



Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting of the Ladies' Branch
of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club held on Tuesday, 13th May 2025
at 2pm – Woodland House Hotel, Newbridge, Dumfries DG2 0HZ

PRESENT

LB Office Bearers: Ann Johnstone (LB President), Ann Gibb (LB Vice President), Isla Kinnear (LB Junior Vice President), Val Saville (LB Treasurer), Kate Caithness CBE (LB Honorary President)

LB Past Presidents: Brenda McIntyre (Belmaduthy), Corrie Lawrence (Beresford Ladies), Jenny Bain (Carrington), Maureen Parker (Castle Kennedy), Fiona Hardie (Crocketford), Marion Murdoch (Dryfesdale), Kathleen Scott (Dunkeld), Marion Craig (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Lillian Carnegie (Forfar Ladies), Alison Taylor (Lesmahagow Ladies), Margaret Pottie (Nairn Ladies), Mary Anne McWilliam (Stranraer Ice Rink)

Centre Representatives: Fiona Glascodine (Aberdeen), Alison Troup (Aberdeen Ladies), Fiona Moffat (Avondale Heather), Christine Ross (Eskdale), Janice Walls (Fettercairn), Elizabeth Paul (Glasgow Ladies), Sheona Reid (Glenfarg Ladies), Fiona McLaren (Highland Ladies), Karen Jack (Newark), Sheilagh Macfarlane (Panmure), Shirley Jeans (Panmure | Minute Secretary), Kate Adams (Portpatrick), Caroline McClymont (Selkirk), Mara Lindsay (Troon Portland)

New Centre Representatives: Helen Jamieson (Cawder House), Susan Morrison (Crocketford), Jane Bruce (Edinburgh Ladies), Elizabeth Shaw (Galston Haymouth), Mary Shaw (Galston Haymouth), Elaine Semple (Highland), Moira Forman (Lenzie Ladies), Marion Duthie (Monifieth), Kim Dalland (Orwell Ladies), Lynda Blackwood (Stra'ven Ladies), Janice Craig (Threave Ladies)

Individuals: Christine Hall (Avondale Heather), Fay Cowan (Castle Kennedy), Wendy Highet (Cathcart Castle), Marion Mather (Crocketford), Stella Cassidy (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Margaret Richardson (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Anne Watson (Edinburgh Ladies), Libby Torrance (Glasgow Ladies), Lynn Kenyon (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Moira Rodan (Holywood), Gweneth Graham (Holywood), Shelagh Fulton (Lynedoch Ladies), Pat Lyden (Maxwell), Margaret Carruthers (New Abbey), Angela Watt (Newark), Maureen Woods (Nithsdale Ladies), Hazel Wales (Nithsdale Ladies), Maggie Scott (Orwell Ladies), Fay Henderson (DIBCA), Robyn Munro (Castle Kennedy), Laura Watt (Airleywright), Vincent Bryson (CEO), Eilidh McCall-Lawrie (Head of Sport & Communities), Peter Joyce (Digital Lead), Suzy Wakefield (Head of Operations)

1. Welcome

President Ann: Good afternoon, Honorary President Kate Caithness, esteemed members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you all for joining us today. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 65th Annual General Meeting of the Ladies Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. It's wonderful to see so



many familiar faces, and a few new ones, as we come together to reflect on another memorable curling season and look ahead to the opportunities of the year to come.

I would now like to introduce the top table. Seated to my left are Vice President Ann Gibb and Incoming Junior Vice President Jane Drysdale. To my right are Junior Vice President Isla Kinnear, our Treasurer Val Saville, and Honorary President Kate Caithness, CBE.

In the booklets available today, you will find the Apologies, In Memoriam section, and a Summary of the Accounts. All this information is also available on our website.

2. Apologies

President Ann: Apologies are listed in the booklet distributed prior to the meeting. If there are any omissions, please notify the office so the records can be updated accordingly.

Unfortunately, RCCC President Alister Asher was unable to make it today, so he has sent a little message, which Isla will kindly read out.

Junior Vice President Isla: Ladies Branch President Ann, sincere apologies for not being able to make your AGM today due to a nasty bug. I just wanted to thank you for your service to Ladies Branch and the Royal Club, not just during your year of office, but over many years of service to the Roaring Game. It's been an incredibly exciting and successful year for Scottish curling with many medals to show for it. The result of much hard work by many athletes, coaches, volunteers and staff as well as all the LSC, ASC and office bearers. All the best to Ann Gibb and Isla Kinnear for the immediate future and I look forward to seeing many of you at the RCCC AGM next month. Thanks again.

President Ann: Thank you, Isla.

Apologies received from:

LB Office Bearers: Gail Munro (LB Honorary Vice President)

LB Past Presidents: Joan Forrest (Coldstream & Hirsell), Kay Gibb (Curl Aberdeen), Margaret Nicol (Currie & Balerno), Irene Hird (Dollar Ladies), Sheila Miller (Edinburgh Ladies), Morag Wellman (Fossway Ladies), Johan Steele (Lesmahagow Ladies), Jan Howard (Reform), Marion Fraser (Strathkinness)

LB Centre Representatives: Michele Hartley (Muthill), Pamela Craigie (Kennoway), Dorothy Browse (Raith & Abbotshall (Lds))

Individuals: Kate Drummond-Hay (Abdie Ladies), Shelagh Arkley (Abercorn), Sue Gairns (Abercorn), Michele Brodie (Abercorn), Jan Caldwell (Aberdeen Ladies), Rosemary Morrison (Aberdeen Petroleum), Anne Forster (Aberdeen & District Rotary), Helen Gordon (Aberdour), Katie Loudon (Airleywight Ladies), Linda Allan (Avondale Heather), Liz Martin (Aytoun Castle), Jane Heppleston (Balruddery), Gillian Macdonald (Beresford Ladies), Isla Robison (Beresford Ladies), Jacqueline (McMaster Biggar), Christine Cheape (Blair Atholl), Elizabeth (Beth) Clayton (Blair Drummond), Aileen Neilson (Braehead Wheelchair), Vikki Carver (Broughty

