichever rink they play from and keep in touch re the situation with a rep or contact person

7. Tours

Canadian Feedback Reports

- Thank you for submitting a report for your centre for the tour from Canada in November 2024. It is great to have feed back from everyone so we can take notes of what we can improve on in future incoming tours. Whether it be from the organising committee or your own ice centre. I think it was a huge success and that the feedback from the Canadians was, they had an amazing time in Scotland, from having the snow to set the scene to seeing the highland cattle! So overall a successful tour all round. However some Scottish ladies who played for Canada did not receive badges or booklets. Ann will investigate rectifying this

Reports from all Centres will be placed on the Ladies Branch webpage with these minutes.

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



Report for Canadian Tour to Canada 2025

- After meeting up in December we now have a nearly confirmed itinerary for our tour which will depart on 1st November for 3 weeks. We will fly to Vancouver and go North to Kelowna, visit Harrison Springs and Whistler and return back to Victoria via Parksville. We will play possibly 18 games in 3 weeks. We had a successful 3 night stay at North West Caste taking part in the Lyburn Competition and 2 teams from the Tour played for the Low Road. A great 3 days of bonding and getting to know one another. Time is marching on and we will be flying off before we know it. We are looking hopefully to get lots of curling in before November.

USA Incoming Tour 2026

- Shirley Jeans reported that online meetings with USA are taking place approximately 2 monthly - mainly with Lisa Johnston who is the Chair for the USA Tour Committee and Donna Pearson. Ann Gibb, Val Saville and Morag Erskine make up the working group on the Scottish side of the pond. Their Tour cost is \$8000 with a contingency of \$2000 for additional personal expenses in Scotland. They are still hoping for a 50/50 split of hotels and home hosts so can centres please try to make this happen. They are all meeting in New York and travelling together to Scotland, possibly Edinburgh, so our first and last rinks will likely be in the Central region. We have arranged Transport with Earnside Coaches who have many years of experience in Hosting Tour Groups. Finally many thanks to everyone for completing and returning the USA Questionnaire, This will give us some solid information to plan our route.

8. International Women's Day - 8th March

JVP Isla - As women curlers we want to make sure we acknowledge International Women's Day, Celebrating the social economic cultural and political achievements of women. As women in curling let's celebrate our successful women for what they've done. We are represented at nearly every level in the game. You can go onto the International Women's Day website and find information and resources. Fundraising for an appropriate charity may also be an option.

Vinny commented on resources that can be found on the SC website.

Kate Caithness also commented that the 8th March is during the World Wheelchair Championships so they could also be involved.

9. Vinny Bryson - Presentation on the Progress of the Structures Group

Mara Lindsay - put forward a question she had received from one of her committee re the Structures group.

Question for LSC 11/2/25

Background: At the RCCC AGM 2024, at Hamilton Racecourse, CEO Vincent Bryson announced a Structure Review Group would be set up and come back to AGM 2025 with proposals for change.

Q. Has a Structure Review Group been set up? How often has the group met? Who is on the group? Will proposals for change be brought to this year's AGM?

Submitted by Corrie Lawrence LB President 20/21.

Vinny responded

The Structures group was set up following a joint meeting last March. They were given the task to look at the way a structure would look. Mostly to do with reaffirming and refining the role of the ASC. The group consisted of Presidents' Jim Raeburn and Maureen Parker, Susie Healy, Isla Kinnear, Sheilagh Macfarlane, David Haggart and Vinny himself. It is not closed to anyone. Last April a session was held where the main themes identified were, Principles for Office Bearers, terms of office for posts (eg Directors), skill sets for specific posts. What could replace ASC and be more effective? How do people at the moment engage with the structure of Scottish Curling? Membership is still low and we need to make it easier for people to see the structure from their Club to the Boardroom. The group has not met recently but intend to meet together in April to put together a couple of proposals before the AGM. There has been quite a lot of engagement on Slack but not face to face.

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



Office staff absence has caused some delays in communication. It has been a challenge. Vinny will take his proposals to the Group first, then the Scottish Curling Board and then to the members. He will talk to the Joint Group Meeting in April in more detail about the work the group have been doing.

