

MIDLOTHIAN PROVINCE OF THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN CURLING CLUB.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 26th APRIL 2022 IN THE EDINBURGH CURLING CLUB ROOMS AT MURRAYFIELD.

In attendance:

David Cunningham (SIAE), Robin Copland (Currie and Balerno), Robert Steeples (37 Club), Jim Ramsay (Penicuik), Niall Gunn (Currie and Balerno), Catherine Dodds (Carrington), Elizabeth Sharp (DAFS), Dan Lean (Watsonian), Malcolm Wright (Dalkeith), Trevor Dodds (Oxenfoord), Mike Wilkinson (37 Club), Stuart Dodds (Carrington), Ruth Addinall (SIAE), Kath Murray (Corstorphine Ladies), Mike Dick (Carrington), Alison Dick (Carrington), Isobel Edwards (Corstorphine Ladies), Colin Beesley (Corstorphine), Ian Keron (Gogar Park), Basil Baird (Midcalder), Rona Craig (Corstorphine Ladies).

1. Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Douglas Goddard (Heriot's FP), Jean Noble (Penicuik), Jenny Barr (Currie and Balerno), Mike Williamson (37 Club), Lindsay Scotland (Carrington), Pat Edington (Boswall), Tom Jarvis (Bank of Scotland), Liz Sim (Sweepers), David Miller (Merchiston), James Scott (Clydesdale Bank), Alan Chalmers (Musketeers), Alistair Beattie (Edinburgh Rotary), Robert Stewart (Oxenfoord), Derek Rendall (Bank of Scotland), Lois Copland (Currie and Balerno), Colin Baxter (Corstorphine), Lesley Barr (Midcalder).

2. President's remarks and In Memoriam.

Brother and sister curlers, we are gathered here today because we won't be here tomorrow. Welcome to the Midlothian Province AGM 2022.

Since our last AGM, it has been an interesting and difficult two years in all aspects of life and I would like us to take a minute or so to remember those fellow curlers that have left us during this time. (The Secretary explained that he had only a few names from the three year period and would endeavour to put together a comprehensive list.)

In the curling world, there have been many changes and costs for the ice rinks. With the many adaptations to the buildings and rule changes forced upon them by the pandemic, I must commend the Murrayfield board and staff for rising to the challenge and at least trying to get us on the ice for season 2020-21.

Thankfully, this season has been much more successful, ending with good news in the shape of our Beijing heroes Bruce and Jen bringing home their well-deserved medals. Hopefully this will inspire our youngsters to aim high and in turn fill a few more sheets of ice.

I also hope that as we return to some sort of normality that those curlers that have shied away this season for one reason or another will have the confidence to return next season which will help our clubs greatly.

I have enjoyed my prolonged stay in the chair and would like to thank my committee. Kath, John, Tom, Trevor and Ian for their help along the way; to Treasurer Malcolm for keeping the books in order; and a special big thanks to Secretary David who, as we all know, along with the Treasurer, does about 99% of the work. The President just has to spout forth, smile and look good!

Finally, it has been a privilege to be Midlothian Province President and I would like to offer my support to the incoming President. Thank you all.

3. Minutes of the 2019 AGM.

One matter arising was that Midlothian Province did retain the Waldie-Griffith Inter Province Cup, as we thought we had at the time of the AGM. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Robin Copland, seconded by Trevor Dodds and carried by the meeting.

4. Secretary's Report.

2019-20

No team entered the Scottish Province Championships.

In the Midlothian Province League Div 1, Gogar Park won the Salver and the Cup, beating Barbarians, thereby qualifying for the Scottish Province Championships. Due to the curtailment of the 2019-20 season, the play-off final took place at the start of the 2020-21 season, the only Province match in that whole season.

The Div 2 and 3 play-offs did not take place because of Covid restrictions, so the prizes were awarded on the basis of league placings. In Div 2, Oxenfoord was first and DAFS second. Both were promoted to Div 1. In Div 3, Bank of Scotland was first and Penicuik second. Both were promoted to Div 2.

The Brewin Dolphin Midlothian Province Bonspiel was won by DAFS with $+6\frac{2}{3}$ shots, closely followed by Pentland Ladies on $+6\frac{1}{2}$ (runners-up in consecutive seasons). Currie and Balerno won the Colin Black Trophy with +13 shots.

The Bridge Investments competition for the KG IV Trophy was won by 37 Club over RBS.

Clydesdale Bank, DAFS, Gogar Park and Penicuik represented Midlothian in the Waldie-Griffith Inter Province Cup, against Renfrewshire 12th Province at Murrayfield. We won by an average of +2.75 shots. Because the season was cut short, the RCCC decided that the competition was void and the trophy would not be awarded. From monitoring the website, Midlothian was not in the lead.

We won the Pate Trophy match against Border Province at Murrayfield by 52-39. We were represented by the President's rink, Carrington, DAFS, Midcalder, Penicuik, SIAE and Sweepers.

Midlothian won both the bonspiel and draw shot competition in the Edinburgh Area Bonspiel.

Midlothian Province sponsored but, thankfully, did not have to provide admin support for the ECC Monday League. Andy Macpherson is now doing the admin. League A was retained by Jill Florence with Brenda Waddell coming second. League B was won by Joan Simpson, with Marjorie Kidd runner-up.

2021-22

Gogar Park's entry to the Scottish Province Championships was carried through the Covid season, into 2021-22. They reached the quarter finals at Greenacres, narrowly missing out on progressing further.

