

RCCC Board meeting minute

26th January 2025 - online via Zoom

Adopted on: **Pending**
Last reviewed on: 18/02/2026

Attendee	Initials	Role	Attendance
Fraser Montgomery	FM	Chair	Online
Janine Wilson	JW	Director	Apologies
Keith Prentice	KP	Director	Online
Mairi Milne	MM	Director	Online
Wendy Loudon	AH	Director	Online
Keith Wilson	KW	Director	Online
John Slater	JS	Senior Independent Director	Online
Lorna Hyslop	LH	Independent Director	Online
Alan Hannah	WL	Co-opted, Director	Online
Vincent Bryson	VB	Observer, CEO	Online
Eilidh McCall-Lawrie	EML	Observer, Head of Sport & Communities	Online
Suzy Wakefield	SW	Observer, Head of Operations	Online
Fiona Lilley	FL	Observe, sportscotland	Online
Ann Gibb	AG	Observer, Ladies Branch President	Online
Kyle Waddell	KW	Observer, Athlete Representative	Online
Robert Anderson	RA	Observer, RCCC Vice President	Online
Catriona Morton	CM	Observer, Development Manager South West Scotland	Online
Chloe Buchanan	CB	Observer, Governance Support	Online

1. Welcome and Apologies - FM

FM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies had been received from Janine Wilson.

2. Declarations of Interest - FM

There were no updates to declarations of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes – FM

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2025 were reviewed and further changes to be undertaken.

4. Matters arising – FM

There were no matters arising.

5. Items for Discussion and Approval

5.1 Reinstatement of Rule C12(b) – KP

KP reported the Rules Committee had reinstated Rule C12(b) on eligibility, which prevents players from entering Scottish Curling competitions leading to international representation if they also enter qualifying competitions for another country in the same season. The Board agreed that alignment with World Curling eligibility rules, to encourage participation, was the preferred position and will review the rule's removal at the season's end.

A. KP to update Alan (Rules Committee) on the Board's decision for Rule C12(b) to be removed at the end of the season, to achieve alignment with World Curling

5.2 Maternity and paternity policies

Item was not taken for decision this meeting. Policies will return for update in March.

6. Items for Discussion

FL updated the Board on the recently announced £40 million investment in Scottish sport, to be formally confirmed within the budget announcement at the end of February. The funding will be split between an £18 million Core Investment pot, supporting areas such as Growth and Innovation, Pathways, and Club and Community, and a remaining 'Summer of Sport' pot, which will fund initiatives including free swimming for school-aged children and other programmes, to be detailed in due course. The Board welcomed the announcement and noted the positive impact for Scottish sport. It was confirmed that the Summer of Sport funding will not exclude winter sports, with curling eligible for support, although detailed guidance on fund usage is not yet available.

FL left the meeting

6.1 Membership Benefits leaflet – FM

FM requested an updated membership benefits leaflet. EML discussed focus should be on member services and support as well as sponsor/discount benefits.

A. EML and SW to update member benefits leaflet, highlighting services and tangible benefits.

7. Staff Presentations

7.1 Development Southwest – Catriona Morton.

CM provided an update on the South West rinks.

Development updates were noted. The Future Leaders programme is now in its third year in its current format, and the adult camp held at Stranraer prior to Christmas was very successful. Grassroots Pathway Development continues to receive a positive response through *Try Curling*, with further work planned around gateway clubs. Club Development workshops on recruitment and retention, *Try Curling*-grassroots pathway, and Welcome Ambassadors are progressing well.

Floor curling equipment orders continue to increase, with **£26,788** spent in 2025. A new rink statistics format is in development. TC.com is currently used by 18 rinks, excluding Auchenhavie, Galleon, and Aviemore, with 746 attendees booked across 13 rinks for the 2025/26 season as at 14 January 2026.

AH noted that several rinks are experiencing a challenging period and reiterated the Board's willingness to support venues where possible. He also queried whether the adult camp model should be rolled out across all regions (North, Central, and South). In discussion on *Try Curling* participation, it was confirmed that no projected participation targets have been set for the season, with the focus instead on promoting uptake through the website.

