

## ROYAL CALEDONIAN CURLING CLUB

# MORAY PROVINCE

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at the Newton Hotel, Nairn

On Sunday the 17th of February 2019

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| PRESENT | S. Rankin, A Maltman, M Pickthall,  W Jaffrey, S McIver, M Pottie,  A Fraser, W Nicol, M MacDonald,  L Hardie. |  |
| 1. APOLOGIES | M Fraser, M Clark, S Howie,  A Campbell, L Morgan, G Fraser,  M McKenzie, C Buchan, I Manson,  G Macarthur, A Cameron. |  |
| 1. CORRESPONDENCE | Alastair Maltman wrote to the Secretary advising him that he would not be seeking re-election for the post of Treasurer at the 2020 AGM. He hoped that by giving advance warning a replacement could be found in good time. He stated that he would update, if necessary, the Treasurer’s guidelines and suggested that with this period of notice, perhaps a deputy could be appointed at the 2019 AGM. |  |
| 1. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 21st OF OCTOBER 2018 | The Minutes were approved, proposed by Linda Hardie and seconded by Sandra McIver. |  |
| 1. MATTERS ARISING | It was agreed that matters arising would be dealt with under the appropriate agenda item headings. |  |
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| 1. FINANCIAL UPDATE | The Treasurer gave a financial update. Appendix 1  A question was asked about the purchase of prizes. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the present arrangement to present inscribed medals was appropriate and should continue.  In answer to a question, the Treasurer confirmed that a non-specific “war chest” was built into his budgeting arrangements to help meet the cost of extraordinary expenditures such as tours.  In answer to a question about trophy insurance it was confirmed that the Province’s trophies were insured under a joint policy shared by the Province, Elgin and Nairn Curling Clubs. |  |
| 1. MATCH SECRETARIES’ COMPETITIONS PROGRESS REPORTS | Bill Jaffrey gave his report on the East’s competitions and read Moira Clark’s report in her absence.  Appendices 2 & 3 |  |
| 1. MORAY PROVINCE CURLING DEVELOPMENT GROUP REPORT | Stephen, as Convener of the MPCDG, gave his report (Appendix4) and asked that the outstanding work carried out by Sandra McIver and Campbell Ross be noted and thanked both of them as well as the coaches for all their hard work. |  |
| 1. ICE4ALL REPORT | The Secretary read Alan Campbell’s report in his absence.  Appendix 5  The subject of room charges had been satisfactorily settled for the present season. |  |
| 1. PROVINCE TREASURER REPLACEMENT | . A possible candidate was suggested by the Chair who agreed that he would ask him if he would consider replacing Alastair. | SR |
| 1. PROVINCE VICE-PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS | Mark Fraser has this in hand. | MF |
| 1. MPCDG SECRETARY REPLACEMENT | Adrian Firth has agreed to take over as the MPCDG Secretary from Alastair Maltman. |  |
| 1. PROVINCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS | Mike outlined the difficulties which the Province faces trying to engage with the clubs and encourage them to attend and contribute to the bi-annual Committee meetings. He suggested that in their present form, they had possibly passed their useful sell-by-date. Because the clubs no longer nominate representatives to be elected on to the Committee, these meetings were a misnomer and he suggested that they should be re-named. The day-to-day business of the Province is carried out by the Executive Committee. Mike suggested that these meetings should continue to provide progress reports from the office bearers and sub-committees, as well as information about the competitions and any forthcoming events. The more important function should be to provide a forum for the clubs to discuss any proposals or issues which affect their members or the curling programme, as well as suggestions for the Executives about any changes or improvements which they would like to see made. There was general agreement with what was being suggested and after some discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Committee should decide on an appropriate name change to be proposed at the AGM with a view to amending the Constitution. There was further discussion about the appropriate numbers required to make the meetings quorate. It was agreed that the Executive Committee would formulate suitable proposals to put to the AGM. | EXECUTIVE |
| 1. CURLER RECRUITMENT | Recruiting new curlers is an on-going problem. Stephen started the discussion by asking how the Province might encourage people to give curling a try. Suggestions included;   1. Asking ICE4ALL to investigate using available free ice for “Trycurling” and coaching new players. This ice availability would otherwise go unused and receive no revenue. 2. Approaching groups and organisations to give curling a go. 3. Organise a “bring a friend” event in the week prior to the start of the curling programme. | MP/AC |
| 1. PROVINCE DATA PROTECTION POLICY | A Province data protection policy is now in place and a privacy notice has been agreed by the Executive Committee which will eventually be available to view on the Province website. | WN |
| 1. MORAY LEISURE CENTRE WINNERS’ BOARDS | The winners’ boards at MLC are still “work in progress”. Funds to pay for the work are included within the budget. | WJ |
| 1. AOCB | Mike MacDonald explained that on occasions, some clubs were struggling to find subs for their Province games and asked whether the Executive Committee might consider allowing a game to be played without penalty with three players if it was not possible to find a sub. He pointed out that this does happen in Perth and Aberdeen. After discussion, it was agreed that the proposal should be put to the AGM. It was stressed that, if allowed, the dispensation would need to be carefully monitored to ensure that the relaxation was not abused.  Margaret Pottie asked for a letter to be sent to British Curling on behalf of the Province, expressing the unease felt by many members about the decision not to send the winners of the Scottish Ladies Championship to the Worlds. Stephen agreed to compose a letter for Mark Fraser to sign as Province President should the decision be upheld.  Sandra told the meeting that the Inverness Ice Centre AGM was to be held on Monday the 25th of February at 7.00pm and suggested that it might be of particular interest for Province members to attend.  Stephen stated that the Moray Firth Juniors would like to record their appreciation for funding received from the Development Group.  Stephen asked whether there might be any interest in the Province running a handicap competition or a doubles/mixed doubles competition next season and suggested including it as an agenda item for discussion at the AGM. | WJ/MP  SR/MF  WJ/MP |
| 1. DATE OF NEXT MEETING | The next Committee Meeting will be held on Sunday the 20th of October 2019 in Elgin. |  |

