

## **SAUCHIE AND BANNOCKBURN CURLING CLUB - MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (A.G.M.)**

**Held at Castle Suite, FORTHBANK STADIUM, STIRLING on Wednesday 19th April 2017 at 7.00pm**

### **1. Attendance**

The following members were in attendance:

Joan Anderson, Anne Kane, Alan Watt, Norman Ainslie, Iain Gwynne, John Brisbane, Jim Marshall, Graeme Anderson, Derrick Douglas, Joe Kincaid, Rory MacKenzie.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Bob Turner, Caroline Anderson, Jim Kerr.

### **3. Minutes of 2016 AGM**

Minutes of the 2015/16 AGM were accepted and signed by President and Secretary.

Matters arising from the minutes:

- The Secretary will pursue the opportunity to play the virtual club in a bonspiel. An invite to play the Virtual Club in an annual competition was sent to Hammy McMillan and he responded that he was looking to invite all local clubs to play the virtual club annually. He has yet to provide details but he will book ice for this. It was deemed fairer to all concerned as clubs were lining up to play the virtual club.

### **4. President's report**

Derrick Douglas gave the president's report as follows:

- He reiterated what he had said at the previous meeting by thanking everyone for their commitment throughout the season. Despite having fewer numbers there was a better turn out with volunteers readily available as substitutes. He mentioned the difficulties with a Friday that seemed to impact turnout.
- Thanks to Joe for his efforts in his different roles.

### **5. Treasurer's report**

An updated account was circulated at the meeting. Only one final payment was outstanding and a small surplus showing, although no engraving done this season yet.

Joe Kincaid gave the Treasurer's report:

1. Last season the difference between ice income and expenditure due to Points, Pairs and ice money for absence of Jim Neilson.
2. Increase in payments to £70 and £60 has evened out the bills slightly for some members. 5 members over the £210 threshold. Substitutions cause biggest difference in charges to members.
3. Pay ice in arrears every month to spread charges over the season rather than two big bills in arrears.

4. Better balance of expenditure and income, slight profit over the season though engraving still to be done.

Points to Note:

- Rink fee going up from £84 to £86 for evening ice, don't have a chartered club price yet, but there may be a small increase.

Treasurer's report was proposed by Derrick Douglas and seconded by John Brisbane and accepted by the AGM.

#### **5. Representative Member's Report**

Joe gave the Representative Member's report:

Attended ClubSportStirling AGM where affiliation fee set at same as last year.

Attended Stirlingshire Province and Forth Valley Area AGMs where affiliation fee set at same as last year. Collected Dunn Trophy.

Now Area Representative and attended all meetings of RCCC Area Standing Committee. I now have a greater understanding of how RCCC operates. There is a target of 16,000 members by 2019 agreed with SportScotland that affects funding and there is a committee set up looking at the issues with membership. There will be a big push to sign up as many people as possible to TryCurling during and after the winter Olympics. We must be actively seeking out new people to invite along to try the sport out. I think we have a dedicated membership and we have welcomed Jim, Norman and Iain successfully, so we need to keep looking for others to join.

The Performance Centre is on track to complete the handover by the builders by the end of June. The ice techs will then need to get the ice ready for playing on. I would expect it to be available for next season and it will be included in the ice allocations to clubs once the elite players needs have been met. It will be up to whoever is managing the allocation as to which ice rink we will play on, but I hope we get a chance to play on it. The secretary indicated in the ice allocation request that we would be willing to play there.

RCCC is looking to host a major championship in Stirling and to put in seating along the sides of the six sheet rink. We should support this as much as possible, the European Championships at Braehead were not as successful with ticket sales as expected, so we need these events to be well supported.

#### **6. Development Officer's report**

Joe gave the Development Officer report:

1. Development Plan for this season largely completed. The development plan was submitted to the meeting.
2. Members survey undertaken in February with 11 responses. Wednesday's still the best night for most people, with Tuesday being the favoured alternative. Most responses indicated that the variety of play and the amount of matches was at the right level and coaching is still to be delivered but everyone agreed we should take the opportunity to play in the small clubs alliance league. Everyone felt connected to the club and 5 respondents indicated they could bring people in to try curling. This survey result is now the basis for the next development plan and has guided the booking of ice next season as well as the selection of teams.

