

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at Curl Edinburgh
on Monday 11th April 2022 at 11 am**

Present In the Chair President: Rona Craig
Vice-president: Joan Simpson
Secretary: Gillean Hoehnke
Treasurer: Ruth Addinall

21 Ladies' Centre members attended the meeting.

President Rona welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Edinburgh/Murrayfield Centre of Ladies Curling Clubs. She had received notification of the deaths of the following ladies: Ros Trail, Colinton Ladies, Anne Marie Ross, Corstorphine Ladies, Margaret Haig, Anne Herdman & Betty Anderson, Ford Ladies and Isabel Bell & Audrey Miller, Pentland Ladies. A short silence was observed in their memory.

Apologies Jean Gorrie, Avril Anderson, Kim Dalland, Katie Brackenridge, Marjorie Dodds, Susan Kesley, Vicky Gumley, Frances Kerr, Catherine Dodds, Sandra Jack, Christine McLeish, Betty Gibb and Barbara Gillespie.

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 14th April 2022

Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Lyz Hogarth and seconded by Ruth Addinall.

2. Business arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Area Standing Committee (ASC) Representative's update – Trevor Dodds

Trevor outlined how the ASC and Ladies Standing Committee (LSC) have started to work more closely with joint meeting taking place. This should facilitate better communication between the Board and representatives in both directions. The focus for the past season had been to get curlers back on the ice and take advantage of interest in curling stimulated by the men's and women's teams' Olympic success. He concluded by asking ladies to consider standing for election as an Edinburgh area rep at the AGM on 26th April.

4. Treasurer's Report

Referring to the Tourist/Events account, Ruth reported that there was no income this year: 25% of annual subscriptions only amounted to £3.75 so had not been transferred. At last year's AGM it was agreed to donate £1000 to the Balcony Fund, £500 of this being from the Helen Price Legacy. She explained that that was why £500 was moved to the main account. The Helen Price legacy now stands at £430.20.

Moving on to the main account: Last season's subscriptions were rolled over to this year, but 3 new members had signed up. However, we had unfortunately lost 26 in 2019 - 20. Theoretically, that gives us 198 members and Ruth hoped that this could be maintained.

The Seniors' League finals ice was paid for by the Ladies' Centre, along with drinks for the finalists, meaning £94.50 was paid out of Centre funds. The Centre Bonspiel prizes were provided by the Centre, mostly out of Centre funds. The anticipated cost of the after-game drinks for the Fulton Salver was not as much as expected, giving a slight residue.

A contribution of £70 was made to Ladies Branch International Fund. A donation of £1000 was made to ECC, as mentioned earlier, the other £500 being from general Centre funds.

Ruth concluded by thanking Club treasurers for their cooperation with contactless payments.

The Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Kath Murray and seconded by Ruth Miller.

5. Centre Subscriptions

The Treasurer's proposal that the Centre subscription for 2022 – 23 remain at £5 was approved unanimously.

6. Secretary's Report

A Report on Competitions had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting and was also on the website [Meetings & Minutes – Curling for Women @ Curl Edinburgh \(edinburghwomenscurling.uk\)](https://edinburghwomenscurling.uk). Gillean thanked this year's competition sponsors, Sheila Miller - President's Pitcher, Margaret Nicol – Ladies' Seniors, Kath Murray – Fulton Salver and also Susan Kesley – Henderson Bishop playdowns for their generosity. Sheila Miller had offered to sponsor the President's Pitcher again next season and MCL will donate ice for the second session of the Fulton Salver. Sponsors for the Seniors' League and Fulton Salver are still needed.

Ten rinks played in both the Centre Bonspiel and Fulton Salver. Many thanks to all the ladies who took part making them enjoyable events. Winners of the competitions, as detailed in the Competition Report, were read out to acclamation. Gillean apologised for any omissions.

Finally, the closing date for the Murrayfield Seniors competition is 11th April (today). There are 11 entries so one more would be welcomed.

7. President's Report

Rona started her report by thanking the ice men for their hard work allowing us all to get back on the ice in what had been a difficult year. The committee started meeting face to face in December, it was good not to have to meet on Zoom. Unfortunately, it had not been possible to hold 'hybrid' meetings.

7.1. Competitions

Henderson Bishop – Rona congratulated both teams representing Curl Edinburgh. Murrayfield 1 were beaten by Stranraer in the semi-finals of the High Road, the ultimate winners whose team included former Olympians. Murrayfield 2 won the Cherrystone. Rona commented on the lack of support from ladies at the final of the Edinburgh playdowns. She urged ladies to come and watch and stay for the presentation of prizes. The venue for the 2023 final has not yet been announced.