Ferry), Judy Mackenzie (Buchlyvie), Jen Dodds MBE (Carrington), Helen Young (Castle Kennedy), Janet McMillan (Castle Kennedy), Anne Crerar (Cathcart Castle), Jean Gavin (Cawder House), Debbie Higgins (Coldstream and Hirsell), Christine Hepburn (Comrie), Karen Tomczynski (Corstorphine), Susan Skene (Corstorphine Ladies), Gillian Black (Corstorphine Ladies), Lillias Hyslop (Coulter), Jenny Barr (Currie & Balerno), Cara Davidson (Currie & Balerno), Elizabeth Sharp (DAFS), Helen Watson (Drymen), Anna Hunter (Dumbreck Ladies), Isobel Rainey (Dumfries), Yvonne Dodds (Dundee), Jennifer Mutter (Dundonald), Fiona Cunningham (Dunfermline Ladies), Dor Borthwick (Dunfermline Ladies), Ena Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Eve Muirhead OBE (Dunkeld), Marion McNeill (East Kilbride), Lesley Skinner (East Kilbride), Aileen Livingstone (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Gillian McKee (Errol), Janet Lynch (Errol), Wendy Dominic (Eskdale), Caroline Manson (Falkirk Ladies), Emily Mckinnon (Fife Ice Arena), Maggie Abraham (Ford Ladies), Ann Hutchison (Forest Hills Trossachs), Hailey Duff MBE (Forfar), Joyce White (Forfar Ladies), Helen Stark (Forfar Ladies), Callie Soutar (Forfar Young Curlers), Anna Martin (Fortevidiot), Jacky McLaren (Forth Valley Ladies), Margaret Mauchline (Forth Valley Ladies), Sarah Bruce Jones (Fossway Ladies), Carolyn Nicoll (Fotheringham), Terry Paterson (Glasgow Ladies), Fiona Rutherford (Glenfarg Ladies), Sheila Swan (Glenfarg Ladies), Lesley Arrowsmith (Gogar Park), Rona Thom (Granite City Ladies), Cassandra Harkness (Greenacres), Shelagh Main (Haddington), Emma Gardiner (Hamilton Young Curlers), Alison Hamilton (Hamilton Young Curlers), Emma Law (Haymarket), Pat Hughes (Hercules Ladies), Carolyn McAllister (Hercules Ladies), Mary-Anne Campbell (Highland Ladies), Christine Marshall (Highland Ladies), Mo Simpson (Highland Wheelchair), Sophie Jackson (Holywood), Judith McCleary (Keir), Sheila Macnab (Kelso), Caroline Scott (Kennoway), Valerie Kirkwood (Kinross), Holly Clemie (Kinross Juniors), Elaine Paterson (Kinross Ladies), Elizabeth Junor (Kinross Virtual), Susan Dalgleish (Kirkcudbright Country), Marnie Ewart (Kirriemuir Ladies), Anne Wilson (Land o' Burns), Glynis Knowles (Laurencekirk), Jackie Lockhart (Laurencekirk), Pamela Stewart (Lesmahagow), Margaret Weir (Lesmahagow Ladies), Vicky Drummond (Leswalt), Mairi Milne (Letham Grange), Sandra Menzies (Letham Grange), Eva Hare (Loch Connel), Caroline Dingwall (Lochaber), Hannah Farries (Lochrutton), Kate Byrne (Lothian Ladies), Heather Brown (Lundie Auchterhouse), Noreen Fordyce (Lynedoch Ladies), Trish Kennedy (Lynedoch Ladies), Ann-Maree Davidson (Lynedoch Ladies), Allie Lyburn (Lynedoch Ladies), Rosemary Andrews (Maxwell), Rebecca Morrison (Meldrum & Daviot), Sophie Sinclair (Midcalder), Fiona Johnston (Muthill), Patricia Field (Edinburgh New Stones), Debbie Belcher (Edinburgh New Stones), Alister Asher (Nairn | RCCC President 2024-25), Yvonne Gall (Nithsdale Ladies), Maureen Randall (Old Grammarians), Laurie McKerrow (Orwell Ladies), Lesley Hicks (Peebles), Elizabeth Anderson (Penicuik), Jean Noble (Penicuik), Alison Harrington (Pentland Ladies), Hazel Mann (Pentland Ladies), Joan Simpson (Pentland Ladies), Leeanne McKenzie (Perth), Morag Erskine (Pitlessie), Alison Smith (Raith & Abbotshall), Sandie Evans (Ross Ladies), Sue Evans (Ross Ladies), Bridie Graham (Ross Ladies), Jackie McQueen (St Andrews), Vicky Gumley Stewart's Melville FP, Amy Mitchell (Stewarton Heather), Shizuko Rose (Stirling Gateway), Moyna Milne (Stirling Wheelchair), Charlotte McKenna (Stirling Wheelchair), Jo Butterfield (Stirling Wheelchair), Ellen Fulton (Symington), Alison Young (Troon Portland), Kirsty Letton MBE (Troon Portland), Elizabeth Rankin (Waterfront)



3. In Memoriam

President Ann: Before we proceed, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and remember the curlers from our community who have sadly passed away over the past year. Their presence, contributions, and friendship have left a lasting impact on us all. A special mention to 2 past lady presidents. Among them was Marjorie Kidd who served as our president from 1992-93. Marjorie was a dedicated and valued member of our organisation, she was also a proud tourist on the women's tour to the USA in 1981, Her commitment and service will be fondly remembered.

It is also with great sadness that we report the passing of Norah Hay last week. Norah was a respected figure in our community, serving as President of the RCCC Ladies Branch in 1988–89. She also proudly led the Ladies Tour to Canada as Captain in 1987, a role she carried out with distinction and warmth. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with Norah's family and loved ones at this difficult time. She will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

I now invite everyone to join me in a moment of silence as we reflect on and honour their memory.

Thank you.

Individuals: Norma Hay (Past President 1988-89), Marjorie Kidd (Past President 1992-93 | Edinburgh Ladies), Mary Campbell (Aytoun Castle), Shirley Fraser (Buchlyvie), Genevra Ritch (Cadzow) Victoria Bruce The Countess of Elgin, Agnes Strang (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Beldie Milne (Elgin), Rosemary Batchelor (Forfar Ladies), Patricia Orr (Glasgow Ladies), Greta Smith (Irvine), Dorothy Doulton (Kinross Ladies), Valerie Murray (Lochee & St Duthus), Betty Dorward (Old Grammarians), Millicent Copstick (Old Grammarians), Jean Blackwood (Orwell Ladies), Norma McGarry (Stirling Wheelchair), Diana Mahaffy (Grampian Ladies), Moira Pattullo (Forfar Ladies), Heather Farquhar (Forfar Ladies), Betty Dalglish (Kirkoswald), Lynne Rowley (Galston Haymouth), Irene McWitter (Fairlywell)

President Ann: Thank you.

4. Minutes of the 64th Annual General Meeting

President Ann: The minutes from the 64th Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 14th May at the North West Castle of Stranraer have been published online for review. Please note there is one amendment on page 17 where it states that President Ann thanked Margaret and it should correctly read Trish. Does anybody else have any other amendments? So, with that amendment noted, can I take the minutes as read?

Proposer: Ann Johnstone: I would like to propose the adoption of these minutes. Could I have a seconder please?

Seconder: Shirley Jean (Panmure | Minute Secretary): Good afternoon, I am happy to second the adoption of these minutes from the AGM of last year.

President Ann: Thank you, Shirley.



5. Business arising from the Minutes

President Ann: Are there any questions or matters arising from the minutes? As there is no business arising from the minutes, we'll proceed to the next item.

6. New Clubs and Resignations

President Ann: I have been informed that the Dollar Ladies have folded. Currently, I am unaware of any new clubs or additional resignations, unless anyone has any further updates.

New Clubs 2024-2025: None

Resigned Clubs 2024-2025: Dollar Ladies

7. President's Report

President Ann: I want to begin by thanking all our members for their continued commitment, support and enthusiasm throughout what has been a challenging year for us.

The past season brought with it a few changes within Scottish Curling many of which had a slight impact on how we operated our committee. Adapting to new structures and communication channels has not been without its difficulties and I know some of you have found it frustrating at times.

As we value tradition and a shared passion for curling, these changes have tested our resilience and adaptability.

However, I am proud of how we have risen to the occasion, and we have continued to be there for each other on and off the ice. We as a committee have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our voices are heard and that we stay informed and engaged with the evolving landscape of curling in Scotland. We must continue to adapt, advocate for our members interests and ensure that the unique character and contribution of women's curling is preserved and celebrated.

So, as I reflect over the past year in my role as president, I am reminded of just how full and varied the season has been. I soon realised that curling administration never stops and continues over the summer.

The calendar was soon organised to accommodate the year's meetings around the busy schedule of curling events taking place across the country. Where appropriate, attendance at relevant competitions listed in the Scottish Curling Calendar was also arranged. Throughout the year, I participated in the President's Chat sessions and had the privilege of sitting on the Board as an observer. This opportunity gave me valuable insight into the broader workings of the sport and allowed me to witness the scope of discussions and decisions involved in Scottish Curling.

My next role was to invite members to apply for the Friendship Tour to Canada in November 2025. We were delighted to receive applications from 40 enthusiastic curlers, making the selection process a truly challenging task for the committee. With so many strong candidates, choosing just 24 was no easy feat. I have no doubt that every applicant was worthy of a place.

Meanwhile an invite was extended to the USA for 20 curlers to visit Scotland in November 2026. I believe the past USA tour are working away at organising this.



