

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West of Fife Curling Province on
29 April 2015 in the Lounge, Fife Ice Arena at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:

Brian Duncan	Boreland	Colin Campbell	Inverkeithing
Bill Rennie	Boreland/Aberdour	Phil Barton	Inverkeithing
Robin Park	Boreland/Dunfermline	Bill Creevy	Kirkcaldy Curling School
Bob Tait	Boreland/Inverkeithing	Jim Mason	Raith & Abbotshall
Mike Hudspeth	Dalgety Bay	Harry Mitchell	Raith & Abbotshall
Iain Hannah	Dalgety Bay	Ann Buchan	Raith & Abbotshall Ladies
Ann McLanaghan	Dalgety Bay	Christine Wilson	Raith & Abbotshall Ladies
Ian Borland	Dunfermline	Lynne Page	Raith & Abbotshall Ladies
Alastair Noble	Dunfermline	Bob Smith	President, Area 7/Inverkeithing
Bill Linton	Bank of Scotland/Boreland		
Ian Shaw	Bank of Scotland/Boreland		

(20)

Phil 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, Ann Mitchell, Raith and Abbotshall Ladies/Aberdour; Wendy Smith, Bank of Scotland;

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 Ian Borland and seconded by Mike Hudspeth. The minutes were duly approved. Thereafter the President and Secretary signed the Minute.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. President's Remarks

Phil commented on his tenure as President which had not been demanding largely thanks to the support of the secretary and the committee.

He continued by referring to the usual competitions which had taken place of which there many more compared to other provinces and we should appreciate that fact. He recognised that not all our member clubs participate. However, congratulations to all winners, especially Boreland, who will represent us at the Scottish Province Championships in November. They are probably the most successful of our Province clubs this past season.

Other successes that merit recognition include

- Elinor Ritchie representing Scotland at the Senior ladies World Championships in Sochi;
- Mary Barr and her rink winning the Edinburgh Senior international last November and coming second in the Scottish masters with Alan Barr being in the winning team in the men's event.

There are many more successes of note – congratulations to all who play out of our province.

In the past year we welcomed the Swiss tourists which Phil was sorry to miss but heard it was most enjoyable event.

The Province has been in dialogue with the Fife Ice Arena to encourage better ice. Although there is often criticism the ice is there and offers curling something we would miss.

Phil said that he had been impressed with the level of coaching at Kirkcaldy. Congratulations and appreciation to all involved.

Many of our clubs play at Kinross and Phil thanked clubs you for the support to KCT and especially ask for members' further support to vote for the KCT as one of two nominations for the Ice Diamond award.

Phil referred to the RCCC review of the Area/Province set up to which he knew many will have responded as he recognised many faces from the recent Area 7 AGM. We can be proud of the strength and contribution we make from Area 7. If all were an equal there would be no need for a review. Having said that it is always a relatively small minority of curlers who get involved.

It had occurred to Phil that it might be helpful to have discussion to look at the province AGMs preceding the Area AGM.

There was a lot to look forward to next season – the obvious mention being the Indoor Grand Match on 24 October.

Finally Phil thanked everyone for their support. He was pleased to know that Ian was stepping into the role.

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 1 game out of 4 but did not progress from the section.

- **North v South Fife Bonspiel:**

The North had 55 shots to the South's 53, meaning that the North won narrowly by 2 shots.

Winning teams were: -

Highest up rink was Hercules Ladies with plus 10 shots.

Second highest up club was Ceres with plus 7 shots

Highest up rink on the losing side was Markinch with plus 8 shots.

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

Perth won by 21 shots with Airleywight Ladies being the highest up rink on the winning side with plus 9 shots on ends. Dunfermline was highest up rink on the losing side with plus 12 shots.

- **Inter-Province Bonspiel.** Loch Leven was the winning Province with +18.

- **Inter-Province League.** This competition was won by Cupar Province with the highest up rink Kinross Juniors with +9 shots.

- In the **Zermatt** competition East of Fife won very convincingly 90 shots to West of Fife's 48. Bank of Scotland, Dunfermline and Raith & Abbotshall all won their games.

- **George Sinclair.** Winners were Bank of Scotland with +9 shots, second were Raith and Abbotshall with +7 and third Boreland with +6.

- In the **Waldie Griffiths** fixture against Borders Province, Borders won with an average shots up of +5.25. West of Fife fared better against Forth and Endrick with an average shots up of 0.75.

