



Scottish Wheelchair Curling Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2nd March 2017 at the Peak, Stirling

Present –

R Lenton – Chairman (RL)

A Hopkins – Vice Chairman (AH)

R Miller – Treasurer (RM)

G Keith – Competitions Convenor (GK)

J McLaren – North Clubs Rep (J McL)

H Kallow – RCCC Disability Development Officer (HK)

Attendees – D McKenna, A Robertson, S Wilkinson, O Streeter, A Higson, M Duncan, D Dewar, T Bidgood, K Thom, D Cowan, A Cloudsley, B Kerr, J Kerr, R Hatten, C McKenna, D Wightman, I Donaldson, A Hopkins, M Jamieson, G Smith, A Liddle, M Hansen, C McCluskey, P Heran, J McClelland, S McClelland, I Park, G B Park, D ????, E Allison, C B ok, T Lenton, I Cowan,

1. **Welcome** – RL welcomed everyone to the AGM and introduced Helen Kallow (HK) the new RCCC Disability Development Officer who gave a report on her post.

Helen took up her post at the end of January and will be in touch with clubs in the near future. Helen was previously a Primary Teacher and worked for Riding for the Disabled she is new to curling and her role is to Recruit and engage people to the sport of curling and will support ice rinks and clubs.

It is a 3 year part time post and she will be working Monday – Wednesday.

Her responsibilities include:

- Create Disability Curling Plan
- Work with Disabled Groups
- Improve Club Culture
- Provide Coaching/Volunteer Training

Helen advised that she will be looking for input into training and Case Studies

RL thanked Helen for her report

2. Apologies – L Barr, G McLeod, A Malone, J Sellar, J Gault, B Crawford

3. Minutes of AGM Thursday 3rd March 2016 held at the Peak Stirling

Approved – A Hickson

Seconded – I Cowan

Minutes of EGM Thursday 19th June 2016 held at Hamilton Ice Rink

Approved – I Cowan

Seconded – M Jamieson

4. Matters Arising - None

5. Chairman's Report – RL read her report

SWCA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM March 2017

This time last year, the future of SWCA looked bleak. The Committee at that time was in a state of flux with no one willing at the meeting to take on the main roles. After an EGM in May a new Committee was formed and I would personally like to thank each and every one of them for assisting me to carry forward the work of SWCA.

One of the early pioneers of our sport passed away just before Christmas, "Yogi" John Robertson from the Borders. Although he has not been seen around the Ice Rinks for some seasons he was a great character and will be greatly missed by all. He had in the past taken part in many para sports and won a Gold Medal at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester for Lawn Bowls.

We send our condolences to his wife Valerie who still plays at Borders Ice Rink Kelso.

We decided at the outset that this would be an "Open Committee" as a result SWCA Minutes were to be circulated to all Club Secretaries for their distribution to all their member curlers. You should have been sent these and if not please ask your Club Secretaries why not. These are also available on the SWCA Website.

It has been a very productive year, we were encouraged by RCCC to set up our own website, this we have been actively progressing and I can report that it is now alive and active mainly due to the help and assistance of Alan Hopkins from Braehead Wheelchair Club. The web address is <http://www.scottishwheelchaircurlingassociation.co.uk/> and this has been circulated to all Club Secretaries and you should have been notified by them. I would encourage all of you, if you haven't already done so to take a look at it. We want to encourage interaction from clubs to create their own listings of sports, activities, events, opportunities etc. We would welcome feedback together with any news stories and events together with your photographs.

I have visited either as a player or Chair five Clubs and propose to visit the remainder in the upcoming year. This is giving me an insight as to the variety of ways the Clubs are operating and the difficulties each of them may have and the ways we can help and assist. To this end we have produced several leaflets' for both players new and improvers, and also On Ice Volunteers & recruitment of Volunteers. All of these are on the website and can be downloaded and we are hoping to have some printed copies available shortly.

