

ELGIN CURLING CLUB
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in the Elgin Museum

On

Thursday 21 April 2011 at 7.30pm

1. PRESENT

D Howie (President & Match Secretary), J Downey(Vice President),
M Pickthall(Secretary), E Dodson(Treasurer), W Ford, C Sword , A Pickthall,
H Downey, R Stewart, G Grant, I Yeats, O Grigor, H Fulton, B Cantlay,
G Johnston, A Allardyce, J Main, G More, I McIntyre, A Grant, R Walker,
W Duncan, D Duncan, M Pilkington, S Pilkington.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from;

B King, M Mckenzie, C Milne, B Milne, A Strang, M Cumming, J Royan, J Barron,
R Tyson, G Mackenzie, S MacKenzie, J P Downey, M Kemp, H Grant, J Grigor.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 April 2010, copies of which had been circulated, were approved. Proposed by A Allardyce and seconded by H Fulton.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Resignations;** Resignations were received from J Grant, B Grant, A Begg and J Royan.(Jim Royan indicated that his resignation was the result of an injury and hoped that he would be able to renew his membership in the future)
- b. **Applications;** Applications were received from Roberta Walker, mark Pilkington and Sue Pilkington.
- c. **Area 10 Annual General Meeting;** The Area 10 AGM will be held at the Inverness Ice Centre on Wednesday 12 May 2011 at 8.00pm. The issue of One Member One Vote would be on the Agenda for discussion.
- d. **The 51st Annual General Meeting of the RCCC Ladies Branch;** The 51st AGM of the Ladies Branch of the RCCC will be held at the Inverness Town House on Tuesday 10th May 2011 at 2.15pm.
- e. **Royal Haskin UK Ltd;** A letter was received from the Company updating the Club on the impact of the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme on its outdoor curling pond site and confirming that it did not perceive a need to use the site for the siting or storage of equipment at the present time.
- f. **Letter to Miss Sandra Lees;** A letter was sent to Miss Sandra Lees updating her on the Club's position regarding her continued use of the area of ground to the rear of her property at 3 Astra Cottages.
- g. **Notification Of council Tax Liability;** Notification was received from Moray Council that there was no liability for the payment of Council Tax for the Club's curling pond at Old Mills.
- h. **Invitations;** Invitations were received to attend a Bonspiel from Meldrum & Daviot Curling club and the Nairn Curling Club Annual Dinner and Court. An invitation was also received to enter two rinks in the Outdoor Grand Match; sadly the ice conditions were not suitable and so the event did not take place.
- i. **Marlyn McKenzie;** A letter was received from Marlyn McKenzie thanking members for their kind wishes following her recent hospitalisation. All those present were delighted to hear that Marlyn was making good progress towards a full recovery.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President reported that the Club had had a successful year in the Province. Louise Marshall's rink successfully retained the Ladies KO title, Graham Grant's rink won the mixed KO and Kenny Oswald's team made it through to the final of the Open KO for the second year running. In the Province League Graham Grant is promoted to Division 3, Brian Cantlay and his Rotary Team head Division 2

and Douglas Howie joins Kenny Oswald in Division 1. Andrew Allardyce retained his place in Division 4, but sadly Bob Stewart slipped into Division 5.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer thanked Andrew Allardyce for auditing the Club's Accounts due to Brian Cameron's ill health and wished Brian a speedy recovery on the Club's behalf. The Treasurer reported that the Club's finances were in good shape and announced an increase in the membership from 41 to 44 due to the three new members who joined this year. He went on to explain the balance sheet and reported a comfortable surplus in the bank current account for the year ending 2011 which was aided to some extent by the successful sale of raffle tickets at the Club and Macallan Bonspiels. He went on to announce that the RCCC levy for 2011/12 had been increased to £18 and on that basis recommended that the subscription for the coming season could remain at £35. The Treasurer proposed and S Pilkington seconded that the subscription for the coming season should remain the same as last season and O Grigor proposed, seconded by R Stewart that the Accounts for 2010/11 be approved.

8. MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Match Secretary thanked the various Committee Members for their help in running the Club competitions. Those mentioned were Mike Pickthall for the Pairs and for acting as Results Convener, John Downey and Bill Ford for their part in running the Club Bonspiel, Mike Kemp for organising the Points and finally, although not on the Committee, Helen Downey for her sterling efforts in selling raffle tickets. Douglas also thanked all the Committee Members who helped on the day with the running of the Macallan Bonspiel. Three Elgin rinks participated but the overall winners were Grampian Police with the Aberdeen All Stars as runners up. The Low Road was won by Ballindalloch. The Match Secretary commented that the ice conditions were less than ideal but that this particular issue is currently being addressed with the MLC management. It is hoped that as a consequence of action that is in hand better ice will result in the coming season. Thanks were extended to Macallan for providing the prizes and for their offer to continue their sponsorship next year.

Douglas reported that the Club Competitions seemed to have gone well as did the Points and the Pairs, however, there were one or two hic-ups with the McNeill League which were largely resolved once the rule relating to the rotation of

playing positions was emphasised. The Club Bonspiel was also declared to be a success.

Resulting from the information gained from the returned Questionnaires it is proposed that the ice requirements for next season should be booked along the same lines as this year.

