

MIDLOTHIAN PROVINCE OF THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN CURLING CLUB.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11th APRIL 2018 IN THE EDINBURGH CURLING CLUB ROOMS AT MURRAYFIELD.

In attendance:

Isobel Edwards (Corstorphine Ladies), David Cunningham (SIAE), David Edwards (Corstorphine), David Murgatroyd (Boswall), Trevor Dodds (Oxenfoord), Basil Baird (Midcalders), Ruth Addinall (SIAE), Kath Murray (Corstorphine Ladies), Sean Murphy (Gogar Park), Dave Munro (Currie and Balerno), Ian Keron (Gogar Park), Scott Dakers (Carrington, George Heriot's FP), Lindsay Scotland (Carrington), Sue Scotland (Haymarket, Carrington), Myra Fell (Haymarket, Colinton Ladies), David Fell (Bank of Scotland), Paul Davis (St George's School), Suzanne Reynolds (RBS), Malcolm Wright (Dalkeith), Archie Smith (Merchiston), Stuart Douglas (Sweepers), John Steven (Currie and Balerno), David Morrison (Holyrood), Calder Benzies (Corstorphine), Colin Baxter (Corstorphine), Elizabeth Sharp (DAFS), Ken Hunter (Penicuik, DAFS), Jon Pickup (DAFS), Chris Mitchell (Chartered Surveyors), Mike Williamson (37 Club, Gogar Park), Mike Wilkinson (37 Club, Gogar Park), Nigel Fairhead (Gogar Park), Alistair Beattie (Edinburgh Rotary), Brian Smellie (Edinburgh Rotary), Andrew Hepburn (Corstorphine), Robin Copland (Currie and Balerno), Pat Edington (Boswall), Dan Lean (Watsonian), Paul Stevenson (Stray Dogs).

1. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Gordon Moodie (Sweepers), Sheila Clark (Lothian Ladies), John Hogarth (Gogar Park), Stan Howard (Boswall), Ian Starkey (Edinburgh Rotary), Stewart Cairns (Corstorphine), Sonja Dyer (Barbarians), Catherine Dodds (Carrington), Robert Stewart (Oxenfoord), Stuart Dodds (Carrington), Kimberley Moore-Ede (Duddingston), David McKay (Stewart's Melville FP), Malcolm Patrick (Watsonian), Scott Henderson (ECC), Ken Colquhoun (Boswall).

2. President's remarks and In Memoriam.

The President welcomed all the attendees and asked the meeting to stand for a minute's silence to mark the passing of the following Province members during the 2017-18 season:

Jim McCrone (Corstorphine), Jim Howe (Corstorphine), Douglas Baxter (Corstorphine), Wilson Heatlie (Boswall), Lauchlan MacLean (Chartered Surveyors), Jimmy Traquair (Dalkeith) and Polly Ridge (Edinburgh Ladies).

Particular mention was made of Douglas Baxter, asking Colin Baxter to pass on best wishes to his family. Also Lauchlan MacLean, who had been invited to say grace at the Edinburgh Area Strathcona Cup dinner. We were all pleased to see him there.

Sponsors were secured for two of our competitions and the Province sponsored the Monday League for the first time. That competition went to the last stone of the last end!

The touring Canadian men's team was welcomed, with Midlothian Province looking after the Wednesday. The dinner took a lot of organising, requiring help from all the committee. A good time was had by all.

As usual, the Province League and King George IV competitions were well contested by a number of clubs.

3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM.

Draft minutes were available to read at the meeting. With no matters arising, approval of the minutes was proposed by Ken Hunter, seconded by Scott Dakers and carried by the meeting.

4. Secretary's Report.

Gogar Park reached the quarter finals of the Scottish Province Championships.

In the Midlothian Province League Div 1, Stray Dogs won the Salver for topping the league table but Gogar Park won the play-off cup and qualified for the Province Championships.

The MPL Div 2 play-off was won by Currie & Balerno over 37 Club. Both will be promoted to Div 1. Div 3 play-off was won by Bank of Scotland over Clydesdale Bank. Both will be promoted to Div 2.

The Province Bonspiel was sponsored by Brewin Dolphin and was won by Gogar Park Young Curlers with +14 shots, ahead of Carrington on +10. Carrington won the Colin Black Trophy with +20 shots.

The Bridge Investments competition for the KG IV Trophy was won by Musselburgh over Edinburgh Rotary. We shall try to separate the semi-finals from the final next year as this should not become an endurance test of playing two games in a row.

In the Waldie-Griffith Inter Province Cup, we were drawn to play Breadalbane Province away in Perth. 37 Club, DAFS, Gogar Park and SIAE won by an average of +4.5 shots. We are leading the overall competition with one result to come in (Ayrshire v North Eastern).

The annual Pate Trophy match against Border Province at Murrayfield was postponed due to "the Beast from the East" and there was no other appropriate date before the end of the season. We intend to hold this season's Murrayfield match in October, then the Kelso match towards the end of the season.

We came second equal in the Edinburgh Area Bonspiel, which was won by the RCCC.

Midlothian Province sponsored and provided admin support for the ECC Monday League. League A went to the final stone and was won by Jill Florence with Jean Hammond's rink runners-up. League B was won by Carol Fleming, Gillian Black runner-up.

Ten Midlothian rinks played in the Strathcona Cup against the Canadian tourists. We won five and lost five, with a shot count 63-54 in our favour.

The Treasurer will report on the financial impact of the Brewin Dolphin sponsorship but the Secretary noted the huge effort by both the Treasurer and our fellow committee member Stan Howard in bringing them on board. The Secretary wrote a report on the Bonspiel for “Your Curler” which did not appear in the March edition. He followed that up and hopes it will appear in April.