As soon as entries closed at the end of June for the Henderson Bishop, the draw was made for the playdowns. We had an amazing 86 entries this past year, lets hope we can better that. This of course is the highlight of our year to qualify to get to the finals.

The curling season began with our Opening Bonspiel here in Dumfries, a fantastic day enjoyed by committee members and guests alike. Later that month, we travelled to Perth for our annual competition against the ASC, playing for the Priestfield Cup. They proved to be the stronger side on the day, but perhaps next year will be our turn.

Applications for The Four Nations, hosted by Wales at the Flower Bowl in January 2025, were eagerly received, and the draw was completed via Zoom. As we made our way south across the border, an untimely storm struck that weekend, unfortunately preventing some participants from travelling.

However, in true curling spirit, we adapted and made the most of it, bringing home a few trophies in the process! It turned out to be a fantastic weekend full of curling, camaraderie, and socialising.

Looking ahead, Scotland will play host next year, with Kelso taking on the honour of organising the event. We warmly encourage all curlers to take part, whether you're a seasoned player or just looking to get more involved. It's a brilliant weekend and, with it being so close to home, there's no reason not to join!

In November, we were delighted to welcome our friends from Canada on a long-awaited 3-week tour. Originally planned for 2020, the visit was delayed by four years due to the impact of COVID, making their arrival even more special.

We are especially grateful to Margaret Richardson, along with Fiona Hardie, Lillian Carnegie, and Alison Taylor, participants from our 2015 tour to Canada, who took on the key role of organising and hosting our Canadian guests here in Scotland. Their dedication and efforts ensured a warm, memorable, and well-organised experience for all involved.

A special thank you to Alison Taylor, and I would now like to invite her to give us a brief report on the visit.

Alison Taylor: Good afternoon, President Ann, distinguished guests.

This was a long-awaited journey that was originally scheduled for November 2020 and meticulously planned by Corrie Lawrence. Thanks must go to Corrie and her committee for all the hard work and effort put into that. As we are all aware the COVID restrictions made us postpone this tour numerous times and, in the end, we put it on hold until November 2024 when we felt confident it would definitely go ahead.

As well as the COVID delays, we then saw the sad closure of both the Braehead and Ayr rinks, however our determination and passion to see this tour go ahead and continue the international camaraderie was unwavering.

A new committee was set up but unfortunately, we had to rewrite Corrie's original plan as the route now no longer made sense. We started the planning early in the 2022/23 season in order to get the tour included into each ice rinks diary. This dictated the route and days we needed to go to each rink.



As many of the Canadians had not met before and were arriving in Scotland at different times, we decided to gather for the first weekend at the North West Castle, Stranraer. The NWC provided the perfect setting for initial bonding and our Opening Banquet. We also took the decision to invite previous tourists from the 1995, 2005 and 2015 tours to Canada to join us for curling if they wished but certainly for socialising! This decision was definitely a good one!! It was a great start to the tour and set the tone for what was to follow.

From that first weekend in the southwest of Scotland we journeyed to the central belt of Scotland, over to the east coast, curling at all the rinks who could accommodate us and against every Ladies Centre also visiting many tourist sites in the areas we were visiting. We enjoyed morning coffee on the Royal Yacht Britannia, afternoon tea at Holyrood Palace and a bit of retail therapy. We travelled over the Queensferry Crossing and returned to Edinburgh over the Forth Road Bridge. A highlight was also walking the Old Course and a photo on the Swilken Bridge in St Andrews, whether they were golfers or not. From East coast we went further north as far as Aberdeen and then across to Inverness. No sightings of the Loch Ness Monster but an impromptu visit to see some Highland cows, courtesy of The Pottie family, was a highlight made even more magical with snow and clear blue skies to show off our beautiful country.

Staying in the same hotels for a few nights as a hub was greatly appreciated - not least by the couriers!! It provided greater comfort and a bit more time to relax. Although there were some initial grumblings about early starts, the pain was eased by our luxury coach travel provided by Earnside Coaches, with drivers David and Gary. They were most helpful and very accommodating to the whims of 26 women! Their previous experience of taking other curling tours round Scotland made for a very slick operation.

Our thanks to David and Gary at Earnside Coaches and Fiona who had supplied the coach with 'stuff' for every eventuality!

Fuelled by Magnum Cream Liqueur, sponsors of the Mens #1 curling team, Team Mouat, we frequently held morning class with a toast to Team Mouat and celebrated our trip and shared experiences.

Special thanks to my fellow couriers and organising committee members Lillian Carnegie, Fiona Hardie and Margaret Richardson for all they did to make this tour go like clockwork. To each Ladies Centre for their huge efforts in welcoming our guests, everyone who curled for or against the Canadians and to all who helped in any way. Your contribution made this tour memorable.

This tour was named the 2024 Canada to Scotland Friendship Tour, but I can assure you that every game played in every ice rink was very competitive but played in true curling spirit. The Muriel Fage Trophy that every tour competes for was won by Canada. Overall Canada won 647 shots to Scotland's 494. There were 632 ends of curling played in 14 rinks across Scotland and some 5056 stones/rocks thrown. We covered 1700 miles touring Scotland in style! We consumed so many 'bottles' of Magnum that each tourist had an empty bottle as a memento! Many emails and notes of thanks from the Canadians have expressed how much they enjoyed their trip of a lifetime to Scotland - particularly once they were home and able to reflect on their



experiences. A recent email from Captain Cathy Hughes admits that even now some days remain a blur. I met up with a couple of the girls last month when I was in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan at the Mens World Curling Championships. Some ladies have also met up at the World Seniors/Mixed Doubles this week in Fredericton. It's so lovely to meet up with new friends all over the world.

Best wishes to the outgoing tourists heading to Western Canada this November - it's a trip of a lifetime! Enjoy every moment!

President Ann: Thank you, Alison.

February soon came around, always a manic month for everyone!

This year, we were proud to host the Scottish Championships right here in Dumfries. It's always a highlight in our calendar, and the staff worked incredibly hard to create a fantastic venue.

Throughout the week, we witnessed some outstanding curling, and it was brilliant to see so many spectators both in the house and tuning in online.

I was honoured to be asked to present the medals to the winning women's team. Congratulations to Team Henderson - Faye Henderson, Robyn Munro, Haley Duff, and Katie McMillan. A well-deserved win. Well done.

A huge congratulations to Robyn Munro and her curling partner Orrin Carson on their fantastic win at the University Mixed Doubles event in January, an outstanding achievement and well deserved!

Congratulations as well to Laura Watt and Amy Mitchell, who teamed up to represent us in the Girls' Event, a great effort from both of you!

And a special shout-out to Team Soutar for their big win at the Scottish Junior Championships! With Callie Soutar leading as skip, and strong performances from Eva Hare, Holly Clemie, and Alison Hamilton, your skill and teamwork truly shone on the ice. A well-earned victory, congratulations to all!

Hot on the heels of the Scottish Championship, we quickly found ourselves in the thick of preparations for the Henderson Bishop Finals. I had to wear two hats that week, juggling multiple roles in the lead-up to the competition. It was certainly a test of stamina and organisation, but the hard work paid off. What a fantastic event it turned out to be!

It was a week filled with intense and competitive curling, culminating in a thrilling final day on Thursday. Alongside the competition, the social aspect of the week added a real sense of community and enjoyment, making it an all-round success.

We were especially delighted by the strong participation from the younger generation this year. Their enthusiasm and talent were incredibly encouraging, a real sign of promise for the future of women's curling. The future looks bright and full of potential.

Looking ahead, we're excited that Kinross will be hosting the Henderson Bishop next year. Please note that due to the Olympic schedule, the event will take place a week later than usual, beginning the week of 2nd March.



In March, Dundee hosted The Morton, and it was great to see them back participating in the qualifying rounds and making it through to the finals. The finals also featured strong teams from Borders, Lanarkshire, and Stranraer, with Stranraer ultimately taking home the trophy after a series of closely contested games.