3. There are notices for the club and TryCurling in Bannockburn and St Ninians Libraries.
4. Points competition had 7 members participating and for first time all disciplines were completed due to the enthusiastic support of the players. Non playing Volunteers to be scorers would help improve this. Any volunteers?
5. Hendry trophy was a success as a mini-league of three teams for the less experienced members who want to try skipping a few games in a supportive atmosphere. The games being spaced out among the other tournaments in 2017 did offer some variety of play to everyone. Do we continue the competition in this format?.
6. The Pairs competition was successfully held over a single evening, we continue this in 2017/18. We will stipulate in the rules that winners switch rinks for the semi-finals to ensure that everyone is playing on a new rink.
7. The website receives a small but consistent use. Newsletters on competition final results did boost communication and spikes in hits.
8. E-mails from the Google calendar for all external matches will continue. Any changes to these teams should be notified to the secretary so these online playing lists can be kept up to date. Personal calendars can also be updated by accepting the invites if desired. It is not helpful to simply decline the invite, you must find a substitute as normal and inform the secretary.
9. Team listings for club competitions specify the skip first, but all other players in the team were given the opportunity to play in different positions. The team list is NOT in playing order except for the skip. We want to give as much variety of play to everyone as possible. This will apply to the next fixture list for 2017-2018.

#### Points to Note:

- Everyone must continue to seek out new players to try curling. It has been suggested that prior to the season starting, we could book a sheet to bring along potential new members for a taster. Does anyone have a date in mind? This would be more benefit to the club in the long run than relying on TryCurling.
- The coaching days will benefit everyone. It is not a test, it will increase your enjoyment of the sport.
- TryCurling evenings can be found on the internet, the club can support the new players on the night if you let the secretary know before hand when they have booked to appear.
- The new Development Plan was agreed at committee this year and will be an annual item on the agenda. Chartered Club status requires it.
- The proposed development plan for next year was circulated around the meeting.

A discussion on the introduction of interested parties to the game of curling followed. It was proposed that those people who had indicated in the survey that they knew of people interested in trying the sport should coordinate a date and time when it suited most. However, it was agreed that it would be better to have a date and time to aim for. The secretary intimated that he had asked for a sheet of ice on Wednesday the 30th August at 5:45pm to be used for coaching. This could be used for try curling instead. It was agreed that this date be used to introduce people to the sport. The development officer will follow up at the beginning of August to arrange coaches and access to

support materials for the day if there was a need. If that date is not possible, the alternative of requesting available ice could still be used, but it is 7 days notice and times can be restrictive.

## **7. Match secretary's report**

Rory gave the Match Secretary's report:

He thanked the secretary for his hard work and a discussion followed regarding the duties of the post. It was acknowledged that the calendar with reminders to players was the most useful application in getting players to external competitions. This had reduced the match secretary's efforts. A discussion followed regarding continuing the post. It was agreed to do so. It was noted that all substitutions should be notified to the secretary and match secretary so that the calendar and reminders are kept up to date. It was also pointed out that if the invite is accepted, the game is entered into personal calendars if they are compatible. On no account decline them. If a substitute is required arrange it and notify skips and secretaries as per the club rules.

## **8. Membership report**

Resignations received for season 2017-2018:

- None so far.

Membership change:

- Jim Neilson has resumed playing this season. Unfortunately Murray Collins was absent for the whole season and this was a particularly cruel blow. We wish him well and hope that next season will see him playing again.
- It was agreed that Murray's club membership be carried over to next season. Proposed by Joe Kincaid and seconded by Derrick Douglas.

New members requests:

- None so far.

At this point both Norman Ainslie and Jim Marshall left the meeting as they had a curling match to fulfil.

## **9. Election of office bearers**

The President explained the process for nominating people for positions at the meeting. It is only possible to nominate members who attend the AGM unless they have been approached beforehand and had agreed to be nominated.

Members were re-elected to offices as follows:

- a) President – Derrick Douglas retired, Graeme Anderson was proposed by the committee and seconded by Rory MacKenzie, he assumed the role and took the chair of the meeting.
- b) Vice President – As Graeme Anderson is now president, John Brisbane was proposed as Vice President and seconded by Derrick Douglas. It was approved by the meeting. He will take on this role and give up his committee role.
- c) Secretary – Joe indicated that he was happy to carry on in this role. No other nominations were received. This was accepted by the meeting.