CM outlined the curriculum curling programme at Lockerbie Academy, where all first-year pupils participate in four 90-minute sessions delivered through double PE periods, enabled by timetable changes. The proximity of the rink supports delivery, and the programme aims to maximise rink usage while providing a pathway opportunity for first-year pupils. Funding is split equally between the Scottish Curling Development Fund and external Lockerbie-area funders. CM noted a similar opportunity at Auchenhavie, and EML added the team would explore similar opportunities elsewhere.

8. Reports & Updates

8.1 CEO Flash Report – VB

VB noted an upcoming busy period and thanked those present for their participation in the recent strategy weekend, with outputs to be circulated in due course. He commented on forthcoming funding from SportScotland, which would see all governing bodies receive an uplift payment in April. This funding follows the *Running on Empty* campaign. A separate £6m clubs and communities fund was noted as potentially beneficial for club hubs and development officers, though application details are not yet available and requiring readiness to apply at short notice.

Despite some uncertainty, positive progress was reported in competition delivery. Updates were also noted on club accreditation, with three junior clubs signed up to establish Highland Young Curlers, and positive developments highlighted across Special Olympics GB, Aberdeen activity, and umpiring, supported by funding for courses planned for late March.

VB noted the sportscotland annual return is due this weekend, with one British Curling target not met to-date.

Significant work is ongoing around child wellbeing and protection standards, with implications for clubs and PVG processes. Additional updates included forthcoming National Lottery Open Sessions, a presentation to the Ladies Branch, the launch of the floor curling playbook, delivery across 160 schools and communities reaching 13.5k individuals, finalisation of strategy and structures group work, and communications performance reaching 700k impressions at the time of the meeting.

8.2 Facilities Update – VB

VB reported that the CEO of Moray Leisure Centre is no longer in post and that the SIRA Chair has resigned after six months in the role. He advised that a positive meeting had been held with Perth and Kinross Council; however, uncertainty remains regarding the PH20 project. Dewars Centre continues to operate in the short term.

8.3 Strategy & Structures Update – VB

VB outlined the establishment of three working groups: Strategy, Structures and a Challenge Group, the latter intended to test proposals constructively. The Strategy work will be an evolution of the current strategy, with member engagement sessions planned for the end of March 2026. The Structures work will consider longer-term and more significant changes, with any proposals for member approval likely to be brought to the AGM in 2027, although interim updates may be provided earlier.

The Board agreed to review the progress at the 23 March 2026 Board meeting in advance of the consultation sessions. In response to the ASC query regarding the “member forum” proposal, it was noted that this would not return unchanged to the 2026 AGM and requires further development and additional time for member consideration. The Chair will arrange a dedicated online session with ASC and Board.

A. VB to update Board on Strategic Plan progress at March meeting.

A. VB to issue comms confirming group membership, leads, and timelines for Strategy / Structures / Challenge workstreams.

A. FM to arrange an online discussion with ASC regarding members forum approach and timing.

8.4 Technical Development Update – AH

AH reported the group met on 7 January, covering a range of topics and noting early progress across several project areas, with positive actions underway. A more detailed update on current projects will be provided in March.

The paper contained updates on Level 3 coaching qualification, fault to form CPD, and Umpire Development.

8.5 Project 2026 Update – EML

EML updated on Project 2026 outreach and engagement activity. Junior Try Curling sessions are being delivered at Dumfries and Moray, with discussions ongoing to extend delivery to additional rinks. Schools engagement continues through the “draw the athlete” competition. A number of primary schools will have floor curling sessions delivered, which will be supported by the use of the new floor curling playbook, and plans to sustain activity beyond the Paralympics, potentially with athlete involvement.

Additional outreach activity includes a Highland schools floor curling session, sessions with a scout group and a day centre, a planned visit to Stirling Distillery, a prison-based session, and support at a Waterfront session involving Glasgow Warriors, with volunteers drawn from the Project 2026 list. National Lottery Open Sessions will take place at four ice rinks in March throughout National Lottery Open Week. On 6 February there is a National Lottery event at the Peak, alongside Team GB training at the NCA, with media and influencers attendance anticipated.

Ongoing development work includes delivery of club workshops, exploration of digital workshops in partnership with Sported, distribution of social media guidance, planning a national development networking meeting in March, and sharing learning from development fund-supported projects to build momentum for next season. Floor curling likely to be promoted via the Try Curling website over the summer.