There being no further business, Stephen thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

APPENDIX 1

RCCC Moray Province

Treasurer’s Report to Province Meeting on Sunday 17th February 2019.

Funds available to Province are currently £4,970. We are close to the end of the season and there are few items outstanding. It is now unlikely that the new Elgin boards (budget £400) will be completed by the financial year end (31/03/2019) so the above figure should to be close to the year end figure. Can I make a plea – if you have received a cheque from Province or the Development Group can you please present this for payment!

The Development Group balance is currently £5,506.

Looking to the AGM I will make the proposal for all subscriptions and fees to remain unchanged for 2019-20. When competition entries are known in the summer the budget will be reviewed. Speaking of the budget I have worked on the premise that the General Account should have a balance of say £2/3,000. This would ensure that Province could cover all financial commitments but is this what Province wants? What is the correct level of funding?

On a personal note I have advised the Province Executive that it is my intention to stand down as Treasurer at the 2020 AGM, always assuming I am kept on in 2019!

Any questions?

Alastair Maltman, Treasurer

APPENDIX 2

East Match Secretary Report 17th February 2019.  
  
Apart from two outstanding Division 1 games, all competitions are proceeding on schedule. The mixed knockout was won by Andy Cameron. The entry was again disappointing, with only 3 games required in the competition. The Ladies Knockout was won for the 10th time and the 6th consecutive year by Louise Marshall. The final of the open knockout will be played between Steven Rankin and Larry Kerr on 26th February in Elgin.  
In the Province League, despite the relaxing of rules on substitutes, there have been 3 incidences of teams playing ineligible players. There was no suggestion of teams seeking unfair advantage, but rather, this was further reflection of the difficulties clubs now have in finding substitute players in a climate of shrinking club membership. All 3 offending teams lost the matches in question, but following discussion with the Province Executive and all the skips involved, the games were scored at 6-0, 5 end losses as required by the Province Rules.  
The Mixed Pairs will be played on Wednesday 20th March and the Province Points will be played on Wednesday 27th March.  
  
Bill Jaffrey

APPENDIX 3

Match Secretary West Report 17 Feb 2019

There are two rounds of fixtures left in Divisions 1 and 2, whilst Division 3 who have 7 teams have an additional round to play and so their season will finish a week later in March. Ally Fraser’s rink is top of Division 1 but have not yet regained their title although one more win will secure this. The relegation battle continues with much to be decided in the remaining matches.

James Greenwood’s rink are top of Division2 but second placed Jamie Cattell has a couple of matches in hand so the title race is not over yet. Similarly relegation is far from decided with all still to play for.

