

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the West of Fife Curling Province on
26 April 2016 in the Lounge, Fife Ice Arena at 7.30 p.m.**

Present:

Iain Hannah	Dalgety Bay	Colin Campbell	Inverkeithing
Helen Gordon	Aberdour	Harry Mitchell	Raith and Abbotshall
Trish Petrie	Aberdour	Jim Mason	Raith and Abbotshall
Ian Shaw	Boreland & Bank of Scotland	Ann Buchan	Raith and Abbotshall Ladies
Alastair Noble	Dunfermline	Bob Smith	Secretary, Area 10/Inverkeithing
Neil Anderson	Bank of Scotland	Liz Smith	Dunfermline Ladies
Willie Nicoll	Bank of Scotland	Alan Stuart	Fife & Kinross Area Repres.

(14)

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

1. Apologies:

Bill Linton, Bank of Scotland/Boreland; Wendy Smith, Bank of Scotland; Ann Mitchell, Raith and Abbotshall, Ladies; Dorothy Prowse, Aberdour; Jim Barr, Dunfermline; Roy Simon, Boreland; Phil Barton, Inverkeithing.

2. Minutes of last AGM

The Secretary 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 Alastair Noble and seconded by Iain Hannah. The minutes were duly approved. Thereafter the President and Secretary signed the Minute.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. President's Remarks

Harry started by thanking Colin for his work as secretary. Harry reported that his duties as President had been limited as there were no additional events other than our usual competitions. He also thanked the committee for all their help in turning out when required.

Apart from the condition of the ice and one lost set of league score cards everything has gone well. The reluctance of clubs to enter competitions is an ongoing problem caused by falling club numbers and seemingly preference to curl at Kinross. This will be discussed further under AOB.

Harry also thanked the staff of the Fife Ice Arena, Lindsay, Andrew and Dave for their continued efforts to support the curling fraternity.

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.

- **Dalgety Bay CC** represented the Province at **The Scottish Province Championship:**

They won one game and therefore but did not progress beyond section F.

- **North v South Fife Bonspiel:**

The North had 42 shots to the South's 17, meaning that the North won by 25 shots. Winning teams were: -

Highest up rink was Hercules Ladies with plus 14 shots.

Second highest up rinks were Kennoway and Dollar & Devonvale each with plus 5 shots

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

Perth won by 2 shots with Auchterarder being the highest up rink on the winning side with plus 16 shots. Fossoway was highest up rink on the losing side with plus 12 shots.

- **Inter-Province Bonspiel.** West of Fife Province were again comfortable winners having lost only two of their 9 matches en route to a +25 shots total. Congratulations to the 3 West of Fife teams – Dunfermline, Bank of Scotland and Dunfermline Ladies.
- **Inter-Province League.** This competition was won by West of Fife Province with the highest up rink being Boreland with +14 shots.
- In the **Zermatt** competition East of Fife won very convincingly 89 shots to West of Fife's 39.
- **George Sinclair.** Winners were Boreland with +17 shots.
- In the **Waldie Griffiths** fixture against North Eastern Province, North Eastern won with an average shots up of +4. Raith and Abbotshall Ladies were the only winners from West of Fife Province.

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

- The **Province League** was won by **Bank of Scotland** who finished with 8 points and 30 ends and for 48 shots. Dunfermline was 2nd again with 8 points and for 46 shots. The trophy was presented to Willie Nicoll.
- The **Mixed Knock-out** final was contested by Bank of Scotland and Inverkeithing. The **Bank of Scotland** rink of W. Nicoll, N. Anderson, T. Bolan and J. Walker won by 7 shots. The rosebowl and glasses were taken by Willie Nicoll.
- The **Ladies' Knock-out** competition was competed for again this season with only 2 teams entering. The result was that **Aberdour** beat **Raith and Abbotshall Ladies** by 9 shots. The winning rink was H. Gordon, A. Mitchell, D. Browse and L. Smith. The salver was presented to Helen Gordon.
- The **Province Bonspiel** enjoyed a good turnout. The winners were **Dunfermline CC** with +12 shots. The team was skipped by J. Barr supported by A. Noble, A. Rae and S. Barr. **Raith and Abbotshall CC** and **Bank of Scotland CC** were joint 2nd with +6 shots and 10 ends. The Province Medal was presented to Alastair Noble.
- Last but not least, in the **Province Pairs** competition the final was contested between **Inverkeithing** and **Bank of Scotland CCs**. The **Inverkeithing CC** team of Douglas Murray and Alan Clarke finished winners with 6 shots to 3. The Trophy and glasses were taken by Colin Campbell

6. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

This was a quiet year other than some initial details being issued about the forthcoming Canadian indoor tour when the Strathcona Cup will again be competed for next January. The competition against West of Fife will be on 25 January 2018 at Kirkcaldy.

