

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West of Fife Curling Province on
30 April 2014 in the Lounge, Fife Ice Arena at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:

Brian Duncan	Boreland	Colin Campbell	Inverkeithing
Jim Andrew	Boreland	Phil Barton	Inverkeithing
Robin Park	Boreland/Dunfermline	Bob Tait	Inverkeithing/Boreland
Mike Hudspeth	Dalgety Bay	Bill Creevy	Kirkcaldy Curling School
Bob Pearson	Dalgety Bay	Ann Mitchell	KLC/Aberdour/R&A Ladies
Ann McLanaghan	Dalgety Bay	Jim Johnston	Raith & Abbotshall
Ian Borland	Dunfermline	Jim Mason	Raith & Abbotshall
Ken Young	Dunfermline	Harry Mitchell	Raith & Abbotshall
Alison Young	Dunfermline Ladies	Cath Johnston	Raith & Abbotshall Ladies
Fiona Young	Dunfermline Ladies	Bob Smith	President, Area 7/Inverkeithing
Alice Thomson	Dunfermline Ladies		

(21)

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

1. Apologies:

Elinor Ritchie, Bank of Scotland; Helen Gordon, Aberdour; Angela Simpson, Tulliallan; Robin Wragg, Broomhall; Iain Brown, Raith and Abbotshall; Wendy Smith, Bank of Scotland; Bill Linton, Boreland

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 Robin Park and seconded by Brian Duncan. The minutes were duly approved. Thereafter the President and Secretary signed the Minute.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. President's Remarks

Mike expressed his thanks to all the clubs who are represented here tonight and for their support throughout the season.

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as President even for such a short time. Acting as Umpire at Province and other matches has been interesting and educational to say the least. Especially the Province Closing Bonspiel where the two top rinks had identical shots ups, ends up and total number of shots. The rules give no other tiebreakers so a "management decision" had to be made.

Congratulations to Aberdour on the narrowest of victories.

He also thanked the committee members for their invaluable assistance and thanked the Secretary/Treasurer Colin Campbell, without whom the Province would not function as smoothly. In particular Mike congratulated him for the excellent Province website which he keeps up to date and is an example to all Areas and Provinces.

Congratulations to Bob Smith on succeeding Alan Muirhead as President of Area 7.

Mike expressed his sadness that so many clubs are declining in numbers and echoed Bill Creevy's comments at the Area 7 A.G.M. that clubs should go out of their way to meet new curlers at final Beginner's sessions and court Virtual Club members who are moving on after their free 2 years.

Mike was sorry to learn that there will be no Indoor Grand Match in 2015 and that future matches will be every 10 years and questioned who makes these decisions without consulting the membership.

Two notable achievements for the Province in the year were the victory over Midlothian in the Waldie Griffiths at Fife Ice Arena and Lynne Page's involvement with the Ladies Swedish tour which Scotland won being 18 shots up. Well done.

Good news today from The Scottish Seniors where Scotland's women beat Canada in the final.

Kinross Curling Trust goes from strength to strength and we must all be delighted that funding has been forthcoming for the development of what is now our curling rink at Kinross and that work has already commenced to update the arena. On a personal note Mike congratulated them on the vast improvement in the food quality.

Finally Mike said it would be remiss of him not to thank Robin Park for completing 16 years with the West of Fife Province committee serving for many years as Secretary/Treasurer and latterly as President which was marked by a round of applause.

Finally Mike wished the Province every success in the future and was certain that it will be in very capable hands under the leadership of Phil Barton.

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 97 shots to the South's 66, meaning the North won by 31 shots.

Winning teams were: -

Highest up club on winning side was Hercules Ladies with plus 8 shots over 2 games.

Highest up rink was Glenrothes with plus 10 shots.

Second highest up club was Hercules Ladies with plus 7 shots

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

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

Perth won by 23 shots with Delvine being the highest up rink on the winning side plus 16 shots. Bank of Scotland was highest up rink on the losing side also with plus 10 shots.

- **Inter-Province Bonspiel.** Cupar District was the winning Province with +18.

- **Inter-Province League.** This competition was won by Leven Province with the highest up rink Orwell Ladies with +10 shots.

- In the **Zermatt** competition East of Fife won convincingly 90 shots to West of Fife's 62. Inverkeithing were only West of Fife club to win a game.