Well done to all centres for taking part and for the tremendous effort involved in fielding teams throughout the season. I know it can be challenging to organise travel and coordinate match days, so thank you for your commitment and dedication.

Looking ahead, next year's finals will be held in Perth, we're looking forward to another exciting and competitive event.

What a Season for Scottish Curling!

After attending one or two of the local Asham events, excitement was building for the Scottish Junior Mixed Doubles Championship, which brought an impressive 40 entries to Dumfries. This event wasn't just about local bragging rights, it was a qualifier for the World Championships in Edmonton, Canada, held at the beginning of May. With so much at stake, the competition delivered some truly superb curling, and it was a joy to watch the enthusiasm and talent on display from these young athletes.

The victorious team of Robyn and Orrin Carson earned the honour of representing Scotland in Canada, a remarkable achievement. What a week you had well done. Their performance and sportsmanship throughout the event showed just how bright the future of Scottish curling is.

To add to her incredible year, Robyn was also awarded the Sportsmanship Award at her university, a fitting recognition for her dedication and spirit. As Robyn recently said, "It's been a whirlwind of a time." What a way to end her junior career, and there's no doubt she'll continue collecting medals in the years ahead. Congratulations, Robyn!

Meanwhile, we would also like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Gail Monro, who received an MBE earlier this year for her outstanding contribution to curling in Scotland. Gail's commitment and passion, as both a competitor and a coach, have helped grow the game and inspire countless new players. Well done, Gail.

I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Team Lockart on their incredible achievement, winning gold at the Senior World Championships! What an outstanding moment of pride for Scottish women and a shining example of dedication, teamwork, and excellence. Well done, Team Lockart! What a phenomenal year it has been for Scotland!

As women in curling, we are proud of how far we've come, but we also recognise how much further we can go. In today's fast – paced, ever evolving world, communication plays a vital role in keeping our sport alive, relevant and growing. It's about innovating how we connect, especially with the younger generations. You – all of you here today are the foundation but the next step is reaching beyond our circles. It's about showing new faces, young people, and future players that curling is not just a game, it's a community, a lifestyle and a source of empowerment. We are striving, constantly, to make this sport we all love more inclusive, more visible and more exciting in this modern world we are living in.



As we move into this Olympic year, we have a unique opportunity to ride the wave of enthusiasm the Games bring to our sport. The Olympics always ignite interest in curling, and it's up to us to make the most of that momentum. This is our chance not only to grow the sport but to grow our community.

Let's showcase what makes curling special: how accessible it is, the energy and excitement of the game, and the sense of camaraderie that draws people in. Let's build on everything we've already achieved and focus on what we can do to welcome and inspire new members.

Here's to a great year ahead, on and off the ice!

As I come to the end of my term as President, I want to take a moment to reflect, and most importantly, to say a massive thank you to you all!

To my incredible committee: I truly could not have done this without you. A special thanks to my executive team. Ann, Isla, and Val, you were my go-to people, and your support meant the world. Shirley, thank you for your minute-taking and for always keeping me right; your attention to detail kept everything running smoothly.

Each of you has been the backbone of everything we've achieved this past year. Your dedication, time, ideas, and passion for the sport have been invaluable.

A heartfelt thank you as well to Ali Asher President of RCCC for his support throughout the year, and to all the staff at Scottish Curling, your efforts do not go unnoticed.

I am genuinely grateful for the support and even a few laughs along the way. To my friends and supporters- thank you for always being there, whether it was lending an ear, offering encouragement or simply showing up when it mattered most. Your belief in me kept me going and your kindness never went unnoticed. Thankyou.

I will now call on Val for her Treasurers report.

8. Treasurer's Report

President Ann: Can I now ask Val for our treasurer's report.

Treasurer Val Saville (Dounie): President Ann, fellow curlers, Ladies and Gentlemen I am happy to present the Treasurer's report and annual accounts for the year ending 30th April 2025. There is a copy of the accounts in the booklet.

On the income side of the balance sheet you can see we had £990 of donations from the various centres around the country which was £20 more than in the previous year. A few centres were unable to contribute this year due to their financial position following the incoming Canadian Tour in November 2024.

The 4 ice rinks that played in the Morton Finals in 2023 also sent in payments (totalling £720) for the ice which had been paid for by Ladies Branch as was agreed at the LSC meeting prior to last year's AGM.

Prior to the incoming Canadian Tour Kay Gibb, who was the Treasurer of Ladies Branch at the time, transferred £2000 from Ladies Branch to the 2020 Canadian Tour account - this is when the Canadians were originally due, but they were unfortunately delayed due to COVID.



This was so they could pay some of the upfront costs of hosting the Tour as required. Following the Tour there was a surplus of £2499.99 which was transferred back to the LB to assist with the hosting of future Tours.

This gave a total income figure for the year of £4209.99.

On the expenditure side there were payments to Shirley Jeans for writing up the minutes of the LSC and joint LSC/ASC meetings, the annual expense for the engraving of the Morton and Scottish Championship pins and the purchase of four Past President badges.

In addition I was informed in March that the Bank of Scotland had closed their Treasurer's account and transferred existing accounts and balances to their Community account. This was not good news for us because the Treasurer's account had free banking whilst the Community account has a monthly standing charge of £4.25 with extra fees charged for certain transactions e.g. paying in a cheque will cost 50p a time. Thus, as a minimum, we will have an additional expenditure of £51 to cover bank charges. To keep banking charges down it would be appreciated if centres making donations to LB could do so via bank transfers which are free.

This gave a total expenditure figure for the year of £884.50.

The final accounts therefore show a surplus of £3325.49 and a closing balance of £8996.82 which is a healthy position to be in with another Tour coming in from the USA in November 2026.

I would like to thank Suzy from Scottish Curling for her help throughout the year in providing Balance and Transaction reports when asked so I could keep up to date with the income and expenditure on the account.

As a heads up to everyone next year will be my final year as Treasurer as I will have served the 3 years I agreed to when taking up the position. The LB executive will therefore be looking for a new Treasurer. If you are interested in taking on this role please let one of us know and I will be happy to talk to you about what the role entails.

(See Annex A of these minutes for a copy of the Ladies' Branch Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2025)

9. RCCC Report

President Ann: I would like to invite Vincent to give us his report.

Vincent Bryson (CEO): Everyone, good afternoon. It is as ever an honour and a privilege to be with you today as we gather to celebrate what has undoubtedly been a season of extraordinary achievement for the women of Scottish Curling.

Before we reflect on the season's successes, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that this year has also brought with it a period of change within our organisation and, indeed, across our sport.

We all know that change, even when necessary, is rarely easy. It challenges our habits, our expectations, and sometimes even our sense of security in the familiar. When the “norm” becomes uncertain, it can feel unsettling. I want to recognise that. But I also want to offer a perspective rooted in optimism and purpose.

Change is not something to be feared. Change is progress. It is evolution. It is the mark of a sport that refuses to stand still, that dares to reimagine itself for the future while respecting the foundations upon which it was built.

We have embarked on a journey to modernise, to streamline, and to position Scottish Curling for long-term success, not only at the elite level, which is most visible to the outside world, but at every level of the sport. These changes have been and are driven by a desire to open doors, create new pathways, and ensure curling remains vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable for generations to come.

So, as we reflect on the achievements of our athletes, clubs and people at every level of the sport, I would ask you to also see their successes as a symbol of what happens when we lean into challenge, when we push the boundaries of what we thought was possible.

This past season, 2024/25, will be long remembered for women’s curling in Scotland, a season where talent met opportunity, and where our people not only rose to the challenge but surpassed every expectation.

At the heart of these triumphs stand the outstanding women whose dedication, skill, and relentless pursuit of excellence have thrilled us all.