The clubs members this season numbered 486, an increase from last year's figure of 483.

The annual Accounts for the period from 24 April 2016 to 29 March 2017 were presented. The Accounts showed a surplus of £46.44. This compared with a surplus of £39.81 in the previous year.

The funds show an improved balance of £508.02 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 £350.

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

7. Election of Office Bearers

	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
Patron:		
Earl of Elgin	Committee	Unanimous
President		
Alastair Noble	Committee	Unanimous
Vice President		
No nomination		
Committee members		
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Secretary		
Iain Hannah	Committee	Unanimous

Harry Mitchell remains on the committee ex officio as past president.

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

Alastair Noble took the position as Chair for the rest of the meeting.

8. Annual Subscriptions

Given the current improved financial position, the committee recommended that club subscriptions remain at 50p per member to ensure sufficient funding for Province badges for forthcoming incoming tour. The committee proposal for these changes was seconded by Willie Nicoll.

9. Report from RCCC Fife and Kinross Area Standing Committee Representative.

Alan Stuart reported as representative from Fife and Kinross Area.

Alan started by reminding everyone that the former Areas were now known by a location rather than a number – in our case Fife and Kinross.

The building of the new Curling Academy at the Peak, Stirling was now in progress at a cost of £3.2m. It would be open to all curlers but it will mainly be used by elite curlers. There will be no facilities for spectators.

At the top level of curling the results were not great although the Junior girls and ladies were best. However Fife and Kinross area were well represented by Graham Lindsay, David McQueen and Ian Drysdale at the World Seniors at Lethbridge, Canada.

Alan referred to the incoming Canadian Tour in January 2018. All clubs would be given the opportunity to nominate members for the 20 rinks required for the competition. There would need to be a balance between providing competitive rinks and recognising members who had given much to curling as office bearers etc.

It was recognised that the Area competitions were not attracting as many entries as in the past. There was unlikely to any changes in the coming season but Area would be looking at ways of addressing this issue e.g. moving some games to Kinross.

The RCCC membership fee is going up by £1 after 1st November 2017. Fees paid before then would remain as at present.

10. Report from Kirkcaldy Curling School

Bill Creevy presented a report from the Kirkcaldy Curling School (KCS).

The first **Try Curling** session was in October when 30 people attended. 12 signed up for the Beginner's Course and 5 of them joined the Virtual Club. There were 4 Junior Try Curling sessions scheduled. 8 attended the first one and a good percentage signed up for the junior club sessions but the other sessions were less successful with only 2 or 3 attending each and not progressing.

The **Junior Club** sessions were run as blocks of 4 evening to encourage consistent attendance. This seemed to work well, with an average number of 12 players. Active Fife co-ordinated the registration for the Junior Club, but there still seemed to be a loss of communication between some of the schools and the pupils.

There were less drop in coaching sessions as it was felt we should be encouraging more people into the Virtual Club to keep their interest going. 9 joined during the season.

The second **Try Curling** event was held in November immediately after the European Curling Championships. Only 24 people attended with 5 completing the Beginners Course and 4 of them joined the Virtual Club. In Bill's view the poor coverage by the Media and the RCCC played a major part in the low numbers, a golden opportunity missed to promote the Try Curling Initiative.

Next season we are holding 3 Try Curling events. The 3rd one will be held around the time of the Winter Olympics as the last Olympic Try Curling attracted 247 people to Fife Ice Arena. Bill hoped we can repeat this success.

Curling's Cool was run by Jim Brydie, Ian Sankie and their team. It has been very successful with 275 kids participating and all of the sessions being filled. There were 2 new schools taking part this season. Some extra sessions had to be run on Wednesdays to accommodate everybody. KCS also held 2 Festivals where the schools played against teams from other schools. This season the Coaching School have been funding 50% of the cost of the Curling's Cool programme due to cuts in the Primary Schools budgets.

Junior Club. Wilma ran the junior club and had 10 regular players and sometimes 14. 3 of the juniors played in the Coaches bonspiel at the end of the season. If we can retain these children that would be a great result for junior curling at Kirkcaldy. There may be 2 secondary schools coming to the Junior Club next season.

