

RCCC Board meeting minutes

20th July 2026 - online via Zoom

Adopted on: **Pending**

Last reviewed on: **2026/07/27**

Attendee	Initials	Role	Attendance
Fraser Montgomery	FM	Chair	Online
Mairi Milne	MM	Director	Online
Keith Wilson	KW	Director	Online
Sarah Lean	SL	Director	Online
John Slater	JS	Senior Independent Director	Online
Lorna Hyslop	LH	Independent Director	Apologies
Wendy Loudon	WL	Director	Online
Robert Anderson	RA	Director, RCCC President	Online
Vincent Bryson	VB	Observer, CEO	Apologies
Eilidh McCall-Lawrie	EML	Observer, Head of Sport & Communities	Online
Suzy Wakefield	SW	Observer, Head of Operations	Online
Fiona Lilley	FL	Observer, sportscotland	Online
Isla Kinnear	IK	Observer, RCCC Ladies Branch President	Online
Kyle Waddell	KW	Observer, Athlete Representative	Online
Alison Hopkins	AH	Observer, Wheelchair Curling	Online
John McGowan	JM	Observer, Vice President	Online
Charlene Graham	CG	Observer, Major Events Manager	Online
Chloe Buchanan	CB	Observer, Governance Support	Minutes - offline

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Lorna Hyslop and Vincent Bryson. FM noted this was Sarah Lean's first meeting in her capacity as a director.

2. Declarations of Interest

No new updates to declarations of interest were noted. AH and JM would sign declaration of interest forms declaring any conflicts of interest. GB Curling would be declared on the conflicts register as a potential conflict.

3. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 26th May, 3rd June and 5th June were approved.

The draft AGM minutes would be published for comment in due course.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. IWG Women & Sport Global Summit Presentation

EML and SW updated the Board on their experience at the recent IWG Women and Sport Global Summit. SW explained that the IWG is a global network dedicated to advancing equality for women and girls in sport. The summit focused on leadership, participation, investment, innovation and visibility.

Key learnings included: the need to challenge established approaches; the importance of leadership and culture; being intentional and measuring impact; recognising the different barriers faced by women and girls; ensuring inclusion is driven by action as well as policy; and the value of being a "gentle agitator".

Reflections for Scottish Curling included its comparatively balanced gender representation across the Board and staff, alongside opportunities to improve diversity through future INED and co-opted Board appointments. Strengths include its commitment to inclusion, policy, participation and development, a culture that supports challenging established approaches, successful initiatives (such as Floor Curling), and emerging work on female health and participation. Areas for further consideration include the lack of female presidents to date, whether current membership structures support women's progression, and the strength of participation and leadership pathways for girls and young women.

EML participated as a panellist on the European Continental Session panel hosted during the summit, which explored advancing gender equality in sport through policy and practice. The learnings from this session would inform Scottish Curling's strategy for women and girls, and have led to the following commitments:

- SW will review organisational policies through a women and girls' lens, ensuring their needs are reflected in practice.
- EML will embed women and girls across development programmes, pathways, partnerships and future strategy.
- The organisation will progress signing the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration and develop an implementation plan. The Declaration is the leading global framework for gender equality in sport, built on 10 principles and supported by more than 700 organisations worldwide.

EML and SW would bring a proposal in relation to the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration to the September Board meeting.

A. EML and SW to propose steps to sign up to and implement the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration to the September Board.

6. Items for Discussion and Approval

6.1 Scottish Curling Championship Title Sponsorship 2027-2029

FM left the meeting ahead of the Board's discussion of the continuation of Scottish Curling's commercial partnership with Ambassador Cruise Line. FM is a current employee of Ambassador Cruise Line.

JS explained that Ambassador had proposed a new deal for the sponsorship of the Scottish Curling Championships for the next three years. This would comprise of £6,500 in 2027, £7500 in 2028 & 2029 and result in Ambassador Cruise Line receiving title sponsorship of the Championships, together with agreed branding and promotion benefits, including venue branding, event advertising, digital promotion and recognition across Scottish Curling's communication channels.

The deal would provide additional financial support for the Championships and greater certainty for the planning and delivery of future Championships. The proposed agreement would not conflict with the existing hosting agreement with Dumfries. The Board noted that this agreement would not prevent Scottish Curling from securing additional sponsors, however they would not be able to be title sponsors.

