

## **ROYAL CALEDONIAN CURLING CLUB**

# MORAY PROVINCE

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held at the Benromach Distillery, Forres**

**On Sunday the 27th of October 2019**

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| **PRESENT** | S Rankin, M McInnes, M Pickthall,  A Maltman, W Jaffrey, S MacIver,  M Pottie, A Cruickshank, G Macarthur, W Nicol, A Baker, D Duff, G Fraser,  R Pottie. |  |
| 1. **APOLOGIES** | A Campbell,A Stanfield, J Rankin,  J Rankin, M Clark, W Kerr, W Ross,  W Cameron, G Kennedy, L Morgan,  I Manson, A Munro |  |
| 1. **CORRESPONDENCE** | No correspondence. |  |
| 1. **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE NEWTON HOTEL, NAIRN ON SUNDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2019** | The Minutes of the previous Meeting were approved. |  |
| 1. **MATTERS ARISING** | In answer to a question, the Secretary assured the Meeting that the Province had Data Protection procedures in place and adhered to them; the Privacy notice should be available to view on the Province website.  Bill Jaffrey informed those present that new winners’ boards had been purchased and work was in hand to get them updated before the next season.  A new Treasurer will replace Alastair at the AGM.  The utilisation of free ice availability at Moray Leisure Centre for Try Curling and coaching has received a favourable response from the Leisure Centre management.  The trial of the Three Player Rule is in force and will be evaluated by the Executive Committee at the end of the current season. It was decided that the rule should be updated to include the requirement for the 3 rink skip to declare that he was playing 3 players prior to the start of play. |  |
| 1. **FINANCIAL UPDATE** | The Treasurer updated the meeting on the financial state of the Province; his report is at Appendix 1. |  |
| 1. **MATCH SECRETARIES’ REPORTS** | The Match Secretary East gave his report; Appendix 2. As there is no Match Secretary in place for the West, no report was available. |  |
| 1. **INDOOR GRAND MATCH 2020** | The Indoor Grand Match is scheduled to take place on Saturday the 24th of November **Confirmed as October** 2020. The expectation is that the Province will host the Grand Match and Moray Leisure Centre has already agreed to hold the event. It is hoped that Scottish Curling will provide funding along similar lines to previous years; this would amount to approximately £24/curler to help cover the cost of the ice and the food. Sponsorship will be sought for the stacking of the brooms. Teams will be asked to state a preference to play at home or away and it is expected that entertainment would be arranged in the evening. An organising committee will need to be established; three members it was thought should be sufficient to carry out the tasks. | **B.N agreed with M.P.** |
| 1. **MORAY PROVINCE CURLING DEVELOPMENT GROUP REPORT** | Stephen, as Convenor of the Development Group, gave his report. Appendix 3. |  |