Morton Trophy – The final had been held at Curl Edinburgh due to plant failure at Hamilton. It was won by Stranraer. ~~In future~~ Next year, there will be no need for a group of 5 centres as Lockerbie ~~are~~ is withdrawing from the competition due to lack of numbers. However if they re=join it would be the turn of East or North to be in the group of 5.

As of now Curl Edinburgh has requested that RCCC and all representatives now refer to us by this name. This is to dissociate the curling rink from the name Murrayfield to avoid confusion.

7.2. Ladies Branch and Royal Club (RCCC) matters.

- **Ladies' Branch meetings.** Six meetings had taken place during the year. There had been discussions regarding the meeting day as some ladies were disadvantaged by it always being held on Tuesdays. A poll on the future timing and kind of meeting (Zoom/physical/blended) will be carried out.
- **RCCC Board representation.** There had been ongoing debate about the Ladies Branch President having a seat on the RCCC Board. The past two presidents had been co-opted but these have been as the person not the position.
- **Ice Rinks.** Several ice rinks can no longer provide catering for competitions – The Peak at Stirling and Perth. This will include Curl Edinburgh from 31 December making it increasingly difficult to host big competitions. Braehead now curl at Greenacres and have changed their name to Glasgow.
- **Tours.** The outgoing US Tour, postponed twice, will now go ahead from 17th October to 12th November 2022. The Farewell Bonspiel is on 8th October @ The Peak. LSC Reps and former tourists will be invited. It is hoped that some ladies will be able to see them off at 9.10am from Edinburgh. Applications for an outgoing Swedish Tour in November 2023 are now open on the SC website.
- **Joint meetings of LSC and ASC.** Susan Kesley, RCCC President has chaired the joint meetings. It has been agreed that these should be held 3/4 times a year with an additional meeting with the Board prior to RCCC AGM. This year the meetings were held in October at Perth. followed by the Priestfield Cup, LSC v ASC, in December at Dunblane and in February at Stranraer during Scottish Championships.
- **RCCC Structure.** Restructuring had been put on hold but the general consensus was that there was a need to modernise RCCC by restructuring. The future of Ladies Branch was not affected.

8. Election of Office Bearers: Secretary

One nomination had been received for the office of Secretary - Fiona Ross, MWCC & Dalkeith, proposed by Rona Craig and seconded by Gillean Hoehnke. There being no further nominations Fiona was duly elected as Secretary for 2022 – 24, to acclamation.

9. Proposed changes to Clauses 1 and 3 of the Constitution

Rona gave an explanation of the reasons for making changes to Clauses 1 and 3 of the Constitution. The changes were then approved by a show of hands, for – 18, against – 2 with 5 abstentions.

Clause 1: Name will read: 'Edinburgh Women's Curling.'

Clause 3: The first sentence of Membership will read 'To be members of Edinburgh Women's Curling, a Ladies Curling Club or a Ladies Section of a Curling Club must pay the annual subscription of the Centre for their members.'

10. AOCB

10.1. Update on Curling Rink Development – Margaret Nicol, Secretary ECC

Margaret opened her remarks by thanking members for their support of ECC & MCL and catering provided by Parsley & Thyme over the season. She explained that the curling rink was owned 57% by ECC and 43% by Murrayfield Ice Rink Ltd (MIR). ECC had obtained building consent for development work for our clubrooms balcony extension but MIR had the legal right to give structural consent for the work to progress. However, as they cannot reasonably withhold consent the matter this now the hands of the lawyers. It is anticipated that work on the clubrooms is

planned for late spring/summer 2023. Meanwhile MIR have refused to extend the lease of the bar area from 1st January 2023 so there will be restricted catering in the second half of next season.

In closing Margaret hoped that many members would come to the Gala Dinner for the Olympic Medallists on Friday 20th May. The cost of a ticket will be £55. There will be a raffle with half the proceeds going to a charity of Jen's and Bruce's choice and half to the balcony development.

10.2. Forthcoming AGMs

- Midlothian Province AGM – Tuesday 26th April at 7pm followed by the Edinburgh Area AGM at Curl Edinburgh.
- Ladies Branch AGM – Tuesday 10th May 2022 at 2pm in Forfar.
- RCCC AGM – Saturday 20 August 2022 at 2pm at Curl Edinburgh
- Edinburgh Curling Club AGM –Thursday 2nd September at 7:00pm at Curl Edinburgh

Before closing the meeting Rona thanked the ice staff, the Reps for their support, Joan for organising the Morton, Ruth for managing the finances and Gillean for her work as secretary and for designing the website.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1225. A vote of thanks to the Chair was proposed by Joan Simpson.

Signed: _____ Date: _____