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

- The **Province League** was won by **Boreland** who finished with 13 points. Bank of Scotland was 2nd with 11 points and Dunfermline was 3rd with 8 points. The trophy was presented to Bill Rennie.
- The Mixed Knock-out final was contested by Bank of Scotland and Boreland. The **Boreland** rink of B. Linton, R. Tait, J. Stuart and I. Shaw won by 4 shots. The rosebowl and glasses were taken by Bill Linton, Ian Shaw and Bob Tait.
- The **Ladies' Knock-out** competition was competed for again this season with 4 teams entering. The result was that **Raith and Abbotshall Ladies** beat **Dalgety Bay** by 8 shots. The winning rink was Lynne Page, Joke Donaldson, Christine Wilson and Anne Buchan. The salver was presented to Ann Buchan, Lynne Page and Christine Wilson.
- A good turnout was in evidence for the **Province Bonspiel** in what was another close competition. The winners were **Boreland CC** with +14 shots. The team was skipped by D. Arnott supported by Ernie Boyer, D. Clark and Ian Burns. Dunfermline CC came a close second on +13. The Province Medal was presented to Ian Shaw.
- Last but not least, in the **Province Pairs** competition the final was a closely contested match between Bank of Scotland and Dalgety Bay. **Bank of Scotland** team of Bill Linton and Margo Nicoll finished winners with 6 shots to 4. The Trophy and glasses were presented to Bill Linton.

6. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

This has been a relatively quiet year, the only matter requiring some additional work being the incoming Swiss Tour in November 2014. West of Fife provided one of four teams, the remainder being provided by the other three Provinces in Area 7. In the event of one of the Indoor Grand Matches being held in Kirkcaldy, the Province will be expected to provide some support in organising this event.

The clubs members this season numbered 501, a reduction from last year's figure of 518.

The annual Accounts for the period from 19 April 2014 to 13 April 2015 were presented. The Accounts showed a surplus of £175.53. This compared with a deficit of £343.71 in the previous year.

The funds show an improved balance of £421.77 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 £420.

The accounts were self-explanatory and the financial report was duly adopted. Proposed by Phil Barton and seconded by Ian Borland.

7. Election of Office Bearers

	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Patron:		
Earl of Elgin	Committee	Unanimous
President		
Ian Borland	Committee	Unanimous
Vice President		
No nomination		
Committee members		
Iain Hannah	Committee	Unanimous

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

8. Annual Subscriptions

Given the current improved financial position, the committee recommended that club subscriptions remain at 50p per member and that there will be no competition entry fee in the coming season. The committee proposal for these changes was seconded by Brian Duncan.

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

Bob Smith reported as President of Area 7.

International Competition. Normally a time to congratulate teams but very poor representation this year. Men still struggling through the Worlds and ladies could only manage 4th place. Wheelchair team were also below best. Only light on the horizon is the Juniors where Bruce Moaut gained a bronze medal and Gina Aitken a silver in their worlds. Scottish mixed won by team Bryce - again youngsters leading the way.

Selection of representative teams has long been contentious and the new Performance Director has just issued new guidelines through the performance Committee. Complications abound and Bob did not see a simple resolution. The position is continually complicated due to the close relationship with SportsScotland, British Curling and RCCC. The coaching staff have been dramatically changed and the elite curlers (particularly podium class) have a lot to think about.

In recent weeks there has been a well supported Virtual Clubs bonspiel and congratulations are due to Area 7 members Sandy Nelson who won the men's and Mary Barr who came second in the women's Masters. In the Seniors, Elinor Ritchie was in the winning team which qualified for the finals in Sochi.

The club has secured four prestigious competitions to be held in Scotland -

2016	Euro Campships - Braehead
2018	World Juniors - Aberdeen
2019	World Wheelchairs - Stirling
2020	World Mens - Hydro, Glasgow

Board. On a brighter and more supportive note, the new Chairman of the Board Alistair McNish President David Henderson and Vice President Billy Howat have a positive attitude to curling at grass roots level. Bob said that we do not want to see a split in the RCCC but the Board MUST maintain good contact and explanatory communication with all members. It is supposedly working on it. Retention of TRY CURLING participants had been less than anticipated so new ideas required.

As far as Bob was aware, the RCCC subscription stays at £19 again next year. The Annual General Meeting of RCCC will be held at Murrayfield on 13th June 2015 at 2pm.

The nominations for which there are no need for any elections are President - Billy Howat, Vice President - Clive Thomson, Board members - Greig Henderson and Robin Niven.

Area 7. Boyd Houston (Dollar and Devonvale) was elected junior representative at last year's AGM when Bob moved to senior. Thanks are due to Alan Muirhead for his continued service to Area 7 and its support at ASC. Alan is still on the ASC Structure Review Group.

Lees Painting. Bob reported that it was fully restored with thanks to a donor and is now on display at the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.

Your Curler/ Communications. The staff at RCCC are anxious that there is a two-way contact with members and members are urged to air their views through the Young Curler magazine. Members will receive it automatically if their email address is registered on the RCCC members website.

Members are also encouraged to use the main RCCC website where there is a substantial amount of information.

Indoor Grand Match. Thanks to substantial pressure on the Board there will be an Indoor Grand Match this year on 24th October. Clubs will be well involved already and Bob was able to report that there has been an excellent response - of 509 teams needed there are 450 to 460.

10. Report from Kirkcaldy Curling School

Bill Creevy reported on the year's activities in Kirkcaldy Curling Coaching School(KCCS).

