

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West of Fife Curling Province on
17 April 2013 in the Lounge, Fife Ice Arena at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:

Helen Gordon	Aberdour	Ann McLanaghan	Dalgety Bay
Dorothy Browse	Aberdour	Alastair Noble	Dunfermline
Elinor Ritchie	Bank of Scotland	Bob Smith	Inverkeithing
Tom Bolan	Bank of Scotland	Colin Campbell	Inverkeithing
Bill Linton	Bank of Scotland/Boreland	Phil Barton	Inverkeithing
Brian Duncan	Boreland	Bob Tait	Inverkeithing/Boreland
Mike Caffyn	Boreland	Bill Creevy	Kirkcaldy Curling School
Robin Park	Boreland/Dunfermline	Euan Fraser	Raith & Abbotshall
Mike Hudspeth	Dalgety Bay	Iain Brown	Raith & Abbotshall
Karen Gibb	Dalgety Bay	Beth Webster	Raith & Abbotshall Ladies

(20)

President Robin welcomed the representatives of the Clubs in attendance and called for any apologies for absence to be intimated.

1. Apologies:

Wendy Smith, Bank of Scotland, Anne Mitchell, Raith and Abbotshall Ladies, Harry Mitchell, Raith and Abbotshall, Bill Rennie, Boreland, Liz Smith, Dunfermline Ladies

2. Minutes of last AGM

The President asked if the Minute of the previous year's AGM could be taken as read, asking for it to be approved and seconded.

Adoption proposed by Bill Linton and seconded by Iain Brown. The minutes were duly approved. Thereafter the President and Secretary signed the Minute.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. President's Remarks

Robin thanked the clubs for attending and for their support over the seasons.

The league this season consisted of only 8 teams out of 12 in the Province. This was boosted to 13 with the formalising of Fife Ice Arena After School Club affiliating to RCCC through our Province. All our competitions, the results of which will be detailed later, were again contested in the customary competitive and sporting manner.

West of Fife Province won the Inter Province Bonspiel and Robin thanked the clubs of Bank of Scotland, Dunfermline Ladies and Inverkeithing. The annual match against East Fife in the Zermatt Trophy was won by West Fife so well done to the Clubs involved. In the Waldie Griffiths against East Lothian at Fife Ice Arena West of Fife lost. Robin remarked that it was some time since this magnificent Trophy graced West of Fife Province tables. He was also of the view that the Province continues to provide a competitive opportunity for all club curlers to expand their capabilities and meet new curlers and that Areas and Provinces should continue to organise these competitions.

Last year Robin congratulated the members of West Fife Clubs who were selected to represent Scotland in the Royal Club Tour of Canada. As those present would be aware the Strathcona Cup was duly won in some style and well done to Willie Nicol, Bank of Scotland (Fife), Ian Borland Dunfermline and Phil Barton, Inverkeithing.

With regard to the Kinross Curling Trust it was good to see it making progress with regard to preserving curling in Kinross. Working Groups have been set up with volunteers offering their particular areas of expertise. This in Robin's view was a major step forward. There remains much to be done and the existing funding gap needs filled by end June so he appealed to all members to dig deep into their pockets and make a financial pledge and persuade their fellow curlers to do the same.

Robin expressed his thanks over the last 2 years to the committee members for their assistance and to Secretary/treasurer Colin Campbell for his diligent work. He congratulated Colin, in particular, for his efforts in populating our web site and keeping it up to date and was confident the Province would continue to go from strength to strength.

5. Season's Results and Presentation of Trophies

The Secretary gave the results of the various competitions the Province had organised or taken part in throughout the season.

- **Dunfermline** represented the Province at **The Scottish Province Championship:**

They won 2 games out of 4 but did not progress from the section.

- **North v South Fife Bonspiel:**

The North had 74 shots to the South's 136, meaning the South won by 62 shots.

Winning teams were: -

Highest up club on winning side was Dunfermline with plus 20 shots over 2 games.

Highest up rink was also Dunfermline 1 with plus 14 shots.

Second highest up club was Bank of Scotland 2 with plus 12 shots

Highest up rink on the losing side was Thornton with plus 5 shots.

- **Fife & Kinross v Perth Bonspiel.**

Fife & Kinross won by 37 shots with Falkland being the highest up rink on the winning side plus 12 shots. Dunkeld was highest up rink on the losing side also with plus 12 shots.

- **Inter-Province Bonspiel.** West of Fife was the winning Province with +20.