Disability Curling. Harry Mitchell and his team held regular sessions for people with various levels of disability including one blind curler. He had 4 regular groups attending and what is most apparent is they all have a great fun time on the ice.

Corporate. WKCS had a couple of corporate groups who really enjoyed themselves and realised that Curling is not as easy as it looks.

Cubs/Scouts. KCS had 3 groups of Cubs who came along. 60 attended between the 3 groups and all had a great time and some may come back to the junior club. There was also a group of 14 Explorer Scouts who may want another session next season.

Virtual Club. The Virtual Club continues to flourish but we are down on numbers with 21 members, 5 of them are due to leave as their 2 years are up. This season Bill organized 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. Bill was sure some of the clubs have recruited new members already.

The Virtual Club has played against Virtual teams from Kinross, both at Kirkcaldy and away and played in a few bonspiels this season. Next season there could be additional games against Perth and Dundee. Recently 2 rinks played in the National Virtual Club Challenge at Braehead. They both played well, one team getting through to the 3rd/4th play offs in the Low Road. Both teams had some very close games only losing out by inches. They are looking forward to a return match in September.

One of the aims of the friendly games is to encourage clubs to send novice skips and players to play against the Virtual Club, with this in mind there will be a Coach at these games to help both the mainstream and the Virtual clubs on each rink.

There were 2 **Curling Clinics** this year. The first one, Sweeping, was well supported and Bill felt sure everyone gained some knowledge from David Ramsay from the Elite Curling squad. The second Clinic, Mixed Doubles, had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. We will be running another Coaching Clinic next season on Tacticts.

Next season KCS plans to run a similar programme with maybe a few tweaks, but no major changes. Next season we will not be getting funding from Fife Council, although we may get some assistance with equipment.

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

As can be seen from the Coaching School report it can be very busy at times and at times the KCS resources are very stretched. This season has been a real strain on the coaches and KCS has lost 2 coaches for next season already. They desperately need more Helpers / Coaches or it may be necessary to cut some of their programmes. Bill asked that if any member would like to put something back into the sport and has some spare time KCS are always looking for helpers at any of the sessions.

Bill finished by asking everyone to show their appreciation for all the volunteer coaches who have worked so enthusiastically during the season.

Alastair thanked Bill for his comprehensive report.

11. RCCC 'in memoriam':

Deaths intimated were:

John Gray, Raith and Abbotshall CC

John H Campbell, Raith and Abbotshall CC

12. Any other Competent Business

a. Letter from Phil Barton re Kirkcaldy Ice

Phil Barton had submitted a letter regarding concern about various aspects of the standard of curling ice at Kirkcaldy. The letter was helpful in providing a framework for discussion by those present at the meeting as it became clear that this matter has been the topic for discussion at a number of club AGMs this year with an increasing number of members indicating that they are unwilling to play at Kirkcaldy. Indeed one club wishes to move from this province to Loch Leven province.

A number of points were made about the current situation including the limited use of deionised water, lack of water pressure, insufficient time given for staff to prepare

good ice, the way in which the ice is cut to favour the ice hockey and of course the “heave” in the floor. It is understood that the ice rink owners are aware of the possible need to replace the floor but unless this is an issue for the ice hockey it is unlikely to receive funding given curling’s relatively small contribution to income.

On a more positive note, the new General Manager starts work on 1 May and hopefully this will be an opportunity to find out what his plans are for the future. Bob Smith has taken over as secretary for Fife and Kinross Area and is aware of the concerns for curling at Kirkcaldy not just in our Province but in the Area if action is not taken to improve the current situation. Bob suggested that some immediate improvements might be possible through rescheduling curling times to reduce the number of changes to ice use.

It was agreed that the Province committee would pursue this matter further with Fife Ice Arena management and would look for the support of Fife and Kinross Area and other provinces.

b. West of Fife Representative Clubs for next season:

RCCC SCOTTISH PROVINCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bank of Scotland CC as winners of the Province Mixed Knock Out competition

Inverkeithing CC as runner up of the Province Mixed Knock Out competition as an additional rink if required.

AREA 10 INTER PROVINCE BONSPIEL

- i **Inverkeithing CC** as runners up in the Mixed Knock Out
- ii **Aberdour CC** as winners in the Ladies Knock Out
- iii **Dunfermline CC** as runners up in the League

c. Competition entries

Clubs were reminded to return these to the secretary no later than 15 May 2017.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

CNC Secretary/Treasurer

April 2017