Mara (Ayr) - then asked Vinny if changes to Ladies Brach would be proposed to which he replied - No. Areas and Provinces are the main concern and all the competitions related to them.

Michelle (Stirling) - finding the number of committees and meetings very stressful and time consuming. Curlers do not know what they are all for - they just want to curl. Changes at Stirling mean a rep will come to the LSC meetings but they won't have a committee - they will feedback to the Stirling Curling Group.

The Joint Meeting may be held at the Scottish Curling Trust in Stirling. There will be a cost to hire the room for the meeting and Vinny agreed that this could be picked up by SC.

Mara - asked Vinny why the minutes of the board meeting are not put online in an appropriate time.

Vinny - said the draft minutes had not been accepted so the posting of them was delayed. Members fees for next year will be £31.

Fiona Moffat (Lanarkshire) - asked - why is the phone not answered at Scottish curling office?

Vinny - Landline is not manned constantly. Everyone has a mobile number as displayed on the webpage. There is no one unique person to contact at SC - better to email office@scottishcurling.

If contacting about items for 'Your Curler' please send them well in advance. Remember to check out the 4 Bullet Friday for information

10. David Cameron - The role of the Operations Officer

David has been newly appointed and is settling into his role. His main duty at present are dealing with Membership, PGV's, Competition entries, Course bookings, and reporting to the board. In the short time he is trying to get the PVG timescale improved. He is also helping Fiona Harfield with the organisation and streamlining of courses and competitions (Payments)

AOCB

Attracting members

The current membership is approximately 8800 ordinary and junior members of which approximately 3000 are women. Try curling brings in new members.

Kate Caithness asked about flyers for the World Wheelchair Championships. David Cameron will check that out so they can be downloaded and displayed by Ice Rinks. We are the Mother Club of Scotland but how do we develop interest and enthusiasm to encourage people to come along and watch? The live streaming at Dumfries last week was excellent but probably only viewed by curlers. Curling is the most watched event in the Winter Olympics as it starts 2 days before the other events.

A calendar of all the Women's events for the year may help teams plan their curling and visit other rinks to compete. This can be done but may not be practical to put it on the website. A paper version on rink notice boards may attract more attention.

Kate Adam (Stranraer) raised the issue of a reduced number of LSC meetings. She quoted from the LB page on the Scottish Curling website:

The remit of the Ladies'Branch is to: 'foster and encourage the game of curling for women in Scotland, promote friendship among women curlers worldwide, deal with matters concerning women's curling as remitted by the Board of Scottish Curling and act as an effective two way communication channel between women curlers at local and national level.'

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



Everyone was in agreement with these aims, however travel is very costly now and people are more conscious of their carbon footprint so meaningful meetings are appropriate and will be arranged as and when required. Information can be shared digitally in many cases, but face to face meetings are important for sharing and discussing certain items and sharing concerns from members to the committee through their local reps.

Ladies AGM will be held in Dumfries on May 13th. There will be a Supper night the evening prior to the AGM for Reps and new Reps if applicable. Past Presents will be invited to lunch on the day of the AGM.

Future Meetings

April 15th 2025 Joint Meeting - Lanarkshire (It has been proposed that this meeting Venue will change to the Scottish Curling Trust Museum in Stirling)

May 13th 2025. Woodland House Hotel Dumfries - Ladies Branch AGM

The meeting closed at 12.45

Canadian Tour 2024 Feedback from Reps

ABERDEEN

After many months of preparation, the Canadian Ladies were at last visiting Curl Aberdeen on a cold, snowy and sunny morning on 18th November.

From the moment they arrived under the traditional broom arch until they boarded the bus for Inverness, we did our utmost to make them feel welcome and provided them with a full morning of curling, hospitality and entertainment.

Our very own Jackie Lockhart played the ceremonial first stone.

The Canadian Ladies were very impressed with our facility and mentioned this several times.

They were strong competition with only 2 teams winning their games and Alison and I were lucky enough to be in these teams.

After exchanging our badges, we enjoyed a baked potato lunch and some socialising. We provided a fun Dingbat Quiz with table participation which provided some entertainment and further competitiveness. We gave the winners a small bottle of Prosecco which also went down well.