Roll of Honour.

World Men bronze medal and Scottish Men winner: Bruce Mouat

World Senior Men, Ireland bronze medals: Bill Gray and David Hume (alternate)

Scottish Women winner: Jennifer Dodds

Scottish Women runners-up: Naomi Brown and Sophie Sinclair

Scottish Mixed Doubles winner: Jayne Stirling

Scottish Pairs runners-up: Niall Gunn and Nigel Patrick

Scottish Senior Women winners: Susan Kesley, Fran Stretton, Vicky Gumley and Morna Aitken

National Masters Men runner-up: Robin Aitken

Scottish Junior Mixed Doubles runner-up: Naomi Brown

Scottish Junior Mixed Doubles third place: Holly Davis and Andrew Keron

Bruce Mouat also won the Oakville Tankard, Oakville Fall Classic and Boost National (Grand slam) competitions.

5. Treasurer’s Report.

(a) This season the report incorporated the Canadian Tour account.

Subscriptions were down due to the decreased charge for all clubs from £19 to £10. This was supplemented by an entry fee of £10 on Midlothian Province League clubs and Monday League teams. The Bonspiel entry fee was reduced from £2 to £1 per player.

Thanks to an introduction by Stan Howard, the Brewin Dolphin sponsorship of our Bonspiel, alongside continued KG IV sponsorship by Bridge Investments, increased our incoming sponsorship from £200 to £1,450. Some previous years’ donations made were written back.

Cost of prizes increased due to our sponsorship of the Monday League plus the Colin Black prizes coming out of existing funds rather than as a donation from the President. Ice fees for finals also increased.

There were unusual costs relating to producing new Province badges, providing them to Strathcona Cup players and advertising club names in the Tour brochure.

As Treasurer of the Strathcona Cup committee, an extra set of accounts covering its income and expenditure was explained to the meeting. Based on numbers playing, Midlothian Province covered 50%, with East Lothian and Peeblesshire each covering 25%. Due to a number of items working in our favour (including large advertising income, not being charged for the Canadians' ice and an unforeseen Big Lottery Grant), there will be a refund to the Provinces after the account is closed.

The Treasurer announced to the meeting that he would be standing down during the election of office bearers.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Kath Murray, seconded by Dan Lean, and carried by the meeting.

(b) The Province annual subscription will remain the same.

6. Election of Office Bearers.

Sean Murphy has fulfilled his term as Immediate Past President on the committee. Having fulfilled his term as President, Trevor Dodds (Oxenfoord) becomes the Immediate Past President.

Vice President Basil Baird (Midcalder) was nominated for the role of President by Trevor Dodds, seconded by David Edwards; there being no other nominations, Basil was duly elected.

John Steven (Currie and Balerno) was nominated for the position of Vice President by Basil Baird, seconded by Trevor Dodds; there being no other nominations, John was duly elected.

David Cunningham (SIAE) indicated his willingness to continue as Secretary. There being no other nominations, David was duly elected.

Malcolm Wright (Dalkeith) was nominated for the position of Treasurer by David Edwards, seconded by Sean Murphy. There being no other nominations, Malcolm was duly elected. Malcolm informed the meeting that he is a retired accountant and has curled for 30 years for a number of clubs. He has been Secretary of Dalkeith, Vice President of RBS and has been involved with Gogar Park. It will be a hard job to follow David Edwards!

Stan Howard (Boswall) and Kath Murray (Corstorphine Ladies) indicated their willingness to continue as Committee Members. There being no other nominations, Stan and Kath were duly elected.

Malcolm Patrick had indicated his willingness to continue as Honorary Auditor. There being no other nominations, Malcolm was duly elected.

7. Proposed change to Midlothian Province League rules.

It was proposed that whilst MPL Division 1 must abide by RCCC rules because it is our qualifying competition for the Scottish Province Championships, Divisions 2 and 3 could adopt a different rule for players arriving late and allow for clubs to play with three players.

After discussion of the proposed wording, especially regarding appropriate penalties, including input from Lindsay Scotland, Ian Keron, John Steven, Colin Baxter, Ruth Addinall and Jon Pickup, the following bye-law 11 was unanimously agreed:

“In the Midlothian Province League, except in Division 1, if a team has only three players present when the bell sounds then the game will start and the offending team will be penalised one shot for each complete five minutes that only three players are present, up to a maximum of five shots. The non-offending team will have the last stone in the first end. If a team has fewer than three players present then RCCC rules apply.”

8. Any other competent business.

Ian Keron expressed concern about the surplus on the Tour Fund. Given that money is being returned to the provinces, was the charge of £75 to players too high?

Calder Benzies and Ewan Ramage took photos of the Strathcona Cup games. Ewan's ones are available online and Calder will do the same.

A Province Medal was due to be presented to Gogar Park Young Curlers as winner of the Province Bonspiel but the RCCC's supply had run out. It will be done at a later date.

Mike Williamson invited everyone to 37 Club's whisky tasting on Friday. It is to raise funds for the curling rink development.

The season is not yet over! Ian Keron and Paul Davis are travelling with eight juniors from Murrayfield to Italy this weekend.

Ruth Addinall thanked the Province for sponsoring the Monday League.

Carrington will be holding an auction of curling memorabilia on 18th November to raise funds for the rink development. Curling items will be gratefully received.

The President presented a bottle of whisky to David Edwards in recognition of his many years of service as Treasurer on the committee.

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting and Pat Edington proposed a vote of thanks to the chair.