



SCOTTISH WHEELCHAIR CURLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting held on Saturday, 9th September, 2017 at Route 74, Lesmahagow

Present	Rosemary Lenton	RL	Chair
	Alison Hopkins	AH	Acting Vice-chair
	Rosemary Miller	RM	Treasurer
	Brian Park	BP	South Clubs Rep
	Harry Brodie	HB	Comp co-ordinator
	Maureen Griffiths	MG	Minutes Secretary

The chair (RL) welcomed everyone.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Sheila Swan, Gavin McLeod, Helen Kallow and Jacky McLaren.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting were approved - proposed by BP and seconded by HB.

3. Matters arising

BP reported on the Wheelchair Curling seminar, stressing the difficulty clubs are having recruiting new members and the healthy discussion on how to introduce the varying disabilities.

4. Chairman's Report RL

COMMUNICATIONS

At the last meeting I stated I had applied to a number of Grant Making Trusts to assist with the funding of our various competitions. I am glad to say we have had a number of responses to date and been successful with 3, these are;

Sim Charitable Trust £500

PF Charitable Trust £2000

Awards for All £3750

A Total of £6270, this is in addition to the Ann McGarva donation of £800 for the Friendship.

I have also written to the AM Ross Foundation for assistance towards Publicity Materials. To date I have not had any response.

In the meantime I have prepared some Business Cards for some Clubs where I had their contact details and dates/times of sessions. These have been sent to Braehead, South Lanarkshire, Stranraer, Lockerbie and Stirling. Whilst not perfect they will give Clubs some publicity materials for the start of the season.

COMPETITIONS To date we have received 15 entries for the **Pairs** Competition at Stranraer, this is an increase from last year where in total we had 8 Pairs. We really need an extra Pair to make 16 for an even draw.

I have heard from Ted Bidgood regarding the **Inter Club League**. He has applied for a grant to assist with this and has made an initial enquiry. They will then decide if the application will go forward. He is keeping me informed and would require some input from myself for the next stage.

British Open. Sheila Swan has promised to push this competition with the Overseas Teams and she will keep us informed of any developments. Sweden and Denmark have shown an interest so far. I explained that we would not be responsible for transport or hotel arrangements; however we could give a list of suitable accommodation if required.

ACTION "PAIRS" Last year we obtained Prizes (4) from Black Noir (Winners/2nd for both High and Low Road)

HELPERS: On Ice Helpers 4 sheets per session will need 8 helpers per session

PRIZES Suggest we think about prizes for the 2 remaining Competitions (British & Scottish)

AOCB Northern Ice are now members of SWCA therefore we need to send out Minutes etc. to them.

Northern Ice has applied to join RCCC .

5. Financial Report RM

The closing balance on 9th September was £32,547.29
Membership dues of £25 per club are now payable to SWCA.
It was agreed to make a donation towards ice costs for the new league

6. Competitions see above

Triples A third person is required – RL to seek one.
British Open So far Denmark and Northern Ice have expressed an interest. It would be good to have 10/12 entries

Scottish	Two teams have entered but more are expected when teams for other competitions are firmed up.
Pairs	It was agreed that Harry and Brian would source the prizes including one for a new category – ‘Outstanding’ Curler. As RL will be on leave at the time a number of suggestions were made for Presenter of prizes. Final choice will be made at a later date.
Points	RL will circulate the clubs regarding the new Points Competition.
Inter Club League	Ted Bigwood is organizing the competition.

7. Action Plan RL

See 4

8. SDS Representative No Report

9. RCCC Report HK

SWCA Report 9th September

RCCC Disability Curling Development Officer

Club Recruitment and Development Seminar

Many thanks to all those who took the time to attend the Club development seminar. If anyone else has any more feedback it would be much appreciated. Several people enjoyed being able to get together and share ideas. It was felt that less content on disability would have been good as people were quite happy with that aspect, but more focus on fundraising and social media. I am happy to look into more training on social media if there is an interest in this area.

The **Para Talent ID Day** will be held on the 9th September at the Peak and there have been a few enquiries so Sheila is hopeful that we may attract some new athletes to the sport from other sports who may have the ability to go to the Paralympics.

An invite for applying to the **British Paralympic Development Squad** has gone out to all registered wheelchair curlers who have given an email address, a letter is following to those without email addresses. Please encourage those who fit the criteria to apply, any enquiries to Sheila. Please encourage all curlers to have a valid email address if possible on the RCCC membership database as this really helps communication and for all other information to be up to date.

Wheelchair Mixed Doubles seminar is going ahead on Thursday 28th September, applications will go on the website next week. This will be led by Judith McLeary and will focus on tactics and strategy rather than delivery technique.

Please discuss whether there are any more training days which you wish me to look into putting on and let me know.

Numbers are good for the **Advanced Wheelchair Coaching Module**, please continue to encourage applications for the intro course, both at Braehead.

A concern from some wheelchair curlers who may wish to do their **UKCC Level 1** coaching course is lack of experience in coaching the standard delivery. Please can you encourage any wheelchair curlers thinking of doing this course that there will be support available and think of how to encourage them to observe the standard delivery so they become more familiar with it. It will certainly be possible to put on a specific session where they can explore what is involved in advance of going on a level 1 course.

Many thanks to those who have given me **Curler Profiles**, most of these have come from Stranraer, well done Brian! I would love to have more for publicity purposes. Please ensure they include a clear, well-lit photograph of the curler, preferably taking part in curling.

