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**SCOTTISH WHEELCHAIR CURLING ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of Meeting 18th November 2022 10.00am via Microsoft Teams

**Present**

John McLelland (Chair) (JohnMcL)

Isla Mclennan (IM)

Harry Brodie, (HB)

Rosemary Lenton (RL)

Alison Hopkins (AH)

Mo Simpson (MS)

Keith Thom (KT)

1. **Apologies** Carlyne McCluskey (Vice Chair) (CMcC) Sheila Swan (SS)

Gavin McLeod, (GM)

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes approved - Rosemary Lenton (RL)

Seconded – Harry Brodie (HB)

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. **Chairman's Report**

Chairman’s report 18th November 2022

Hi everyone and thank you for attending the meeting today.

My report today is quite short.

With the curling season in full swing and competitions taking place throughout the country and abroad things are starting to look a bit more like normal.

Our first competition, The Friendship Trophy, was very well received and the feedback was very positive and encouraging.

Thank you to everyone involved for making this event go so well.

I would also like to thank the A M Ross Family Foundation for their continued support and Mr Neil McGarva for presenting the trophy

and I would like to congratulate Alison Hopkins (team captain south) and her team on their win.

Our next competition is the National Pairs at Kinross next weekend.

The draw is now live on all platforms, and I would like to wish everyone good luck and good Curling and I am looking forward to catching up with everyone there.

Regards

John McClelland

SWCA Chairman.

5. **Financial Report**

The current balance is £21,884.64

This includes entry fees from 13Pairs, 4 British Open and 5 Scottish to date.

We have paid Kinross for the Friendship Ice and Catering for the Friendship

In addition, we have prepaid £1800 to Kinross for the National Pairs Ice.

All Clubs have now paid their annual subscription.

Rosemary Lenton

Treasurer

6. **Competitions Conveners Report**

Draw for Pairs is out – lack of helpers is a problem which could be down to finance ie petrol costs

7. **National Coach Report**

No report from Sheila however Alison gave update from clubs around interest for Mixed Doubles that was discussed at last meeting -

Stirling would only be interested if it was held in central belt and pairs rather Mixed Doubles

Hamilton 7-8 interested would be dependant on where it was held, costs etc

From the South there were 3 people interested

Mo advised she had not received the original email, and this will be sent again

Keith advised that at Lockerbie 4 are interested

8. **SDS Report**

No report

9. **Scottish Curling Report**

Speaking to 4 different charities who are looking for on ice sessions – Finding your Feet have funding for the sessions but the other 3 don’t - have been in contact with club secretaries in the areas where the charities are looking to have the sessions to see if they would be able to help with these in the hope that they may get new players – South Lanarkshire have advised they have an open day in March

Capability Scotland are in Dumfries Area – Blesma and Help for Heroes – across Scotland

Finding your Feet areas – Ayrshire, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Inverness, Edinburgh, Dundee and Fife.

Contacted by BBC after seeing article about Stirling International – they are recording for a documentary called “Our Lives” and they would like to include wheelchair curling and would like to interview and follow a member through their curling journey – meeting with them at 11 o’clock to find out more.

SDS Event on Saturday at Inverness had Floor Curling and are now looking for an on-ice event in Inverness.

John advised that he got into curling, amongst other things, after signing up with Capability Scotland.

10. **Club Representative Report**

**North Report –**

**PREVIOUS MINUTES** **- 28 October 2022**

* 12 Pairs.

It has been brought to my attention by several members (from both North and South) that there are now 13 entries in the competition. Their issue is that the entry was received and accepted **AFTER** the closing date 15th October. This has resulted in the draw being uneven. People are saying that it is now unfair that some are playing 5 games and others 6 games in the round robin.

Who allowed the entry as nobody got any mention of the closing date being extended?

If there are late entries to the British and Scottish competitions, are they also going to be accepted AFTER the closing dates?

* **Competitions Conveners Report** – On-ice helpers. The Friendship Trophy at Kinross was down on on-ice helpers. One question I have been asked is why wait until one event is over before looking for helpers for next competition? Is there a minimum number that should be used for safety reasons?
* **National Coach Report** - Alison to send note to clubs to see if anyone would be interested – Highland did not receive a note.
* Harry said Mo had asked if we could consider Inverness for a competition next season – Sheila said that they are using Dewars and would we consider using there as it is closer to Inverness with plenty of hotels. What competition and what about Aberdeen for another venue (Scottish used to be held there)? *All above to be discussed under AOCB*

**NORTH REP REPORT**

**ABERDEEN**

* Nothing to report

**MURRAYFIELD**

* Nothing to report.

**KINROSS**

* A big thank you for the grant received. The club is using it to cover ice costs for this season.
* They have also noticed on the SWCA page, KWCC is listed as playing on a Monday not a Saturday. They have asked if this could be changed, please? ***David Hogg to be notified to change this***

**STIRLING**

* Jacky McLaren reported that Stirling is now averaging 10 curlers a session but 2 are short curlers. This does cause a slight problem, but they are coping.
* The new curler, Riona, who played in the Friendship Trophy works full  
  time so only manages to curl once a fortnight at the Disability  
  Inclusion session which is 1 hour. The Gateway club is fully subscribed  
  but they wouldn't have accepted her as a wheelchair curler as she would  
  be too difficult to integrate! couldn't be on the same sheet as other  
  beginners being taught slide delivery. ***Rosemary advised that she had spoken to Riona at the Friendship about going to either Kinross or Hamilton***
* Good luck to the curlers going to Canada to be classified this week.