8.6 ASC Update – KP

KP updated update on the USA Tour, with 21 participants confirmed and provisionally allocated to playing positions. A meeting is scheduled for Friday to finalise teams, and a captain has been appointed and has accepted the role.

8.7 Women in Curling Update – EML

On the back of Scottish Curling’s attendance at the Cross Party Group on Sport The University of the West of Scotland has reached out. They are currently undertaking research on ‘the impact of peri and menopausal symptoms on performance’ and would like to involve curling within the research. Research findings will be shared with Scottish Curling.

Mekala will be attending the LSC to deliver the findings of the female health survey. These findings will be delivered at the next Board meeting.

All staff have completed Working with Female Athletes learning to assist with understanding and knowledge in this area. EML will send training link to Board Directors and Observers to complete training.

8.8 Membership Survey Feedback ‘You said, We Did’ – EML

EML presented a “You Said, We Did” update based on three membership surveys issued during the 2024/25 season (Junior: 65 responses; Membership: 978; Club: 97), with the surveys to be reissued from March. Common themes were identified, particularly the importance of amplifying young people’s voices.

In response to feedback requesting greater focus on junior curling in schools, a range of initiatives were highlighted, including Curling 360 ASN, the Floor Curling Playbook and Playgroup, Curling’s Cool, Floor

Curling Leaders Workshops, Lockerbie Academy S1 curriculum curling, and strengthened links between rinks and schools through Active Schools and development-funded outreach.

Floor curling continues to grow significantly, with Curling 360 ASN reaching 2,000 pupils between September and December alone. Members also requested more junior competitions, with current provision including U21 Slams, Scottish Junior qualifiers and championships, junior mixed doubles, mixed doubles events, and Scottish Schools Championships; it was noted that competition scheduling must balance training, education, and wellbeing. Junior camps remain under review due to rising costs and ice availability, with no decision yet on reintroduction. Olympic and Paralympic-themed events have been delivered through several school and community festivals, with potential for this approach to continue post-Games. The need to strengthen junior and grassroots social media engagement was discussed, including exploring platforms that better connect with young curlers.

9. Governance

9.1 Finance Report – JW

JW reported that the next quarterly financial results would be presented at the March meeting. Work is ongoing on finalising income and expenditure, with budget setting for 2026/27 expected to be approved in April.

9.2 EDI Update – EML

EML and WL attended a 'Meet the Mentor' session, noting a revised process. Engagement with a Mentor is planned to support a staff session around May, followed by training opportunities for Board Directors and Observers later in the year, aligned to the wider action plan. Positive feedback was received on the progress and work completed to date.

9.3 Safeguarding Update – EML

Scottish Curling will onboard with the CMSS Case Management Support Service. While not required for current cases, the service will provide future access and support, particularly in reviewing adult protection policies. CMSS has developed new adult wellbeing and protection training, which staff will complete and which Board Directors and Observers will be invited to attend.

9.4 UKAD Report – AH

SA's report was noted. Scottish Curling continues to work closely with UK Anti-Doping, with no significant compliance issues identified. UKAD outreach materials have been purchased and will be displayed at the Scottish Curling Championships. The 2026 Prohibited List has been circulated to Academy athletes and coaches and updated on the website. The Anti-Doping Policy remains current, an implementation planning meeting has been held, and Academy athletes and coaches continue to complete UKAD Clean Sport eLearning.

9.5 Nominations Update – FM

FM noted that vacancies for elected directors will go live within the next one to two weeks, and that open recruitment for the Chair role will take place during February and March.

9.6 Risk Update – VB

VB advised that an updated risk register will be presented at the March Board meeting, following review by the Audit Committee in February.

10. AOB

FM concluded the meeting noting that by 23rd March, Scottish Curling would know how the athletes had performed at the upcoming Winter Games. The board wished them all the best of luck.

There being no further business, FM closed the meeting.

A. Action Summary

A. KP to update Alan (Rules Committee) on the Board's decision for Rule C12(b) to be removed at the end of the season, to achieve alignment with World Curling

A. EML and SW to update member benefits leaflet, highlighting services and tangible benefits.

A. VB to update Board on Strategic Plan progress at March meeting.

A. VB to issue comms confirming group membership, leads, and timelines for Strategy / Structures / Challenge workstreams.

A. FM to arrange an online discussion with ASC regarding members forum approach and timing.

D. Decision Summary

N/A