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|  | Alan Campbell informed the Secretary that no meetings of the ICE4ALL Committee had been held for some time, so there was nothing new to report. |  |
| 1. **AREA 13 PRESIDENT’S REPORT** | The Area 13 President’s Report had been circulated previously with the Meeting Agenda. Appendix 4. |  |
| 1. **APPOINTMENT OF A MATCH SECRETARY WEST** | A volunteer to carry out the duties of Match Secretary for the West has still not come forward, despite the best efforts of both the President and Vice-President. As a result, no match results from the West have been forwarded to the Website. The score cards need to be collected for scrutiny and the results posted on the Province website. Various suggestions were made to try to get round the problem in the short term. Stephen agreed to make further individual approaches in an effort to find a volunteer. | **SR** |
| 1. **FUTURE STRUCTURE OF THE PROVINCE COMMITTEE** | The Secretary read out his Province Committee Membership and Structure Consultation Paper, which he had circulated previously, outlining the reasons for replacing the current Committee structure with a “Club Members’ Meeting” and explained the changes being proposed. A vigorous discussion ensued, with some of the rationale being questioned and alternatives suggested. The Secretary explained that there will be a further opportunity to discuss these proposals at the February Committee Meeting before being put to a vote at the AGM. The Secretary agreed to circulate the document again with the Minutes. | **MP** |
| 1. **PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGES** | The Secretary explained that the proposed changes to the Province Constitution were designed to meet two objectives, namely to update the document in line with current Scottish Curling/ RCCC policy and to meet the requirements necessary to change the Committee Meetings to Club Members’ Meetings and introduce one member one vote. There will be a further opportunity to discuss the proposed changes at the February Committee Meeting before being voted on at the AGM. The Secretary agreed to circulate the proposed changes to the Constitution with the Minutes. | **MP** |
| 1. **AOCB** | Sandra MacIver informed the Meeting about the Scottish Curling Open Meetings Road Show which she will be attending at Curl Aberdeen on the 14th of November. If anyone would like to accompany her she would be happy to car share. The Secretary undertook to circulate the RCCC email.  The forthcoming Canadian Ladies’ Tour is due to take place in November 2020. Moray Firth and Nairn Ladies, it is hoped, will provide the opposition when the tour is in Elgin; they will be looking for financial support in the form of a grant from the Province.  The outgoing Ladies American Tour still has 3 vacancies should anyone wish to apply to take part in the 23 day tour. There was a feeling that 23 days was too long and feed-back on the matter would be welcome by Scottish Curling.  Mike McInnes was asked if he could, in future, provide a short Inverness Development Group report for the Province meetings; he agreed to do so.  Mike McInnes reminded everyone that the “Skins Competition” would be taking place in Inverness during the 1st weekend in November and invited people to come along and enjoy watching a great weekend of curling.  Stephen reminded everyone that recruiting new curlers to the sport was a priority and asked that everyone do as much as possible to increase curler numbers. | **MP**  **AM**  **MM** |
| 1. **DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING** | The next Committee Meeting will take place at the Benromach Distillery on Sunday the 23rd of February 2020 |  |

Stephen thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

M A Pickthall

Province Secretary

**APPENDIX 1**

**Moray Province Treasurer’s Report 27th October 2019**

Current Balances – General £6,320.91 and Development £5,895.21

95% of Subscriptions, Fees & levy have been received. One payment due and I know it will be received shortly.

The balance is usually high at this time, most of the expenditure comes in second half of season. The prediction for the year end is in the region of £4,300/4,400.

Membership now stands at 261 (6% down on last season). I’ll continue to monitor the financial position and will provide an update in February so that any proposals to amend fees & subscriptions can be fully discussed and agreed prior to the AGM.

Alastair Maltman, Treasurer



**APPENDIX 2**

**Match Secretary East Report 27 October 2019.**

All the Province Divisions are underway, with the 8 team Division 4 having completed 3 rounds. Of note here is the enthusiasm of the team playing under the banner of the Virtual Club, who despite heavy losses, have been chuffed at winning 3 ends thus far.

We will shortly have had 3 instances of the “3 player rule”.

In one, I have been asked in advance and given an explanation which certainly fits the “exceptional circumstances “criterion. In a West game, the full 4 player loser of the game against 3 was happy to have had a good, close game and was happy to have played, rather than have the game conceded. In the third, the game was played without any consultation with me.

In another West game, following the arrival of a fourth player beyond the 30 minute deadline, and which was started on time with 3 players, the Province Executive found in favour of the 4 team complainant and awarded the game to his team 6-0 and 5 ends.

To date, we still have no West match secretary and I have seen no West scorecards. This is a serious concern.

We had a very successful introduction to doubles night, kindly resourced by Harold Forrester, Cameron Clark and Mike Macinnes and there will be a further doubles night in early November.

Bill Jaffrey

**APPENDIX 3.**

**Moray Province Curling Development Group Report**

**27 OCT 2019**

The 1st trycurling event was held on Tuesday 1 October 2019 and we had 8 attend. 2 at the 2pm session and 6 at the 5.15pm session. We gave had 4 come back for the 1st beginner's session and it is expected they will come back next week. In conjunction with Junior Club we had 3 parents' nights when parents could come onto the ice and trycurling.

