



Edinburgh Area Committee of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club

Area Representative and Chairman:

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Area Representative:

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EDINBURGH AREA 8 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES Edinburgh Curling Club Murrayfield Tuesday 26th April 2022

1. 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), John Trotter, Ian Donald, Ken Burchell, Walter Scott, Isobel Edwards

2. In Memoriam

Unfortunately, no list was prepared for the meeting

3. Minutes of the AGM of 2019 and matters arising

As the meeting took place in 2019, the minutes were taken as read with no relevant action points arising

4. Election of one Area Representative to serve for the term 2022-2025

There were no volunteers to take up this role. Trevor Dodds volunteered to serve on the ASC until a replacement representative could be found.

5. a. Structure Review update

A note from Carrington Curling Club concerning the Structure Review and other related matters (see appendix one) was read to the meeting by Alison Dick, on behalf of Carrington Curling Club. A discussion followed centred around problems of communication between the board of Scottish Curling and the grass roots membership at large.

Catherine Dodds thanked Alison Dick for the reading the note from Carrington Curling Club. She suggested that the board probably thought that they had communicated but that they had not. She found the whole thing shocking.

Ruth Addinall asked the two members of the ASC how they were going to improve communication from the ASC and the general membership in Edinburgh. Trevor Dodds confirmed that regular advertised meetings would take place next season – possibly virtually.

Robin Copland undertook to circulate the note around the club secretaries within the Edinburgh Area as well as board members of Scottish Curling.

b. Area Bonspiel report

Ian Keron confirmed that the bonspiel was won by teams representing the RCCC. Team members were Susan Kesley, Basil Baird, Jim Wyllie and Robin Copland, Ian Keron, Andrew Somerville, Harry Brodie (Trevor Dodds was absent due to exposure to the Covid virus). The draw shot challenge was won by Kim Dalland, who was delighted as she had only taken the game up two years previously. Once Robin Copland had been reminded that he had, in fact, both taken part in and won the competition, he reported that it had been a splendid day.

c. Major Successes

Trevor Dodds reported on the following successes in the previous two curling seasons.

2020-21

- Bruce Mouat skipped the Scotland team to Silver Medals in the World Championships and followed that up with two victories in Grand Slam tournaments in Canada.
- Bruce Mouat and Jennifer Dodds were the first Scottish Gold Medallists in the World Mixed Doubles Championships.

2021-22

- Jennifer Dodds won a Gold Medal at the Winter Olympic Games, a Gold Medal at the European Curling Championships and also won the Olympic Qualifying Competition
- Bruce Mouat won two Grand Slam tournaments in Canada, a Silver Medal at the Winter Olympic Games and a Gold Medal at the European Curling Championships
- The Stray Dogs Curling Club, represented by Colin Dick, Paul Stevenson, John Penny, Alasdair Seftor and Quentin Russell won the Rink Championship
- Robin Copland, Trevor Dodds and Mike Dick won Silver Medals in the Scottish Masters Championship
- Susan Kesley, Fran Stretton, Vicky Gumley and Morna Aitken won Silver Medals in the Scottish Senior Women Curling Championships.
- Midlothian Province won the Waldie Griffiths Inter-Province competition (to be confirmed) with an average winning score of 5.25 over Forth and Endrick Province
- Liz Sharp, Judith White, Carol Fleming and Jeni Fleming won the Cherrystone Trophy, playing as Murrayfield 2

6. Reports by Province Presidents

a. Midlothian

b. East Lothian

c. Peeblesshire

The President welcomed those attending the A.G.M. at the Tontine Hotel, Peebles. He noted that this year we had representatives from all Province Clubs attending.

He congratulated Peebles on their 'clean sweep' of the Paterson Rosebowl, our league competition, and also for winning the Dunlop Quaich for highest up rink on the last round of matches. He noted that they could only come second, as beaten finalists, in the Mendick Trophy, which is our knock out competition. The winners were Broughton, the President's home Club. Other Mixed Bonspiel trophies were won by Newlands and Eddleston.

The Pairs competition was not played for this year, as it was felt at the last A.G.M. that this was too soon after the Covid hiatus.

The reduced number of rinks agreed at the last A.G.M. worked well with 6 rinks competing rather than the previous twelve. This meant that we were using 3 sheets of ice instead of the previous 6. Only two Clubs were keen to change back to the larger format: West Linton and Eddleston. Broughton's second rink is playing as President's, Peebles Ladies do not want to play on Thursday evenings, as they play earlier in the day, and Newlands and Peebles would struggle to find 8 players to field at any one time, particularly on weekday evenings. It was agreed to open the bonspiels and Mendick Trophy games up to more than one rink per Club, as these games could be played at the weekends.

