DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting Title: ASC Meeting
Date: 5/8/25
Location: Kinross ice rink
Chair: Keith Prentice
Start Time: 11:30 AM

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1. Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting with a tribute to the late **Tom Kirk**, a valued member of the University of Dundee and multiple committees including the Competitions and Maintenance Committees. A minute's silence was observed in his memory.

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2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- John Taylor
- Colin Davis
- John McGowan
- Jim Hogg
- Ali Asher
- John McDermott
- Alan Chalmers (late notice)

It was noted that several members were absent due to attending Tom Kirk's funeral.

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3. Approval of Previous Minutes (Meeting: 15 April)

- Previous minutes were considered accurate and comprehensive.
- Proposed: Colin Martin
- Seconded: Derek Young
- Approved unanimously.

No matters arising were discussed.

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4. President's Report

- The President noted he had only been in post for a month.
- The AGM was productive, with only the Members' Forum raising some contention.
- There was no formal written report, but key issues would be discussed under other agenda items.

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5. Members' Forum Discussion

Key Points Raised:

- Strong desire for change and improved communication between members and the board.
- Concerns over the **structure and purpose of the** ASC. Many felt the current ASC had no clear function.
- Proposal to **replace** ASC with a **rink-based Standing Committee** or similar, focused on direct member representation.
- Debate over **facility-centric vs. province-based** representation.
- General agreement that each ice rink/facility should select its own reps to attend a national forum or committee, reporting directly to the board.
- Suggestions that each facility could send two representatives (e.g., male/female, senior/junior).
- Broad agreement that **communication from board to members is lacking** and needs to improve (e.g., via newsletters or direct email).

Feedback from Various Areas:

- **Development committees** seen as potential platforms to gather and feedback local input.
- **Smaller rinks** (e.g., Auchenharvie,) struggle to staff committees and need structural support.
- **Concerns** over overly rushed or top-down implementation of changes from Stirling.

- Discussion of **junior clubs, development pathways**, and successes such as the **Gateway Club model**.
- Several members called for **better integration** of junior players into adult clubs.

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6. Structural Reform Proposal

- Widespread support for replacing ASC with a more effective communication and representation body.
- Agreement that:
    - It should be **rink/facility-based**.
    - Reps should meet **2/3 times annually** with the board.
    - “Rink Standing Committee”, "Members Forum", or a similar name was proposed.
- A **clear purpose and reporting structure** are essential.
- Facilities must take **responsibility** for communicating decisions and gathering input locally.

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7. Communication and Governance

- Strong feedback that **board minutes take too long to be ratified and shared**.
- Proposal to circulate **draft minutes** marked as “unratified” to improve transparency.
- Need for clarity over **roles and responsibilities** between RCCC, ASC, and Scottish Curling.
- Concerns that **Scottish Curling branding and functions** are overshadowing the RCCC.

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8. Development and Retention

- Successful examples of **club development**, such as Gateway Club and junior development pathways, were discussed.
- Emphasis on creating a **clear pathway** from junior participation to adult club involvement.
- Importance of **local competitions, coaching, and member engagement** in retention.

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9. Summary of Agreed Actions

- Work towards disbanding ASC in favour of a **rink/facility-based committee structure**.
- Circulate a **clear written proposal** ahead of the next AGM for vote.
- Encourage **each facility** to set up or strengthen development/communications committees.
- Begin trialling **draft minutes** distribution.
- Review and clarify **communications** between board, committees, and general membership.
- **Support development committees** in expanding junior-to-senior pathways.

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10. AOB

- Reminder that board-approved minutes are currently delayed due to ratification timelines.
- Suggestion to offer **digital communication support** to clubs and provinces lacking capability.

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11. Meeting Close

The Chair thanked all attendees for their input. Next meeting date to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at: 12.55pm
