

Border Ice Rink Club
Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting
Held in the Clubrooms at Border Ice Rink on Thursday 14 September 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Ruaraidh Whyte, Graeme Baxter, M Dykes, R Tobbell, HDG Mathieson, Alan Frank, Peter Colebrook, Robert Laidlaw, George Whiteford, Bert Duncan, James Dixon, Bob Robertson, John Stevenson, Bill Byres, David Mitchell, Richard Smith, Neil McLain, David Kerr, Neil McLain, David Kerr, Glynnice Lauder, Colin Martin, Liz Martin, Oliver Stark, Wendy Henderson, Elspeth Bell, Judith Dixon, James Collin, Lucy Tile, Robert Walker, R Forrest, Jim Sutherland, Fiona Turnbull, Nina Clancy, Stuart Craig, L Prentice, Colin Stirling -President, Keith Prentice – Vice President, Amanda Young. In Attendance – Gill Adamson of Rennie Welch LLP.

Apologies: Bill Cleghorn, Mike Frost, Peter Bowyer, Jim Cullen, Liz Cullen, Bruce Lees, John Hodge, Fiona Hodge, Rhona Fleming, Graham Cowe, Leslie Cowe, Luigi Massari, Robert Mathieson, Harry Dodds, Tommy Hinnigan.

Border Ice Rink President Colin Stirling welcomed everyone to the 53rd Annual General Meeting, opening the meeting at 7.32pm.

In Memoriam: The President announced that the following members had died during the year: Dennis Strother (Hon Coldstream CC), John McClymont (Selkirk CC), Dave Elder (Greenlaw CC), James Fleming (Greenlaw CC), and Marie Ker. The members present then stood in silent tribute.

Minutes of the 52nd AGM: The minutes of the 52nd AGM were approved with no matters arising. The minutes were adopted by Keith Prentice and Seconded by Wendy Henderson.

Auditor's Report: Gill Adamson of Rennie Welch LLP presented the accounts to the meeting. Paper copies of the Financial Statements were distributed to all present and GA guided everyone present through each of the reports, giving concise explanations of the figures therein. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions or for further explanations. No questions were asked and the accounts were approved. The accounts were adopted by David Kerr and seconded by David Mitchell.

Chairman's Report: The President congratulated Jim Cullen on his appointment as President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in June and thanked the curlers who travelled to Braehead to support Jim. The next RCCC AGM will be held at Kelso Ice rink in June 2018.

CS explained that instead of Membership cards, this year BIR Members will receive a booklet detailing all competitions and terms of entry. CS hopes this will be informative and encourage more curlers to enter competitions.

CS went on to inform members of forthcoming events. Curl Fest, a curling festival is being held on the 14 October at BIR in conjunction with Cash for Kids and Radio Borders. This is a RCCC promotion with curling rinks all over Scotland participating. Also, a tour of Canadian Curlers will be visiting Kelso at the end of January. CS is looking forward to this and hopes it will be a memorable event.

CS reported that Bill Cleghorn had resigned as Province Secretary after eighteen years of service. CS thanked Bill Cleghorn for his work and dedication to curling and the ice rink. John Stevenson will take over as Province Secretary but Bill is looking after the Canadian Tour. CS thanked David Kerr, who retires after eight years, and Glynnice Lauder after three years, for their advice and support. The President thanked the committee members for attendance and support throughout the year. Graeme Baxter and Ruaraidh Whyte were thanked for the excellent ice last season and the help provided throughout the year. CS concluded by thanking the sponsors and his fellow curlers for making last year successful and stated he was looking forward to another successful season.

Election of Office Bearers and Committee: Colin Stirling remains in post for his second year as President. Keith Prentice proposed Liz Martin to take over as Vice President. Elspeth Bell seconded this and Liz Martin accepted the position. Keith Prentice and Glynnice Lauder retire by rotation and Neil McLain resigned during the year. Therefore the Committee has three vacancies. Two posts were filled when David Mitchell and George Whiteford were elected onto the committee.

Annual Membership Subscription for 2017 – 2018: CS proposed that the Membership Fee remains at £28.00 for 2017/18. KP seconded this; therefore the fee remains at £28.00.

CS then proposed that the fees for 2018/19 increase to £30.00. This was seconded by Gwen Prentice therefore the Membership Fee will increase to £30.00 for season 2018/19.

Appointment of Auditor: CS proposed that Rennie Welch should remain as an auditor for BIR and Glynice Lauder seconded this.