The Board queried why the proposed agreement was for three years rather than aligning with the four-year Olympic cycle. It noted that Scottish Curling does not currently have a title sponsor and that the opportunity had arisen through an approach from Ambassador rather than a competitive tender process. Members questioned whether other potential sponsors may have been interested and noted that, while securing sponsorship has historically been challenging, the organisation does not currently have an employee whose role is dedicated towards exploring and securing sponsorship for Scottish Curling. It was noted that a new Commercial Group has been established and will begin exploring future sponsorship opportunities.

The Board discussed the option of limiting the agreement to 2027, although this was recognised as carrying a risk that Ambassador may no longer be interested. Members also considered that the opportunity may ought to have been subject to a tender process and sought clarification on whether the financial figures presented reflected the outcome of negotiations or Ambassador's initial proposal.

The Board noted the proposal, however, was keen to hear more detail prior to any deal being agreed.

A. VB to provide the Board with further detail regarding Ambassador's sponsorship proposal, including whether the figures presented reflected the outcome of negotiations with Ambassador, or its initial proposal.

6.2 Confirmation of Board roles

FM returned to the meeting and resumed chairing.

MM would take on the role of Chair of Technical Development group. Alan Stansfield had now finished his second term of office leaving the role of convenor of the rules committee vacant. Colin Melrose or Stuart Walker could potentially take over the role. Scottish Curling would advertise and invite both to apply. The position of Chair of selectors will also be clarified in due course too.

JS mentioned there was scope to add to the Audit Committee and invited interested volunteers from the board to contact him.

A. Board members interested in volunteering to join the Audit Committee to contact JS to express their interest.

7. Items for discussion

FM suggested allowing teams to declare a maximum travel distance during their competition application process, enabling this to be factored into the draw and potentially reducing withdrawals due to travel commitments. The Board was keen to ensure this did not add unnecessary complexity to the application process.

8. Reports and Updates

8.1 CEO Flash Report - VB

EML presented the CEO flash report in VB's absence.

The paper included within the pack setting out key accomplishments was taken as read.

Recruitment for the Development Manager South West and the strategic safeguarding lead for Scottish Curling was underway. EML would ensure the advert was live on the website.

8.2 Technical Development Update

The Board acknowledged the hard work Fiona Harfield had put in to deliver the new level 3 coaching journey qualification. Stuart Ferrier, the performance, pathway and talent manager for Sportscotland, whom she had been working closely with, had congratulated her on her outstanding efforts. He also indicated he'd like to continue supporting implementation and consider rolling the qualification out to other sports, using Scottish Curling as a case study.

8.3 Project 2026 Update - EML

EML would circulate a paper in the next few weeks with an update on Project 2026.

8.4 ASC Update – RA

RA confirmed ASC meetings would be set up for the new season within the next week.

8.5 European Playoffs Update – SL

SL informed the Board there would be no European playoffs. Going forward, the winner of the Scottish Championships would go straight through to the European Championships.

8.6 Sportscotland Funding update – EML

EML reported Scottish Curling had been successful in securing 'Summer of Sport' funding, which required to be spent by March 2027, and consisted of a pot of £50,000. The funding was for two projects: Curling 360 Communities, and Floor Curling Festival aimed at school aged young people and to host a floor curling festival at the end of the season. Where possible winners would have the opportunity to try curling on ice sessions.

She explained that five rinks had been successful in securing funding through the Club Support Fund to support the recruitment of an additional employee. This was targeted investment into clubs and community organisations. EML would notify the successful clubs once the paperwork with Sportscotland had been agreed. The funding applications included inclusion elements where support of wheelchair curling as part of their inclusion objectives.

There will potentially be a second opportunity for clubs to apply for funding to support new roles, however this was not confirmed.

In terms of pathways funding, EML reported Scottish Curling was successful in securing £76k per year over the next three years. £18k of the funding stream would be dedicated towards developing a para pathway.

EML acknowledged the hard work from all involved in submitting robust applications to secure this funding. Implementation of the programmes could commence imminently.

8.7 Indoor Grand Match Update – RA/IK

There were no Indoor Grand match updates to report.

8.8. GB Curling & MOU Update – KW

KW reported a new Memorandum of Understanding with GB and Scottish Curling as parties required to be drafted in due course. It would set out the arrangement between the parties, as well as include oversight of Sport Org's running of the British Curling programme and provide a framework for governing Curling. FM invited those who were keen to be part of the drafting process over the next six to eight weeks to contact him after the meeting.