As mentioned earlier, the Club did well in the Province Competitions and it is hoped that the prize winners will be able to attend the Province AGM on Wednesday 4 May at the Golf View Hotel to collect their silverware.

Last year the Club only competed in one Area 10 Bonspiel, namely, the Bookless Quaich. John Downey and Mike Pickthall have agreed to enter again this year and it is hoped that other skips will consider putting together rinks to enter the other various Bonspiels namely the Johnston Carmichael, Dennis Ice Bowl and the McGregor Kettle in the fullness of time.

The RCCC Competitions, namely the Outdoor Grand Match, Indoor Grand Match, the District Medal, Waldie Griffiths, Henderson Bishop and Rink Championship have already attracted expressions of interest and it is hoped that these will materialise into firm commitments during the coming season. Douglas emphasised that participation in these various events were both enjoyable as well as a good way to meet members from other clubs and experience new venues.

9. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS AND TWO NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Douglas Howie stepped down as President and expressions of thanks were voiced by John Downey, for all his hard work and successful chairmanship during his two years in post. As a token of the Club's appreciation, Douglas was presented with a bottle of malt whisky. The outgoing President proposed John Downey as the new Club President, seconded by A Pickthall. John Downey then formally accepted the role as president of Elgin Curling Club.

Ed Dodson agreed to remain as Treasurer for a further year, proposed by J Downey and seconded by M Pilkington,

Mike Pickthall agreed to remain as Treasurer and this was proposed by J Downey and seconded by W Duncan.

Two Committee Members stood down having completed their statutory two year term, namely C Sword and W Ford. A Grant agreed to stand for Committee, proposed by H Downey and seconded by G Grant. S Pilkington agreed to stand to fill the second Committee vacancy and was proposed by E Dodson and seconded by W Ford.

Douglas Howie stated that he was prepared to fill the post of Match Secretary for one final year. Bill Duncan suggested that the Committee appoint someone in the interim to shadow Douglas with a view to replacing him when he finally stands down at the end of next season. Andrew Allardyce suggested that a trawl of members who were absent from the meeting might prove fruitful in finding a candidate to fill the vacant post of Vice president.

10. PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CLUB CONSTITUTION TO CHANGE THE CLUB'S STATUS TO FORM A COMMUNITY AMATEUR SPORTS CLUB

The Douglas Howie explained the rationale and progress that had been made in converting the Club's status to a CASC and thanked Callum Sword for all his work in dealing with HMRC to obtain advice on the changes that would need to be made to the Club's Constitution to make it acceptable to HMRC. He also pointed out that as a consequence of becoming a CASC, once the decision had been taken then that status was irreversible and as a consequence the annual accounts would require professional auditing. Grenville Johnston reminded those present that CASC status gave the Club's finances tax advantages but did not afford it charitable status. Andrew Allardyce proposed that the Constitution be amended in accordance with proposed amendments that had been circulated to every Club Member and that the status of the Club be changed to that of a CASC. This was seconded by Grenville Johnson. There were no dissensions.

11. COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT

Morag Cumming, Convener of the Moray Province Development Group could not be present and was therefore unable to give her report on coaching and development during the previous season. Bill Duncan, however, who is a member of the MPDG committee mentioned a concern that more volunteers would be required to commit to helping in the development of youth curling in the future due to the increasing interest in curling by more and more youngsters who were the future of Clubs such as ours.

12. SOCIAL EVENT

Helen Downey generously volunteered to organise a bowling night in December along similar lines to one that was held previously.

13. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Honorary membership was bestowed on two of the Club's longest serving members, namely Hilda Fulton and Oonah Grigor, who, apart from still curling on a regular basis have made considerable contributions to curling throughout their very long careers. Hilda for example is an active member of Moray Firth Ladies and will also sub for anyone at the drop of a hat. She has a deadly accurate delivery, when she is on song, as many an opposition skip will confirm. Oonah is still actively coaching the "Curling's Cool" primary school children's programme and is still skipping for the Moray Firth Ladies and in the Club Competitions. John Downey presented them both with the Club's Certificate of Honorary Membership and all the Members of Elgin Curling Club look forward to seeing them both on the ice for many more years to come.

14. AOB

It was agreed that the subject of One Member One Vote was to be raised by the Club's Province Rep at the Area 10 AGM and that the Club's wish to maintain the status quo should be put to the meeting.

It was agreed that the Secretary should write a letter to Brian Cameron on behalf of the Members wishing him a speedy return to curling next season.

It was suggested that in view of the Club's favourable financial situation that the Committee should organise the production of a display cabinet to house the Club's trophies and investigate the permanent siting of the cabinet, with the approval of the MLC management, in a suitable location in the Leisure Centre. It was generally agreed that this would have two major benefits, namely, that all the Clubs Trophies would be on permanent display for all the Club members to see and secondly after a one off expense, the insurance of the silverware would fall within the remit of the Leisure Centre thus making a considerable saving on the Club's annual insurance bill.

The Secretary agreed to enclose a letter with the cheque for the hire of the Museum to the Moray Society thanking them for what turned out to be a very acceptable venue for our meeting and express the hope that the new arrangement could continue in the future.

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm followed by the Prize Giving.

M A Pickthall

Secretary

Elgin Curling Club

29th April 2011