We delivered the World Wheelchair curling championships in Auchenhavrie this year and achieved not just a silver medal for Charlotte McKenna and Hugh Nibloe in the mixed doubles, the event delivery was coordinated by Liz Burton-King of Reform Club based out of Greenacres.

Key amongst the event outcomes was qualification for all Paralympic disciplines at the 2026 Paralympics, an outstanding achievement from our Scottish athletes on behalf of TeamGB.

Let us move on to the superb achievements of Team Morrison. Their campaign was a demonstration of consistency, strategy, and resilience. Their Bronze Medal at the European Championships was hard-fought and richly deserved. Yet, perhaps more significantly at the world championships, they secured that all-important qualification for the 2026 Olympic Games in Milan-Cortina, an accomplishment that cannot be overstated as it gives us all a real opportunity to capitalize on every form of the sport over the next season.

Equally, we must celebrate the remarkable performance of Jennifer Dodds, who alongside Bruce Mouat, captured a Silver Medal at the World Mixed Doubles Championship. Jennifer’s versatility, poise under pressure, and world-class shot-making have once again affirmed her status as one of the top curlers of her generation. Their efforts on the mixed doubles stage brought distinction not only to themselves but to Scottish curling as a whole, showcasing our prowess on an increasingly competitive world platform.

But our celebrations do not end there. Robyn Munro, in partnership with Orrin Carson, delivered a moment of pure Scottish brilliance at the World University Games, claiming Gold for GB Students and bringing the title home to Scotland. Their victory was a testament to the



depth of talent coming through our university and youth pathways, a clear signal that the next generation is ready to make its mark on the world stage.

And how could we not turn our attention to the indomitable Team Lockhart, who wrote their names into the annals of curling history by claiming Senior Women's Gold at the World Senior Curling Championships in Canada? Their triumph captivated curling fans around the country, reminding us all that passion for the game and competitive excellence know no age limit. Their victory was not only a celebration of skill but also of experience, teamwork, and the enduring love of curling.

Whilst these achievements are cause for celebration, but we must also recognise that they are only one facet of what makes our sport truly special. For while the medals and trophies capture the headlines, the foundation of curling is built far from the bright lights and world arenas.

It is built in our clubs, in our communities, in our curling rinks up and down this country. It is built by those unsung heroes, the counters at the club nights, the coaches nurturing beginners and juniors, the competition and tournament organisers who give our athletes the platform to play, the committee members who keep the wheels turning behind the scenes, and the volunteers who quietly, selflessly, and tirelessly make the sport happen.

Fewer places is this better experienced than at the Henderson Bishop event, which was held in Dumfries earlier this year. The same place where a fantastic women's Scottish championship was held and of course warmest congrats to Team Henderson on their repeat win as champions.

Domestic Events like these and the people who deliver them are the custodians of our game. Without them, there would be no world champions, no national titles, no new players stepping onto the ice for the first time. They embody the true spirit of curling, a spirit of generosity, of stewardship, of belonging.

Today, as we rightly celebrate on-ice excellence, let us also pause to honour those everyday heroes whose contributions often go unseen, but whose impact is profound. You are the lifeblood of Scottish Curling, and your efforts ensure that our sport is not just preserved but thrives, accessible, inclusive, and vibrant at every level.

As I look around this room, it is easy to identify the wisdom, passion, and leadership embodied by all of you. We all must be the guardians of our traditions and the architects of our future.

So, as we look back on a season of success, we should also cast our gaze forward. There is still more to do. More young women to inspire. More opportunities to create. More barriers to break down. Scottish Curling is committed to ensuring that our women's game continues to flourish, from grassroots to the world stage. We will continue to invest, to advocate, and to champion equality and opportunity across every level of the sport.

To that end, I'd like to remind everyone of the Project2026 sessions we have been delivering over the last couple of weeks to over 60 members. A group of staff, board and volunteers have put together a suite of activities and funds which rinks, development groups and clubs can access in order to take advantage of the "Olympic Bounce" which curling has in the Olympic season. Not just as a "one-off" but designed to drive people towards rinks and clubs with an eye on retaining some of them as permanent members. If you haven't come along to a session, I'd urge you to as there is one more planned over the next couple of weeks.

In conclusion, I'd like to say thank you to everyone for their commitment to the game this past season. At every level, the wheel continues to turn and standing still remains the least attractive option to progress. With the power and commitment of those in this room though, we will prevail. Thank you.

President Ann: Thank you Vinny for the update on what is happening within Scottish Curling and thank you for attending today. Has anybody got any questions for Vinny? No? Let's move on.

10. Ladies Competitions

President Ann: Now to the reports on Ladies Competitions. I think most of the reports are in your booklet, but I'd like to invite Fay to give us a report on her team's fantastic achievement in winning the Scottish Championships.

- a. **Scottish Curling Women's Championship:** 2-7 February 2025, Dumfries Ice Bowl. Six teams entered. The final was between Team Henderson (Fay Henderson, Robyn Munro, Hailey Duff, Katie McMillan, Lisa Davie) and Team Morrison (Rebecca Morrison, Jen Dodds, Sophie Sinclair, Sophie Jackson). Team Henderson won 10-2.
- b. **Scottish Curling Junior Women's Championship:** 11-17 November 2024. Curl Aberdeen. Eleven teams entered. The final was between Team Laurie (Tia Laurie, Cara Davidson, Holly Burke, Kirsty Gallacher) and Team Soutar (Callie Soutar, Eva Hare, Holly Clemie, Alison Hamilton). Team Soutar won 7-5.
- c. **Scottish Curling Senior Women's Championship:** 13-16 February 2025, Curl Forfar. Six teams entered. The final was between Team Agnew (Margaret Agnew, Sheila Kennedy, Ann Redpath, Susan Middleton) and Team Lockhart (Jackie Lockhart, Mairi Milne, Wendy Johnston, Katie Loudon). Team Lockhart won 9-1.
- d. **National Masters Women's Championship:** 30 January - 2 February 2025, Greenacres Curling Rink. Ten teams entered. However, due to a failure with the ice plant, the competition has been rescheduled and will now take place from 10-12 October 2025.
- e. **Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles:** 19-22 December 2024, Curl Aberdeen. Eleven teams entered. In the final Sophie Sinclair/Robin Brydone defeated Sophie Jackson/Duncan McFadzean 7-4.
- f. **Scottish Curling Junior Mixed Doubles:** 20-23 March 2025, Dumfries Ice Bowl. Forty teams entered. In the final Robyn Munro/Orrin Carson defeated Cara Thomson/Arran Thomson 12-4.
- g. **Henderson Bishop Trophy:** 24-27 February 2025, Dumfries Ice Bowl. Twenty teams took part in the final. The final was between Stranraer (Kate Adams, Margaret Agnew, Emma Vance, Louise Kerr) and Dumfries 1 (Layla Huntly, Jessica Sharp, Hannah Farries, Callie McMin). Dumfries 1 won 7-2. In the Cherry Stone play-offs, Stirling beat Ayr 9-1.
- h. **Morton Trophy:** 11 March 2025, Dundee Ice Arena. The final was between Lanarkshire and Stranraer. The Stranraer team of Margaret Agnew, Kate Adams, Emma Vance, Rota



Mitchell, Jenni Cannon, Christine Cannon, Kerrin Forsyth, Louise Kerr, Gail Munro, Debbie McCreaddie, Margaret McIntyre and Angela Derry won two games to one.

11. International Competitions

President Ann: Now moving onto the international championships. The results are noted in your booklet. Unfortunately Rebecca and her team couldn't be here today, but she has submitted a report on the European Championships and World Women's Championship which I will ask Jane Drysdale to read out on her behalf.

