RCCC Board meeting minute

30 April 2025 - online via Zoom

Adopted on: 2025.05.27
Last reviewed on: 2025.04.30

Attendee	Role	Attendance
Fraser Montgomery	Chair	Online
Janine Wilson	Director	Online
Keith Prentice	Director	Online
Mairi Milne	Director	Apologies
Alan Hannah	Director	Online
Keith Wilson	Director	Online
John Slater	Senior Independent Director	Online
Lorna Hyslop	Independent Director	Online
Wendy Loudon	Co-opted Director	Online
Alister Asher	Director, RCCC President	Online
Vincent Bryson	Observer, CEO	Online
Eilidh McCall-Lawrie	Observer, Head of Sport & Communities	Online
Suzy Wakefield	Observer, Head of Operations	Online
Fiona Lilley	Observer, sportscotland	Apologies
Ann Johnstone	Observer, Ladies Branch President	Apologies
Ann Gibb	Observer, Ladies Branch VP	Online
Kyle Waddell	Observer, Athlete Representative	Online

1. Welcome, Apologies, Updated Declarations of Interest

Apologies received from FL, MM and AJ.
Ann Gibb and Kyle Waddell were welcomed to their first board meeting.
There were no updates to declarations of interest.

2. Minutes Approval - FM

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved with one amendment.
Amendment to 4.3 Finance Report: The Q3 management accounts were considered.

2.1 Matters arising from the minute:

Update on 2.1. Stick Delivery rule change recommendation: KP informed the Board that although the”stick delivery” proposal had been approved, it is still under review by the Rules Committee. Feedback from World Curling indicates that their current rules permits players to use either hand and to switch delivery hands during play, which conflicts with the direction the Board intended to take. As a result, the proposal is on hold and will not be brought to the AGM until the Rules Committee has completed its review.

3. **Items for Decision**

3.1. **Scottish Championships 2025-26: Change of Timing and Venue - FM**

The Board discussed, with athlete input, potential options for dates for the 2025-26 event. Further discussions to be had with the venue and stakeholder parties.

🄳 ***Board agreed to reach a final decision on the venue for the 2025-26 Championships by the end of May 2025.***

3.2. **Sport Org: Response Letter and Agreement on Next Steps - FM**

Following the recent meeting between sportscotland, British Curling, UK Sport and Scottish Curling about the proposed elite sports group Sport Org the board discussed an offer from UK Sport to proceed with the new venture.

The board discussed with full observer input, the pros and cons of the proposal.

The Chair was authorised to follow up with the counter parties on some key items including governance and to set up a subsequent single item board meeting before the 15 May.

🅐 ***Fraser Montgomery to revert back to British Curling with feedback from the Board.***

🅐 ***Fraser Montgomery and staff to conduct a scenario planning exercise in preparation of informing the membership of Sport Org and the impact to Scottish Curling.***

4. **Staff Presentations**

None.

5. **Items for Discussion**

5.1. **CEO Report - VB**

VB shared that it's been a successful year, with the team still performing well and morale staying high. He welcomed questions and highlighted the positive progress made in digital engagement. AH praised the strong online presence and raised the question of how it might lead to increased membership. VB explained that their digital work helps with member retention and awareness-but turning increased visibility into revenue is still a challenge.

JS and LH added that sponsorship is another key opportunity. While some recent sponsors on international team clothing brought no income, the likes of Ambassador did, and they stressed the need to better value these assets. LH emphasised the Try Curling programme and sponsorship as the two main commercial avenues. It was noted that she and Peter Joyce will be presenting at the next board meeting with a focus on the membership journey.

5.2. **Facilities Update - VB**

VB reported ongoing issues in Aberdeen and Inverness; feasibility study for Perth nearing completion. It was noted that Inverness will be holding an EGM on 8 May to resubmit their proposal to members from the meeting held on 30 March 2025.

5.3. **International Relations Update - VB**

VB shared that UK Sport has changed its grant application process. Funding will now be awarded every four years instead of two, with stricter criteria.

UK Sport has mandated that a lead nation must now be named when all UK nations are involved at the world level, and Scotland is expected to take that role for England and Wales, due to British Curling's interests, particularly in the wheelchair category.

VB also mentioned likely changes from World Curling, with a shift away from the current qualification process for World Championships. If approved, the European Championships may no longer be a pathway to the World Championships. A final decision is expected by the end of June, possibly in time for the RCCC AGM.

5.4. Technical Committee Update - AH

No update.