Directors Report: NC delivered the Directors Report. NC thanked June Swan who stood down as a Director, for excellent curling and business skills, stating that June will be missed.

NC reported that the Directors Committee were happy with the financial accounts, with Curling income up and memberships increased. The Committee thank all the Club Secretaries for their help with changes around subscription collections.

The Directors are investigating how best to proceed with replacing the roof, and possibly recladding the building to make it a more modern and inviting building. Work is underway on engaging an architect and looking into grant funding. NC noted that grants are becoming increasingly hard to come by and both the Club and Limited Company are prohibited from applying for most grants due to the structure of the business. The Board are looking into the practicalities of setting up an Ice Rink Trust and how that would fit into the current structure. Kinross Ice Rink went through something similar and have been very helpful with advice and guidance on how to proceed. NC stated that the Club Committee will be kept informed, and in due course all clubs and curlers, about future plans and costs.

NC spoke about the challenge of attracting new people to the sport and asked fellow curlers to ask friends and neighbours to 'come and try' curling and to support other development group initiatives.

Jo Wright's father is unwell and Jo is moving south to look after him. The Directors thanked Joe and his team for their hard work and wonderful cooking. NC welcomed Leigh and Lorne Brown t/a Brown Caterers to the Ice Rink.

Some other business the Directors have been busy with this past year included Registering the Ice Rink title and access issues, Plant leases, corporate curling packages, staff pensions, ice plant, visiting other rinks, developing logos and the website, raising the profile of the ice rink on social media. NC concluded her report by inviting anyone with suggestions or concerns, to let the Directors Board know.

Ladies Report: Elspeth Bell delivered the report on behalf of the Ladies Committee. EB stated the year started with a successful opening bonspiel with 32 ladies playing. This was followed by The Ladies Challenge in October, another success, with 16 rinks playing. November saw the Ladies hosting an incoming tour of 20 ladies from U.S.A. EB thanked the sub-committee for all their hard work with this event. The Ladies Committee held a fashion show in conjunction with the BCDG, the proceeds to be split 50/50. However, it was decided to give the BCDG all of the proceeds, as their need was greater.

Eight rinks competed in the Ladies League and this coming year we have 10 registered to play. This is very encouraging. EB congratulated Marion and her team for winning the league.

The Oakroom Bonspiel had a splendid entry of 12 rinks, making it all the more exciting and there are 12 rinks entered for the opening bonspiel on 5th October.

EB conveyed thanks to Graeme and Ruairidh for all their help over the season.

The Ladies Section are submitting a bid for the Henderson Bishop 2019

BCDG Report: John Stevenson delivered the Borders Curling Development Group report. He stated that the past year had seen the group working on several goals that had been set out in the Development Plan. In October, the group invited all clubs associated with the BIR to attend a presentation given by Bob Robertson about what BCDG could do to help them, i.e. membership recruitment and retention. About 6 clubs attended.

JS reported that the Development Group had been working closely with the RCCC and delivered various coaching courses, tactic and strategies workshop, and finalizing their own Development Plan with Alison Hood, RCCC. Unfortunately RCCC has reduced the funding available for the BCDG. However, the Group received monies from the Ladies Committee, Charity begins at home and Live Borders. JS reported they had purchased new equipment for curling/coaching.

Some of the junior curlers have played in various RCCC competitions over the past season with various results. Ruaraidh has taken on the 'Borders Young Curlers' this year as well as looking after the 'Cool for Schools' initiative. Monday night Junior Coaching has a healthy number of curlers taking part, all of who will be concentrating on up skilling their 'skills awards' in the next season. JS reported that Saturday morning coaching also has a good number of curlers attending with a few taking part in the Virtual Club sessions at 11.30am. The Virtual Club took part in the RCCC Virtual Club Bonspiel at Braehead.

JS spoke of BCDG plans for the forthcoming season. The Development Plan is finalized and the funding the group can expect to receive is between £500 and £1000, all dependent on hitting the goals set by us and agreed by the RCCC. A meeting will be held in October to update Clubs. A Try Curling event will be held on October and in March, with some beginner's classes being held in November. There are plans to run a Mixed Doubles seminar during the year and if anyone has a specific subject request, seminars could be arranged.

JS appealed for new Committee Members to join the Development Group and thanked all of Committee and the support team for all the hard work over the past year.

CS thanked JS for his report and checked that all attendees had signed the attendance sheets.

Any Other Competent Business

No other business issues were raised.

CS thanked everyone for attending the AGM and stated he was looking forward to seeing everyone on the ice and closed the meeting.