



SCOTTISH WHEELCHAIR CURLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting held on Saturday, 18th March, 2017 at Hamilton Ice Rink

Present	Rosemary Lenton	RL	Chair
	Alison Hopkins	AH	Acting Vice-chair
	Rosemary Miller	RM	Treasurer
	Gavin McLeod	GMcL	SDS Rep
	Jacky McLaren	JMcL	North Clubs Rep
	Brian Park	BP	South Clubs Rep
	Helen Kallow	HK	RCCC Disability Dev Officer
	Maureen Griffiths	MG	Minutes Secretary

The chair (RL) welcomed everyone and introduced BP, the South Clubs Rep

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Gill Keith, Ailidh Hood and Sheila Swan

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting were approved - proposed by JMcL and seconded by GMcL.

3. Matters arising

Covered in following reports.

4. Chairman's Report RL

Welcome to Brian Park who was elected at the AGM as the South Representative. The Committee List has now been updated and circulated to all on the Committee.

Many Congratulations to Sheila and the Team for gaining Bronze at the recent World Championships in Korea. This was quite an achievement considering they had to qualify in Finland at the World B Championships in November. This bodes really well for next year's Paralympics also in Korea.

I have received a proposal from Ted Bidgood for a League Competition which we will discuss under Competitions later.

Since the last meeting I have visited 2 Clubs, Stranraer and Braehead. Stranraer seems to be thriving and is very active in fundraising to enable their players to enter Competitions. Member numbers are also rising. They meet every week for a Club day and have

additional coaching on other days. Gail Munro expressed interest in SWCA possibly holding a Competition at the North West Castle. She gave me a tour of the Accommodation and this would appear to be very suitable. Hence all players could be accommodated in the one venue.

Braehead, has a mixture of Short and Full Curlers with an approx. 50/50 split. Members felt that having the 2 meeting at the same time had deterred some potential new curlers to walk away. The Club only meets every 2 weeks, we discussed possibly having 2 separate session times i.e. 12 – 2.00 & 2.00 – 4.00. Whilst they had originally hoped that the Short Curlers would fully integrate into the Club, this was not happening and the Short Curlers saw it as purely social event and left immediately after coming off the ice.

Having made visits to several Clubs this season it would appear that their sessions are being run in several ways;

- * Playing a game
- * Drills led by senior players then a game
- * Coach led sessions no drills but watching line up and hand delivery

This is a possible area where SWCA & HK could assist by perhaps having workshops on Tactics/Strategy and on ice sessions led by Coaches.

I have heard from Alan Spence at Aberdeen as follows:-

With effect from the start of the season the Aberdeen Wheelchair Curling Club has basically ceased to exist. There are just two associate members - myself and Ross Hatten. All the others who were members have left for various reasons. The club name still exists and there is a bank account in the same name but nothing else.

Also spoke to Jean Lammie at Lothians (Murrayfield) They have a small group of regular players and are due to have their AGM shortly. They will let us know of the outcome if the Secretary changes.

This leaves visits to Stirling/Kinross/ Murrayfield& Elgin for next season.

HK reported that Lothians are keen to increase numbers and to this end are going to hold 'come & try' sessions

The Border Life programme was aired on Monday 6 March and received extensive coverage with numerous local people having watched and said how good it was and should help to promote wheelchair curling.

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP. This event was very well attended and we finally got 12 Teams competing. We managed to get access to the RCCC On Line Scoring and this was updated after each round. Our thanks to all at Stirling especially JMcl for organising the Volunteers, it was great to see so many helpers on ice.

AGM There was a good attendance, no major issues as a result. Jacky McLaren was re-elected for North Rep. and Brian Park elected for the South Rep. BP suggested having the committee table in the middle next time for ease of hearing.

COMPETITIONS Mo Simpson has notified dates for Inverness Triples 2017: 24 – 26 October

Friendly Stranraer v Borders + some Lockerbie players to take place at Dumfries on 22 March.

AVIVA - Lockerbie yesterday (17th March) 9 Teams and Border TV came again and there was a slot on their news bulletin.

Friendship at Stirling 24th March, preparations well in hand.

5. Financial Report RM

The current bank balance stands at £25,180.79.

BP passed on a query from Evelyn Reed re the cost of having RCCC help with completion organising. RL explained that the arrangement was put in place prior to this committee's tenure, but was having serious teething problems. As a result a meeting was in the offing with Bruce Crawford to thrash out costs and procedures.

6. Competitions Convener's Report RL

The work involved in organising the competitions is such that GK needs a helping hand. RL suggested that as JMCL is already involved with organising the Friendship she would be an ideal helper and BP could also help. This arrangement would provide continuity as GK was in her second year and JMCL and BP would be in there first year.

It was suggested that an 'idiots guide' to organising competitions would be helpful. RL volunteered to produce one.

Friendship Trophy JMCK

All proceeding satisfactorily. Two teams are involved, two professional umpires have been booked and RL has agreed to present the prizes.

Proposed new club league see attachment

The proposal was greeted with interest by the committee and its pros & cons were discussed – the ability to book evening ice and the cost of ice and transport.

BP pointed out that some clubs raised their own funds.

It was agreed that RL would reply to Tim with the committee's comments and suggestions. She would also ask Tim to circulate the proposal to club secretaries for their perusal.

Highland Triples, Inverness

This competition will be held on 24-26th October 2017

It was noted that Anne McGarva was keen to set up a three year contract for sponsorship.

The Scottish, Friendship and Development Squad were cited as suitable recipients.