- a. **European Curling Championships:** 16-23 November 2024, Lohja, Finland. Scotland represented by Rebecca Morrison, Jen Dodds, Sophie Sinclair, Sophie Jackson (skip) and Fay Henderson, won BRONZE.
- b. **World Women's Curling Championships:** 15-23 March 2025, Uijeongbu, Korea. Scotland represented by Rebecca Morrison, Jen Dodds, Sophie Sinclair, Sophie Jackson (skip) and Fay Henderson, finished in 6th place.

Jane Drysdale: We were honoured in October of this season to be selected to represent Scotland at the European Curling Championships in Lohja, Finland in November. This would be our third European Championships, and after some previous success in 2022 gaining the bronze medal, followed by some disappointment in 2023 coming away with fifth place, we were hungry for an accomplished week.

We played brilliantly throughout the tournament and put all we had been working so far in the season into practice. This was reflected in the stats as we managed to achieve the top team stat from the nine round robin games. Feeling confident with the way our progress was going, we went into a semi-final game against the Swedish team. We fought until the end but unfortunately came up just short and were left playing for the Bronze medal against team Italy the following day - an identical situation that we faced two years prior.

We woke up in high spirits looking forward to the opportunity that presented itself and we came out and played a fantastic game of curling, which resulted in us clinching the Bronze medal and a big chunk of cheese.

Thanks to this brilliant team performance, we were delighted in February to be selected for the World Women's Championships in Uijeongbu, Korea in March. A year ago, we picked up enough Olympic qualifying points at the World Championships to be in the eighth spot and within reach of a spot for team GB at the Milano Cortina Games. We went into this year with the main goal of finishing off the job and collecting one of those automatic spots, meaning that Scotland would not have to play at the Olympic Qualifying Event next season.

It was a mentally tough week. We were playing well and coming away with quite a few tight losses at the start of the round robin. At the half-way point we were sitting on 2 wins and 4 losses, which felt unreflective of our efforts. We stuck in there and won 5 games in a row to qualify us for playoffs with a game to spare.

We went on to lose in the qualifier game against team Homan of Canada, after a fantastic game from them. However, we were extremely pleased with our top 6 finish and the progress we have made in the last year and we are over the moon that our efforts have gained team GB the all-important spot in Cortina in February.



We are so thankful to have had this opportunity and send our gratitude to all those who have supported us and cheered us on throughout this journey. Without the support of everyone around us, these achievements would not be possible. We hope everyone has a lovely summer and see you all next season for what will hopefully be a brilliant year for curling in Scotland.

President Ann: Thank you Jane.

Moving on to the report on the World Senior Curling Championships. Unfortunately, Team Lockhart was unable to attend today. However, they have kindly provided a report of their time in Canada which I will read out.

- a. World Senior Women's Curling Championship:** 26 April - 3 May 2025 | Fredericton, Canada. Scotland represented by Jackie Lockhart, Mairi Milne, Claire Milne and Katie Loudon won GOLD.

President Ann: Everyone who watched the Scottish Senior final at Curl Forfar on February 16th or who saw the photos could see just how thrilled and excited we all were to be representing Scotland again.

The four of us very quickly decided that we would ask Claire to come with us in the role of 5th woman/coach and we were delighted when she agreed. Our plans and preparations were completely derailed when Wendy suffered a significant health issue, and we were forced to come to terms with the fact that Wendy would be unable to travel with us. Happily, Wendy was recovering well and would be cheering us on from home as the non-travelling 5th member of the team.

Day 1 - was a long one. The flight to didn't feel like 7hrs and passed quickly. A quick drop of the bags at the hotel and off we went to see a bit of Toronto. We were blessed with a gorgeous day for a wander around before grabbing a snack and refreshment before hopping on the sight-seeing bus which kept us awake until it was time for dinner. We managed to stay up to a decent time of night which meant we'd been up for 22 hours ahead of another early start for our flight to Fredericton.

Day 2 - slept pretty well before another early start with a 5am alarm. A short hour and a half flight took us to Fredericton. First impressions were good, lovely historic city which even boasts a statue to our own Robert Burns. We had a wander round the area near our hotel and found a wonderful restaurant for lunch. We spent the afternoon making up our player gift bags; special thanks go to Karen Stephen for the beautiful thistles! The Skipper got the chance to use her artistic skills on the bags. We then went to the Capital Winter Club to share a practice session with three quarters of Team Brewster. The ice was great, and it was fab to get a slide and throw some stones.

Day 3 - We started the day with our honeyberries. Then set off on our stroll to visit Robbie Burns. We continued along the river trail, crossed the old railway bridge which is now a busy footbridge over the St John River. We bumped into Team Canada which was lovely to catch up with old friends. We had a few hours relaxing and playing Uno before a wander for a



coffee ahead of the team meeting and our first sight of the arenas. They both looked great and we we're excited to get started with our practice session on all the sheets.

Day 4 - a special day as it was Claire's birthday. We had our practice at the arena this morning. The ice was super swingy and a nice weight. We then had lunch at our favourite 540 Kitchen & Bar with Rhona Howie, which was great. Lots of chat, laughs and fabulous food. The Capital Winter Club hosted the welcome party which was fun. We caught up with Team Brewster and other old friends.

Day 5 – a day off. We set off to the laundrette to make the most of our morning off. During the afternoon we watched a little of the 1.30pm draw then it was all about the Opening Ceremony which was great.

Day 6 – first game. We had the morning to fill with a leisurely breakfast and then calls home to catch up life outside the WSCC bubble. We had our first game against Hong Kong, China. We played a solid game winning 11-2 after 7 ends. The men had the same score in their win against Spain. We shared a drink with our opposition before watching Bruce and Jen put another win on the board in the mixed doubles. We finished the evening with a catch up with Team Brewster.

Day 7 - time certainly flies when you are having fun. The ice was super-fast, but we managed another good DSC, and we made good use of the last stone by scoring 4 in the first end. We continued to play well and won the game against Latvia 10-1. We appreciated the support from Team Brewster, Eve Muirhead, Kim Brewster and the Scottish Curling fans in the stand! We watched a bit of the MDs after socialising with our opposition then went back to the hotel and relaxed before a walk across the foot bridge for dinner. We then watched the guys win their game against New Zealand.

Day 8 - another sunny day in Fredericton. We had the whole day to fill ahead of an 8pm game v USA. Our now standard leisurely breakfast was followed by a visit to the mall. We wandered and shopped and whiled away half a day. A late lunch set us up for a pre-game snooze. The game started well after a good DSC and a 2 with the hammer in the first end. Things then went off script somewhat and we lost a 6. However, we battled back well scoring a 3 then stealing multiples before forcing a 1 in the 5th, scoring and stealing again to go into the 8th end 11-7. We ran the USA out of stones to record our 3rd win.

Day 9 - a BIG day as a qualification spot was up for grabs for the winner of our game v Finland. We had our usual leisurely breakfast then did some laundry. We had a good video call with Wendy. She had some questions about the 6! Another good DSC secured the hammer, but we needed an in off from the Skipper to score 1 in the first end. We then stole the next 3 ends before giving up a 1 in the 5th. We scored another 2 in the 6th and the game was over. It was nice to have the Q beside our name! We had a great catch up with Stewart Dryburgh before watching Team Brewster nail their DSCs ahead of their game v Denmark.



Day 10 - We finished the round robin with a win against New Zealand. Another good DSC meant we not only had last stone but topped the standings going into the quarter finals. We played a strong game and won 16-2.

Day 11 – the 6am alarm was worth it. We played well in the quarter final against Denmark after securing the hammer with a good DSC. We won the game 12-2 and booked our place in the semi-final v Japan. We had the day to fill ahead of the semifinal in the evening, we relaxed, snoozed and refuelled. We had another good DSC and started the game with the hammer. It was a close game with Japan choosing to play a very open hitting game. We scored a two in the 3rd end then stole in the 4th for a 4-2 lead at the break, Japan responded with a single point then a steal in the 6th when our tap back attempt failed and rolled a millimetre or two too far to count shot. Scoring another two in the 7th end gave us a 3 shot cushion going into the final end and we were able to run Japan out of stones for the win and our place in the final.