We had a very nice address from the Deputy Lord Provost of Aberdeen, and he provided everyone with the Aberdeen coat of Arms Badge. We had also invited a photographer from The Press and Journal to attend but unfortunately, they were unable to send a representative. We have since written an article promoting our success and it is hoped that some recognition of the "Roaring Game" may inspire others to try curling.

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



He finished his address with the motto of Aberdeen "Happy to meet, Sorry to part, Happy to meet again Bon Accord". This was appreciated by our Canadian Guests as we hope that we may meet them again.

Our only criticism is that we were only given 5 hrs out of the many days they spent in Scotland. Despite this we had a fantastic time although not enough to get to know any of them particularly well.

We must thank the organising committee and couriers for the mammoth task they had in preparing what would appear a very smooth operation. I do know that clashes with the Canadian Rotary Tour could have been possible but, with much forward planning between the two organisations, fortunately this did not happen.

Having been on the recent USA tour I fully understand some of the time pressures involved but hope that in planning future tours that more time is given for the social elements around each curling venue.

Fiona Glascodine

AYR (Hamilton)

The Canadian Tourists visit to Ayr went well. However, the logistics were quite challenging as we were curling at Hamilton (who were extremely helpful throughout). Costs for Ayr ladies were considerably higher than usual (had we been still curling at Ayr, we would not have been charged for ice). Also, Ayr had to find funds for the visit to Burns Cottage, lunch, ice costs, dinner, entertainment and gifts - some centres had a much smaller financial commitment. Ideally all centres would be responsible for similar expenditure. Moving forward, I doubt if Ayr would be able to provide a full complement of curlers to play against the incoming tour in 2026 - perhaps considerations could be given to use jointly hosting with another rink?

Mara Lindsay

BORDER (Kelso)

The Canadian Tour to the Borders was more or less without any problems.

If I am to be critical, I did ask which teams would not be playing at the Borders (as only 4 rinks) when I attended the opening banquet. The teams that I was given were changed the night before and I was then required to have Border ladies fill in to play for the Canadians. This spoilt our preparation of boards etc, but not the occasion.

We enjoyed their company .

Caroline McLymont

DUMFRIES

The tour visited Dumfries on Sunday 10 November (Remembrance Sunday) and have no issues to report.

In the morning on arrival, they enjoyed the arranged visits to Graeme Adam Museum and seeing his collection of curling stones as well as the Dumfries Museum and Camera Obscura. Some of the ladies also got the opportunity to watch part of the Remembrance Services and said they were very honoured to have witnessed this. A great day followed, with good curling, new friendships made with everyone enjoying the full days' hospitality and supper kindly hosted by David and Fiona Hardie before heading back to the hotel

Susan Morrison

DUNDEE - (Played at Forfar)

Dundee had only one team which played at Forfar. Due to lack of funds from a newly formed ladies centre we couldn't afford anymore but we thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon and evening at Forfar and felt a sense of camaraderie amongst curlers.

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



EDINBURGH- (Murrayfield)

On Wednesday 13th November, the Canadians were welcomed to Curl Edinburgh on the 11th leg of their tour. The day started with a guided bus tour through Edinburgh with a bit of free time at the end to do things like visit the castle or do a bit of retail therapy before the tourists were brought to Curl Edinburgh. The Canadians were greeted at the curling rink by music from the Merchiston Castle School Pipe Band. Lunch followed and then it was onto the ice for the competitive part of the day. With the Canadians having played together every day for almost two weeks and bonded well as teams, they proved a bit too strong for most of the Edinburgh rinks. After curling, it was back to socializing and an evening meal was followed by entertainment and lots of chatter. A very enjoyable day was had by all and at the end of the evening the Canadians headed to Dundee for the next leg of their tour.

Joan Simpson

FORFAR

We began planning well in advance and teamed up with Dundee Ladies Centre. Initially, Dundee had planned to field three teams, but as a new Ladies Centre, they faced insufficient funds and had to reduce their teams to one. Fortunately, Forfar Ladies Centre had ample reserves, attracting curlers to play and having a well-stocked Tour Fund. This allowed us to support the costs for our curlers and subsidize the Dundee curlers. Dundee managed to secure some funding, enabling them to make a pro-rata contribution for the remaining costs.

