

LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD ON: TUESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7PM
ON ZOOM



Minutes

1. Welcome - President Ann gave a warm welcome to all the reps, also Mekala and Eilidh from Scottish curling.

Present - Ann Gibb, President; Isla Kinnear, VP; Jane Drysdale JVP; Mekala McGowan, SC, Development Manager-Central Scotland; Eilidh McCall-Lawrie, SC, Head of Sport and Communities; Kate Caithness CBE, Hon President; Gail Munro MBE, Hon Vice President; Fiona Glascodine, Aberdeen; Elizabeth Shaw, Ayr; Mary Shaw, Ayr; Caroline McClymont, Border; Janice Craig, Dumfries; Sheilagh Macfarlane, Dundee; Jane Bruce, Edinburgh; Marion Duthie, Forfar; Helen Jamieson, Greenacres; Elaine Semple, Inverness; Kim Dalland, Kinross; Lynda Blackwood, Lanarkshire; Christine Ross, Lockerbie; Trish Kennedy, Perth; Moira Forman, Stirling; Kate Adams, Stranraer; Karen Jack, Waterfront; Shirley Jeans, Minute Secretary.

2. Apologies- Alison Troup, (Aberdeen), Val Saville, (Treasurer)

3. Minutes of the LSC Meeting 2nd December 2025

Proposed by Lynda Blackwood

Seconded by Jane Drysdale

4. Matters Arising- Item 7 on the agenda Mekala McGowan, gave her presentation out of order due to time constraints.

5. Treasurer's Report- from Val Saville

Year to date summary

Opening balance on 1 May 2025	£8996.82
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Income -

Ice rink donations for 25-26 season (Note 1)	£365.00
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Total income	£365.00
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Expenditure

Service charges (May 25 – Jan 26) (£4.25 per month)	£38.25
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Total expenditure	£38.25
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<u>Balance on 30 January 2026</u>	£9323.57
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Note 1 – Collected from Dumfries, Dundee, Edinburgh, Forfar, Greenacres, Kinross, Lockerbie and Waterfront

President Ann noted there had been very little change to the finances but over the next few months money will be coming out for engraving and the gifts for the USA incoming Tour,

6. President's Update

It has been a busy time for us all since the last meeting, holding Centre Morton games and Henderson Bishop Centre play downs and then the Festive period.

A strategy meeting was held in Edinburgh on Friday 9th-10th January at the Holiday Inn at Edinburgh Airport with Board Members and Scottish Curling staff. I had previous commitments and was unable to attend but Isla went in my place. Vinny has placed board members and Scottish Curling staff into groups with responsibilities for Strategy and Structures. Fraser Montgomery and Vinny will be observers for both groups and findings will go to the board for discussion. An invitation for LSC to meet online with the Board has been extended by Fraser Montgomery, this can be talked about in AOCB. Eilidh gave a brief outline of the process. There are three different groups with a mix of staff and board and a couple of externals in each group as well. The Strategy group will go out to consult with members and dates will be posted online

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The Strategy group will be for dealing with investment through Sport Scotland. The Structure group will be a longer term group as will the Challenge Group. President Ann commented that Vinny had said the Scottish Government have allocated £40 million coming in two tranches to be shared by all sports in Scotland. He is putting together a plea for funding for curling. We need to have a clear plan in place to secure funding from this project for club and communities. An invitation to meet with the Board has been extended to the LSC. This can be raised in AOCB. Isla asked Eilidh if there was any information on the membership of the groups. Eilidh will get in touch with Vinny who can add more information.

I attended the final of the U21 Slam in Aberdeen, due to the weather it was played the weekend of 16th January instead of the 9th January. The new date clashed with the Masters in Perth and some of the Juniors were playing in that, which resulted in a smaller field in Aberdeen. It did not however detract from the standard of curling which was produced. All the games turned out to be very close and several went to an extra end.

In the boys section Team Brewster and Team Thomson reached the final. With only 2 points between them it was a very tense game. Team Brewster were successful. The girls section had team Laurie sitting at the top of the league but as she was playing in Perth this gave Team Archibald a chance of topping the table, if she was higher than 3rd, which she did by winning. Well done to them both and good luck in their respective Junior Worlds.

On 23rd January I set off for Kelso to take part in the 4 Nations. There had been several call offs but thankfully our reserves stepped in. This was the first time I had played in this competition and it was well worth the journey. We had super games, met up with old friends and made new ones. A big thank you goes to Kelso Ice Rink and particularly to Jim Cullen who headed up the organising committee and his wife Liz. Scotland retained the Connie Miller Trophy, the Scottish Men won the Tom Ballantine Trophy and Ireland beat Scotland by 3 points in the Dingle Trophy. It was not very clear which trophy we were playing for so this is something we could address in the future.

I got home on Monday 26th late afternoon and had a board meeting which I attended but only for the first hour. It has been suggested that the Indoor Grand Match be held every 4 years thus keeping it in the Olympic cycle and this will no doubt be discussed in future meetings. As mentioned before, the Strategy Plan is to be looked at again and there will be time for discussions with relevant groups for opinions.

