

Minutes of ASC & LSC Joint meeting. 29/10/24, 11am.

Dewars Centre, Perth. Followed by Priestfield Cup

Present;

LSC

Fiona McLaren, Fiona Glascodine, Liz Paul, Pam Craigie, Mara Lindsay, Karen Jack, Michele Hartley, Isla Kinnear, Alison Troup, Caroline McClymont, Susan Morrison, Sheona Reid, Kate Caithness, Kate Adams, Trish Kennedy, Anne Gibb, Ann Johnstone, Shelagh McFarlane, Marion Duthie

ASC

Ali Asher [Chair], Keith Prentice, Andy Cowan, Jamie Mason, Anna Martin, Alan Chalmers, Colin Martin, Alistair Crozier, Jimmy Raeburn, Norman Ainslie, Derek Young, John Taylor, Jim Hogg, Jim Stewart, Davie Haggart, Albert Middler, Frank Ross, Paul Davis, Vincent Bryson [CEO].

Apologies;

John McDermott, John MacGowan, Mike Caffyn, Philip Ross, Jim Macdonald, Maryanne McWilliam, Fiona Moffat, Shirley Jeans, Val Saville.

Previous minutes from April & August were approved. Proposed Keith Prentice, Seconder Anne Gibb. No matters arising.

Presidents Report.

It has been a busy start to the season proper between meetings and event attendance along with some participation.

Firstly, I was very sorry to hear of the sudden passing of Area 13 new rep Duncan Clark. He was a popular person in his Club and Province and will be sadly missed by all those who knew him.

I was the Guest of Honour at Nairn Highland Games in August then in September took part in the 1st Perth International Bonspiel losing in the final to a strong Perth-based team including Alan Chalmers & Mairi Milne. A very enjoyable event which is likely to be repeated and also raised £1,600 for a local charity.

I attended the World Mixed in Aberdeen for a couple of days, which had 39 teams from around the globe competing. The venue set-up and colourful atmosphere showed Aberdeen at its best. The event was won by Sweden.

Then on to a Bonspiel & Dinner in Kelso to commemorate Border Ice Rink's 60th year. 200 attended the dinner at which I toasted the rink and presented Bill Cleghorn with his 50-year medal. Past President Jim Cullen presented me with a badge as Honorary President of the RCCC Canadian Branch which I was unaware even existed hence pleasantly surprised.

Last Friday saw the Panmure CC Dinner & Court in Carnoustie with 60 attending. A fun night was had by most.

I'm looking forward to attending the Europeans in Lohja, Finland and we wish both teams well.

I have put together a brief document to outline my thoughts on the 'concept' [albeit existing] of 'Curling Tourism'. Tens of thousands of golfers come to Scotland every year as the Home of Golf so I see no reason why we can't make more of the Home of Curling as a destination. Most ice rinks have the capacity for events and need the business and we're a very hospitable breed. We just need to find

a way of properly listing and promoting them. Perhaps though a central curling diary similar to how we list our own Scottish Curling events.

We had our first in-person Board meeting of the year in Cairnie House last night. It was beneficial to see everyone face to face although personally I'm grateful for the time and expense saved by having Zoom for most of our monthly board meetings.

Some relevant items covered by the Board in no particular order were;

- The setting up of a safeguarding sub-committee under the guidance of co-opted member Ross Morrison.*
- Some temporary & permanent office staffing structure changes. The operations officer role attracted a good number of applicants with suitable candidates already interviewed.*
- Disappointment in the low entry for the new Scottish Amateur Championships which will only host a men's events.*

Ali Asher

The CEO advised the meeting of a matter of serious ill health involving staff member Charlene Graham. She will be given our full support and measures will be taken to cover her roles whilst she receives treatment.

A gent by the name of David Cameron has been appointed Operations Officer.

Ladies Branch Report

Since our last joint meeting it has been as busy as always.

