

Kinross Curling Trust
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held at Kinross Curling Rink
29th August 2024 at 7.00pm

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Jim Barton, opened the meeting and advised the baseline Quorum of 20 had been reached. Attendees were asked to keep questions until the end of presentations. The minute taker was Angela Wilcox.

2. APOLOGIES

There were 10 apologies: Sarah Bruce-Jones, Dottie Burt, Kim Dalland, Mike Laing, Alistair McCabe, Elaine Paterson, Robert & Ena Stevenson, Robbie Stevenson, Steve Wilcox.

There were 35 members attending, plus 3 non-members: Irene Baillie (trustee), Ian Baker, Jim Barton (trustee), Phil Barton, Mike Caffyn, Elspeth Caldwell, Sue Cameron, Lars Christiansen, Allan Dearing, Margaret Forrest (trustee), John Geyer, Karen Gibb, Alastair Lamond, Craig Lindsay (trustee), Graham Lindsay, Alistair Low, Colin Low, Ross McCleary, Harry & Ann Mitchell, Sandy & Edna Nelson, Alan Paterson, Sheona Reid, Bill Rennie, Doug Ritchie (trustee), Elaine Spain, Bob & Maria Tait, Christine Taylor, John Taylor, Alice Thomson, Debbie Weir, Morag Wellman (trustee), Angela Wilcox. Non-members: Laura Boyd, Lora Burgess, Angie McCleary.

3. MINUTES OF THE AGM OF 24TH AUGUST 2023

The minutes of the last AGM had been circulated to all members via the KCT Website. No errors were raised, the minutes were proposed by Craig Lindsay and seconded by Margaret Forrest.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There are now signs in the car park asking drivers to park in allocated spaces. There are also signs explaining that we do not treat the car park in cold weather (to avoid bringing salt into the rink and onto the ice).

5. REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUST

Jim introduced his report by saying he felt that the last season was, in his opinion, as good a season as he could remember, both in terms of the ice and the atmosphere around the rink, and he gave credit to Ross and his whole team for this.

Jim stated that our aim is to have ice as good as any in Scotland and he feels that we have achieved that. At the start of the season, we took the decision to increase the service offering in the lounge. This involved increasing the range of food offered and the times of day when food would be available. I am very pleased that this has proved popular and has resulted in increased usage of the facility. It was quite rare last season to walk into an empty lounge. Huge thanks go to all our customers – curlers and non-curlers – for their tremendous support and encouragement both on and off the ice.

We are close to capacity for peak ice and have been able to increase the amount of off peak ice used. Creating more demand for off peak ice will continue to be a priority for us over the coming season.

We are delighted to have had two major sponsors, Ness Plant and Loch Leven's Larder. Ness Plant sponsors the Thursday League, and Loch Leven's Larder sponsors the Wednesday evening club leagues (formally known as the KCT Leagues). Huge thanks to all our sponsors, who do so much to support the rink.

Introducing new curlers to our fantastic sport is another priority and Jim credited Kim Dalland for her work as development officer both in running try curling sessions and building the coaching team. Of course, bringing younger players into the game is also very important so it is great to see that our After School Club and Junior Club are both thriving.

Bookings for the coming season are broadly in line with the 2023/24 season. We have a number of thoughts about areas where we might be able to grow the business and we look forward to the coming season with confidence, but not complacency.

Finally, congratulations to our men's team who won the Maxwell Trophy this season, a fantastic achievement, and my thanks to everyone who has helped make Kinross Curling such a great place to curl and socialise; to our brilliant staff, our volunteers, my fellow board members, and to all of our wonderful customers.

6. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

The Report of the Independent Financial Adviser, Thomson Cooper, is on page 6 of the accounts and has been signed by Sharon Collins on 23rd July 2024.

7. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS TO 30 APRIL 2023

Doug Ritchie, Treasurer, summarised income and expenditure that were detailed in the full set of year end accounts.

INCOME

Donations & Legacies	£2899	Down slightly
Charitable Activities	£316,430	Up £36k
Other Trading Activities	£106,078	Bar – up £30k
Investments	£2,299	Bank interest
Other Income	£11,670	Sponsorship and equipment sales
Total Income	£439,376	Up by £75k on last year

EXPENDITURE

Trading Activities (Bar Costs)	£117,460	up from £80k last year
Charitable Activities (Ice Hall)	£270,005	down from £291k last year, due to lower staff costs

NET INCOME

2024	£51,911	Up from £6k loss last year
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BALANCE SHEET

Increase in Tangible Assets	£4k	£17k additions; £13k depreciation
Stocks	£2,491	Small increase
Debtors	£1,097	Small decrease
Bank	£173,316	Up from £149k last year
Creditors within one year	£41,600	
HMRC	£15.5k	
Trade Creditors	£5k	
Other creditors	£17k	
Accuals	£4k	
Creditors due after one year	£0	All the loans have now been paid off

EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (ICE HALL)

Rent	£30k	up from £28k due to higher sales
Heat & Light	£58k	down from £60k
Insurance	£10.5k	
Repairs & Maintenance	£22k	up from £14.5k – main part dehumidifier repair
Cleaning	£6.5k	
Sundry Costs	£7k	
Irrecoverable VAT	£12k	down from £34K (VAT reclaimed by electricity supplier)
Share of Support Costs	£97k	mainly staff wages
Share of Governance Costs	5.2k	Accountancy, legal and professional fees

Doug asked for the accounts be approved and this was proposed by Allan Dearing and seconded by Alistair Low. There were no objections.

8. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Doug requested that we retain Thomson Cooper as our independent financial examiner, and this was proposed by Morag Wellman and seconded by Phil Barton.