Day 12 a big day. We all slept quite well and were excited to playing Canada in the final. It was special to have Team Brewster going for gold on the next sheet but once the games started, we were very focussed on our game. We were forced to a single point in the first end and forced Canada to their single in the second. We continued to apply pressure and scored a two in the third end. We were all playing well and the pressure started to build on Canada, we lay three shots when Atina played her final stone of the 4th end, and she was a little heavy giving us a steal of three points and a 6-1 lead at the break. We knew we had to keep our concentration, keep making our shots and not let Canada back into the game. We played the 5th end really well; our stone placement made it very difficult for Canada to build up a score. Atina faced two counters when she played her last stone and elected to play an angled raise. It didn't work out for her, and we stole four shots for a 10-1 lead. We played out the 6th end and although things didn't go quite to plan through the end Jackie made two solid hits which left Atina a very tricky shot to score three. She didn't make it, Canada scored 1 and conceded the game, final score 10-2.

There may only have been four of us on the ice in Fredericton, but Wendy was with us in spirit and in our hearts, she is very much part of the success, we couldn't have done it without her.

The feeling of joy we experienced was very special and something we will remember for a long time to come. The medal ceremony was wonderful, and the closing banquet was great fun.

We know how lucky we are to get to play the sport we love on the world stage, and we are grateful to our sponsors and everyone who supported us to reach our dream of becoming work champions.

In closing we would like to thank Scottish Curling for supporting Senior Curling and ensuring the World Senior Championships received fantastic coverage on social media and the website. We nearly got put off the flight from Fredericton for laughing too loudly at the Golden Girls photo! Thank you.



- b. World Junior “B” Curling Championships:** 16-23 November 2024, Lohja, Finland. Scotland represented by Callie Soutar, Eva Hare, Holly Clemie, Alison Hamilton and Cara Davidson, finished in 4th place.
- c. World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship:** 26 April - 3 May 2025, Fredericton, Canada. Scotland represented by Jen Dodds and Bruce Mouat won SILVER.
- d. World Junior Mixed Doubles Curling Championship:** 6-11 May 2025. Edmonton, Canada. Scotland represented by Robyn Munro and Orrin Carson, finished in 5th= place.
- e. World Wheelchair Curling Championship:** 1-8 March 2025, Stevenson, Scotland. Scotland represented by Hugh Nibloe, Gary Smith, Austin McKenzie, Joanna Butterfield and Keith Gray, finished in 7th place.
- f. World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Curling Championship:** 9-15 March 2025, Stevenson, Scotland. Scotland represented by Hugh Nibloe and Charley McKenna, won SILVER.
- g. World University Games – Mixed Doubles:** 13-23 January 2025, Torino, Italy. Great Britain represented by Robyn Munro and Orrin Carson, won GOLD.
- h. World University Games – Women:** 13-23 January 2025, Torino, Italy. Great Britain represented by Laura Watt, Lisa Davie, Holly Wilkie-Milne, Amy Mitchell and Cara Davidson, finished in 7th place.

12. Presentations

President Ann: I would now like to move on to some presentations.

First of all, the winners of the Scottish Championships Team Henderson. Comprising of Fay Henderson, Robyn Munro, Hailey Duff and Katie McMillan. Could I ask you to come forward and receive your brooch gifted from Ladies Branch.

Unfortunately the winners of the Henderson Bishop Trophy, Team Huntly are unable to attend today, so it's just on show for us all to look at.

It gives me great pleasure to now formally present the Past Presidents' badges, which we have recently received following a brief delay.

First, I would like to invite Alison Taylor to come forward and receive her Past President badge in recognition of her dedicated service.

Next, I invite Maureen Parker to come forward and receive her Past President badge, with our sincere thanks for her leadership and contribution.

Please join me in congratulating them both.



13. Election of Office Bearers

President Ann: Now we come to the election of office bearers.

It gives me great pleasure to nominate my Vice President, Ann Gibb of Cawdor Curling Club, for the position of 66th President of the Ladies Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club for the 2025–2026 season.

Ann has been an incredible support to me throughout the past year. Her dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering commitment to the values and mission of our organisation have been truly inspiring. I have every confidence that she will continue to excel in this leadership role and further our efforts in promoting and fostering women's curling across the country. Could I have a seconder please?

Secunder: Brenda Macintyre (Belmaduthy CC) – Honorary President Kate, President Ann, Past Presidents, sister curlers, ladies and gentlemen. I have no hesitation in seconding the proposal for Ann Gibb of Cawdor Curling Club to become our 2025-26 Ladies Branch President.

Ann epitomises the remit of Ladies Branch, she constantly fosters new curlers into our sport while promoting the friendship it brings. Ann is a great communicator, she gives help and encouragement to many of our clubs, to the schools that visit the rink, as well as at try curling sessions, plus, mentoring the gateway members when asked.

A leading light in Inverness, Ann has been president of many of our committees, such as the Ross-shire Province, Northern Counties Lady Curlers and latterly, Area 13 just to name a few. Ann can be seen curling multiple times in the week and is a very successful skip locally, nationally and internationally and we were delighted that she was made Vice Caption of the 2022 Scots Tour to USA.

She is a regular representative of Inverness in the Morton and Henderson Bishop competitions and was a great supporter of the Overs and Unders when it was introduced, donating the trophy for the winners.

Ann, a former teacher, is also a devoted mum to Claire, Simon and Amy, who also curl, and no doubt, as a granny to Cora and Luke, she will soon have them on the ice too.

Ann certainly has all the attributes that will stand her in good stead for her year in office and I am certain she will serve Ladies Branch with total commitment. Ann, you have our loyal support and we wish you well for your year ahead. Thank you.

President Ann: Thank you, Brenda. Ann, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a successful and fulfilling year ahead. It is now my pleasure to present you with your President's badge and the Rose Bowl.

President Ann G: Introductory Speech – Honorary President Kate, Past Presidents, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you, Ann, for the gracious nomination and your kind words, It's truly an honour to stand before you today and accept the role of President of the Ladies Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.



Ann, I must take a moment to acknowledge the incredible effort you've put into your role this past year. It has certainly been a challenging time, yet you've faced every obstacle with grace and dedication. Your commitment has not gone unnoticed, and I know I speak for all of us when I say how deeply we appreciate everything you've done. As you step down from the role, I hope you'll now have the chance to enjoy some well-deserved time with your grandchildren and perhaps even spend more time on the golf course!

I also want to thank Brenda for her kind words and generous offer of support. Brenda we have known each other for many years both on and off the ice and your encouragement means a lot to me as I take on this new responsibility.

I'm deeply grateful to my home club, Cawdor, and my associate club, Ross Ladies, for their unwavering support throughout the years. A special thank you as well to all the members of Northern Counties Ladies' Curlers for their encouragement and offers of help in the year ahead. I'm truly fortunate to be surrounded by such a supportive and passionate curling community.

Looking back, it's remarkable to think how my journey in curling began. When I first started my teaching career, little did I know that this sport – something I initially stumbled upon – would come to place such an integral role in my life. It's humbling to reflect on how far I've come, culminating in this moment where I now accept the presidency of the Ladies Branch. This is a significant honour, and I promise to give my best in this role. I am committed to upholding the values of our sport and serving this community to the best of my ability.

I am also thrilled to be working alongside such a dedicated team. I look forward to collaborating with Vice President Isla, Junior Vice President Jan, and Treasurer Val. Together with our ladies' representatives – both new and returning – from all of our curling centres, we will work diligently to promote women's curling at all levels. We will tackle the challenges ahead, especially those related to maintaining the viability of our ice centres, as well as attracting more women and girls into our wonderful sport.

This role is one of great responsibility, but also one filled with opportunity. The future of women's curling is bright, and I am excited to be part of a team that is so passionate about moving the sport forward.