- d) Match secretary – Rory indicated that he was happy to carry on in this role. Iain Gwynne expressed an interest and proposed himself, seconded by Derrick Douglas and was accepted by the meeting. He will meet with the secretary to discuss the role and duties to be performed in the near future.
- e) Treasurer – Joe indicated that he was happy to carry on in this role. No other nominations were received. This was accepted by the meeting.
- f) Representative member – Derrick, Joe and Anne will continue to cover the duties of this role. The duties were discussed and as most communication comes through the secretary, it was agreed that these be passed to other representatives to give them an opportunity to attend. The RCCC AGM on Saturday 17th June at Braehead is one possible meeting that Anne could attend.
- g) Committee members – John Brisbane has finished his period. Jim Marshall is in his second year. We need a volunteer. Alan Watt expressed an interest and proposed himself, seconded by John Brisbane and it was accepted.
- h) Auditor – Alan Watt will continue in this role.
- i) Club coach - Norman Ainslie.
- j) Development Officer - Joe Kincaid. It was proposed that the current development officer work with the coach to eventually enable him to take on both functions if it was desired.

#### **10. Subscriptions 2017-2018**

It was intimated that the RCCC subscription will remain the same for next year at £19 but that an increase will be proposed at the AGM to £20. It was agreed that both subscriptions would be the same in season 2017-18. A discussion followed regarding the change in ice fees and the impact on the balance sheet. It was proposed that members will be asked for two payments of £75 per year for mother club and £65 otherwise, with any difference being collected from members at the end of the year. The individual ice charge will increase in proportion to the increase proposed by the ice rink up to a maximum of £8.50. This will generate a slight profit to cover the ice deficit the club accepts every year. This was approved unanimously by the meeting.

#### **11. Election of skips**

Skips for coming season:

External Competitions

Murray Collins, (Derrick Douglas as sub), Graeme Anderson, John Brisbane, Joe Kincaid.

Club Competitions:

Alan Watt, Rory MacKenzie plus those listed above..

Hendry skips:

Iain Gwynne, Norman Ainslie, Jim Marshall.

#### **12. Programme for 2017-2018**

##### **a) Competitions**

The request for ice for next season had to be submitted to the Peak prior to the AGM date. The submitted ice allocation form was presented at the table for the meeting. The format and scheduling of Club competitions will be the same as 2016-17 due to success of Pairs and Hendry. You will be aware that in the past season, Active Stirling had to utilise the 21:55

session time on a Wednesday evening. Looking ahead to the following season, they may need to utilise the Wednesday late sessions again however, Active Stirling will endeavour to ensure that no club is allocated more than 10% of their ice allocation on a Wednesday at 21:55. In the event that the 21:55 sessions do not need to be utilised, all sessions on a Wednesday night will revert back to the 18:15 & 20:30 sessions, as is on all other evenings of the week. Secretary will amend the fixtures in the event of them reverting and will notify members of the change.

Season starts on Monday 28th August.

Crossmyloof match will be in November and at Braehead this year. A discussion followed regarding the continuation of this match as there were no personal ties between the clubs any more. It was proposed that the game be played this season and the hosts be sounded out regarding their commitment to it continuing. This was accepted unanimously at the meeting.

The club can only propose dates for matches, the final ice offer may include Fridays. The allocation request identified Monday as the best alternative day to try and avoid Friday but Friday is a poorly supported day.

The dropping of meals after the opening and closing bonspiels has been noted in the kitchen at the restaurant in the ice rink. A discussion followed regarding the social side of curling and it was noted some people had still wanted to go up to the restaurant after these games. It was agreed that some effort to re-establish the habit of going up to the restaurant for drinks at least be encouraged and where time permits food could also be considered.