- **George Sinclair.** Winners were Bank of Scotland with +13 shots and second equal were Dunfermline and Markinch with +9.

In the **Waldie Griffiths** fixture against Midlothian Province, West of Fife won 3 out of the 4 games with an average shots up of +2.5. Thanks go to the Bank of Scotland, Boreland, Dunfermline and Inverkeithing clubs who represented the Province in this competition. 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: -

- The **Province League** was a very closely fought competition with both **Dunfermline** and **Raith & Abbotshall** finishing with 11 points. However Dunfermline came out top with 35 ends against Raith and Abbotshall's 27 ends. Bank of Scotland was 3rd with 10 points. The trophy was presented to Ken Young.
- The **Mixed Knock-out** final was an all **Dunfermline** contest. The **Dunfermline** rink of K. Young, A. Hempseed, G. Rae and A. Stevenson won by 8 shots. The trophy and glasses were taken by Ken Young.
- The **Ladies' Knock-out** competition was competed for again this season with 4 teams entering. The result was that **Dunfermline Ladies** beat **Aberdour** by 6 shots. The winning rink was Alice Thomson, Fiona Cunningham, Alison Young and Irene Baillie. The trophy was presented to Alice Thomson.
- A good turnout was in evidence for the **Province Bonspiel** in what turned out to be a very close competition. Both Aberdour and Boreland CCs ended 8 shots up, 10 ends and 15 shots for. **Aberdour** were declared winners as they had the highest shots up in an individual game with +10 against Boreland's +9! The Province Medal was presented to Ann Mitchell.
- Last but not least, in the **Province Pairs** competition the final was a closely contested match between Boreland and Raith & Abbotshall. **Boreland's** team of Bill Linton and Jim Anderson finished winners with 7 shots to 5. The Trophy and glasses were presented to Jim Anderson.

6. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

This has been a quiet year with no incoming or outgoing tours. However there will be an incoming Swiss Tour in November 2014, details of which are just beginning to be received. The Province website is updated as quickly as possible after games and with any other relevant information which is of interest to clubs and their members.

The clubs members this season numbered 518, a reduction from last year's figure of 555.

The annual Accounts for the period from 12 April 2014 to 18 April 2014 were presented. The Accounts showed a deficit of £343.71 on the Ordinary account. This compared with a deficit of £3.30 in the previous year.

The Province funds show a lower balance of £246.24 compared to last year but there was outstanding payments costs such as engraving amounting to £230.00. The current value of badges in stock was £495.

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
President		
Phil Barton	Committee	Unanimous

Vice President

Ian Borland	Committee	Unanimous
-------------	-----------	-----------

Committee members

Ann McLanaghan	Committee	Unanimous
----------------	-----------	-----------

Ian Borland	Committee	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 where the funds are quite low, the committee recommended that the club subscriptions be increased 50p per member. In addition, the committee is recommending that the competition entry fee of £4 per club be reinstated for the coming season. The committee proposal for these changes was seconded by Robin Park.

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

Bob Smith as President reported on behalf of the RCCC Area 7 Area Standing Committee.

A year dominated by the Olympics and Paralympics - no gold medals but all 3 teams did return with a medal so it's congratulations to David Murdoch's rink for their silver medal in the men's event, to Eve Muirhead's rink for their bronze medal in the women's event and to Aileen Neilson's rink for their bronze in the Paralympic wheelchair event. Congratulations also to Kyle Smith's rink who just narrowly failed to retain their Junior World title losing out in the final to hosts Switzerland.

Unfortunately results at the World Championships have been very disappointing, perhaps suggesting that the decision to hold the Scottish championships at the same time as the Olympics may not have been for the best.

Moving on to more mundane matters, as decided at last year's 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.

The plans to ensure that maximum gain can be had from the upsurge in interest in curling during and after the Winter Olympics have got off to a promising start with over 4,000 people attending TryCurling sessions and Beginners Classes held at many curling rinks have been very well supported. The beginners' classes involved 2 sessions this season with a final session at the beginning of next season, so it is hoped that this will lead to more of those attending the sessions to go and become regular curlers. Clubs are encouraged to get a representative along to these sessions to try and sign up new members for their own club.

