



Edinburgh Area Committee of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club

Area Representative and Chairman:

Trevor Dodds Tel 07836 298503 trevor.dodds@agrii.co.uk

Area Representative:

Robin Copland Tel 07770 604214 robin@scotwork.com

EDINBURGH AREA 8 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Kingsknowe Golf Club, 326 Lanark Road, Edinburgh, EH14 2JD

Tuesday 11th April 2023

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Vicky Gumley (Stewart Melville FP), Ruth Addinall (SIAE), Kath Murray (Corstorphine Ladies), Jim Scott (Clydesdale Bank), Paul Stevenson (Stray Dogs), Jean Noble (Penicuik), John Waterlow (Holyrood), David Murgatroyd (Boswall), Catherine Dodds (Carrington), Stuart Dodds (Carrington), Alan Chalmers (Musketeers), Robert Stewart (Oxenfoord), Malcolm Patrick (Watsonians), Lois Copland (Currie and Balerno), Ian Copland (Gogar Park), Walter Scott (Yester), and Robert McGee (East Linton) to whom incorrect venue details had been sent by the acting secretary.

1a Members present: David Cunningham (SIAE), John Steven (Currie & Balerno), Trevor Dodds (Oxenfoord), Tom Jarvis (Bank of Scotland), Douglas Goddard (GHS), Iain Scott (Penicuik), Colin Beesley (Corstorphine), Robin Copland (Currie & Balerno), Mike Williamson (37 Club), Dan Lean (Watsonian), Basil Baird (Midcalder), Niall Gunn (Currie & Balerno), Sean Murphy (Gogar Park), Ian Keron (Gogar Park), Malcolm Wright (Dalkeith) and Stewart Cairns (Corstorphine)

2. In Memoriam

Ronnie Hope (Penicuik)
James C Sanderson (Oxenfoord)
Dennis Howell (Heriots)
Andrew Morrison (Oxenfoord)
Ernie Prior (Corstorphine)
Val Govan (Watsonian)
Drew Wightman (Heriot's FP and 37 Club)
Jean Hammond (Peebles)
Gordon Lusk (Newlands and Tarth Water)

3. Minutes of the 2022 AGM and matters arising

The minutes were proposed by David Cunningham and seconded by Ian Keron. There were no matters arising.

4. Election of two Area Representatives to serve for the term 2022-2025 and 2023-2026

There were no volunteers to take up these roles. Trevor Dodds and Robin Copland volunteered to serve on the ASC until replacement representatives can be found.

5. (a) Area Bonspiel report

Basil Baird confirmed that the bonspiel had been won by teams representing Midlothian Province. The original date had not been circulated by the rink, so a new date had been found and there were some difficulties in raising teams. A curtailed entry meant that the competition had to be redrawn – resulting in two teams having to play each other twice. This was unfortunate but did not spoil an otherwise excellent day of curling and camaraderie.

(b) Major Successes and Achievements

- Bruce Mouat skipped his men's team to Gold Medals at the European Championship in 2022, the Scottish Championship 2023 and the World Championship 2023
- Bruce Mouat and Jennifer Dodds won the Scottish Mixed Doubles Championship and will represent Scotland at the World Championships in Korea in April, 2023
- Sophie Sinclair and Gina Aitken won Bronze Medals at the European Championships and won the Scottish Championship in 2023.
- Jennifer Marshall and Eilidh Yeats won Silver Medals at the Scottish Women's Championship 2023
- Catherine Dodds won the Scottish Women's Masters Championship 2023
- Trevor Dodds won a Silver Medal in the Scottish Men's Masters Championship 2023 (for the fourth time!)
- Susan Wylie, Katie Wood, Vicky Gumley and Morna Aitken won Silver Medals at the Scottish Senior Women's Championship 2023
- There were many Edinburgh Area 8 curlers on the outgoing men's Strathcona Cup tour to Canada, including Basil Baird (Midcalder), Paul Baughan (Musketees), George Bee (Stewarts Melville FP), Alan Chalmers, Central Captain (Musketees), Niall Gunn (Gogar Park), Frank Ross (Athelstaneford), John Sinclair (Midcalder), and Graham Young (Livingston). Although Canada won and therefore retained the Strathcona Cup, the tour had been a marvellous success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.
- Gillian Black (Corstorphine Ladies), Kim Dalland (Corstorphine Ladies), Vicky Gumley (Stewarts Melville FP) and Janette McLeod (Dominies) all went on the successful outgoing Scottish Women's tour to the USA in 2022.
- Area 8 entertained the incoming USA tour at the end of a gruelling three week visit to Scotland. The final official round of games took place at Murrayfield. The USA team had already secured victory and therefore the Herries-Maxwell trophy before the final round of games. Four members of the USA team were particularly pleased to play against an Edinburgh team skipped by the reigning European Champion skip, Bruce Mouat. The USA team proved too good for their Area 8 counterparts! We entertained the tourists to an informal evening of camaraderie and fun at Baberton Golf Club. The team were particularly pleased to "let their hair down" on the second last evening of their tour. We organised a bus tour of the bridges and Edinburgh before their final non-counting games against the Royal Caledonian Curling Club the next day.