**MORAY**

* Since club started back, they are averaging 7 to 8 curlers a week, 3 are AB stick curlers.
* Some players are curling in the province.
* Una Gault, secretary has asked me to mention that she has not been receiving SWCA minutes and she has not received the invoice for the RCCC Membership for Moray WCC. ***Minutes will be sent – RCCC is nothing to do with SWCA need to contact RCCC directly or go online – Isla will check online for Moray and SLWCC to see if subs have been issued***
* Good Luck to the Curlers going to Canada and the USA.

**HIGHLAND**

* Would like to thank SWCA for their financial support.
* Our club now has an average of 4-5 people who come and curl. Last week we had someone from Bettyhill, near Thurso in Sutherland, come down to try out wheelchair curling.
* Our new Floor Curling Set for our off-ice club section arrived this week. We have already identified a suitable venue and will be making a booking shortly.
* Unfortunately, the Para Sport day in Dingwall on Saturday 12th November wasn’t suitable for our members (it was the wrong age group!).
* As previous reported no Triples Competition but Isla and I are working towards having an Inclusive Curling Event. Ice has been provisionally booked for Tuesday 22nd January from 12 – 4pm. As Ice is already booked for our Tuesday Club, and we can piggyback onto this if necessary.
* We are also hoping to deliver either a Stick, Disability Awareness or Ready, Steady Curl course on the same day.
* Working with Fiona Green, Highlife Highland Disability Sport Officer with getting helpers for both Club days and events.
* Aviemore Ice Rink now up and running and offering curling , however with limited space. Will liaise with Amanda Clinton with regards to possibility of wheelchair curling. They are holding a level 1 course Sat 19th November.
* Good Luck to the curlers going across the water to USA/Canada.

**A.O.C.B.**

**Friendship Trophy** – Thank you to everyone in the North Team for taking part and congratulations to the South Team for winning the Friendship.

Mo Simpson

North Rep SWCA

**South Report –**

Keith asked his clubs when they were giving their report to feedback why players are not taking part in competitions

**Stranraer** –

10 members – play on Thursdays 2.40-4.40 – can book practice ice free of charge with concession cards and as for competitions they have been impacted by members playing for other teams out with Stranraer –

no issues to be raised

**South Lanarkshire** –

17 members, 1 new Member –

Struggling to get players for competitions due to costs – entering one team for Scottish, two of the team that would normally play this year cannot afford fees, accommodation, and fuel. No team for British due to costs, distance etc.

SLWCC have received their Charitable Status and a grant from the Weir Trust which is helping with the ice costs for this season.

Going forward members have asked that SWCA look at holding competitions around the central belt where there is more accessible accommodation.

**Lockerbie** -

5-6 members meet weekly

3 males & 1 female interested in Mixed doubles event – for one member it would depend on where it was held and how long.

Some members playing against Dumfries on Sunday

Cost of accommodation and hotels impacting on members entering competitions.

Lockerbie have asked if SWCA can help Michael Shaw with costs to encourage new curlers at Dumfries – Michael has also approached Keith to discuss establishing new group in Dumfries, ICE Bowl would be happy to support them in setting up new club – the members going to Dumfries cannot manage to Lockerbie session due to other commitments.

Affordability is the main thing coming up in discussion with all club reps – could look at sending out a survey to see if any other issues are stopping players from competing to see if there is a common theme

Dumfries –

Two groups meeting – Thursday for new starters – Sunday regular group of five – then need 4 - 6 cues, 2 heads have been purchased by Dumfries and have a loan of 1 from Lockerbie.

John asks what Michael is looking to do re Lockerbie/Dumfries – looking to establish new registered club at Dumfries – if he is looking for financial assistance would need to be registered with SWCA. Lengthy discussion around the setting up of this new club and the need for a constitution to apply for funding and that it may be better if they are an extension of Lockerbie who already have Charitable status. Suggest that someone from Scottish Curling contacts him to make sure that if he is setting up a club that they comply with what is required around coaching/safety/PVG etc – Isla to take this forward.

11. **AOCB**

Isla may have to leave meeting to join BBC meeting and gives her apologies if this happens

Rosemary brought up the point that Mo raised about entries for competitions – its not unusual for entries to be received after closing date – British and Scottish entries close today and only 4 and 5 have been received – Harry agreed that its not possible to run a competition with 4 entries. Harry was upset by content and negativity of Norths report and advised he will not be doing the competition conveners position next year – full and lengthy discussion around on ice helpers, extensions to competitions, draws etc. Response to members should be that SWCA are looking to get more people on ice curling and competing in competitions and at times this may require extensions to competition closing dates or the competitions would not go ahead.

John reiterated that if Harry were to step down it would a huge loss to the SWCA – he suggested to Mo and Keith that if individuals are complaining they should be directed directly to John to discuss their issues.

Mixed Doubles – Alison to send on email that had been sent out previously as Mo had not received it.

Mo asked what competition we are considering holding at Dewars -this has not been decided yet

Mo asks that we consider Aberdeen and Inverness for future competitions – we need to review all venues for next year as it will be important to consider costs for members – most players are from the Central belt or the South.

Hamilton could not be considered for this year’s competitions as we were unsure if it would be open due to ice plant problems, Stirling wasn’t considered due to the problems at last year’s competition. All venues have pros and cons, and consideration will be given to them all for next year’s competitions.

Rosemary re-iterated her support for Harry and Mo apologised as her report was not meant to upset anyone.

John congratulated Rosemary on her recent awards.

12. **Date of next meeting 6th January 2023 10.0’clock**

Meeting closed with thanks to the chair.