Last Tuesday the ASC held their meeting in Inverness and then they played in the Cairn Trophy, an annual game against Area 13. I was at the meeting and discovered that past President Ali Asher and 3 others had been working on guidelines for Tours. I have a copy and it is what we are planning to produce. It is still being worked on and they are happy for us to give our input. It covers the selection process, what is needed when you go on tour and how the tourists from one tour plan the arrangements for the following incoming tour. It will hopefully be held by SC and circulated to prospective tourers.

7. Presentation on Health Survey - Mekala McGowan gave her presentation at the opening of the meeting and shared a number of Charts showing the data collected and the reasons behind the survey. She explained that the survey was sent out to all curlers as curling is a gender mixed sport and everyone should be aware of possible health implications. The context and purpose of the report was to -

- Identify areas where education is needed, for all ages and roles
- Identify barriers to support and point people in the right directions
- Gauge comfort levels and build bridges for women and girls participating in the sport

The full report and data will be sent out to all curlers later.

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8. Competitions - Henderson Bishop Update — President Ann sent out the bids SC received for HB, these were from Hamilton and Stranraer. Reps had been asked to discuss with their centres and come back with a preferred venue. A show of hands resulted in the majority voting for Stranraer. The event will be held on 22nd to 25th Feb 2027. Ann is awaiting the medals which were ordered at the end of October and have been promised for this week. They will then have to be engraved. Morton games are still being played. Perth, who are hosting the event were asked if they could send out a programme for the day-starting time, cost of ice, food and any other relevant info. Philip Ross is the umpire for the day. Kim Dalland reported that all was going well with the preparations for the HB. Most teams have booked into the Green Hotel. Aberdeen are still to notify of their qualifiers - they should have the names by 6th Feb. The information has been sent out to skips and they are now collecting numbers for the Dinner.

9. USA Incoming Tour Update - Shirley Jeans reported that things were moving along and the first payments had been sent over from USA tourists. She also explained who pays for what. This information has also been shared with Lisa Johnston the Organiser for the USA Tour.

- RCCC (Royal Caledonian Curling Club), fund the cost of the Tour Booklet and are responsible for the printing of this - they expect to do this in August once all information is complete. They also fund the tour badges for the tourists and all the players who play for Scotland in the Tour Competition games. They will order these in April in the new financial year.
- LSC (Ladies Standing Committee), have low funds which are raised through donations from all the Ladies Centres to help out with some tour expenses. There are 18 Ladies Centres at the moment and the average contribution from each to the LSC fund is £50. They will fund the commemorative gift for the invited USA tourists.
- Each Ice rink visited puts together a programme for the visitors and covers the cost of the ice, meals and in some cases additional events they arrange while the tourists are in their venue. The Ladies Centres cover these costs through local fundraising.

The Tourists pay for Hotels and meals outwith the rink's responsibility. Home hosting is an important part of every tour and helps keep the visitors costs down - on both sides of the Pond.

Tourists pay for the coach and accommodation for the driver when required.

Tourists pay for any additional agreed events - eg Stranraer weekend .

The couriers will pay for their own accommodation and meals where required throughout the visit.

The USWCA paid for the 2022 Tourists coach in the USA, but we did say at the time that when they were in Scotland on all previous occasions the tourists had paid for that themselves. However in 2022 we also had three internal flights to pay for which cost approximately £600pp.

We also have a small fund raised by the 2022 tourists during our Reunions, so we may use that to fund a couple of small treats.

Everybody has been really helpful and thank you for all the work you have done.

10. Update on Name Change of LSC - VP Isla presented the case for a change of name and there were supporting comments. Hon. VP Gail commented that the history of the Ladies Branch should not be discarded and she has sent out a document with counter arguments. Could everyone please look at the document. We had a vote at Kinross and it was decided then, not to change. Local centres can use any terminology they wish. Individual Centres can make their own decisions on a local basis. Hon President Kate also asked what the reason was to change this as it seemed unnecessary. Comment - it does not matter if it is women or ladies - raising the profile of the committee is what is important. Ann asked everyone to go back to their centres and ask the question again. President Ann explained the long process of changing the name as this would have to go to the board and then to an AGM for a vote.

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11.AOCB - President Ann congratulated Dundee Rep Sheilagh Macfarlane for becoming the English Seniors Champion and Kinross Rep Kim Dalland for qualifying as a Umpire.

Could you please notify Shirley or President Ann if you are staying on or if a new rep is taking your place. Please send their name, phone number and email address.

Could you please notify Scottish Curling of the death of any members to be included in the booklet for the AGM.

Shirley Jeans has intimated that she will be standing down as Minute Secretary at the end of the season. If anyone is keen to take on this role please let President Ann know.

Ladies AGM - The president traditionally hosts an evening with the LSC Reps prior to the AGM. Her sister has offered the use of her house as it has more space. It is out in the country so some driving may be required. Inverness Rep Elaine suggested some of the local ladies may be happy to help out with transport. The invitation will be sent out in due time. The AGM will be held on 12th May at 2pm in the Rugby Club.

The date of the Joint Meeting on 7th April is not suitable as Keith Prentice will be at the Worlds and President Ann will be in Dubai. A date for the next LSC meeting was set for Tuesday 31st March.

12. Dates for future meeting

31st March LSC - Perth (confirmed after the meeting)
12th May at 2pm Ladies Branch AGM - Rugby Club

Meeting closed at: ... 20.25