5.5. Project 2026 Update - Recruitment of New Members from Olympic Interest

VB reported that information sessions to present Project 2026 to ice rinks, development groups and key volunteers are scheduled for tomorrow evening and next week. So far, there have been 24 and 14 sign-ups for the respective sessions.

5.6. ASC/LSC Joint Meeting Feedback

AA highlighted key topics from the joint meeting, including a suggestion to send "Your Curler" to members separately from Four Bullet Friday. Thirteen rinks have confirmed their participation in the Indoor Grand Match. VB presented a restructure proposal to replace the ASC with an ice rink-centred committee, along with suggested changes to the RCCC President's term. The importance of keeping member contact details up to date was also emphasised. Concerns were raised about the website, with general agreement that it is difficult to navigate and should be improved or replaced.

FM encouraged board members to review the restructure proposals included in the meeting papers and share their feedback.

6. Governance

6.1. Safeguarding Update - EML

EML updated saying a social media concern has resurfaced, prompting initial fact-finding to determine whether further action is required.

The final pilot training session of the safeguarding in social media context for coaches took place this week, with positive feedback received. AH attended the latest session and provided useful feedback to help align the policy with training content. The training is scheduled for broader rollout at the end of the summer, including sessions for athletes and coaches.

6.2. Anti-Doping Update - AH

AH updated on the Meggan Dwason-Farrell anti-doping case. It was formally noted that a 12-month ban was issued, with eligibility to resume training in September. The case involved prolonged legal and familial discussions, and concerns were raised regarding the duration of the process. Feedback will be shared with World Curling regarding delays and that British Curling should review its therapeutic use exemption (TUE) processes to ensure proper athlete guidance and compliance.

6.3. Finance Report - JW & JS

JW and JS updated. The 2025-26 budget shows an 18k surplus; board approved key budget assumptions, including a 3% staff salary increase and 15% rise in competition fees. Any material changes will be communicated either at a future board meeting or via email.

Membership Fees 2026-27

Board discussed increasing membership fees in 2026-27: consensus to propose between a £2 to £5 increase.

Suggestions for using additional income included increasing staff by 1 FTE to covering member services and/or business development.

🄳 ***Board agreed to 2025-26 budget assumptions as outlined in the Finance Report.***

🄳 ***Board confirmed support for a potential membership fee increase of up to £5, contingent on a strong justification and member-focused communication.***

🅐 ***JW, JS, VB, EML, SW to develop clear messaging to support any proposed fee increase, tailored to whether or not Sport Org proceeds.***

6.4. **AGM Arrangement: Accessibility from Wheelchair Users and Invites - SW**
SW confirmed AGM venue is fully accessible.

6.5. **Board and Chair Appraisals - FM**
FM informed the Board that director and chair appraisals will be conducted, with supporting documents to follow in due course. It was noted that John Slater, as the senior independent director, would carry out the Chairs appraisal.

🅐 ***Fraser Montgomery to circulate appraisal documents and carry out director appraisals.***

🅐 ***John Slater to carry out Chair appraisal.***

6.6. **Review of Outstanding Actions - FM**
FM asked VB, EML and SW to review and follow up on any outstanding actions. It was noted that Become A Curler paperwork had been received from Curl Edinburgh and will be circulated soon.

7. **AOB**

- JS asked whether the AGM would be available online or streamed. FM responded that it is an in-person meeting to be held in Inverness, but noted that the idea would be considered.

Next Meeting

- Tuesday 27 May 2025 at 5pm
- RCCC AGM: Saturday 28 June 2025, Inverness Ice Rink at 2pm

🅐 ***Action Summary***

🅐 **Fraser Montgomery to revert back to British Curling with feedback from the Board.**
🅐 **Fraser Montgomery and staff to conduct a scenario planning exercise in preparation of informing the membership of Sport Org and the impact to Scottish Curling.**
🅐 **JW, JS, VB, EML, SW to develop clear messaging to support any proposed fee increase, tailored to whether or not Sport Org proceeds.**
🅐 **Fraser Montgomery to circulate appraisal documents and carry out director appraisals.**
🅐 **John Slater to carry out Chair appraisal.**

☐ ***Decision Summary***

☐ ***Board agreed to reach a final decision on the venue for the 2025-26 Championships by the end of May 2025.***

☐ ***Board agreed to 2025-26 budget assumptions as outlined in the Finance Report.***

☐ ***Board confirmed support for a potential membership fee increase of up to £5, contingent on a strong justification and member-focused communication.***