Division 3 is the only league which already has its title winners for this year. Bob Pottie’s Nairn rink are the only team throughout Moray Province West not to have dropped a point all season and cannot be overtaken so are the Division 3 champions. Who will be joining them in Division 2 is still to be decided.

The Tamnavulin trophy was played in Perth this year and Moray Province were represented by Elgin Curling Club. It was also Elgin, skipped by Kenny Oswald, who represented Moray in the Province championships in November.

The recent Scottish Curling Championships saw three Moray Province curlers involved, Eilidh Yeats, Amy MacDonald and Blair Fraser. Molly Keen played in the Scottish Junior Championships for Team Amy Bryce who were runners up so many congratulations to Molly on that great achievement. The Rinks Championships will be played in Forfar in a couple of weeks and Inverness will be represented by the Nairn rink of Dean Clark, Ally Fraser, Callum Greenwood and Mike McInnes so good luck to them.

APPENDIX 4

Moray Province Curling Development Group Report 17 Feb 2019

MPCDG continue to coach the Junior Club, Schools and Adults and good numbers are attending on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Junior Club has around 35 juniors with about 12 school children coming to MJCC from Curling's Cool for coaching with the potential of joining the Club.

Skills Awards are all but complete and although we have no gold awards this year, we have a number of Bronze and Silver plus heaps of Red, White and Blue.  
Junior members showing good progress include Molly Keen, once again runner up in the Scottish Junior Curling Championships and Georgia Clarke playing in her first ever finals.  
Jacob Holder and Jamie Rankin continue to play in the Scottish Slams.

Elgin Academy are sending a strong rink to the Scottish Curling Schools Championships in the middle of March.   
There is great potential within this Club as a number of very young members are now being coached on a Monday night to increase their curling abilities.

The try curling sessions continue on the last Tuesday if each month, with the last one at the end if February. We continue to get small numbers of people joining us and this is followed up by the 4 week beginner sessions. We average about 10 people coming along on a Tuesday evening and this will culminate with a game on Tuesday 16th March with a game with club curlers. The Virtual Club has entered a rink in the Macallan Bonspiel.

There is also a Wheelchair section to Moray Virtual Club and this meets a 2pm on Tuesday afternoon. The nucleus of this group has come from a try curling session with MS Moray. This group averages 12 people attending each week, 8 in wheelchairs, 3 cue curlers and 1 mainstream curlers and this group are looking at joining Division 4 of the East Province next season.

Curling's Cool is almost completed for the season with 5 Primary Schools and 1 secondary School taking part. This year MPCDG experimented with doing Curling's Cool in a whole day and this proved successful, reducing transport costs but some schools do prefer the 4 x 1 hour sessions. The Curling's Cool Bonspeil is on 6 March.

2 people attended the Scottish Curling level 1 training in Inverness at the beginning of February it we are always needing more helpers and assistant coaches, particularly as some of the Schools are sending up to 28 children to Curling's Cool., however, none of the above would be possible without the dedicated band of coaches, on whom more demands are being placed by various regulations. These regulations are not going away, so we must just continue to deal with them.

Sandra McIver

MPCDG welcome anyone who wish to assist in any way possible with coaching. Contact Sandy Howie on 07907 593829 or email [sandyhowie68@gmail.com](mailto:sandyhowie68@gmail.com)

APPENDIX 5

ICE4ALL REPORT

Mon 04/02/2019

EVENING ALL.

I am pleased to advise that after a couple of months of "inactivity", primarily due to the difficulty of getting the committee together, we were able to reconvene and restart meetings last month and indeed have another scheduled for February.   
While there is nothing of a concrete nature to report or update the Province Committee on, I can assure you we do have a robust agenda with all user groups pretty much aligned on the to do or discuss list.   
A number of projects, from a bespoke female changing room, upgrading of current changing rooms, ice rink seating to catering/vending machines, and day to day running of the rink are robustly debated.   
Money, of course, is a key factor in bringing some of these forward, so there is significant focus on how best to generate income for the group.   
It is hoped that we may be able to come back in a positive way on this one later in the year.   
Sorry, it may appear not much is happening but be assured we continue to work away behind the scenes, all be it a little more quietly than perhaps we would wish.   
One last point, I did raise a query at the last meeting on room charges which was raised by a club through the Province Secretary; I am sure Mike can update you on the feedback.

THANKS.

Alan Campbell

Moray Province ICE4ALL Representative