We set up a WhatsApp group, which proved to be invaluable for sharing progress and asking questions, especially as the day of the event drew closer.

On the day of the tourists' visit, everything went smoothly. The curling was both friendly and competitive, though the tourists had the upper hand throughout the day, ultimately securing the overall win. It was evident that they enjoyed themselves both on and off the ice. The visits to Glamis Castle were a particular highlight, and the tourists especially enjoyed trying out carpet bowls in a party atmosphere, with Mike Ferguson leading the activities.

Having the morning and afternoon curlers enjoying lunch with the tourists proved to be a great success, with a lovely variety of sandwiches and soups available and Sandra made sure that the people with dietary requirements were identified

Sandra and her team provided an amazing dinner menu, and all the feedback I received was very positive. Invited guests to the top table were Cathy Hughes, Kate Caithness and Mike Ferguson, with Kate giving us a very humorous after dinner address – which was very well received. Cathy gave her thankyou address acknowledging the exceptional hospitality and effort put forward by the Forfar Ladies Centre, Dundee Ladies Centre and Forfar Indoor Sports. A special presentation from Forfar Ladies Centre was made to our Piper – Jim Menzies who has supported numerous Incoming Tours over the years and this was warmly received by all.

While there were a few minor issues to address on the day, they did not detract from the overall experience, and everyone had a fantastic time.

Mike and Sandra Ferguson offered great support and advice throughout the event.

The only things I would do differently are to collaborate more frequently with the rink management and to have access to the tourists' schedule of play in advance.

Janice Walls

GREENACRES

We met with the tourists in front of Paisley Abbey at the River Cart, where the first written reference to curling is documented. A photo op was taken with both the river & Abbey behind the group. Coffee & scones were consumed at the Abbey tearoom before we were split up into 3 groups to tour the Abbey, including seeing the famous written reference to the curling match on 6th Feb 1540 at 2pm!

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



We then adjourned to the Boarding House in Howwood, where we were treated to lunch courtesy of Provost Lorraine Cameron and Renfrewshire District Council.

At Greenacres, the first stone was thrown by Karen Kennedy and directed by Rhona Howie MBE, both much decorated curlers, swept admirably by Liz Paul & Libby Torrance. The games commenced & were going so well...until the sixth end...the lights went out! Unfortunately there was an outside problem with Scottish Power, so everyone was ushered back into the warm bar. We did a bit of 'shooting the broom' while the staff had a regrouping of meals as the kitchen was also involved in the power cut. A hot meal eventually appeared, although not what most had ordered, wine was flowing and fun was had. Speeches ensued then it was time for the tourist to depart. Greenacres will be well remembered for reasons outwith our control!

Liz Paul

INVERNESS

The Canadians' visit to Inverness went well. The schedule from their arrival on the evening of Monday 18/11 to departure on the morning of Wednesday 20/11 was full and the courier (Margaret Richardson) and Tour Captain (Cathy Hughes) kept the tourists up to speed!

From an organising point of view it would have been helpful if the itinerary could have been agreed and circulated earlier as it was difficult to put arrangements in place until we knew when the tourists were to arrive/depart Inverness. Also it would have been helpful to know dietary requirements

Fiona McLaren

KINROSS

Kinross is having the HB playdowns this week so will let you know Friday the teams go forward.

Kinross had a great day with the Canadians and everyone enjoyed the day. Sharing with Kircaldy worked very well and gave us 2 venues for meals which both centres were represented at both meals. I think on reflection the day they were at us after a very full day and night at Perth the Canadians may have been happy to have gone for a casual stroll into Kinross and free time without being organised by us, but as I saw it everything went well.

Sheona Reid

KIRKCALDY (Played at Kinross)

As we were sharing the day with Kinross LB at Kinross we agreed to form a joint committee to make the detailed plans, and that worked well. 2 of the Kinross ladies on that committee had been on a previous tour of Canada, which was very helpful and gave us an insight into what we could expect.

