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**SCOTTISH WHEELCHAIR CURLING ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of Meeting Monday 9th September 2022, 10.00am via Microsoft Teams

**Present**

John McLelland (Chair)

Carlyne McCluskey (Vice Chair)

Gavin McLeod

Isla McLennan

Harry Brodie

Rosemary Lenton

Alison Hopkins

Mo Simpson

Keith Thom

Sheila Swan

1. **Apologies** None

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes approved - Carlyne McCluskey

Seconded – Rosemary Lenton

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. **Chairman's Report**

SWCA CHAIRMANS REPORT 9th September 2022.

Good morning everyone and thank you for attending the meeting today. Before I give my report I would like to take a moment to reflect on yesterday’s news regarding the passing of Queen Elizabeth ll.

As patron of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club/ Scottish Curling I would like to convey my deepest sympathy to the royal family at this difficult time.

Report.

With the curling season already started for some of our members and the rest of the ice rinks due to open soon I would like to wish everyone a great Curling season.

I know that with the current situation regarding escalating energy costs curling might be difficult for some of our members and difficult decision’s having to be made if curling is going to be affordable.

Ice rinks have had to increase the cost of ice and memberships are up in some cases by 50%.

Having somewhat recovered from COVID this is another blow being dealt to our sport.

I hope we won’t lose any of our members but possibly we might.

Hopefully we can help in some way to keep our members on the ice and enjoying the sport that we all love.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

John McClelland.

SWCA CHAIRMAN.

John also congratulated Rosemary on her Gold Medal at the Commonwealth Games.

5. **Financial Report**

Current Balance **£24,854.89**

No transactions in last three months - Will start to receive income for Competition Entries going forward.

John read letter received from South Lanarkshire Wheelchair Curling club looking for financial assistance from SWCA to help with increased ice costs.

Discussion around what support can be given to clubs – all clubs seem to be having the same problems and it was agreed that £500 be given to each club.

6. **Competitions Conveners Report**

Friendship Trophy 29/10 Kinross -

Pairs - Kinross – Soup and Sandwiches to be arranged

British - Stranraer – Gail Munro will provide prices for competition

Scottish - Dumfries

Entry forms are ready to go and will be put online, will also be sent to club secretaries

Neil McGarver to be invited to Friendship Competition.

Keith & Mo to arrange players

7. **National Coach Report**

Talent Assessment Day held – still to be followed up with athletes. Seemed to be a good set up and asked John what he thought of the day. John felt the set up worked and there was a good covering of disciplines. This has highlighted to Sheila that there is a lack of development opportunity for players and asked about SWCA’s role in this. Previously this was funded by SWCA as they received funding from SDS but no longer receive this funding – need to look at this going forward.

Funding has been confirmed from UK Sport and happy to have been reinstated to world class programme. This allows for Talent ID/Pathway work and for an Assistant Coach.

Need to keep development pathway for players on the Agenda – if a club thinks a player shows promise talent assessment days will be held on a more regular basis, probably 3 times a year, or the club can contact Sheila directly. The talent days will be advertised via specific page on website and social media or clubs.

Along with SDS can identify athletes who may be interested in transferring to other sports.

8. **SDS Report**

Due to sad passing of Queen the Bowls competition has been cancelled for tomorrow – during period of mourning all competitions/events being cancelled.

* Wheels to Stadium Day held Grangemouth – lot of call offs on the day due to weather but a good day held and lots of activities held
* AGM is two weeks on Sunday – Stirling Court Hotel 2pm – 3.30
* Parasports festivals upcoming
* Swimming and Boccia events upcoming

9. **Scottish Curling Report**

Attended SDS event in Grangemouth – took floor curling which people enjoyed. One person interested in being assessed for Curling Paralympic Squad.

Attended Kids to Adults with Street Rink – successful event

Main challenge this year is recruitment

Keen to set up and work with SWCA around development – had a meeting with Scottish Curling Trust to look at funding and they are looking at doing a fundraiser for disabled curling.

Curling coaching/umpire conference has been cancelled this weekend due to Queens’ death.

10. **Club Representative Report**

**South Report**

**Lockerbie –** A lot of members not going to be re-joining Lockerbie this season due to increased ice costs - members are looking elsewhere to curl which will not involve huge round trips and reduce their fuel costs. Keith Thom is stepping down as chair of Lockerbie as he can no longer afford to curl there.

Request from Isobel for invoice to be sent for payment of SWCA fees – Rosemary will arrange.

Isobel also asked if there should be a disclaimer on application forms for pictures to be used on Website/ social media – Alison confirmed that as long as you say at the beginning of the event that images may be used and if you don’t want yours to be used let an organiser know.

**Dumfries –** Clarification around members who will curl from Dumfries do they have to be a member of a wheelchair club to play in National Competitions? This is the case, and it may be necessary to either set up a wheelchair club or could perhaps use Lockerbie and have Dumfries as a sub section club.

**Stranraer –** Nothing to report

**South Lanarkshire** – Ice Rink still having difficulty getting parts to fix Ice Plant – likely date for ice rink opening is now 24th October.

Like all other clubs having difficulty financially – in previous years our Club has paid for entry for members into competitions but this season we do not have the funds for this – feel that this may impact on members entering the National Competitions.

Applied to Weir trust for funding for ongoing costs and also development and promotion of club.

Applied for Charity Status.

**North Report –**

**KINROSS**

* Nothing to report

**ABERDEEN**

* Nothing to report

**STIRLING**

* Stirling Wheelchair CC starts next week

**MORAY**

* What assistance if any, will there be to help clubs through the energy crisis? Rumour heard £500 per club/rink?
* Can SWCA think about a few competitions up north instead of everything down south.

Scottish used to be held at Curl Aberdeen.

**HIGHLAND**

* Highland Wheelchair CC start date Tuesday 20th September.
* Ordering a new Floor Curling Set for our off-ice club section
* No Triples but Isla and I are working towards having an Inclusive Curling Event on either Tues 25th or Wed 26th Oct from 12 – 4pm. Ice is already booked for Tuesday Club and I have also provisionally booked ice for Wednesday.
* We are hoping that we can also deliver a course either Stick, Disability Awareness or Ready, Steady Curl course on the same day. *Sheila to liase with Isla re her availability to attend this*
* Working with Fiona Green, Highlife Highland Disability Sport Officer with getting helpers for both Club days and events. *Discussion around coaching courses for W/C curling – Isla working with Fiona Green around this – probably up and running next year*

11. **AOCB -** None

12. **Date of next meeting**

Next meeting date – Friday 28th October @ **10.00am**

Meeting was closed at 11.05 with thanks to the chair.