- **Inter-Province League.** This competition was won by West of Fife who won 72.2% of their games. Inverkeithing were highest up at +9 and so received the Ronald Paterson trophy at the Area 7 AGM on 15 April on behalf of the Province.

- In the **Zermatt** competition versus East of Fife Province on 12 January, West of Fife succeeded this year by 12 shots. Highest up rink for West Fife was Raith and Abbotshall + 12 shots.

- **George Sinclair.** Winners were Dunfermline with +12 shots and second equal were Boreland and R+A Ladies with +10.

- In the **Waldie Griffiths** fixture against East Lothian Province, East Lothian won by only 7 shots averaging +1.75. Thanks go to the clubs of Aberdour, Dunfermline Ladies, Raith and Abbotshall and Raith and Abbotshall Ladies who participated. The committee will continue to select with priority being given to those balloted out in the previous season.

Moving on to the domestic scene, the Secretary reported that: -

- **Bank of Scotland** returned to the top of the pile in the **Province League** with 12 points. **Dunfermline** finished runners up on 11 points. In third place was Aberdour with 10 points. It was again a very closely contested competition. The trophy was presented to Elinor Ritchie.

- **The Mixed Knock-out** final was contested between **Dunfermline 2 & Inverkeithing 1**. The **Dunfermline** rink of M. Silvera, D. Thompson, A. Noble and S. Rennie won by 9 shots. The trophy and glasses were taken by Alastair Noble.
- The **Ladies' Knock-out** competition was competed for again this season with 4 teams entering. The result was that **Aberdour** beat **Raith and Abbotshall Ladies 2** by 3 shots. The winning rink was T. Petrie, D. Browse, A. Mitchell and I. Aitken. The trophy was presented to Dorothy Browse.
- A good turnout was in evidence for the **Province Bonspiel** with the undisputed winning club being **Bank of Scotland** which won 18 shots up. The Province Medal was presented to Tom Bolan.
- Last but not least, the **Province Pairs** competition was contested between Dunfermline and Inverkeithing. D. Templeton and A. Stevenson of **Dunfermline** won convincingly 9 shots to 1 after 5 ends. The Trophy and glasses were presented by Bill Linton to Alastair Noble.

6. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

This has been a quieter year than last year with no incoming tours. Every effort was made to keep the Province website up to date and as indicated previously any assistance with providing information or requests for additional information that members feel should be on the website should be advised to the secretary or members of the committee.

The clubs members this season numbered 555, a reduction from last year's figure of 561.

The annual Accounts for the period from 17 March 2013 to 11 April 2013 were presented. The Accounts showed a deficit of £3.30 on the Ordinary account. This compared with a surplus of £268.67 from the previous year. As agreed at last year's AGM, the Tour Fund has been subsumed into the Ordinary Account. The underpayment by clubs to the Tour Fund last year was recovered as indicated at last year's AGM. Clubs should note that the **Tour Fund levy** will increase to £1.00 per male member in the coming season.

The Province funds show a healthy balance of £589.95 similar to last year but there was outstanding payments for the Tour Fund and other costs such as engraving amounting to £345.00. The current value of badges in stock was £530.

The accounts were self-explanatory and the financial report was duly adopted. Proposed by Bob Smith and seconded by Mike Hudspeth.

7. Election of Office Bearers

	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Patron:		
Earl of Elgin	Committee	Unanimous
Vice President		
Phil Barton	Committee	Unanimous
Committee members		
Elinor Ritchie	Committee	Unanimous
Brian Duncan	Committee	Unanimous
Harry Mitchell	Raith & Abbotshall	Unanimous

As Alan Mitchell had agreed to continue as independent examiner he too was unanimously re-appointed.

8. Annual Subscriptions

Given the current financial position, the committee recommended that the club subscriptions continue at 40p per member.

9. Report from RCCC Area 7 Area Standing Committee Representative.

Bob Smith, vice president, Area 7 started with some congratulations. First to Eve Muirhead and her rink for their great win in the **Women's World Championships**. Their win also ensures that there will be a British Ladies team in the 2014 Winter Olympics and it would be a great shock if it was anything other than Eve and her winning rink. Congratulations also to Kyle Smith and his rink for their **World Junior** win and to Hannah Fleming who so nearly defended the World Junior title she won last year but had to settle for silver this year.

In **Men's World Curling**, the Murdoch/Brewster rink was top of the round robin league but could only manage Bronze. Nevertheless, these results are important as the funding available for the elite teams depends on good results in the European and World events

Bob reminded the meeting that, as decided at last year's RCCC AGM, the **RCCC subscription** for next season is £19, if paid before 31st October. The fee from 1st November on will be decided at this year's AGM, though it is unlikely to change.