In the Midlothian Province League Div 1, Barbarians won the Salver by finishing top of the league but were beaten to the Cup by Stray Dogs, who thereby qualify for next season's Scottish Province Championships.

The MPL Div 2 play-off was won by 37 Club over Duddingston. The Div 3 play-off was won by Watsonian over Holyrood. Div 3 had only four clubs competing this season, with Div 2 reduced to seven. We shall encourage new and returning entries for next season but may have to reorganise the divisions if more clubs do not come forward. The matches are no longer at 9.30pm, which we believe is preferable.

The Midlothian Province Bonspiel was won by Barbarians with +11 shots, ahead of both Currie and Balerno and Duddingston on +10. Currie and Balerno won the Colin Black Trophy with +13 shots (yes, exactly the same as in the previous Bonspiel!).

The KG IV Trophy was retained by 37 Club, beating DAFS in the final.

DAFS, Corstorphine Ladies, Midcalder and SIAE represented Midlothian in the Waldie-Griffith Inter Province Cup, against Forth & Endrick Province at Murrayfield. We won by an average of +5¼ shots. As long as the RCCC award the trophy this season, it looks like we have won it for the third competition in a row.

It was decided not to try to "catch up" with Pate Trophy fixtures and so 2021 was written off. For 2022, a reduced contingent of four rinks (President's rink, DAFS, Midcalder and Penicuik) travelled to Kelso. Breaking the recent trend of home wins, Midlothian beat Border by 25-21. When we play at Murrayfield next season, we hope to have the normal seven rinks in play.

Midlothian took part in the Edinburgh Area Bonspiel, inviting entries from the whole Province membership as usual. We did not expect a visitor from Australia but Beata Bowes was a welcome guest!

Midlothian Province sponsored the ECC Monday League again. With one league this season, we presented prizes to first (Jill Florence), second (Jill Black) and third (Barbara Watt) places.

Roll of Honour.

The Secretary apologised for not compiling the normal list - it would have been dominated by Jennifer Dodds and Bruce Mouat.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer explained that the 2021 and 2022 accounts look strange because subs and entry fees were rolled forward.

Sponsorship has fallen through so if anyone knows of potential sponsors, please let the committee know. The raffle held during the Bonspiel helped greatly.

The reduction in entry fees reflects clubs withdrawing from competitions. The 2022 creditors figure is for ice costs.

Dan Lean asked about the Strathcona Cup figure. This is the amount being held in the bank account on behalf of the local organising committee which used the Province bank account in 2018.

Adoption of each set of accounts in turn was proposed by David Cunningham, seconded by Kath Murray, and carried by the meeting.

The Treasurer thanked Malcolm Patrick (Honorary Auditor) and all the Club Treasurers.

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

6. Election of Office Bearers.

The Vice President would normally be proposed for election to President but John Steven has been ill and would prefer to remain as Vice President. This was proposed by Basil Baird and seconded by Robin Copland; there being no other nominations, John was duly elected.

In John's place, Ian Keron was proposed as President by Basil Baird, seconded by Trevor Dodds; there being no other nominations, Ian was duly elected.

Trevor Dodds has fulfilled his term as Immediate Past President on the committee. Having fulfilled his term as President, Basil Baird becomes the Immediate Past President.

The Secretary, Treasurer and two Committee Members expressed their willingness to continue; there being no other nominations, they were duly elected.

Trevor Dodds was proposed as a Committee Member by Basil Baird, seconded by Ian Keron; there being no other nominations, Trevor was duly elected.

The new Committee is:

President - Ian Keron (Gogar Park)

Vice President - John Steven (Currie and Balerno)

Immediate Past President - Basil Baird (Midcalder)

Secretary - David Cunningham (SIAE)

Treasurer - Malcolm Wright (Dalkeith)

Committee Members - Kath Murray (Corstorphine Ladies), Tom Jarvis (Bank of Scotland), Trevor Dodds (Oxenfoord)

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

The new President took the Chair of the meeting.

7. Proposed change to the Province competitions' rules regarding teams with three players.

Province League Division 1 and the KG IV follow RCCC rules which do not allow games to start when there are only three players on a team. It was discussed whether it was appropriate to adopt Gogar Park Super League rules so that more games could be played.

Ruth Addinall said she was on the Province Committee when it was decided to adopt the RCCC rules, for consistency and fairness. Basil Baird was in favour of starting the game but it must be emphasised that these are "local rules", not used in national competitions. Niall Gunn thought change was needed but preferred a four shot penalty rather than three.

Catherine Dodds stated that it is very frustrating to have to play a bounce game when one person does not arrive – ice costs are increasing. Rona Craig said it was happening more often because of Covid and a three shot penalty was enough. Robin Copland worried that "sporting" teams may not wish to apply the penalty – it must be an automatic penalty, not optional. David Cunningham would want the same rules in all Province competitions and thought the five shot penalty used in MPL Divisions 2 & 3 was more appropriate than three. Dan Lean was happy with a five shot penalty but not reducing the points on offer for a win down from four to three and for a tie down from two to one. Trevor Dodds used to be against the Gogar Park Super League rules but now thinks they work well. Alison Dick would like consistency between Gogar Park Super League and Province League.

The proposal to adopt Gogar Park Super League rules regarding playing with three players was passed by 12 votes to 2. The rules will be applied throughout the MPL and KG IV.

8. Any other competent business.

Ruth Addinall thanked the Province for sponsoring the Monday League.

A Province Medal was presented to Elizabeth Sharp, representing DAFS, as winner of the 2020 Province Bonspiel.

Isobel Edwards presented a newly commissioned trophy in memory of her late husband, David Edwards, to the President.

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