The President said that he had attended the A.G.M. of another club, who played at the Lanarkshire Ice Rink at Hamilton, and that they had been told by the Directors that the cost of the Ice would likely go up by 30% to 40% in September due to the runaway cost of electricity. They had not their contract yet and were holding off in case prices started to ease. The secretary said that he had not had any communication from Murrayfield yet. The President felt that we should not reduce our Ice allocation any further for the coming season, except that of not playing the Pairs which is too costly to play unless it is sponsored. The meeting agreed to ask

around during the summer for sponsorship, and if it was found, then the Pairs could be slotted in on a Sunday, as there was sure to be Ice available.

The President noted that he, personally feared for the future of Murrayfield Curling due to the ongoing difficulties between the parties involved. The Secretary noted that the bar and restaurant would have to move from its present position onto the cantilever structure over the Ice by Christmas. If the space was not ready, then there would be no socialising before or after the games. The meeting felt that this was not what Club Curling is all about. The President felt that some regular communication from Murrayfield over the next 6 months was essential.

7. Report on behalf of Edinburgh Curling School

ECS disbanded at the start of the Covid pandemic and administration of the coaching programme in Edinburgh was taken over the Edinburgh Curling Club.

After a relatively quiet first half of the season 2021-22 for try curlers and beginners, the season exploded into life with hundreds of folks wanting to try curling following on from the Olympic coverage and success. During this period, the number of group bookings went through the roof.

At the time of the Olympics many of the coaches and staff along with President Sean were inundated with requests for TV, Radio and zoom interviews. Naturally this all took a huge amount of organising and thanks must go to all that gave up their time on many occasions sometimes arriving at Curl Edinburgh at 5.00 am to accommodate these Breakfast show requests. Many juniors participated in these events and thanks should go to them and their parents for bringing them to the rink early in the mornings.

Looking forward we now have many new curlers that have joined the New Stones virtual club and many folks wanting to Try Curling in the new season.

Finally, we have coaches at Curl Edinburgh, but we always need more. If anybody wants to know what is involved in becoming a coach, please feel free to speak to any of the staff or Paul Davis. Thanks to Andy for some of the statistics below.

Paul Davis

Key Statistics

Try Curling		Spaces	Reservations	Showed up
Sep – Dec		112	107	86
Jan – Apr		264	289	243
Total		376	396	329

Beginner	Courses	Spaces	Reservations	Showed up
Sep – Dec	3	24	15	9
Jan – Apr	5	48	50	47
Total	8	72	65	56

New Stones	Sessions	Spaces	Reservations	Showed up
Sep – Dec	13	128	76	65
Jan – Apr	28	228	238	186
Total	41	356	314	251

Graeme Maguire asked for volunteers to help with the coaching effort. He confirmed that volunteers need not be qualified as coached to help out collecting stones, holding the brush, etc..

Stuart Dodds asked if the coaches were paid for their work and it was confirmed from the floor that they were.

8. Report on behalf of the Wheelchair Curling Club

We are a small informal club of 12 wheelchair curlers plus 4 helpers.

The wheelchair curlers range from beginners to Paralympians and we welcome all levels of wheelchair players. The curlers come from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Fife and the Borders.

We do not have any formal coaches but our president, Tom Killin, has played and coached for Scotland. He is always willing to pass on advice to other members.

We play informal games for enjoyment most Fridays.

This season, two of our members, Gary Smith and David Melrose, represented Great Britain at the Tokyo Paralympics.

David Hogg, Martin Sutherland and Owen Streeter won the British Open at Stirling.

There was one Try Curling session organised by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, but sadly it was not very successful. Most of our new members come because of "word of mouth".

We have had a very successful and enjoyable season and it was great to back to normal curling after the Covid restrictions. We are always looking for new members and hope to have another great season in 2022/23.

Dave Carr and Jean Lennie

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

I would love to be able to report significant progress, however we have yet to secure the structural consent. Murrayfield Curling Ltd's (MCL) lawyers continue to constructively engage with Murrayfield Ice Rink's (MIR) legal representatives and we remain hopeful (if not confident) of a positive conclusion. Success at this stage looks like a structural consent to proceed.

In the meantime, Murrayfield Curling Ltd (MCL) has re-tendered the work scope. To that end, we will shortly receive an updated tender report from our cost consultant, Doig + Smith. Upon receipt we will re-evaluate the funding requirements and options.

Hopefully more to report in the next 4-6 weeks.

Paul Stevenson

10. 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.

11. Any Other Competent Business

Ian Keron reminded the meeting that there will be a celebration dinner at the rink on 20th May. Spaces were still available at the time of the meeting.