Sports Scotland and Stirling Council recently announced a multi-million pound investment at the Stirling Sports Village to include a new National Curling Centre at The Peak. It is possible that both the Royal Club and British Curling head offices will relocate to The Peak and we may even finally get a National Curling Museum.

There will be an in-coming men's tour next season with a team of Swiss curlers in Scotland from the 8th until the 22nd November. They will curl at Kinross on Friday 21st November.

The Royal Club AGM this year is on Saturday 14th June in Dewar's Rink, Perth. David Henderson (New Abbey, Dumfries) will take over as President of the Royal Club with Billy Howat (Cumnock and District) as his Vice President. Two members of the Board are due to retire and there are 4 nominations to fill the vacancies, so for the first time in a few years there will actually need to be an election to determine who joins the Board. Details of the candidates are available on the Royal Club website. Voting forms will be available shortly and all members are encouraged to use their vote. As last year there will be no annual awards dinner and the winners of the 2014 Scottish Curling

Awards will receive their prizes at the AGM. Nominations for the various awards are being sought. Again full details are available on the website with a closing date for nominations of 30th April.

The Lees Painting is being restored 'on budget' and will be on show in due course.

Bob encouraged all curlers to subscribe to the YOUR CURLER magazine electronically. It has been the single most successful improvement in communication this year but there is a long way to go. RCCC is looking at restructuring as much as allowed by Sport Scotland but in Bob's opinion is continuing to move too slowly. ASC is now also examining a restructuring and is again moving slowly. Far too many decisions at RCCC and ASC are postponed and then disappear.

Mike Hudspeth thanked Bob both his comprehensive report on what is happening in the RCCC and for his hard work as Area 7 President.

10. Report from Kirkcaldy Curling School

Bill Creevy reported on behalf of Kirkcaldy Curling School (KCS).

The 2013 /14 season has seen an increase in numbers in some sessions and a decrease in others.

In this Olympic year KCS ran 5 try curling sessions. The response was fantastic with the first two in October and November attracting 33 new curlers but in February/ March we had 242 over the 3 sessions. In fact KCS had to book extra ice to accommodate everybody. At each session there was a good mix of people of various age groups and the enthusiasm was amazing.

The events were well publicised by the local and national press, Fife Council and NHS websites and television. Kingdom FM also covered the events and in fact the 2 breakfast show presenters. Ian and Vanessa came along and tried it themselves and their experience was broadcast the next day. The increased media coverage of curling has really raised the profile of our sport to the general public.

A part of the Olympic try curling initiative included a hot shot challenge where the new curlers played 2 stones full length and were awarded more points the closer they got to the button. The 2 players with the highest score from each rink went to the peak in Stirling on Friday 4th April to meet the Olympic curlers, attend a dinner then get coaching from the Olympians. The curlers from Kirkcaldy are Ally Brunton and Cormac Christie – both juniors.

Following on from the Try Curling, we have held one beginners course and there are 42 people booked in when we hold the next 2 in October.

Curling's cool programme. 205 attended, the change to Friday morning has worked well and is preferred by the schools. All the sessions were filled. We also had more 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** is now an affiliated club of the R.C.C.C. This year numbers are down but hopefully with the renewed interest in curling this may lead to a resurgence in Junior Curling at Kirkcaldy. 1 of the juniors has just completed their red skills award, and another 2 have finished their white skills awards.

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. Bill thanked Harry Mitchell, Ann Mitchell, John Brown, Annette McArthur and all the assistants for all their work.

The **virtual club** has currently 12 members. This will hopefully be increased by people from the coaching course joining the club. Membership is limited to 2 years, after which they will hopefully have all joined other clubs, which is the main aim of the club.

There were 2 teams from the virtual club playing in the national virtual club challenge at Braehead. They all played very well and thoroughly enjoyed the competitive side of curling.

The coaching school has had a few meetings 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 is very positive. KCS may have some interest from secondary schools next season.

KCS ran come and try sessions for 2 groups of scouts and 1 group of cubs – 70 over the 2 evenings, as well as 2 corporate events for 50 people.

Next season

Active schools co-ordinator Simon Warren has done a great job this season getting more schools on board. He has indicated there are even more schools interested for next season. Bill is 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 I believe we can make this happen.