Ailidh Hood has let me know that there is still an option for you to get **trycurling** sessions added to the website even though the deadline has passed. However, as the bulk of the work of adding these dates has gone, it may be a few weeks before the dates can be added on due to staffing changes in the marketing department. The Peak, Braehead, Dundee and Stranraer are the only rinks which are so far running wheelchair specific sessions. In the run up to the games and during the events themselves 'try curling' is the brand which will be pushed for people to find out more so if you can have some sessions on this it would help people find out about your club. I have attached the try curling marketing guidelines for you to see again.

Curl Fest – please get involved with this in any way possible, it will be a great chance to raise the profile of wheelchair curling and let people know about the opportunities. Details here <http://www.royalcaledoniancurlingclub.org/development/curlfest/>

World Wheelchair Championships 2019 – a question was raised about the possibility of free tickets for this event – this is unlikely but there will be a need for many volunteers for the event. Many of the volunteer positions would give you a chance to experience some of the action. Please consider if there is a role you would like to volunteer for and look out for training for some of these coming up. For example, dates for timekeeper training will be coming out in September. There will be ample opportunity to practise throughout this season in advance of 2019, it would be great to see as many wheelchair curlers taking part as possible.

Olympic Try Curling

Overview of what RCCC will provide;

- Financial Incentive
- TC Guidelines Pack 'how to'
- TC online sign up
- TC Pathway structure
- TC Promotion through website – cut off 26th July 2017
- TC Promotional material – distributed 14th August
- Legacy / Coach Dev Conference @ start of season

The Winter Olympics are running from **9th – 25th February 2018**, with Curling being the only sport competing daily;

Mixed doubles - 8th – 13th February

Mens - 14 – 25th February

Womens - 14th – 25th February

We are offering a financial incentive for the full season to allow the 'Olympic Hype' to build up but we do anticipate a spike during and straight after the games.

We are advising that ice rinks consider the potential for a high demand to 'Try Curling' during and immediately after the Olympics and would highlight **17th February – 11th March** as a key window to increase your Try Curling sessions available.

Financial Incentive

The RCCC will be running a financial incentive for ice rinks who participate in our Olympic Try Curling programme for season 2017/18. The aim of our incentive is to encourage ice rinks to proactively advertise and run successful Try Curling sessions and start newcomers on the pathway to membership.

The financial incentive will have 2 stages;

Stage 1 - RCCC will pay **£2 per participant** attending a Try Curling session. The TC participant must have completed the TC paperwork before or during the TC session which will be submitted to RCCC.

RCCC will only make payment when completed paperwork has been received, please note we are bringing in a new online 'sign up' option to minimise paperwork. There will be two payment cut off dates throughout the season when TC Incentive money will be awarded, i.e 20th December 2017 & 20th April 2018 (dates tbc)

Stage 2 – RCCC will pay out an additional **£5 per participant** if you have converted them into either a supporter's member, virtual club member or full member by December 2018.

This will be easy to track with the TC Participants being loaded onto our new database, all that will be required is for them to be 'upgraded' to a membership category. Payments for stage 2 will also have two payment cut offs, i.e 20th April & 20th December 2018 (dates tbc)

TC Guidelines Pack

RCCC will provide a new Try Curling Guidelines pack by August 2017.

This pack will contain;

- Guidelines on how to run a successful TC
- Guidelines on how to advertise your TC sessions
 - Templates of news articles for local press/advertisement
 - Posters/Leaflets
- Guidelines on how to retain your TC participant
 - Draft letter/handout for participants
 - Next steps
- TC session feedback form
- TC participant sign up forms
- TC pathway

TC Online Sign Up

RCCC are working with our website developers to develop the Try Curling website to allow a 'book now' option. This will give participants the option to sign up through the website by filling in a quick form which will then be sent to the ice rink & RCCC, cutting out the paperwork for the ice rink. The new webpage will be up and running for August, a demonstration of how it works will be available at our legacy/coach dev conference.

There will also still be the option to sign up over phone/email as not everyone will be able to complete online.

TC Pathway

The best success through Try Curling sessions for retaining participants in the sport is when they have followed a pathway structure which is clearly laid out in advance. Here is the suggested pathway for Try Curling Participants.



This is adaptable to suit specific ice rinks but is a good guideline to try and follow. It is essential the 'next steps' are in place ahead of the TC session so that there is a clear place to sign post the new participants too.

It is also worth considering the days/times of Try Curling sessions. Are they able to be the same as beginners? For example, if someone can commit to a Tuesday evening TC then they could probably make the beginners block on a Tuesday evening too?

Try Curling Promotion & Materials

RCCC will provide flyers and leaflets for promotional material.

We will advertise your sessions on the RCCC website and our Try Curling website.

We require each ice rink to submit our **'Try Curling Spreadsheet'** no later than **26th July 2017** with all the planned TRY Curling sessions for the coming season.

Failure to submit this spreadsheet correctly completed and on time will result in your sessions not being advertised on our websites.

10. Club Rep Reports

South BP

All clubs have been contacted, but no replies as yet

North JMcL

Nothing to report

11. AOCB

Northern Ice has joined SWCA

12. DONM

The next meeting will be held on at 10.30am, Sat 2^{1st} Oct at Hamilton Ice Rink.

There being no other business RL closed the meeting at 16.00hrs.