Your Curler electronic magazine continues to be published each month and is sent out to every member whose email address is on the Royal Club database. There are approximately 13,900 Royal Club members but only about 8,000 with email addresses. Bob requested that if a club does not have all its members email addresses on the database then that should try and get them there. It is much cheaper to send emails compared to postage and will also ensure your members get the monthly magazine.

Following the demise of the **Curling Academy** project in Kinross it was unlikely that a similar project will go ahead anywhere in future although efforts do continue to find a suitable location for a Curling Museum and Royal Club offices with the concentration on sites in the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. The project to restore the **Lees painting** now looks likely to go ahead. The Royal Club received a bequest with the specific condition that a considerable part of it was to be used for the purposes of restoring the painting.

Planning is already in hand to ensure that maximum gain can be had from the upsurge in interest in curling during and after the 2014 Winter Olympics. After the 2010 games there was really good turnout at the **Try Curling** sessions but the number of those attending who went on to play regularly was very disappointing. A major problem was the timing with the Games in February and the Try Curling sessions taking place right at the end of the season and a subsequent loss of interest by start of the next season. The games are again in February so it is hoped to again run Try Curling sessions but follow them up with **Beginners Course** which would involve 2 sessions before the end of the season and 2 sessions at the start of the next season. The **Royal Club Development Managers** are meeting with the Ice Rink managers to discuss ice allocation and perhaps extending the season by a week to accommodate these events.

The **Royal Club AGM** this year is on Saturday 15th June in Dewar's Rinks, Perth. Alan Durno of Fochabers will take over as President with David Henderson of New Abbey, Dumfries as his Vice President. Two members of the Board, Trevor Dodds and Kay Gibb are due to retire. Both have indicated their willingness to continue for another 3 years and there being no other nominations then Trevor and Kay will continue as members of the Board.

As the Royal Club is celebrating its **175th year** a special pin is being struck and will be presented to all attendees at the AGM. There will be no annual awards dinner this year and the winners of the 2013 **Scottish Curling Awards** will receive their prizes at the RCCC AGM.

10. Report from Kirkcaldy Curling School

Bill Creevy reported on the 2012 /13 season which has seen an increase in numbers in some sessions and a decrease in others.

The curling school ran **Two Try** curling sessions with 32 over 2 sessions, down on last year but a higher percentage are joining the virtual club and coaching sessions. It would be great if each club in the province could bring someone along to the Try Curling events.

Curling's Cool Programme. 193 attended, the change to Friday morning was working well and is preferred by the schools and all the sessions were filled. There were also 8 special needs pupils, who all had a great time. The Active Schools Co-ordinators have done a great job this season and are very enthusiastic.

The **After Schools Club** this season has been a great success with 16 regular attendees. The club is now an affiliated club of the R.C.C.C. and hopefully will lead to a resurgence in junior curling at Kirkcaldy.

9 of the juniors have completed their **Red Skills Awards** which has been funded by Fife Council.

The regular evening coaching sessions also attracted a fairly regular group of improvers as well as some new curlers.

There were regular **wheelchair sessions** on Thursday morning and thanks go to Harry Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, John Brown, Annette McArthur and all their assistants for all this work.

The **Virtual Club** has lost some members either to other clubs or people have stopped curling – currently 14 members. Four people will be lost from the virtual club as membership is limited to 2 years, but they have all joined other clubs, which is the main aim of the club. Also 6 others from coaching have joined the virtual club. This year teams from the virtual club have played in a district medal game against a Perth team, the North v South game and the West of Fife Closing Bonspiel.

There were 2 teams from the virtual club playing in the **national virtual club bonspiel** at Braehead. They all played very well with the junior team winning the low road final. They also played in an **informal virtual club bonspiel** at Kinross with mixed fortunes. 3 junior players from Kirkcaldy played in the newcomers' competition at Greenacres on Sunday 7th April. Lewis Leslie did not fair too well, Jack Drummond finished 4th in the high road and Oliver Carson who was in his first year of curling finished 2nd in the high road. Well done to them all.

The **Coaching School** has had a few meeting with Fife Council and the Active Schools Co-ordinators this year and hopefully funding will be available for next season. The feedback from the schools and the active schools co-ordinators was very positive; there may be some interest from secondary schools next season.

There were Come and Try sessions for 2 groups of **scouts and cubs** with 50 attending over the 2 evenings.

Next season

The plan is to run the same programme plus another couple of initiatives.