We held a LSC meeting at Dunblane. Fiona Harfield SC Workforce Development Officer gave a very interesting and informative presentation on upcoming projects of courses available from SC. And how we can help as a committee. This especially is looking forward to the post Olympics when we endeavour to encourage and introduce new curlers. More coaches will be required at all levels.

Our October meeting was held at Dumfries along with our Bonspiel which was very well attended. Peter Joyce our new Digital Community Officer was in attendance with Vinny and had a very constructive meeting. Thank you for all attending.

24 Curlers have been chosen to visit Canada on a friendship tour in November 2025. Meanwhile most ice rinks are ready to host the Canadians here to Scotland this weekend. They arrive on Friday and will stay in Stranraer initially where there will be an opening Banquet.

Henderson Bishop 2026 Bidding forms should be with your ice rinks. Please encourage your ice rink to host this major competition.

I attended the under 21 slam at Lockerbie last weekend to see just some amazing curling as well as enthusiasm from all these youngsters. Yes, we do have a future in curling. Team Seftor won the Girls and Team Carson won the boys. A Great weekend.

The last thing to report is that I am now officially a Time Clock Operator and will help at the World Mixed in December.

Ann Johnstone

Area reports had only been circulated to ASC so they will be sent to all LSC promptly.

Matters Arising from Area Reports.

Paul Davis highlighted an issue with a clash of dates for a junior event, the date for which had been checked with other ice rinks. It was suggested that an online diary or calendar held by SC and accessible to all ASC or ice rinks might assist with this and also help promote open events. Onus would be on the ice rinks or organisers to advise diary host.

Ayrshire has set up an organisation to investigate the feasibility of a new ice facility.

Issue raised of small clubs with not enough members to hold their own competitions. Colin Martin [Border] highlighted the 'Canadian Model' where the ice rink is the club. There were also examples of ice rink or amalgamated leagues which helped solve this.

Kate Caithness said we should [as she has suggested before] aim to hold a workshop or forum to promote 'best practice' in all aspects of ice rink operations & management. All ice rinks should attend. The CEO committed to taking this idea forward.

There is an opportunity through British Curling to maximise the Olympics in 2026 via the activity of the athletes immediately post Olympics. Any rink who would like a visit in March or April post event should let SC know ASAP so a rota can be drawn up. SC Development Officers & schools might have a role to play in this. The rota will be drawn up soon but should have some flexibility built in as it is some time away. Kate Caithness mentioned that previously there was an Olympic Celebration Tour.

Whilst this is one aspect of the opportunity to grow the game through the Olympics it is only one small part of the plan for the whole season around the 2026 Games. [CEO]

Paul Davis [Edinburgh] & Ann Johnstone [Dumfries] have 'Supersubs' in place to give curlers and teams maximum opportunities to play with full teams. A list of curlers who are willing and able to be called upon at short notice to play.

Request from a parent to allow some leeway in entries to competitions so there is a geographical balance to [junior] events rather than just those who enter first. Keith Prentice will take this to Competitions Committee to consider.

Davie Haggart enquired as to whether a Schenkel system would allow more teams [24] to compete than at present [18]. Safeguarding & overplaying [total hours or games per day] must be considered.

David Haggart also asked that all places be acknowledged [at prize-givings] even if there were not prizes for 3rd & 4th place. Could the prizes per event be standardised as part of the bidding? Some ice rinks got sponsors to add to the 'pot'.

Liz Paul added that some family legacy trophies were still contributed to significantly by the family but it was all attributed to sponsors [such as Asham].

The CEO answered some points about the new club accreditation system, which 55 individuals have applied for their club to trial.

Finally, there was also some discussion about how difficult it is in certain council-run rinks to promote the game and increase participation. This seems to vary rink to rink.

Meeting closed 12.15pm.

The meeting was followed by the Priestfield Cup [ASC v LSC, 4 matches] which was won [+14] by ASC. It was noted and agreed not to minute [unfortunately by a minority] that Colin Martin's rink lost a 7 but still managed a win.

ASC – Area Standing Committee

LSC – Ladies [Branch] Standing Committee

SC – Scottish Curling / RCCC.