6. Action Plan on target

The website is now fully operational so please submit anything of interest to www.scottishwheelchaircurlingassociation.co.uk.

Booklets, etc. are on the site for downloading and are currently being printed

Coaching Modules geared towards wheelchair curling need to be devised. RL suggested holding regional coaching sessions and training days.

BP explained that when he introduced anyone to curling he held a number of one to one sessions before introducing the novice to the club. He is of the opinion that this is essential in order to increase confidence.

It was noted that coaching no longer cascades down from elite to club players.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that Wheelchair friendly coaches need to be developed.

8. SDS Representative GMcL

The New Sports centre at Strathclyde was visited. It is very impressive.

Attendance at this years' Parasports Festivals was as follows:-

Dundee	15 th March	60-70 expected
Forester High School	12 th March	>30 (most ever)
Ravensraig	10 th March	~40 new young people

A meeting is to be held to identify talent. HK,SS,GMcL and regional manager to attend.

Sports Scotland has cut the funding by nearly 50%.

An attempt to increase funding will be made via 'People's Lottery on STV.

RL suggested Aviva funding may help

9 RCCC Report HK

HK outlined the work to be carried out:-

Decide on dates for competitions

Submit competition reports to RCCC within two days

Decide on plans for 2018 Olympics (funding will be available for Try Curling)

JMcL insisted that adverts for Try Curling must be relevant for Wheelchair Curling

10. Club Representatives North Club Rep Report J McL

All set for Friendship on Friday

South Club Rep Report BP

Since the AGM all South clubs and secretaries have been contacted.

Lothian is to hold a Come & Try on 13th Oct.

Dumfries is currently suspended.

Kelso is not (yet) a member so will try to persuade them.

Stranraer is in good shape.

11. AOCB

Stick –on adverts had been suggested by ????????????

12. DONM

The next meetings are proposed for April 29th & June 24th

There being no other business RL closed the meeting at 12.00 hrs

ADDENDUM

Proposal for discussion for

Wheelchair Curling Inter-Club League

The purpose of a League

To provide a competitive element to wheelchair club curling for those who want it over and above (but still to run alongside) the friendly club meeting days.

To provide a structure for players to aspire to be selected to represent their clubs in competition.

For a “grass roots” structure of competitive wheelchair curling, where players can get the regular competition experience necessary which will support the existing structure and identify players ready to progress to national and International competition.

The Mechanics of a League

An initial League of 4 clubs would be sufficient to start an inaugural League (although 5 would be preferable) with the hope that other clubs may be encouraged to join or the larger clubs may be able to sustain a 1st and 2nd team in the following years.

It is proposed that each team play each other both home and away between 1st October and 28th February each season. This will entail each Team playing 6 (or 8) league games over a 22 week period. This would allow time in March for any playoff games required to determine a League Winner.

The league games would be scored as follows

- 3 pts for an away win
- 2 pts for a home win
- 1 pt each for a peeled game

The draw for the league will be made pre-season and based on the Example Schedule (based on 5 Teams) Each round would have to be played within a specified two week time window which can be coordinated with the competitions secretary to ensure they do not overlap too much with major domestic national competitions.

The home Teams drawn as per the example schedule will provide the opposition Teams (before the end of September) with as many possible dates and times to play each round (but at least 4 options) within the time window. In the event that away teams are unable to agree to any of the dates or Ice times available then they will forfeit the game and the Home team will claim the 2 pts for a home win.

Players can only play for a club of which they are a fully paid up member and may only play for one club in a season (unless exceptional circumstances dictate such as a permanent house move or similar)

Financial Costs

It is proposed that the Home club be responsible for booking and paying for the Ice at their home ice rink for each round at a mutually agreed time and date within the specified two week time window. This would entail each club bearing the expense of 4 sheets of ice per season (In the 5 team example below) It may be possible to attract sponsorship of the league in future years to defray these costs.

Players or their clubs would need to be prepared to meet the travelling costs to away games.

It would be hoped that perhaps the SWCA might seek a benefactor to provide a League Trophy or perhaps provide one from their own coffers. There is not intended to be any ongoing financial burden on the SWCA.

Example League Schedule based on 5 teams

If only 4 teams then a simplified schedule can be drawn up with 8 rounds and no free days.

Round	Time Window	Team Fixture	Team Fixture	Free Day
1	To be decided at draw	B V A	C V D	E
2		E V A	B V C	D
3		A V E	B V D	C
4		A V D	C V E	B

5		CVB	DVE	A
6		AVB	DVC	E
7		AVC	BVE	D
8		DVA	EV B	C
9		EVD	CVA	B
10		DVB	EVC	A

Teams would need to be drawn to decide which would be Team A, B, C, D or E

First named team is the **Home** team for each fixture

Shown as 5x5 Matrix

		Away Team				
Home Team	Team	A	B	C	D	E
	A		R6	R7	R4	R3
	B	R1		R2	R3	R7
	C	R9	R5		R1	R4
	D	R8	R10	R6		R5
	E	R2	R8	R10	R9	

Summary,

I would urge that this proposal be forwarded to club secretaries as soon as is feasible so that interested clubs can be sought and canvassed before the end of this season with a view to starting the league at the beginning of 2017/18 season.

The sport of wheelchair curling is growing and if we are to maintain that growth and provide strength in depth to the National teams then I believe an inter club competitive League will be a major driver towards that end.

Many thanks for your consideration of this proposal.

Proposer

Ted Bidgood