A proposal was put forward by Iain Gwynne that teams with less than 4 players be penalised in some way to balance out the advantage 3 players often have over 4 as he has been on the losing side to teams of 3 too often. A discussion followed on the merits of penalties for being late or being absent for the whole game. It was agreed that there was little merit in penalties for lateness as sometimes it is unavoidable. However playing most of the game against 3 players was a disadvantage. It was also noted that penalties for lateness and absence by RCCC, Area and Province are punitive and must be avoided. The meeting agreed to take forward the following for club matches:

- At the start of play, the team with 3 players will be penalised 2 shots and this will be put on the scoreboard where the hammer normally goes. If the missing player arrives before the end of 3 ends the 2 points can be removed. If it remains in force, the 2 points are added at the end on the scorecard and clearly labelled such. This rule will be added to play in the season 2017/18.

#### **b) Social events**

Golf outing was proposed by Iain Gwynne and he suggested it could even be used as a social event for bringing new members into the club. Graeme Anderson agreed to organise a day during the summer when Kings Park was not busy with competitions.

### **13. Any Other Competent Business (A.O.C.B.)**

The following general points were raised:

- The club has applied for membership to the Small Curling Clubs Alliance which runs a league with 7 other clubs and been accepted. It is proposed to submit one team made up of members from throughout the club. This will mean an additional 7 games over the season. It was proposed that the membership be approached to identify those who wish to play more curling over the season to ensure that we use these additional fixtures to satisfy that demand. Iain Gwynne in his role as match secretary agreed to take this forward. It was noted that despite the secretary proposing to book ice for the SCCA to achieve a discount, these games will be charged full price. Active Stirling did not agree to the switch. These games can be charged through the club's charging system. The treasurer will monitor the impact of these extra games on the payment system and report back at the next AGM.
- On Monday the 29th January 2018 a men's Canadian tour will play at Stirling Ice Rink. There will be sessions in the morning and afternoon. Stirlingshire Province approached the secretary and asked if we would put forward a team to play in this event. The event was discussed. It will be 2 sessions, 4 games each. The Tourists will consist of experienced players and will be a tough test. There will be a need for volunteers to meet and greet and guide the visitors through the day. There will be a buffet between sessions in the ice rink restaurant and there will be a dinner at night. The venue has still to be decided but will be local, possibly the Royal Hotel in Bridge of Allan or Stirling Court Hotel at the university. The cost was discussed. Stirlingshire Province has a tour fund into which we pay each year. In previous years, it has been agreed that the player pay 1/3rd, the club pay 1/3rd and the Province pay 1/3rd of the cost. As Area Representative, the secretary is involved in the organisation of this event in Stirling. A target cost of £90 per head is being suggested, so this would mean £30 per person and £120 expenditure by the club. A show of hands at the meeting provided enough people willing to play. A discussion followed on the impact to club funds. It was unanimously agreed to commit the club to supporting the event. The secretary will follow up the request at the Province AGM next week and keep the members updated on the details.
- The recent death of Jimmy Muirhead is a loss greatly felt by the club. He made a huge contribution to the club as a player, skip, committee member, president, fundraiser and event organiser with over 60 years of membership.
- It is 10 years since the club organised the purchase of jackets. It was proposed that the original supplier be approached regarding new jackets. Alan Watt to send the secretary the contact details.

### Sauchie and Bannockburn competition winners 2016-2017

<b>Morrison Trophy (Opening bonspiel)</b>	N Ainslie, D Douglas, J Marshall
<b>McWattie Trophy</b>	D Douglas, N Ainslie, I Gwynne, B Turner
<b>Hendry Trophy</b>	Alan Watt, Jim Kerr, Iain Gwynne, Rory MacKenzie
<b>Mitchell-Wilson Trophy</b>	Jim Kerr, Joan Anderson, Norman Ainslie, Rory MacKenzie
<b>Bullions Trophy (Christmas bonspiel)</b>	Alan Watt, R MacKenzie, G Anderson, J Kincaid, N Ainslie, A Kane
<b>Corrieri Cup</b>	Derrick Douglas, John Brisbane, Anne Kane, Joan Anderson, Graeme Anderson
<b>Muirhead Trophy</b>	Alan Watt, Derrick Douglas, Norman Ainslie, Joe Kincaid
<b>Miller Trophy</b>	Jim Kerr, Bob Turner, Anne Kane, Graeme Anderson
<b>Hope Pairs</b>	Joe Kincaid and Graeme Anderson
<b>Points</b>	Graeme Anderson (No Ladies winner)
<b>Provost's Quaich</b>	Graeme Anderson with 41 points. Derrick Douglas had 40 points.