



SCOTTISH WHEELCHAIR CURLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting held on Saturday, 21st October, 2017 at Hamilton Ice Rink

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
	Ailidh Hood	AH	RCCC
	Maureen Griffiths	MG	Minutes Secretary

The chair (RL) welcomed everyone.

1. Apologies

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

2. Minutes of previous meeting

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

3. Matters arising

Covered below

4. Chairman's Report RL

COMMUNICATIONS

Jacky McLaren attended a meeting at which Judith McCleary from the RCCC gave an interesting PowerPoint presentation about mixed doubles and then the 10 wheelchair curlers present played a few ends and it was generally felt that it would be a good addition to the games that wheelchair curlers play. Michael McCreadie is really pushing for this to the extent that he wants an exhibition match played between the games at the International. I think that I can organise the ice so it might happen if I can get 4 players.

May I suggest that you invite Michael to the meeting to explain the game and how he sees the way forward.

COMPETITIONS

Inter Club League, The first game of the Inter Club League has been played at Stranraer who hosted Stirling. Dates have been finalised between most participating Clubs for future games and venues.

At the last meeting I informed the Committee that Ted Bidgood had applied for a grant from Postcode Lottery to assist with this, he has made an initial enquiry and they will then decide if the application will go forward. This initial enquiry was successful and Ted and I spent several hours completing the full application for funding. The outcome should be known hopefully by early December.

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.

BPA invited myself and others to visit Kent for a day with Paralympic Sponsors, 22 Sponsors attended, we gave a short talk on the sport of Wheelchair Curling, followed by a demonstration. We had very kindly been loaned 6 wheelchairs from the British Red Cross, as a result all of the Sponsors tried Curling from wheelchairs. They all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

This last week saw the **Stirling International** The event was excellently organised and I would like to thank the organising Committee for such a well run competition. It was also good to see many of our club curlers make the trip to see excellent curling. Eight countries participated and it was a trial event for the Paralympics with time clocks being used.

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

Northern Ice application to join RCCC. They have had no response to date. However the players are members of the RCCC through Moray W/Chair Club and as such are eligible to play in SWCA Competitions.

Jacky McLaren is going to be at the Inverness Triples this coming week, she will act on behalf of SWCA and as such will check with the Club what help or assistance they might need and also to try and get players there to become more involved in SWCA Competitions.

5. Financial Report RM

The closing balance on 20th October was £32,496.29

6. Competitions see above

British Open So far eight teams have entered. HB suggested that as the round robin format had worked so well at Stirling it could be used for the British Open. RL agreed to consider.

Pairs The format was agreed:- Four sections – each team to play each other.
Scoring:-points, ends, shots – leading to high and low roads then knock out.
Each player to deliver 6 stones, 5 ends with bell at 1hr.
BP will introduce Nigel Baines the President of Stranraer Ice Rink who will welcome the players.
There are sufficient helpers (8 per game). Coffee will be supplied for all the helpers and lunch for those who stay for two sessions.
The RCCC Director and Board Member – Hugh Templeton - will officiate at the prize giving
BP stressed that as SWCA had effectively taken over the organising from the RCCC it was important that the competitions were run in a professional manner.

7. Action Plan RL

The AM Ross Foundation has not as yet responded to our request for assistance with publicity material.

8. SDS Representative No Report

The **Para Talent ID Day** was held on the 9th September at the Peak and there were four athletes who attended. Three of whom showed the potential to make excellent progress in curling, so we look forward to their progress over the seasons to come.

Wheelchair Mixed Doubles seminar This was well received by all and Michael McCreddie is a passionate advocate for this alternative format. Please let me know the benefits and any challenges you encounter so we can have a review at the end of the season. Michael has also secured a demonstration slot at the Stirling Wheelchair Curling International to try to promote this more widely.

Please discuss whether there are any more training days which you wish me to look into putting on and let me know as I need to start booking things for the second half of the season.

The recent **Intro to Wheelchair Curling** Coaching course was well received with a range of participants from elite athletes and coaches to RCCC staff and curlers/coaches with an interest in wheelchair curling. Numbers are good for the **Advanced Wheelchair Coaching Module**.

Scottish Disability Sport are holding a **Central Parasport Day** on 25th October at the Peak which will be an opportunity for school age children to come and try wheelchair curling. This is being coached by coaches from Stirling Wheelchair Curling Club. This will be another opportunity to promote the game amongst young people, hopefully there will be some who want to continue.

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. 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. One such curler has already benefitted from a coaching session in preparation for the Level 1 course.

World Wheelchair Championships 2019 Please can you let me know any ideas you may have around promoting the sport during the run up to this competition as it will be a huge opportunity? It would be great to see as many wheelchair curlers being able to take part in volunteering at this event. For those who may want to train as an official, the following training would be suitable:

<http://www.royalcaledoniancurlingclub.org/comps/umpiring/umpire-calendar/>

Sunday 26th November 2017, The National Curling Arena, Stirling. This will include time clock training, which may be of interest to SWCA members.

10. Club Rep Reports

South BP

BP will assess interest in WCC approved cue heads and inform JMCL.

North JMCL

JMCL will be in Inverness this week and will assess interest in acquiring some WCC heads for cues from Canada.

11. AOCB

Northern Ice has joined SWCA and will start to receive copies of minutes.

12. DONM

The next meeting will be held at 10.30am, Sat 13th Jan at Hamilton Ice Rink.

There being no other business RL closed the meeting at 11.37hrs.