

116th Annual General Meeting of Representative Members of the BORDER PROVINCE of the RCCC held in the Border Ice Rink, Kelso on Thursday 8th May 2014 at 7.00pm.

Welcome.

President Bill Byers was in the chair and welcomed the 33 attending members as per the attendance book.

In Memoriam

The president informed the meeting of the passing of the following over the past year, Muriel Strothers, Coldstream; Helen Lawson, St Boswells and Colina Harris-Burland, a silence was observed in their memory.

Apologies were received from 10 members and these are noted on the attendance book.

Minute of the 115th Annual General Meeting 2nd May 2013. This had been distributed and was available on the web site. The adoption of this being a true record of the meeting was proposed by David S Kerr, Kelso, seconded by Colin Stirling, Lauderdale and duly signed by the president.

Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

Finance Report. A copy of the balance sheet audited by Colin Carruthers had been distributed. The treasurer highlighted a few items for clarity and reported a healthy balance.

David Kerr proposed that the Honorarium formally paid to BIR should be paid to the Province secretary/Treasurer; there was no objection to this and the motion was carried unanimously.

Badges, after some brief discussion and supported by an email survey it was the general feeling of the meeting that the secretary should order 300 province badges from Promotif.

2014 – 2015 Subscription. Due to the hospitality after a final being extended to include the Berwickshire competitions the treasurer recommended an increase to £1.00 per full member and further proposed to remove the charge currently made to the Roxburgh & Selkirkshire clubs for their competitions. This was agreed and formally proposed by Peter Bowyer and seconded by Harry Dodds.

President's Report. *I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as President and grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the province in this capacity. I've enjoyed watching some great games and competition finals and also meeting folk from other provinces. It was the 50th year of playing competitions in the ice rink this season and we provided special commemorative glasses to all winners of our Province competitions. I congratulate all our winners and hope they enjoyed their prizes. I would like to record my appreciation to the sponsors of our competitions. They really do provide an invaluable support and allow us to stage good competitions with excellent prizes. Notable success this year was the Waldie Griffiths where we played East of Fife Province and won with a more than sufficient margin to lift this national trophy. We'll have the pleasure of being presented with the trophy at the RCCC AGM next month. At the other end of the scale we lost the Pate Trophy in October. So having won the thing earlier in the year in February, after trying for 8 years, we held it for barely 8 months. Not so great. What has been great is the ice. I would like to congratulate Graeme Baxter and his team for making such a fantastic job of the ice this year. We must surely appreciate our fortune in attracting them to the Borders. To have them involved in ice making for World Championship competitions speaks volumes. On that topic it was magnificent to see Border curlers competing in the Seniors whether for Ladies/Gents for Scotland or England. How great is that? Assistant Ice Manager Ruaraidh Whyte also getting in on the act, coaching the Spanish Mixed Doubles team to bronze medal. How good is that? There was a ton of support from the Borders across in Dumfries too. Wonderful. In closing I'd like to thank Bill, our Secretary and Treasurer. He has enabled me to approach my term as President with comfort, knowing his excellent experience and many talents would lead me safely through the year. Thanks also to the committee for their support. It really has been appreciated. I look forward to the new season and wish the new President and his Committee a successful and enjoyable year.*

Election of Office Bearers:

President: Neil McLain, Coldstream proposed by Bill Byers, Earlston, seconder was Jim Cullen.

Neil took the chair and thanked Bill for his duties over the past year.

Vice President: Robert Forsyth. Proposed by Neil McLain, seconded by Harry Dodds.

(Committee members due to retire by rotation: Robert Barclay, Stuart Craig + one vacant position.)

Elected to Committee until 2017 were:

John Stevenson, Greenlaw. Proposed by Stuart Craig, seconded by Bill Byers.

Oliver Stark, Roxburghe. Proposed by Harry Dodds, seconded by Colin Jeffries.

Angus McMillan, Lammermuir. Proposed by Colin Martin seconded by Anne Fleming.

Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Cleghorn. Proposed by Bill Byers and carried unanimously.

Area Standing Committee Member: Harry Dodds, St Boswells ends his term at the RCCC AGM in June and Jim Cullen was elected to replace Harry on the proposal of Neil McLain and seconded by Oliver Stark. Harry Dodds will notify the Royal Club.

Draw of Competitions. The draw for the Agrii border League was made from a plastic container in the absence of the traditional container, being the hat of Alistair Lindsay. The full draw is on the website and will be printed in the syllabus. The draws were also made for the Border Chainsaw Harry Hogg with a larger entry of 22 teams this year, Melrose Kettle and Dun Trophy also with extra teams.

Waldie Griffiths. The 4 skips were selected from a list of winners of the main BIR Competitions.:
Keith Prentice, Graeme Baxter, James Stark, Colin Martin. Reserves James Dixon, Marion Pate, Paul Jess & Harry Dodds.
Robert walker asked if we should enter a Ladies Rink as East of fife sent two Ladies rinks to Kelso, this did not get the support of a seconder and the status quo stands.

Gala Cup.

It was proposed by Colin Martin to run this competition in the same way as the H Hogg in that all clubs should enter at least one team, this was seconded by Colin Jeffries and unanimously agreed. A couple of clubs indicated their desire to hold back their entry until their AGM and some requested two teams. It looks like an entry of 22 teams is likely and the secretary will make the draw at the rink with Greame Baxter when all clubs have responded.

Sponsorship

Neil thanked our current sponsors: Border Chainsaw and Lawnmower Services sponsor the Harry Hogg and Agrii sponsors for the Border League. All have offered to continue their sponsorship for the coming season. Grouse Whisky sponsor the Border Bonspiel have withdrawn their sponsorship and a replacement is required.

AOCB.

Harry Dodds.

- Swiss Tour. Harry gave an outline of what is happening for the Kelso leg of the tour which is a Meal (pos a Court) and overnight stay on Sunday 9th Nov. Curl and lunch on the 10th and depart to Lockerbie about 4.00 pm. A sub-committee will be set up to organise the draw etc.
- There are no plans to increase the RCCC subs from the current £19 Harry Dodds intimated.

Peter Bowyer

- 50th Plans Peter Boyer explained that there will be lunch on the 1st October for present and past Directors, Club Presidents, Ladies Presidents and Province Presidents. A bonspiel and dinner in the Cross Keys will take place on the 4th October and a Skaters reunion will be held on the 11th October in the club lounge.
- Ice Diamond Nominations are invited to be sent to Peter, this will be presented at the Club AGM in September.
- There will be 2 vacancies on the BIRC committee and active members are required.

The entry to the National Province Championship is Duns and the entry fee will be paid from the province funds.

Anne Fleming asked if the names of the new people that came to the "Try Curling" events were being sent to the clubs. Jim Cullen explained that these names would not be circulated at this time as they were all being registered for the coaching programme and move into the "Virtual Club" with a view of getting them into clubs after that.

A request from the floor asked if the Ice Charges were going up, Oliver Stark reported that this had not been decided but is on the agenda for the next board meeting in June.

The secretary reminded the meeting of a Curlers Supper and Court on Saturday 10th May.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 8.20 pm and invited everyone to join the ladies upstairs at their coffee evening.

.....Bill Cleghorn.....Secretary

.....President