There had been a few changes since last year, the main one being that each coaching group has a dedicated coordinator and KCCS also have 3 new level 1 coaches. This had taken a lot of pressure off Bill and had worked very well.

After the success of the Try Curling session in March KCCS had 33 people signed up for the second of the Beginners courses in October 26 attended, with this in mind it KCCS did not hold another Try Curling session until January 2015. There were less drop in coaching sessions as it was felt more people should be encouraged into the Virtual Club to keep their interest going - 16 joined. There were 15 people at the January Try Curling, 12 of them completed the beginners' course and 12 of them joined the Virtual Club.

Curling's Cool. Jim Brydie and his team ran this. This has been very successful with 214 kids participating and only one of the sessions not being filled. There were 2 new schools taking part and there were also held 2 Festivals where the schools played against teams from other schools.

Junior Club. Wilma ran the junior club and had 8 regular players, sometimes 10. 2 of the juniors played in the Coaches bonspiel at the end of the season.

Disability Curling. Harry Mitchell and his team held regular sessions for people with various levels of disability including one blind curler. He had 3 regular groups attending as well as 2 players from D-Ice a new club for disabled curlers.

Corporate / Scouts curling. There were 2 corporate events. One for Scottish Water and one for a group from Rosyth working on the aircraft carrier. We had 3 groups of Cubs/ Scouts who did curling then skating. 75 attended and all had a great time and some may come back to the junior club.

Virtual Club. The Virtual Club continues to flourish and we now have 38 members, 8 of them are due to leave as their 2 years are up. This season Bill organised a series of friendly games against mainstream clubs in the West and East Fife Province. 18 clubs took part and the feedback has been very positive and he was sure some of the clubs had recruited new members already. They have played against Virtual teams from Dundee, Kinross and Forfar, both at Kirkcaldy and away and played in a few bonspiels this season. Last weekend 2 rinks played in the National Virtual Club Challenge at Braehead and finished first and second in the Low Road. There were 3 juniors in the winning Fife rink.

There were a couple of glitches with the friendly games which will be sorted for next season. Bill circulated a form during the meeting for those clubs keen to participate next season with these games. Next season KCCS plans to run a similar programme with maybe a few tweaks, but no major changes.

At the moment KCCS do not know if it will still be getting funding from Fife Council but Bill was hopefully that they will.

Bill reminded everyone that the Coaching School is not there just for the new curlers but also there to help all curlers of any age or ability.

As can be seen the Coaching School can be very busy at times and at times their resources are very stretched. If anyone would like to put something back into the sport and have some spare time KCCS are always looking for helpers at any of the sessions.

Bill concluded by thanking everyone for their time and answered some questions.

11. RCCC 'in memoriam':

Deaths intimated were:

Ella Gallanders, Aileen Thomson, Dora Wardlaw and Helen Anderson, Dunfermline Ladies; Willie and Allan Milne, Raith and Abbotshall, Myra Muncey, Raith and Abbotshall Ladies

12 RCCC – ASC Areas Structure Review

Colin explained that comments were required by 24 April as the Review Committee was meeting on 28 April. The province committee had considered the matter and a response had been submitted by the deadline supporting the current structure. Further comments could be submitted after our AGM should that be necessary. Bill Linton had also submitted his own comments supporting the current structure based on his previous experience as President of the Province. The matter had also been discussed at the Area 7 AGM where there was also support for the current structure.

There was some discussion on this matter with mention being made of the strength inter club and inter province competitions. There was also a suggestion of seeking members from other sport clubs such as bowling clubs.

13 Committee Motion

The following motion was put to the meeting:-

“The committee recommends that in view of the provision of Public Liability insurance by the RCCC and the £300 excess on any All Risks claims, that the current Province insurance policy no longer represents value for money and should therefore not be renewed when the current policy ends on 31 August 2015. The Province will provide support to clubs that wanted to seek All Risks insurance elsewhere. Support for the proposal is sought from the floor.”

The motion was approved by the meeting.

14 Any other Competent Business

a. West of Fife Representative Clubs for next season:

RCCC SCOTTISH PROVINCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Boreland 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 runners up in the Mixed Knock Out
- ii **Raith and Abbotshall Ladies CC** as winners in the Ladies Knock Out
- iii **Boreland CC** as winners in the League

b. Competition entries

Clubs were reminded to return these to the secretary no later than 18 May 2015.

c. Quality of ice

Bill Linton raised concerns regarding the removal of the barriers at the end ice prior to ice hockey practice. This was very distracting in any game and had been particularly so during the Mixed KO final when the last end was all square.

Colin Campbell reported that two meetings that had been held in September 2014 and in April 2015 with Ronnie Herd, General Manager, Fife Ice Arena. The need for better barriers has been raised by the Province and it had also been agreed that ice times for the former 8.05pm session be brought forward 5 minutes to avoid the barrier being taken down while curling is still in play. If there were still instances of the barriers being brought down early the Province secretary should be advised as soon as possible so that the matter can be taken up with the ice rink.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

CNC Secretary/Treasurer

April 2015