6. Reports by Province Presidents

- **East Lothian**
- **Apologies** - Ian Donald, Shelagh Main, Alison Scott, Graham Elder
Present - Walter Scott, Morgan Nicoll, John Trotter, John Black, Tom Middlemas, Robin Aitken, Yvonne Aitken, Graham Maguire. Pam Clark, Callum Harvey, Robert Waddell, Andy Aberdein, Dave Barr, David Affleck, Andrew McCrone
- **Minutes of AGM of 6th June 2022.** - There were no matters brought up.
- **President's Report**

The President reported the ongoing problem of recruiting members, a point which was also raised nationally at the recent RCCC AGM. He noted that increased costs of ice and travelling had hit all curling venues, the proposed closure of Ayr Ice rink being an example. It was disappointing news that Doocot will not take part in Province competitions this coming season. It was also disappointing that the proposed new inter-club completion did not have any support given the initial interest.

Area 8 showed a frustrating lack of organisation due to not having an elected secretary and the two RCCC representatives Robin Copland and Trevor Dodds wishing to stand down but no replacement can be found. An EGM will be held to discuss the foregoing before the beginning of this season

The following competition winners were reported:

- Waldie Griffiths -East Lothian Province. The magnificent cup was displayed at the meeting and admired by all present.
- Pairs -High Road - Morgan Nicoll, Sandy Nicoll

- Knockout - Dirleton

Bonspiel - East Linton (winning skip- Paul Neison)

Roy Black was thanked for sending a note of the Province's appreciation of Scotgrain's generous sponsorship of the Bonspiel.

East Lothian Province played and won against the USA Tour. The team that played were, Dave Munro(skip), Balfour Stewart, Andy Milliarimid and myself.

Other team names can be viewed on the Province website.

Finally, the President thanked his committee for their help throughout his presidency, declaring he had enjoyed his time as president and wishing his successor all the best for the future.

- **Financial Report**

Due to the indisposition of the Treasurer, the secretary read the report as follows:

It gives me great pleasure in tabling the accounts for the season 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. This season we have had what can be described as a more normal year especially as far as the accounts are concerned. Lessons learnt during COVID were continued and more use of bank transfers both in and out of account have been utilised. This seems to have worked well and will be continued.

From the accounts you will see that we made a surplus of £530.11 overall, however engraving of the trophies has still to be accounted for and will amount to approximately £60.00 although the previous year's engraving was taken into into account in this set of accounts. We also had a refund of the Scottish Pairs fee of £120 from the previous season.

I have now taken into account the badges purchase in 2021-2022 as well as those left over previously and this has now been attributed to stock amounting t\$459.24 at the end of the year. The member's subscriptions were raised from £4 to £6 a last year's AGM in view of the cost of the incoming USA tour and this is reflected in the accounts (there was an overpayment which was refunded hence the income and expenditure entry).

There was a slight decrease in members and therefore the subscriptions reflect this. From the additional page submitted the subscriptions can be seen by club. In addition, the various financial outcomes of the competitions has been reviewed, with the Pairs, Knockout and Waldie Griffith competitions breaking even, and the Bonspiel making a profit of£ 16 overall.

In the case of the incoming USA tour the five members of East Lothian Province who took part contributed £50 each which covered their ice and dinner costs. The Province covered the visitor's costs including gifts etc.

Overall the accounts are in a good position for another year with total funds of £5,299.88 at the end of March 2023.

I commend these accounts to you and I am pleased to recommend that subject to agreement subscriptions remain at the same level for the next season. Proposed by Walter Scott. Seconded by John Trotter.

Reports from Clubs

The only report received was from the President of East Linton CC, which has been put onto the Province website for information.

Appointment of Office Bearers

President - On the retiral of Walter Scott, Morgan Nicoll will become President.

Vice President - To be confirmed.

Treasurer - Ian Donald has indicated he will continue in the position for the coming season.

Secretary - John Trotter is retiring after 4 years in office, and a replacement is

currently being sought.

Competitions 2022-23

See the President's report. There was no completion with the Borders clubs due to their difficulties with Kelso Ice Rink.

Archivist's Report

David Affleck gave us an interesting update on his progress to date in preparing a history of East Lothian and Haddingtonshire curling, which has taken him over 4 years to research and is now nearly complete.

He has also discovered that the reverend Carlyle records a game of curling on Drummore Estate in 1739, presumably winters being colder then!

He also informed us that this the fifth time our Province has won the Waldie Griffith since its inception.

Proposed Registration of Paid-up Province Members

It has been proposed that member clubs of EL Province should submit an list of their paid up members of the Province to its secretary at the beginning of each season.

After a lengthy discussion, the President put the vote on the proposal to the floor, where it was carried by 9 votes to 5. A form will be sent out to Club secretaries this coming season for completion and return.

AOB

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.54 pm.

- **Midlothian Province report 2022-23**

At the 2022 RCCC AGM, it was confirmed that Midlothian Province had won the Waldie-Griffith Inter Province Cup for the third competition in a row, as we believed we had at the time of the 2022 Province AGM.