Being a relatively small centre, we were concerned that we would have sufficient funds for the visit, but we organised a wine tasting evening, a garden visit and a quiz, which were all well supported and very much enjoyed, and brought in more than enough to cover our outgoings.

Those Kircaldy ladies who took part in the day all really enjoyed the experience, in particular our curler who played for the Canadians as they immediately welcomed her as part of their team. On the ice the Canadians were very competitive, as we expected, and although the visitors won 2 out of the 3 games, the total points tally was close at 19- 21. What we forgot to do at the ice rink was share our plans with the ice man, which had repercussions for the group photos and time was taken up reorganising, so the moral of that story is make sure the ice staff are fully briefed!

We had decided to take the Canadians to Fife for the evening meal rather than remain at the Kinross rink, which was fine as the evening venue was more or less on the route back to their Dundee hotel. It also meant the curling rink could get back to normal in the evening and not inconvenience their regular curlers. The venue was Balbirnie Golf Club in Markinch, where the Steward was an experienced curler so she knew exactly what was required, what to expect and was willing to go the extra mile to ensure our visitors had a good time. The fare was traditional High Tea which went down well, if anything the visitors' comment was that there was too much food! Anyway our impression was that the Canadians really enjoyed themselves -we certainly enjoyed their company and connections were made - it was just a shame that we did not have longer to spend together and to get to know them better.

Pamela Craigie

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



LANARKSHIRE

Report from Hamilton RE Canadian incoming tour

- Committee were well organised had a time plan for everything
- Decorating the ice rink
- Running order for the day Re:- piper and on to the ice, photos, flowers
- List of who played and where
- Liaise with catering and bar
- What to do for the free time :- tour to city chambers

All went very well great day had by all

Fiona Moffat

LOCKERBIE

We visited the Devils Porridge Museum and the Lockerbie Memorial at the tourists request, In hindsight we would not do both again, we are considering a visit to the Annandale Distillery for future tours

We played 5 sheets of ice, but rather struggled to get 20 players interested so we may consider only playing 4 sheets

Apart from those observations everything went according to plan.

Christine Ross

PERTH

Our Canadian visitors arrived just after 10am in Perth and we took them to St John's Kirk for a short visit before accompanying them on a walking tour of Perth. The tourists enjoyed the opportunity to see some of the main sights of Perth, and fortunately the weather was kind. We would do another walking tour in future but learned some lessons so we might tweak how we organise it.

The visit to World Curling HQ, hosted by Alan Chalmers, was very successful. The tourists enjoyed seeing the various photographs, paintings and curling memorabilia.

We then went next door for a very enjoyable lunch at the Royal Perth Golfing Society. Robin Duncan, the current Captain, gave an interesting talk in the beautiful building overlooking North Inch. Robin's wife, Mary Duncan, is the Honorary Consul for Canada in Scotland, and talked about her role over coffee after lunch, which was interesting to all. Mary also had organised the young piper who welcomed the curlers at Dewars. Ramsay is 12 years old and did a fantastic job.

The tourists then visited the new city museum with the Stone of Destiny, before arriving at Dewars Centre for the curling.

After welcoming the Canadian tourists, and tea and scones, we had very enjoyable and close games at 6pm, followed by supper and entertainment.

Everyone seemed to have fun, and we were very impressed by our guests' stamina as we were tired after one day, and they had already been on the road for a couple of weeks!

Trish Kennedy

MINUTE OF LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

AT: DUNBLANE GC AT 10.30



STIRLING

The Canadians and ourselves had a full on day of sightseeing, lunch, curling and dinner commencing with a meet at the Kelpies, near Falkirk at 9.15 am and finishing with dinner at Stirling Golf Club. Thankfully we managed to get the tourists back on their bus at 9.00 pm as planned to return to their hotel in Hamilton.

Our main concerns for the day was the cost and timings. Over the summer a few of us met up and did a dummy run of the sightseeing bit to make sure we could fit in everything we wanted to do. We did some fundraising early in this year's curling season by way of a quiz, which raised £314 and we successfully applied for funding over the summer from Stirling Council and received £500. Both funding amounts really helped to take the pressure off our budget. The whole event went smoothly and it was a real team effort, with every one of the Stirling women's committee contributing to the organisation of the day.. and the icing on the cake was our efforts on the ice, seeing a win for Stirling 48 vs 39 points.