It has been encouraging to see that there has been a flourishing number of Competitions being held by various Clubs, with the Inverness Triples, Lockerbie Stick & Wick, Braehead No sweeping, Tunnocks and the Stirling International to name just a few as well as inter club friendly Competitions. I would encourage you all to support as many of these as possible. An increasing number of wheelchair curlers are now also entering AB Competitions and we would encourage you to continue to do so.

This season the Royal Club undertook on our behalf to organize the three main competitions: Open Pairs, British Open and the Scottish Championships. We realise that there have been a number of teething problems and we are addressing these for the next season, so please bear with us. Next season we will be having the Entry Forms on our own SWCA Website as this season as it was reported that there were difficulties around finding them on the RCCC site. The Friendship Trophy is still being run by SWCA and will be held at the Peak Stirling on Friday 24th March and this is being supported once again by our very grateful donor Anne McGarva to whom we are most grateful.

The Royal Club have now engaged a Disability Development Officer, Helen Kallow, who we welcome today and she will speak later about her work. Hopefully this will help SWCA to work with RCCC to deliver relevant workshops, programs and events, and deliver a Coaching W/C Curling Modules.

We often forget that Clubs cannot exist without the help and assistance of others, and the SWCA is grateful to all the volunteers who are involved in all the local club activities, as well as the work they do at our major Competitions. As we are seeing at this event we now have quite an army of Volunteers who operate around the Country and I would personally like to give you a round of applause for all your hard work, you are the unsung heroes of our sport.

You will have noticed that the Scotland Squad are not present today or at this event, has in November they very successfully gained promotion in Finland back to the A section . This means that they will be playing at the World Championships in Korea in a few days and they have also gained a place at the Paralympics next year also in Korea, and we wish them well, and let us get behind Scotland & Team GB and wish them every success.

Wheelchair curling continues to flourish and with the assistance of a very supportive committee, enthusiastic club members and interested parties, I trust that the sport will continue to prosper. We want Scottish Curling to be a Sport which is strong and growing in local communities around Scotland, where friendship and sportsmanship counts and that is successful on the world stage.

Last but by no means least; my thanks go to all the members of this year's committee. I would like to thank them for their support and commitment to SWCA. I have enjoyed working with you this year and appreciate your help and cooperation in moving the Association as a whole in the right direction.
Enjoy your sport.

6. Financial Report – RM presented report and highlighted the following

- It has been a difficult year
- Subscriptions were paid by 9 clubs
- Received no substantial Donation
- Entry to competitions down
- Large loss on Pairs Competition
- Deficit for Year £7072.97

SWCA Income Expenditure Breakdown

Income 2016/17

Membership Subscriptions	225.00
Donations AM Ross (Friendship Trophy)	800.00
National Pairs – Entry Fees	480.00
British Open – Entry Fees	960.00
Scottish – Entry Fess	<u>1260.00</u>
	<u>£ 3665.00</u>

Expenditure 2016/17

Meetings	971.25
Prizes	546.05
National Pairs	2002.00
British Open	2792.20
Scottish	2051.20
SWCA Website	83.34
Miscellaneous Expenses 2015/16	64.93
Refund Hotel Expenses – British Open	287.00
Donation – SWCII	500.00
Try Curling – Peak	50.00

Try Curling – Lockerbie	50.00
Audit	40.00
RCCC fee (£400 x 3)	<u>1200.00</u>
	<u>£10737.97</u>

Income for year 2016-17	£3665,00
Expenditure for year 2016-17	£10737.97
Deficit for Year 2016/17	£7072.97

Annual Accounts

1st March 2016 – 28th February 2017

Balance as at 29.02.16	£32297.68
Income since 29.02.16	£3665.00
Total	£35962.68
Expenditure since 29.02.16	£10737.97
Balance as at 28.02.17	£25224.71
Represented by:	
Cash in Bank – Current A/C	£25224.71

Jackie McLaren queried refund of hotel expenses and why we were paying and not the RCCC – RL has agreed to go back and challenge this.

