



SCOTTISH WHEELCHAIR CURLING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting 28th October 2022 10.00am via Microsoft Teams

Present

John McLelland (Chair) (JohnMcL)
Sheila Swan (SS)
Gavin McLeod, (GM)
Isla McLennan (IM)
Harry Brodie, (HB)
Rosemary Lenton (RL)
Alison Hopkins (AH)

1. **Apologies** Carlyne McCluskey (Vice Chair) (CMcC) Mo Simpson (MS) Keith Thom (KT)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes approved - Harry Brodie (HB)
Seconded – Rosemary Lenton (RL)

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Chairman's Report

SWCA CHAIRMANS REPORT 28th October 2022

Hi everyone and thank you for attending the meeting this morning.

My report is quite short today. With most of the ice rinks now open and clubs returning to club curling and competitions, it's good to see everyone back on ice.

Some club numbers are down but new members are also joining so hopefully memberships will remain ok.

Competitions are going ahead, and I am looking forward to seeing some great games as the season unfolds.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sheila and Team GBR on their win at the Stirling International and wish them more success throughout the season.

Our first competition is the Friendship Trophy which is being hosted at Kinross Ice Rink tomorrow Saturday 29th October.

I would like to wish all who are taking part the best of luck and good curling and thank everyone involved in make this competition possible.

Hope to catch up with everyone throughout the season on and off ice and hope everyone has a great curling season.

Regards,

John McClelland.

SWCA Chairman.

5. Financial Report

The current balance is £23,692.14

This includes entry fees from 12 Pairs, 1 British Open and 1 Scottish to date.

We have paid the £500 Assistance Allowance to Clubs.

Annual subscription paid by clubs – we have received the majority with just 1 outstanding now.

The Friendship will be played tomorrow 29th October at Kinross and we will incur ice and catering costs on the day.

6. Competitions Conveners Report

Friendship Trophy being held tomorrow at Kinross – down on on-ice helpers, some extra meals have been ordered.

Will wait till this event is out of the way before starting work on pairs event and looking for helpers

Ordered sticky pads for Stirling International – will try these at future competitions

7. National Coach Report

Thanks for congratulations on winning the Stirling International – next tournaments for squad are in Canada and America. Will be interested to find out what developments have been made over there.

Visited Preston yesterday

Looking for feedback on trying to run wheelchair curling super league, held at the weekend and in central belt – wouldn't be run by SWCA just want people to be able

to get more curling together – Rosemary Alison and John feel this would be good idea and would provide more competition for curlers.

Other idea is should we consider adding a Mixed Doubles Championship – would this replace pairs or have both – agree should be in addition. Feel that education would be needed, Sheila`s only concern is that there aren`t enough females and wondered whether to play the format but it wouldn`t have to be male/female – discussion around this as fear would be that strong players would put in a team, also fear that if this was the case females may be missed out – to stop this curlers could apply on an individual basis and then get paired up. Could consider doing a one day trial event to see how popular this competition would be.

Everyone agrees that this would be a good idea –looking for possible date when to run – suggest end of January and trying to keep costs as low as possible. Alison to send out feeler to clubs to see if anyone would be interested and will feed back at next meeting.

Harry said Mo had asked if we could consider Inverness for a competition next season – Sheila said that they are using Dewars and would we consider using there as it is closer to Inverness with plenty of hotels. Most of our players are based in the South.

8. SDS Report

AGM held and awards presented

Gavin congratulated Rosemary on her award for bowling

Highlands Para Sport to be held 12th December at Dingwall Academy

Wheels to Stadium Day held at Grangemouth went well – Following feedback from a parent looking to do a specific Muscular Dystrophy Day and will involve floor curling]

Revisiting talent sharing – neither Sheila or Isla were aware of this, and Gavin will chase this up

Joint meeting with SDS & Scottish curling to be held

9. Scottish Curling Report

Happy to link up with SDS whenever possible to promote our Sport

Scottish Curling have signed deal with the Herald Newspaper and an advert will be in the Herald to promote Try Curling, a video advert has been made as well for social media.

Had been working with Mo in Inverness to put on an event to introduce new players to the sport this has been put back to January. Will be a multi disability day.

Two Curl abilities will be held one in the Highlands other in Central Belt which will incorporate the VICS curling club who only have 4 member and are celebrating their 20th anniversary – guide dogs Scotland have signed up for the latter event to give some training on being a guide and relating it to curling – it will be a multi disability day.

Spoke to Nikki from Finding your Feet – they are interested in setting up a come and try day for amputees and they have funding in place for this – meeting with them on Tuesday to take this forward.

Received funding for purchase of floor curling kits – hope to have them with ASN Schools in January and they can have them for a term and then will run a competition at the end of the year.

Happy to help on Ice at Kinross on Saturday

10. Club Representative Report

South Report –

Lockerbie:

We had 4 players this week but 7 last week and someone was asking about the club for a friend last night so potential for a new member.

South Lanarkshire:

We started back yesterday at the ice rink and a new member came along.

We would like to thank SWCA for their financial support.

Still waiting to see if we have been granted charitable status and for the outcome of our funding request from the Weir charitable Trust.

Stranraer: Nothing to report other than sessions up and running

Unfortunately, there was limited interest from the South with regards the Friendship Trophy with feedback down to travel costs and distance

Nothing else to report

Rosemary wanted it noted that feedback from Club reps was that there was no one interested in playing in the friendship and that it should be cancelled but Rosemary was able to get enough players by contacting individuals within a day.

North Report –

KINROSS

- Nothing to report

ABERDEEN

- Nothing to report

STIRLING

- Jacky McLaren reported that the International went well with team GBR the victors and Italy runners up.
- She also hopes that Team North is victorious on Saturday at the Friendship.

MORAY

- Nothing to report.

MURRAYFIELD

- Nothing to report.

HIGHLAND

- Since starting on Tuesday 20th September, we have now got 4 new members.
- We have ordered a new Floor Curling Set for our off-ice club section and have already identified a suitable venue and will book once we receive the equipment.
- I hope to go up to the next ParaSport day in Dingwall Saturday 12th November and assist Isla with the Floor Curling. Several of our members have already shown an interest in going.
- No Triples but Isla and I are working towards having an Inclusive Curling Event. This will now hopefully be held on Tuesday 22nd January from 12 – 4pm. Ice is already booked for our Tuesday Club, and we can piggyback onto this if necessary.
- We are hoping that we can also deliver either a Stick, Disability Awareness or Ready, Steady Curl course on the same day.
- Working with Fiona Green, Highlife Highland Disability Sport Officer with getting helpers for both Club days and events.

11. AOCB

Friendship Trophy – The North now has a team, thanks to Rosemary and Jacky finding me my eighth player. I hope that they all have a great competition and that we end up the victors. Not that I am biased!

Suggestion - Spoke with Isla about the suggestion of every club having a floor curling set. Creating an off-ice section of their current club and make it inclusive. This would be a great way to promote the sport. Once established you would then hold club competitions ie. Singles or Pairs throughout the year. The winners would then progress to a championship final. This would be an annual Competition. Thoughts please.

Discussion around this - Isla feels it would be a good idea but cant supply this to clubs and it could be tricky as not all ice rinks would have space for this. Harry suggested that SWCA could purchase a kit and provide to clubs for use during summer or for promoting curling to new players – Gavin suggested that this could be linked up with SDS to promote curling in their existing sports clubs – could look at trying to get a grant to purchase kits for all the clubs

12. Date of next meeting 18th November 10.0'clock

Gavin tendered his apologies for the next meeting
Meeting was closed with thanks to the chair.