At this point on behalf of KCS, Bill thanked all the coaches and helpers for their very enthusiastic and tireless work throughout the season. At the moment we have 16 volunteer coaches and helpers but at times KCS's resources are stretched to cover all our programmes.

After the success of the Try Curling events a few clubs have asked for details of the participants as they are short of members. The data protection act does not allow me to pass these on. With the increased awareness of our sport, clubs now have a golden opportunity to recruit new members. By far the most successful method is to speak to the people face to face and introduce your club. The other bonus is that club representatives could assist the coaches at the same time. Once the new players have joined the virtual club and gained some confidence and experience they would be a great asset to any club.

Finally Bill reminded the meeting that KCS is there to help any player not just beginners.

Mike thanked Bill on behalf of the Province for all the work Bill did in organising the work of Kirkcaldy Curling School and the coaches who turned out so regularly to help.

11. Report from Kinross Curling Trust

Bob Tait reported on progress at Kinross on behalf of the Kinross Curling Trust (KCT). All the funding is now in place which allowed work on the project costing circa £1m to start in April. Funding includes a grant of £400,000 from sportscotland, a grant of £125,000 from Perth & Kinross Council, grants from other organisations and a number of loans and funds raised by curlers and curling clubs amounting to £425,000. There was also a loan application to the World Curling Federation. There is every reason to expect the work to be complete to allow the rink open as usual in mid-September.

Work will include new plant and ice pad, a new insulated cladding system, new electricity sub-station, improved dehumidification, heating and lighting and installation of a low emission ceiling. There is already much visual evidence of work in progress and therefore every reason to expect the work to be complete to allow the rink open as usual in mid-September.

The President thanked Bob Tait and all his colleagues for the tremendous hard work undertaken since starting in 2009 to bring this project to its current position.

12. RCCC 'in memoriam':

Deaths intimated were:

Joy Bowie, Dunfermline Ladies; Andrew Adamson, Raith and Abbotshall; Betty McLay, Raith & Abbotshall Ladies; Betty Kilgour, Raith & Abbotshall Ladies; Pat Keith, Raith & Abbotshall Ladies; Peter Ritchie, Inverkeithing; Joe Divito, Inverkeithing

13. Any other Competent Business

a. West of Fife Representative Clubs for next season:

RCCC SCOTTISH PROVINCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dunfermline CC as winners of the Province Mixed Knock Out competition

Bank of Scotland CC as an additional rink if required.

AREA 7 INTER PROVINCE BONSPIEL

- i **Bank of Scotland CC** as third in the League
- ii **Dunfermline Ladies CC** as winners in the Ladies Knock Out
- iii **Raith and Abbotshall CC** as runners up 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 Campbell advised the meeting that Public Liability insurance was now provided by the RCCC with the cost being included in the annual RCCC membership fee. The current Province insurance includes both Public Liability and All Risks insurance for trophies and other valuable items. However it is not possible to get All Risks insurance without Public Liability insurance. Clubs who took the Province insurance were therefore in effect paying twice for the Public Liability insurance. Dunfermline CC has already taken a decision not to use the Province insurance and carry the risk for trophies and other valuable items themselves.

Colin Campbell will contact clubs to see if they wish to continue with the Province insurance.

d. Quality of ice

Bob Tait, on behalf of Boreland CC, reported that at their recent AGM, members had raised concerns at the poor quality of ice and social facilities at the Fife Ice Arena and that the club should cease to curl at Kirkcaldy.

In the following discussions Robin Park suggested that the Province Committee investigate the possibility of taking Province games to Kinross. The point was made that as the Fife Ice Arena was the home ice rink for the West of Fife Province it was desirable that the Province continued to support the ice rink. It was also questionable if there would sufficient ice at Kinross for all the Province games. A request was also made that the rinks be pebbled before 8.05pm games.

Bob Tait asked on behalf of Boreland CC that these matters be discussed by the committee and, if shared, they be taken up with the ice rink.

e. RCCC Vice President Ladies Branch nomination

Ann Mitchell reported that Marion Fraser has been nominated as Vice President Ladies Branch of the RCCC. She curls out of Strathkinness and was the first nomination for over 40 years from Kirkcaldy Ladies Branch.

f. Date of AGM 2015

It was proposed that the date for the AGM 2015 would be Wednesday 15 April 2015.

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

CNC Secretary/Treasurer

April 2014