Once again, thank you all for your trust, your support, and your encouragement. Let's make this a fantastic year together! Thank you.

Election of Vice President

President Ann G: It gives me great pleasure to propose Isla Kinnear as Vice President of Ladies Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Isla has been a very efficient and supportive Junior Vice President on Ladies Branch and I look forward to working with you during the busy year ahead. Can I have a seconder please?



Seconder: Shelagh Fulton (Lynedoch Ladies) – Honorary members, fellow curlers, guests. I am delighted to second the nomination of Isla Kinnear as Vice President of the Ladies Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. I've known Isla for many years in so many different roles, both in curling and beyond, all of which she has carried out with great skill, enthusiasm and determination. In a challenging year with Perth outshone under threat of closure, Isla has worked tirelessly and constructively both within Perth Women's Curling and on the Dewar's 1984 committee to increase participation in the sport by encouraging an inclusive approach involving juniors, seniors and beginners in a wide variety of events. Isla has very recent experience as club president, president of Perth Women's Curling and the tour secretary of the outgoing 2023 Swedish Tour. This along with her background in business I'm sure she will make an excellent Vice President and I know Ann will be able to reply on Isla not only for support, but also for her good humour. On behalf of the Perth Women Curlers, I offer Isla our support for the year ahead.

President Ann G: Thank you Shelagh. Isla could you say a few words.

Vice President Isla Kinnear: Thank you Shelagh, for the kind words. Good afternoon, I would like to accept the nomination of Vice President. Personally, I've had a bit of a mixed year and I was unable to curl for half the season. My curling family were so supportive and I'm very grateful for this. Social media and digital comms kept me well connected and I would like to thank Peter Joyce for keeping lost of information coming through on that.

Working with the two Ann's, I've learnt so much from them, The energy that Ann Johnstone has put in on our behalf for women's curling is very impressive and supported admirably by Ann Gibb and Val. The LSC have made sure that women's curling continues to be heard and our voice is very loud and clear. I will do my best as your Vice President, supporting Ann and working with Jane and Val. I'm looking forward to increasing membership and participation in all aspects of women curling and I look forward to meeting more of you out and about at ice rinks next season, when I do hope to be able to play with you. Thank you very much.

President Ann G: Thank you Isla.

Junior Vice President

President Ann G: I am pleased to propose Jane Drysdale as Junior Vice President of Ladies Branch. Jane and I first met when we both served on Ladies Branch and I am sure she will be an asset. She was involved in putting together the Kinross' successful bid for the Henderson Bishop in, I think it was 2017. Could I please have a seconder?

Seconder: Maggie Scott (Orwell Ladies) – I have the greatest pleasure in seconding the proposal of my friend and fellow curling from Kinross Centre, Jane Drysdale, as Junior Vice President of the Ladies Branch. I met Jane through Orwell Ladies Curling Club and, as a relatively new curler, she joined our Ladies Super League team, where we competed together in a variety of events far and wide. This led to us forging a strong friendship which has continued both on and off the ice.



Jane is someone who, no matter how busy her life is, still makes time for everyone else. She has supported me through my own personal challenges over the years, for which I am extremely grateful.

This year, Jane exceeded her own expectations by skipping her Kinross Centre Team to their first-ever appearance at the Henderson Bishop Finals here in Dumfries. Lizzie Glennie and I were both extremely proud, as Jane had worked towards this curling achievement with us for years. We were also fortunate enough to attend as spectators to support Team Drysdale and join in all the fun throughout the event – something we will remember for a long time.

Finally, as your loyal and trusted friend, I just wanted to say that I am genuinely very proud of you being selected and appointed as Junior Vice President. I know you will be a true ambassador for our sport, and I will support you unconditionally in your new role. Good luck to you.

President Ann G: Thank you Maggie. Jane could you say a few words.

Junior Vice President Jane Drysdale: Honorary President Kate, Immediate Past President Ann, President Ann, Vice President Isla, Past Presidents, Sister curlers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you, Ann, for the nomination as Junior Vice President and Maggie and Lizzie for jointly seconding my nomination. Thank you also for your supportive words and encouragement.

I started curling in 2012 having joined the Kinross Virtual Club and Orwell Ladies. I quickly became involved in Kinross and District Ladies Branch by becoming Vice President 2012 and the President 2014. I was also on the LSC at that time. I was the drive behind the Henderson Bishop being held at Kinross in 2017. I work in our family agricultural engineering business, am married to John with 3 children and 5 grandsons. I am a past member of Bell Baxter Young Farmers being on the committee and holding office bearer's positions. I was secretary for Kinross Show for several years. My past and present hobbies include show jumping, walking, and cycling. I have many skills that will help me fulfil the position of Junior Vice President which I am honoured to be nominated for, and I am delighted to accept, and look forward to working with Ann, Isla, Val, and the rest of the committee

President Ann G: Thank you.

Treasurer

President Ann G: Now we come to the election of Treasurer of the Ladies Branch. I would like to propose Val Saville. Val has agreed to be re-elected and for that we are very grateful. Val works away quietly looking after our finances. Can I please have a seconder?

Seconder: Mara Lindsay (Troon Portland): I am delighted to second the proposal to my tour sister Val Saville for the post of Treasurer. Thank you.

President Ann G: Thank you Mara.

14. AOB

President Ann G: Does anyone have any other business they would like to raise, before we close our meeting? No? Okay let us move on.

A few dates for your diary:

- The RCCC AGM will be held at Inverness Ice Centre on 28th June at 2pm.
- The Henderson Bishop Final will be held in Kinross Curling from Tuesday 2nd to 5th March 2026. Entry forms are on the Scottish Curling website and must be returned to the office by 30th June.
- The Morton Final will be held in Dewars Centre, Perth on 10th March.
- The Ladies Branch AGM will be held in Inverness on Tuesday 12th May 2026. Venue to be confirmed.

15. Vote of Thanks

Susan Morrison (Crocketford): Madam President, Past Presidents, invited guests and fellow curlers, on behalf of Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association - Ladies Section it gives me great pleasure to stand before you to give the Vote of Thanks today.

I would like to begin by thanking you Ann for your exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication throughout the past year. Congratulations in your year of office as President of the Ladies Standing Committee, your vision and guidance has been instrumental in our committee's success. Thank you Ann for your commitment and inspiration. Thank you also to all the Ladies Standing Committee representatives, your hard work, enthusiasm and collaborative spirit has been invaluable to our sport and your various ice rinks. Thank you everyone for attending today and supporting Ann in her final duty as President and welcoming Ann Gibb as she takes over the reins as Lady President. Ann, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your executive committee good luck in the year ahead.

Thank you to the staff at Scottish Curling for all their support. Many thanks to George and the staff of the Woodland House Hotel, for their hospitality today and throughout the year.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has joined us today for this 65th AGM and to anyone who I may have missed. May I wish you all a safe journey home. Thank you.



Annex A

Ladies' Branch Annual Accounts 2024-2025

Income and Expenditure Account - year to 30th April 2025

Income		Expenditure	
2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
£	£	£	£
970.00		300.00	
Contributions to Ladies Branch (previously call international fund)	990.00	Honorarium	300.00
		Morton Finals & Scottish Championship	
2024 Finals Morton ice money	720.00	engraving pins	80.00
Repayment from incoming Canadian Tour	2,499.99	4 x Past President badges	495.00
		Ice for Morton finals (1-2 and 3-4 games)	-
366.90		Bank Charges (including cheque despoits)	9.50
Surplus/ Deficit for year	- 3,325.49	272.50	Gifts*
<u>1,336.90</u>	<u>884.50</u>	<u>1,336.90</u>	<u>884.50</u>
Opening balance at 1st May 2024		5,671.33	
Surplus for year		3,325.49	
Bank balance at 30th April 2025		8,996.82	