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**SCOTTISH WHEELCHAIR CURLING ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of Meeting Monday 4th October 2021, 11am via Microsoft Teams

**Present**

John McClelland (Chair) (JohnMcCl)

Carlyne McCluskey (Vice Chair) (CMcC)

Gavin McLeod, (GM)

Maggie Wilson, (MW)

Catrina Morton (CM)

Harry Brodie, (HB)

Alan Mills (AM)

Rosemary Lenton (RL)

1. **Apologies** Sheila Swan (SS)Alison Hopkins (AH) Mhairi Manson (MM)

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes approved - Alan Mills (AM)

Seconded – Harry Brodie (HB)

3. **Matters Arising**

Alan Mills had spoken to the Premier Inn at Stirling regarding the provision of a meal for the Friendship Competition. They had promised to get back to him, yet no one had done so. However, it has not yet been fully decided where the Friendship will be held, Harry is still looking at possible venues.

4. **Chairman's Report**

Good morning, everyone and welcome to the meeting today. Unfortunately, I have to report that Mhairi Manson (South Rep) for personal reasons is standing down from the Committee. This will create a vacancy for this position and it is hoped that we can fill this post shortly.

My report is quite short today, I can now look forward to this season being able to go ahead within appropriate Scottish Government guidance. All the relevant information is available on the Scottish Curling website. I would encourage our members to have a look and familiarize themselves with the guidelines.

Most Clubs have now started, and players are gradually returning to the ice. Whilst there is still some hesitancy it is hoped that this will gradually reduce over time and members and Clubs will continue to flourish. I know not all our members may feel safe about returning to the ice but hopefully in their own time they will be able to return.

The Competition Schedule is now out and has been issued to all Club Secretaries. The first of these Competitions will be the Pairs at Kinross in November.

I would lastly like to wish all our members a great curling season for 21/22 and look forward to seeing you on the ice.

5. **Financial Report**

The Current Balance is **£24888.57**

However, Ring fenced for Competitions is £3356, this being Competition Entry Fees of £1340 **PLUS** held by the Peak £2016.

***Expenditure,*** we have had to pay £210 to the Press Association for improper use of photographs from our website. Maggie Wilson and others at Scottish Curling spoke on our behalf to have this charge dropped but were unsuccessful, they did however manage to get it reduced by £100.

Invoices have been prepared and issued to all Club Secretaries for their Annual Subscriptions of £25.

Team Entries for the Pairs currently we have 9 confirmed and paid Pairs and a further 6 showing an interest but not paid despite giving assurances, this would give us 15 Pairs, we could do with a further 1 Pair.

British Open we have 4 teams and 1 individual entry.

Scottish Championships we have 5 Teams entered Players are reminded that the cut off date for these competitions are, British 29 October and Scottish 26 November.

6. **Competitions Conveners Report**

Preparations for the Pairs at Kinross are well underway, we do need on-ice helpers any offers of assistance would be welcomed.

Discussion ensued regarding the handling of stone handles. On-ice helpers will pass the stone to the player and then some players want to reposition the stone to their own liking. This would involve double handling; it was finally decided that the on-ice helper would use wet wipes thereby minimising the risk of contamination.

Friendship – Lockerbie had been approached but hey had out priced themselves and the Peak could not do a Saturday, Harry will now speak with the NCA to look at options for a Sunday.

The British Open could we send an invitation to Germany has they had attended in past years. There could be the possibility of some other overseas entries as they will be attending the Stirling International around that time.

7. **National Coach Report**

Sheila Swan was unable to attend the meeting as she was in heavily involved in preparations for the overseas trip to the World Championships to be held in Beijing from 23rd – 30th October. This will be a test event for the Paralympics.

8. **SDS Report**

Gavin reported that SDS were in the throws of programmes gradually starting to return. They had had 2 events already Lawn Bowls and Athletics. Both had seen reduced participation and there is still a nervousness about returning amongst participants.

SDS Squads are now back, the Football squad are shortly going to Ireland for an event, this will be an indication of the protocols surrounding overseas travel.

They had held their AGM yesterday online and this had gone well with their Branch meeting being held prior to the AGM.

Of the 33 Scottish Athletes who took part in the Paralympics they had had a very successful games coming back with more medals than they did at the London Games. What was also encouraging was that they gained medals in sports they had not previously won.

The impact of Covid has seen some anxiety by athletes about returning to sports and they are trying to support them, they accept that they may lose some athletes and helpers. This could have an impact on the Commonwealth Games due to be held in Birmingham nest summer.

9. **Scottish Curling Report**

Recent focus has been on building up to Ice Rinks re-opening – all ice rinks

are or are about to re-open which is a great success. The focus now is to recruit new curlers and reduce any hesitancy amongst existing curlers.

Try Curling has a new website part of this is a safety video and John assisted with this for wheelchair curling this will update imagery for the new website

Scottish Curling have been in discussions with ParaSport and BPA regarding running a ParaSport Festival on 22nd October at Murrayfield. This has been very short notice given by ParaSport and further information will be forth coming as details become available.

National Curling day 15th November – MW will send a briefing document with

details of what clubs/ice rinks can do to get involved in promoting this day. A

National Radio campaign will take place 3 weeks before and the 1 week after

the event, radio presenters will try curling and there will be radio adverts.

10. **Club Representative Report**

**South Report –**

No report

**North Report –**

The Peak, Stirling had their Bounce Back week which was excellent, just a pity that there was a small turnout of Wheelchair participants.

Stirling wheelchair club commenced 2 weeks ago and held an Opening Bonspiel which was enjoyed by everyone.

11. **AOCB**

A reminder that we need extra entries for the Pairs and also the British & Scottish Competitions.

There is a possibility that the Wheelchair Worlds in China may be being streamed by Scottish Curling.

12. **Date of next meeting**

Next meeting date -15 November 2021 @ **10.00am**

Meeting was closed at 11.45 with thanks to the chair.