Judy McKenzie asked why the ice that was booked for British Open was not cancelled when there were fewer entries and on the back of this Isobel Cowan queried why entries were refused as they were told that it was because ice had been given back

Angel Higson asked about the organisation of future competitions and Rosemary explained that we are tied in to the present arrangement with RCCC for 2 years but we can negotiate ice fees in the future rather than relying on RCCC.

Debbie raised the point around what are we paying the RCCC for when they couldn't run 3 competitions.

It was acknowledged that there have been issues with the running of competitions this year but this would be addressed for next season

Judy McKenzie feels that the RCCC should have helped with sponsorship for competitions

Accounts approved by B Park and seconded J McKenzie

7. Scottish Competitions – Gill Keith read her report
Star Refrigeration National Pairs Championship at Braehead
8 Pairs played in this ever popular event competing in great atmosphere and camaraderie. This is presently the only sponsored event. Two days of 5 games in total. Keenly played on great ice.
Mobility Solutions remained the Sponsor for this year and provided a goodie bag for each competitor,
The Prizes consisted of the Traditional Swiss bell for the Runners up and Winners the Quaich
BlackNoir provided lovely glass curling stones for Winners and Runners-up.
This year the catering was provided by The Curlers Bar at Braehead....lovely soup for all.

British Open Championship

The event this year had a small entry of 6 teams. There were many reasons for this, disappointing as this was it did not deter the competitive spirit from all Competitors. Great to see Northern Ice travel up from North England to compete. For this Open held in South Lanarkshire. Soup and Sandwiches were provided for all entrants. Great ice for the duration of the competition contributed to a good event. The Winners were Team Neilson with Aileen again provided some thrilling draws for winning point.

Aileen Neilson along with Gregor Ewan, Hugh Nibloe, Robert McPherson, Angie Malone and Coach Sheila Swan represent Scotland in the World Wheelchair Curling Championship (WWhCC) 2017 being held in Gangneung, Korea (4-11 March 2017). We send our congratulations and full support to the team on success in the coming event. We are all behind you!

Scottish Championship at Stirling

A good entry of 12 teams will meet on the 1-3rd March to compete for this year's trophy.

Much work goes on behind the scenes continuously throughout the season to make sure all SWCA events run smoothly. Thanks are due to Aline Hardy at Royal Club Competitions for preparing all the draws, the Royal Club for providing umpires Ian Addison. Thank you also to volunteer umpires at the British Open Robin Shand and Colin Melrose. The ice teams at the rinks work very hard to make sure ice is as keen as possible, and monitor speed and curl throughout competitions in an effort to keep consistency. Gill is looking for increased entries into next year's competitions.

Maria Duncan asked how we can get more people from the North to come to competitions for example the Friendship, Jacky McLaren clarified who can compete in the competition; would prefer that it is not squad members but everyone else is welcome.

Keith Thom asked about the British Open and why an entry hadn't been accepted – RL answered that there has to be a cut off 1 month before and that there had been some miscommunication with RCCC which will not happen in the future.

Ted Bidgood proposed that there should be a new league type competition between clubs – RL replied that we would have to look at logistics and costs and GK suggested that we could look for sponsorship for this. RL suggested that we would have to contact clubs to see who would like to be involved in this type of competition, JMCL also pointed out that the availability of ice could be a problem as could the cost of travel. Ian Donaldson suggested that club secretaries be asked to see who would be interested.

Jackie McLaren asked who is organising dates for future competitions – it was advised that both SWCA and RCCC will come to agreement and this will be discussed at the next SWCA committee meeting.

8. Election of Office Bearers

South Rep – Brian Park – Nominated Stranraer, Seconded Lockerbie

North Rep – Jacky McLaren – Nominated Stirling, Seconded Inverness

Maureen Griffiths will continue as Minute Secretary

Alison Hopkins – Vice Chairman Position ratified

9. There being no further business RL thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting. Judy MacKenzie thanked RL and the committee for the work that has been carried out.

