

LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE
HELD ON: TUESDAY 31ST MARCH AT 11AM
AT: PERTH ICE RINK



Minutes

1. Welcome - Thank you ladies for attending today. I would like to welcome to our meeting, Kate Caithness CBE our Honorary President; Vinny Bryson, CEO Scottish Curling and Christine Hall who is our Treasurer in waiting. Also **Present**- Isla Kinnear, Vice President; Jane Drysdale, Junior Vice President; Val Saville, Treasurer; Alison Troup, Aberdeen; Elizabeth Shaw, Ayr, Mary Shaw, Ayr; Sheila Macnab, Border; Sheilagh Macfarlane, Dundee; Jane Bruce, Edinburgh; Marion Duthie, Forfar; Helen Jamieson, Greenacres; Elaine Semple, Inverness; Kim Dalland, Kinross; Lynda Blackwood, Lanarkshire; Christine Ross, Locker; Trish Kennedy, Perth; Moira Forman, Stirling; Kate Adams, Stranraer, Karen Jack, Waterfront; Shirley Jeans, Minute Secretary.

2. Apologies- Fiona Glascodine, Aberdeen; Caroline McClymont, Border; Janice Craig, Dumfries.

3. Minutes of the Last LSC Meeting - There were no amendments to the minutes

Proposed by Kim Dalland

Seconded by Mary Shaw

4. Matters Arising - None

5. Treasurer's Report- Val Saville - Since the last meeting donations have been received from Lanarkshire, Perth, Inverness, Borders, Stirling, Aberdeen, and Stranraer totalling £385, making the amount in the bank for donations up to £750 for the full year. She has a note of another £50 about to be added to this making it up to £800. This is less than last year as Lanarkshire have change their way of doing this in line with other centres. The only expenditure was the Honorarium for Shirley, the minute secretary. The bank charges for the year are £51 and at the end of the year we should have approximately £9445. Val awaits the actual number from Suzy at the end of the year. The final statement will be ready for the AGM but unfortunately Val will not be able to attend so someone will read out her statement.

Ann questioned where the money for engraving the HB and Morton trophies comes from. Vinny is to find out.

6. President's Update

It has been a very busy time since our last meeting. As the season is coming to a conclusion we have all been finishing leagues and playing in finals within our ice rinks. Just after our last meeting the Olympics took up a lot of our time watching all the games meaning housework was put on the back burner. I think we can all agree that coverage and commentary on BBC was excellent. The mixed pairs started our curling journey with Bruce and Jen setting the stage for GB's Gold Medal bid. Team Mouat played so well and I think everyone felt for the boys at the end of the final. Their disappointment was felt by all who watched the game. Team Morrison got off to a slow start but came on to their game as the competition progressed. Well done to them all they did us proud. The olympics has had a big impact on Come and Try numbers throughout the country and hopefully this will result in an increase in membership. DISCOVERY+ are covering certain games from Men's Worlds in Ogden, Scotland v Canada was televised on Saturday, Scotland v Italy is the next game on Monday at 9pm. BBC are also covering some games in which Scotland are involved.

Next came the Scottish Championships in Dumfries where we were treated to more exciting games. The final between Team Henderson and Team Soutar was a very close affair, Team Henderson came out the winners. Team Soutar comprised of three 16 year old and one 17 year old, a success for the academy programme. The men's final was also a nail biting occasion. Ross Whyte eventually winners over Kyle Waddell in an extra end. The competition was again well covered on TV.

One day at home and I was off again this time to Kinross for our main competition the Henderson Bishop. This was serious curling intermingled with fun apres curling. The Kinross ladies worked hard to give us a

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memorable competition. The Henderson Bishop final was between Jenni Cannon's rink of Karyn Lyon, Lindsay McPherson and Kerrin Forsyth, Stranraer and Babs Morton rink of Babs, Fiona Reid, Eilidh Templeton and Sarah Reid, Greenacres. This turned out to be a very close game which went to the wire. Jenni said in her speech she was delighted to play in the HB and was delighted to carry on the family tradition of winning as her grandmother and mother had won the HB trophy. The Cherrystone Trophy was the battle of Edinburgh 1 Susan Wylie, Jenny Barr, Morna Aitken and Lois Copeland against Edinburgh 2, Barbara Watt's rink of Shona Watt, Edith Butler, Alison Clark with Barbara leading and skipping. Barbara Watt was the winner which delighted her as she had previously won the HB but never the Cherrystone.

I was unable to attend the Morton final which this year was held in Perth. The section winners were Dundee, Edinburgh, Ayr and Stirling, the draw was made on the day with Edinburgh v Dundee and Ayr v Stirling. Edinburgh and Ayr met in the final where Ayr beat Edinburgh 4pts - 2pts. The 3-4 play off was 3pts each to Dundee and Stirling. I believe it was a very enjoyable day.

Well done to Ayr.

I attended a board meeting and I hope that Vinny will give you an insight into what has and is on their programme over the next few months and years. Fraser Montgomery, Chair of SC has invited LSC to meet with the board via Zoom and this Isla will arrange with him for the beginning of next season. Peter Joyce has worked very hard to get the web site back and running after the hacking incident. There are Strategy consultation meetings being held over the next few weeks, these are in person or zoom meetings. Information about taking part can be found on website or Facebook. People can still register for these.