2022-23 Season

In Stray Dogs' absence, Barbarians represented Midlothian Province at the Scottish Province Championships.

In the Midlothian Province League Div 1, Stray Dogs won the Salver by finishing top of the league and beat 37 Club in the play-off final, thereby qualifying for next season's Scottish Province Championships.

The MPL Div 2 play-off was won by Midcalder over Corstorphine. The Div 3 play-off was won by Penicuik over Clydesdale Bank.

The Midlothian Province Bonspiel was won by Carrington with +8 $\frac{2}{3}$ shots, ahead of Barbarians on +7. Edinburgh Ladies won the Colin Black Trophy with +14 shots.

The KG IV Trophy was won by Merchiston over SIAE.

Our Waldie-Griffith Inter Province Cup match against Ayrshire Province was cancelled at short notice due to our opposition not being able to raise four teams. We tried to reschedule but they were not interested. That brings our winning streak to an end.

Border Province was also short of a few teams for our agreed Pate Trophy date but we were able to rearrange three games, meaning that the full seven took place over a couple of visits to Murrayfield. President's rink, DAFS, Penicuik, SIAE, Clydesdale Bank, Corstorphine Ladies and Merchiston ably represented us and won 60-40 overall.

Midlothian took part in the Edinburgh Area Bonspiel, inviting entries from the whole Province membership as usual. Winning with a combined +29 shots from six 4-end games was quite an achievement!

Midlothian Province sponsored the ECC Monday League, with prizes going to first (Jill Florence), second (Joan Simpson) and third (Barbara Watt).

The USA Men's Tour ended in Edinburgh in January. Midlothian Province contributed three full teams out of the five who played plus a couple of Edinburgh Area reps. Everyone who wanted to play was accommodated. Although our score was reflective of the tour as a whole (USA winning), a good time was enjoyed and four of our visitors can say that they lost to the soon-to-become World Champion skip!

- **Peeblesshire**

At the A.G.M. of May 2022, Douglas Mackenzie, Peeblesshire President, welcomed representatives from the Province clubs to the meeting at the Tontine Hotel, Peebles. Most Clubs were represented, including Peebles Ladies, who informed us that they would no longer be entering a rink into the Province games, as Thursday evening ice did not suit them, as their games were on a Thursday morning. This had not been a problem before the Covid hiatus, when Province games were held on a Tuesday.

It was agreed that we would continue with last year's reduced format of one rink from the five remaining Province clubs, plus a President's rink making 6 rinks for 3 sheets of ice. There followed a discussion relating to the more well supported clubs, who wished to return to a 2 rink per club format as before, and as a compromise, it was agreed to open up the two bonspiel games to two extra rinks. Four sheets of ice to be booked for these two games.

There was concern expressed at the A.G.M. about the lack of proposed facilities, particularly catering, for the coming season at Murrayfield. Further, the cost of being a member of Murrayfield had increased, and it seemed a lot of money to pay for being allowed to use the poor changing facilities.

Sadly, our fears were realised during this past season, and what had been over many seasons, a friendly outing to 'the curling' with a meal afterwards, became just a game of curling with no socialising before or afterwards. As many of the attending players travel at least an hour each way to get to Murrayfield, it was wondered how long this situation could continue before people found either something else to do, or somewhere else to play.

Peebles won the Paterson Rosebowl trophy as winners of the League and treated us to some generous hospitality at our annual supper and presentation of prizes after the final game in February.

7. Report on ongoing renovation and improvement of Murrayfield Curling Rink

Sean Murphy reported that demolition and building work has already started in the rink. The club room extension is going ahead and the target completion date is 28th August. At the time of the meeting, the rink was due to open in the first week in September (NB the rink's opening date has been put back to the beginning of October 2023)

8. Appointment of Secretary of the Edinburgh Area Committee

There were no volunteers from the floor and Robin Copland confirmed that he would carry on in the role until one is found.

9. Any Other Competent Business

- Olympic Medal Centenary Celebration

Ian Keron reported that planning was going ahead to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WK Jackson's Gold Medal at the 1924 Olympic Games. He confirmed that members of the wider Jackson family were closely involved in the planning of the event, which will include curling and a celebratory dinner. Our current Olympic medallists will be invited. Dates yet to be advised.

- ECC Temporary Office Relocation

Ian Keron advised that the ECC office has temporarily relocated to the RCCC office at Cairnie House, Ingliston. The usual telephone landline is still operational.

- Costs for Edinburgh Area Curlers playing against Incoming Tourists

Robin Copland commented on the relatively high cost per Scottish curler playing in the Herries Maxwell games against the USA, or indeed any incoming tourist team. It was confirmed that half the costs were covered by the Provinces. It was reported that Midlothian Province collects a 50p levy on all province competitions expressly for that purpose.

- Outgoing Tour Sponsorship

Niall Gunn raised the issue of outgoing tour costs and wondered if sponsorship could be sought in return for naming rights or the like.

The meeting closed at 20.30 and Niall Gunn proposed a vote of thanks to the chair.