Active Schools Co-ordinator Simon Warren has done a great job this season getting more schools on board. He says there are even more interested for next season if we can get ice.

The **scouts** are looking to adopt curling as a sport in their junior leader award. Basically they would complete a level 1 coaching qualification.

Secondary schools were going to implement a **Curriculum for Excellence** scheme for pupils where they choose a sport or an interest and it is built into their weekly timetable. KCS still have to speak to the 4 Kirkcaldy schools, but are hopeful that there may be some interest.

KCT are going to look into the possibility of the **virtual club** playing against other virtual clubs in this area during the season. That way they will be playing against curlers at the same level.

Junior curling in Fife needs to be encouraged and one of our aims next season is to get more juniors on the ice. By working closely with the Active Schools Co-ordinators it is believed this can happen. It may be possible to enter a Fife Ice Arena Junior Team into some competitions.

On behalf of Kirkcaldy Curling School, Bill thanked all the coaches and helpers for their tireless work throughout the season. At the moment they have 16 volunteer coaches and helpers and at times their resources are stretched to cover all our programmes. Bill asked that if anyone has some free time and would be able to assist us occasionally to help introduce curling to the masses and get you some new members to let me know.

Finally Bill reminded everyone that the coaching school is not there just for the beginners. They are also there to assist any curler whatever their level.

11. Report from Kinross Curling Trust

Bob Tait updated the meeting on the current progress of the KCT.

200 attended an open meeting on 24 March and 50 plus at the AGM on 14 April. The meeting was lively and mainly supportive and committed to the long lease and upgrading of the existing rink and to it being run by curlers for curlers.

Numerous decisions need to be made by June, including whether to take over the business from September this year and on the scale of the upgrading. The latter was dependent on positive answers from Perth & Kinross Council, various trusts and lenders, including the World Curling Federation. The likely support from sportscotland was known. Support from local curlers was very strong with over £30K being pledged since the AGM meaning the total of pledges and banked cash was now £210,000. Bob asked that all who curl at Kinross and have not already done please pledge and advised that he had pledge forms with him.

A **breakfast meeting** was being held very soon organised through the Kinross Partnership. It will set out for local businesses the sponsorship opportunities at the new rink e.g. stones, ice pad, brushes, score cards.

At the AGM, Mike Caffyn (Boreland), Doug Ritchie (Dunfermline) and Margaret-Elspeth Harman (Fossoway Ladies) were elected as Trustees for the first time. Blair Melville was re-elected. **Working groups** largely populated by volunteers have been established to take the project forward. These are Operations, Building, PR and Fundraising and Finance.

12. RCCC 'in memoriam':

Deaths intimated were: Joan Wright, Dalgety Bay, Ruby Christie, Raith and Abbotshall Ladies, Derek Pearson, Inverkeithing, Harry Begg, Raith and Abbotshall, Dave Martin, Boreland. A 30 second standing silence was observed.

13. Motion Arising

Club motion proposed by Inverkeithing and Raith and Abbotshall Curling Clubs

It is proposed that the West of Fife Province constitution be changed (a) to reflect the fact that each member now has their own vote and therefore to delete the election of two representatives to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, (b) to confirm the present arrangement that the President and Secretary will be RCCC Area 7 representatives and (c) to allow a notice for alteration to the constitution which currently requires to be submitted by two clubs to alternatively be promoted as a committee motion.

The motion was approved by the meeting.

14. Any other Competent Business

a. West Fife Representative Clubs for next season:

RCCC SCOTTISH PROVINCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dunfermline CC as winners of the Province Mixed Knock Out competition

Inverkeithing CC as an additional rink if required.

AREA 7 INTER PROVINCE BONSPIEL

i **Inverkeithing CC** as runners up in the Mixed Knockout

ii **Aberdour CC** as winners in the Ladies Knock Out

iii **Bank of Scotland CC** as winners in the League

b. Competition entries and insurance papers

Clubs were reminded to return them to the secretary no later than 13 May 2013.

c. Province Insurance

Colin advised the meeting that the Province Committee had been reviewing the Province insurance arrangements and that he would be contacting club secretaries about the issues that had been discussed by the committee.

d. Committee motion – Kinross Curling Trust

The committee proposed that the Province made a pledge of £200 to the Kinross Curling Trust subject to the completion of a lease by the Green Hotel in favour of the Kinross Curling Trust.

The motion was approved by the meeting.

e. Date of AGM 2014

It was proposed that the date for the AGM 2014 would be Wednesday 30 April 2014.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

CNC Secretary/Treasurer

April 2013