Michele Hartley

STRANRAER

Canadian Ladies Friendship Tour playing for the Muriel Fage Trophy.

Twenty two Canadian ladies arrived in Scotland on 1st November 2024, to embark on their long-awaited tour which was delayed from 2020 due to the covid pandemic. They travelled to The North West Castle Hotel in Stranraer, accompanied by Tour Couriers Lillian Carnegie and Margaret Richardson, to prepare for Opening Banquet and first games of the tour. Arriving on the Friday gave the Canadian visitors the opportunity to meet one another and get acquainted with a few games of curling in the weekend competition which included members of the 2005 Scottish Tour Team who had travelled to Canada, and were taking the opportunity to hold a tour reunion.

The Tour Opening Banquet, which was hosted by Ladies Standing Committee, commenced with the visitors being piped into the dinner before a warm welcome being given by LSC President Ann Johnstone. Deputy Lord Lieutenant Sally Hair welcomed the visitors on behalf of our Royal Patron, King Charles 111 before giving the Loyal Toast.

The competitive tour for the Muriel Fage Trophy commenced on Monday 4th November 2024. Twenty six ladies who curl in Stranraer would take to the ice to curl. Twenty four curlers representing Scotland and two curlers guesting with the tourists. The opening stone of the tour was delivered by Mrs Janet McMillan, former owner of the North West Castle Hotel, swept and looked after by former Olympians Margaret Agnew and Vicki Chalmers, with the brush being held by ice rink manager and former Scottish Champion, Gail Munro. Three games took place in the morning and three in the afternoon with lunch break between the sessions, where everyone took the opportunity to enjoy each others company.

The rinks not curling in the morning or afternoon sessions were entertained with a talk given by Douglas McMillan on the background and history of The North West Castle Hotel and the building of the ice rink and the start of curling in Stranraer.

The day was brought to a close by a lovely evening hosted by Past President of the LSC, Maureen Parker and her husband Hugh, at their home Inchparks Farm, Castle Kennedy. A tasty supper was enjoyed and entertainment enjoyed with stories from Hugh Parker and John Munro. The Canadian Ladies were safely returned to North West Castle Hotel for a good nights sleep before embarking on day two of their tour.

Scores on the door after Day one: Scotland 52, Canada 38.

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Kate Adam

WATERFRONT

We had the pleasure of the Canadians visiting the Waterfront Ice Rink in Greenock from 10 am till 4 pm on Monday 11 November

Local tour guides, school children and Greenock Telegraph newspaper all got involved including 16 of our lady curlers from local clubs and a few other lady helpers. The Waterfront staff were all on board with the visit too. Our ice man came in really early to have the ice ready for 1.30. Not normally ready until 5.30 pm ice on a Monday.

We started the visit with a tour of Greenock including Lyle Hill and the Free French Memorial Cross of Lorraine from which you get amazing views up and down the River Clyde and to the hills beyond. At 11 am we had a 2 minute silence and poems read by a Canadian and a Scot. We also had a tour of The Burns archives kept at the Custom House. We had lunch in our local theatre with fab views across the river. We then headed to the ice-rink 5 minutes walk away, piped onto the ice and started our game at 1.30. We had one win and 3 losses but all enjoyed our games even if the ice was 'interesting'! We gave our visitors a lovely wooden coaster made by local school pupils, tablet, club badges and a photo taken on the ice with their Scottish opponents. After the game we had tea/coffee and cakes and bid our visitors farewell at 4 pm.

Our job was done 😊

It was lovely to have our Canadian visitors. It did take a bit of organising but it all came together well on the day.

Issues/Considerations

Only 4 sheets of ice at Waterfront (and Monday not a good day)

Ice only ok or 'interesting' as Canadians put it.

We got the ice free but charged our Scottish ladies to try and cover our other costs of the visitors .

Waterfront Ladies Branch, at present, has little to no money left for future incoming tours.

Karen Jack