We have had 15 Alves Primary School pupils for Curling's Cool and there were children taking part that we have encouraged to join the Junior Club. We are expecting Rothes Primary to Curling's Cool next week and they are a new school to us. Mosstowie, Gordonstoun and Bishopmill are all due to return before Christmas and we have an enquiry from Dallas Primary. It is many years since they have come to Curling's Cool. Molly Keen started with Dallas. After Christmas we are expecting Mosstodloch and Lhanbryde.

We were asked by Elgin Academy head of PE to consider offering Curling's Cool as an After School Activity. With the support of our Junior Club accrediting Level 1 coaches Sandra MacIver will be leading this.

There was a RCCC Level 2 coaches course held in Elgin and we had 3 Moray Province coaches attend.

Virtual Club numbers remain steady with 6 or 7 attending the 2pm session and a similar number attending the 5.15pm session each Tuesday. There remains a desperate need for more Level 1 coaches.

The Development Group continue to provide coaches to the Junior Club on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout September to March and would provide coaching to any other club if asked.

**APPENDIX 4.**

**AREA 13 SENIOR REP’S REPORT 12 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Welcome, and, to ensure Keith,Richard and myself can contact the correct people in each Province, please let us details of the appropriate names and email addresses.

Our junior rep, Allan Maclennan, has now moved to Edinburgh and has indicated he feels it would be more appropriate if we appointed a new rep. As this is my last year on the ASC it is important we look to finding reps to take over. I’ll come back to this.

One of the main reasons for tonight’s meeting is to push for more entries for the Area’s 4 bonspiels and, no doubt, Richard will have more to say on this.

The Tamnavulin is due to be held here on the 4th February. I have been trying to contact Tamnavulin to see if they would consider sponsoring the competition as they used to do. Their parent company is Whyte & Mackay and for a few years after they stopped selling the whisky as a single malt they continued to supply prizes. Now that it is being sold again as a single malt I am hoping they will become involved again. They eventually responded; they were unaware of the competition but were interested to find out about it. They said they will get back to me, presumably it has to go to W & H for approval.

The indoor Grand Match is due to be held on 24 October 2020. The 2015 Match in Inverness was rated highly by those who played here. We need to be sure next year’s is as good if not better.

The new RCCC President is Brian McArtney who curls in Forfar.

There is currently a Structure Review being undertaken of Scottish Curling and this has been discussed at ASC meetings on 11 April and 1 May and at a joint meeting with Ladies Branch on 4 June. Little progress seems to have been made; Ladies Branch want 3 Vice Presidents, one male, one female and one other. The ASC want to look at the whole structure and try to make any changes all at the same time. There is a view that we merge the LSC and the ASC and this seems to have a lot of support in the ASC. Since the formation of the RCCC in 1838 all the Presidents have been male. At present the current President nominates his successor and this is rarely challenged.

The President has a seat on the Board. While the President of the Ladies Branch attends only as an observer.

The President should be the best person for the job. It should be noted Kate Caithness is now in her 3rd term of 4 years as President of the WCF.

In order to find out what the members think there will be open meetings held throughout the country.

Myself and Allan attended the meeting held on 27 August in Edinburgh when one of the main topics discussed was the plan to appoint 3 regional development officers and pay to each rink a sum of £1000 annually. At present the development officers at some rinks are part funded by RCCC while others receive no funding. Anna Sloan, who was for many years 3rd to Eve Muirhead, retired from competitive curling about a year ago and took on the post of development officer at Lockerbie but, as this was only for 3 days a week, she has resigned and is going into nursing.

Other topics included mention of another Curlfest; it sounds as if they will look to the rinks to organise their own thing.

Murrayfield ice rink has now been refurbished, the floor done last year and insulation and a lift installed this summer. They have purchased new stones.

I left before the end of the meeting to get my train; at that point the meeting had been running for almost 3 hours; far too long.

Ian Mackay