7. Update from Vincent Bryson CEO - Vinny was at the Olympics for the first time and found it to be a great experience and worthwhile visit with the main objective being to increase the number of International events hosted here in Scotland. The bidding window for these closes at the end of April. There is interest in bringing short notice events to Scotland and potentially hosting a world championship. There is also a possibility of bringing a large scale event including able bodied and para curlers together in 2029. Everyone knows these bids are happening. Ice rinks should reap some benefits from this. Ice rinks also had some good spin off from the Olympics. There were 21 million engagements with the Scottish Curling Website over the 3 weeks of the event. 1383 people signed up for Try Curling and 8200 visited the Try Curling site. Unfortunately there was a problem with the Facebook page which has disrupted the Facebook coverage of the Paralympics.

We have held two Strategy Consultation sessions now one in Perth and one in Dumfries. The main emerging themes are an evolution of the Strategy put together in 2023. This is not a finished product but the basis for discussion and feedback. The Structures group also met last night but no major changes coming to the AGM this year. Some minor changes to the Articles.

There is a major update in the world of funding in sport. Approximately £18 million for government bodies to bid for relating to the Summer of Sport. There will be 40 new Club Development Officers, employed by Local Authorities and Leisure Trusts, which Curling clubs and rinks can use their services. We can do things around inclusion, equality, and increasing participation. There is also an innovation fund relating the things like data and AI. We have an interest in trying to upscale our data gaps. We would like to work with some rinks to develop a methodology to close these gaps so we can articulate what the curling economy looks like and the curling eco- system in Scotland so we can protect Ice Rinks as well. Whatever Government comes into Holyrood in 6 weeks time we will continue to be in a good place to lobby for Ice Rinks and Ice Sports in general. The interest people have in coming into rinks and speaking to the athletes has been excellent as have the athletes themselves in participating. It has been a busy and tiring season and everyone is looking forward to having a break. The RCCC AGM is the 27th June in Kelso.

Ann- asked about the initiative of Floor Curling in Schools for Juniors - is there any training available for teachers or leaders delivering these sessions?

Vinny- the overall programme will grow the basic information on the SC website. It is something we are updating for next year.

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Kim - Faye McInness the regional Development Manager has been dealing with this in Kim's region so she would be the person to contact. She is giving information on where to get the equipment and how to use it. Active Schools Co-ordinators would be able to offer help to all schools keen to arrange a session. The Club Development Officers can be accessed through your own local authority. There would need to be a positive objective in applying for support from this resource such as, taking children out of poverty increasing youth participation, using sport as a tool for increasing literacy, mental health and wellbeing. All this information should soon become available on the SC Website. Vinny updated us on his programme for the next few weeks including attending the Senior Championships in Geneva and coming to our Ladies Branch AGM in Inverness. He thanked us for inviting him to the meeting today left and to attend to other business at 11.30.

8. Morton Sections

It has been 2 years since we looked at the Morton sections, it has been policy to look at which section should be the 5 area section. Over the last 2 years the North section had 5 teams and when playing there ties, we agreed they could field 2 teams in qualifying rounds but 3 teams for the final. We must now decide on the make up of the sections. The previous year's section list was circulated and you can see how they looked. North section will now revert to 4, so which team moves and where do they go and how does it affect other sections?

Discussion followed with observations on -

- the distance travelled by some teams,
- dropping to two teams had excluded many ladies from taking part in the Morton,
- suggestion that some centres meet to play at a more central rink,
- centres were keen to play in the own rinks as they needed the revenue,

After an extensive discussion it was decided that Dundee would move to the East section with Kinross, Kirkcaldy, Stirling, and Edinburgh.

Centres have difficulty arranging stage games and sometimes it is not until the last minute that section winners are finalised, with this in mind the Executive will set a cut off date for games to be played.

9. Henderson Bishop

A cut off date will also be set for games to be played in this competition. This would give the host centre time to have programmes etc printed.

10. USA Incoming Tour update- all arrangements are progressing well with the Centre Reps feeding information into the organisers on a regular basis. A couple of rinks are still to confirm their ice times and gift choices. We have been in touch with Gary from Earnside Coaches and he has altered a couple of the travel times based on his experience of the routes - which we greatly value. So please check the new version when it arrives as it may affect your arrangements. In Perth and Kinross there will be no requirement to provide accommodation for the driver.

We would still like a bit more information on plans for sightseeing, meal plans, and entertainment so this can be added to the Tour Booklet. If you have already included this - thank you, and keep us up to date with any changes. Can you please also send a short (approx 150 -200 words) description of your centres location / history/ local celebrities - and any other interesting facts about your area.

Thanks again to all the Reps for your continued help in planning a successful tour for our visitors from the USA.

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11. AGM - New reps names and details for the AGM. Slips were handed out and completed so we had all required details of the new reps prior to the AGM.

12. AOCB -

The invitation to the Pre AGM Presidents evening, includes the 'What 3 Words' for directions as the Postal Code takes you to the other side of the River Nairn which means you would have to walk back over the footbridge. Also - keep your windows closed as you drive up the farm road!! Smart casual for the evening event at Ann's sisters' house - Dorothy Craigie

Lunch before the AGM will be provided at a cost of £17.50

Proposers and Seconders for the AGM will be arranged at the Pre AGM meeting.

For AGM's people wear their Blazers

In Memoriam - please send any names along with their club to President Ann or Suzy at Scottish Curling for inclusion in the RCC AGM programme.

Isla - Last year we had a list of Ladies Local Curling Competitions. If you have any information of this nature for next season please send it to Isla.

Ann - There should be a Joint Meeting on 21st April. We have no details as yet but LSC would expect this to be a Zoom meeting - the cost of fuel at present is a serious issue to consider for travelling for some of our Reps.

13. Dates for Future meetings

2. April. - Joint Meeting

12th May - Ladies Branch AGM inverness

27th June - RCCC AGM in Kelso

Meeting closed at 12.51