A. Board members keen to support the drafting of a new GB Curling MOU to contact FM as soon as possible.

8.9 Try Curling Next Steps Update – LH

In LH's absence, EML reported the Trycurling website featured a pop-up banner enabling individuals to sign up to receive updates about when the next Trycurling sessions would take place. Rinks would advertise their dates for upcoming Trycurling sessions in due course.

9. Governance

9.1 Finance Report - JW / JS

JS would set up the Audit Committee meeting dates soon and circulate to SW. The accounts would be filed at Companies House in due course. Members would be updated with responses to the queries about the accounts raised at the AGM. JS would review the contract with the current accountants and he confirmed Q1 management accounts would be reported at the next Board meeting.

9.2 EDI Update – EML

Staff enjoyed a day training session with an EDI mentor. This included spending time reflecting upon what Scottish Curling is doing well, as well as where there were gaps with potential to improve on.

9.3 Safeguarding Update – EML

EML explained there were no updates to report in terms of concerns raised. A Q1 meeting would take place in the next day to look at the way forward for the coming next year. EML reiterated that all board directors required an up-to-date PVG, whilst observers don't need one. A Child Wellbeing and Protection workshop for Board and Committees members is required by all Board members to complete (Directors and Observers) and links directly to Scottish Curling's compliance with the CWPS Standards. Completion of the Female athlete health course circulated in February was required, as part of Scottish Curling's inclusion goals. EML will circulate the relevant links to the self-directed learning and PVG, Board members are to action appropriately.

A. Board members to action and complete relevant CWPS training by mid-August, and Female Athlete and EDI training by next Board meeting.

9.4 UKAD Report

FM reported the annual UKAD submission had been completed, and a pass had been attained by Scottish Curling. The future education strategy from 2027-2031 would be circulated by UKAD in due course. EML acknowledged the efforts of Scott (who led in this area) who remained dedicated towards ensuring that Scottish Curling continued to adhere to its requirements.

9.5 Nominations Update - FM / JS

The Board agreed that going forward, Alison Hopkins would serve as an Observer on the Board and represent Wheelchair Curling. The creation of a new para-athlete standing committee and its constitution was being considered by a working group, and the Board would be kept updated on its progress.

9.6 Risk Register Update- JS

JS would update the risk register with VB in due course, noting there were various updates required.

A. JS to liaise with VB to update the risk register.

9. AOB

FM reported World Curling had asked Scottish Curling to provide its opinion upon whether Russian athletes should be permitted to compete in curling events on a national scale. The Board would be contacted after the meeting and members asked to provide their individual views.

In reaching their decision, MM reminded the Board to be mindful of the IOC's intention to lift the ban, noting World Curling had followed the IOC's stance thus far. The Board noted the Scottish government had given Sportscotland clear guidance on this topic initially, and FL would provide an update on its current stance, to support Scottish Curling's response.

RA confirmed he would incorporate wheelchair competitions into the overall competition schedule. He would also meet with a potential new sponsor for Junior Curling who had indicated his desire to pledge £5k to advance junior curling.

MM would set up a working group, including a Scottish Curling Trust representative, to develop criteria for awarding caps to curlers who have represented Scotland.

A. Board members to respond to queries from World Curling regarding Russian athlete participation.

A. MM to arrange for a working group, including a Scottish Curling Trust to be set up to develop criteria to award caps to curlers who have represented Scotland.

There being no further business, FM closed the meeting.

A. Action Summary

A. EML and SW will propose steps to sign up and implement the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration to the September Board.

A. VB to provide the Board with further detail regarding Ambassador's sponsorship proposal, including whether the figures presented reflected the outcome of negotiations with Ambassador, or its initial proposal.

A. Board members interested in volunteering to join the Audit Committee to contact JS to express their interest.

- A. Board members keen to support the drafting of a new GB Curling MOU to contact FM as soon as possible.***
- A. Board members to action and complete relevant CWPS training by mid August, and Female Athlete and EDI training by next Board meeting.***
- A. JS to liaise with VB to update the risk register.***
- A. Board members to respond to queries from World Curling regarding Russian athlete participation.***
- A. MM to arrange for a working group, including a Scottish Curling Trust to be set up to develop criteria to award caps to curlers who have represented Scotland.***

D. Decision Summary

N/A