9. FUTURE BUSINESS CHALLENGES

Rink Manager's Report

Ross said that there had been significant investment in the rink during the closed season, and said that it was extremely encouraging to see the level of support provided by the Board when so many other rinks are struggling. He thanked the Board and the curlers for their support.

For the coming season, John, our resident chef, along with Angie, has come up with a new bar menu with a wider selection of snacks. We are also planning on staying open later on Fridays, so that the curlers in the 5:45 session can get food after their game. This will be monitored, and if it goes well it may be possible to offer catering on other nights as well.

There are plans for 5 or 6 bar events over the season, such as the Burns Supper and wine tasting last season, and Ross asked people to look out for these. And encouraged early booking.

The new retractable partition in the bar will allow us to rent out the space for meetings, classes or small events.

There is a new major sponsor this season, LGT Wealth Management, so along with Ness Plant and Loch Leven's Larder, the ice is going to be very full with logos. LGT Wealth Management are going to be sponsoring the over 50's main league and the International Bonspiel.

We are hoping to sell some of our available ice for corporate events, and will be getting into contact with companies, starting with our sponsors, to try and arrange corporate days where we can build on the relationship we have with them. The hope is that this will retain current sponsors and encourage new ones. One of the benefits of the sponsorship fund is prizes for our competitions.

The ice floor has been epoxy-coated, at significant cost, and we are hoping to be able to use it during the closed season. Jim and Ross met with Jamie Montgomery recently to explore the possibilities. There is a long way to go, but it would be good if it could bring in enough money to cover the cost of one member of staff over the summer, as this would help with staff retainment.

There is a 2 page advert in the Kinross Newsletter which has just come out, mainly promoting the bar, but also Try Curling sessions.

Ross wished everyone a safe and enjoyable season and said that he and the staff were looking forward to seeing curlers back on the ice.

Curling Development Report by Morag Wellman

Morag started by acknowledging the work done by Kim and the coaches.

There were about 80 coaching sessions over the past season, with around 400 participants. The coaches also provided regular coaching to clubs, including the Juniors, visually impaired, KCDC and Dollar Academy. There was a great beginner bonspiel attended by 22 new curlers helped by 7 members of the coaching team.

The season started with Kinross hosting the coaches and umpires conferences, which were very busy, but good for the rink, and great to have people from all over the country here.

Our plans are to continue to build on the numbers in the Junior Club and the After School Club, as well as to find ways to retain club curlers as they get older and find hips and knees restrict their mobility. We recommend stick curling and will provide plenty of coaching opportunities for those wishing to try it. Kim is already working on Try Curling and Beginner courses, and we are doing more club coaching that we have done before.

Inclusion is the new buzz word, (we no longer say disability), and Dottie Burt would like to start a new inclusion club for people with any sort of disability. If anyone would like to help please get in touch, or if you know anyone who might like to attend do pass the information on.

Floor curling has become a big thing now, and Scottish Curling has got lots of new floor curling sets funded by Scottish Curling Trust. This is an important way of getting people to see the sport who might not have access to an ice rink, such as in Fort William and Skye. In some parts of the word they even have floor curling championships. We have one set in Kinross and would like to see it being used. It can be borrowed by clubs if they wish to encourage people in their locality, and it is very easy to use.

We have the Olympics coming up in 2026 and this is a huge catalyst for getting people interested in curling. We should be trying to get them involved before they happen so that they can understand when they watch it on TV.

Colin Low complained that he had tried to get ice for a group of friends, but had been told that club curlers get preference, and he felt this was short-sighted if we want new curlers. Jim replied that once ice is sold we cannot be moving clubs around. He also said that there is still space available for booking. He also said that several clubs are running Try Curling sessions with the help of our coaches.

Treasurer

Doug said that he had just a few facts and figures:

- The accounts for the 3 months up to the end of July show a net loss of £26k (last year £30k).
- We currently have £151k in the bank and £1700 in the fundraising account.
- We have invoiced clubs and so have debtors of £111k, and creditors of 12k
- For the coming season, there was a debate on the Board about whether we should be looking for a 6.5% or a 10% rise in the income. Since bookings are at a similar level to last season, then any increase in sales is going to come from the price, so £1 or £1.50 increase per person per game. The board settled on £1, so the budget is set for a 6.5% rise in ice income.
- The budget for bar sales has increased by 10% which we believe is achievable.
- We are budgeting a surplus for next year of £50-52k.
- Capital expenditure of £24k has been agreed for the epoxy flooring, the partition and a new cooker (to cope with the increased catering demands).

10. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

There are currently 7 elected trustees. Our Articles require 2 elected and all co-opted trustees to step down each year. This year that will be Margaret Forrest and Morag Wellman and both are seeking re-election. We also have 1 new nomination, John Taylor, who is vice-president of the Area 10 committee, so this will bring closer links with the RCCC. Since there are only 3 nominations there is no requirement for a formal election and, Margaret, Morag and John were were appointed to the board.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Phil Barton wanted to raise the ways that clubs and individuals can take up sponsorship opportunities, such as honours boards, names on stones, and a brick on the wall, and said to contact Ross or Angela about that. He also said that he would welcome contributions to our newsletter, the Kinross Roar, and would like to get as many people as possible signed up to receive this directly.

He also said that Craig Lindsay, Ross McCleary and Robbie Stevenson will be the Maxwell skips again, and if anyone is interested in playing they should get in touch with Ross.

2. Allan Dearing asked if there was some way of letting club secretaries know which of their members are already members of the Trust so that they can encourage their members to join. Jim replied that there are about 400 members, but probably 3 times that in curlers and that there is no cost in membership. Angela said that she has plans to have notices on the tables with a QR code that will allow people to subscribe very easily to our news emails, and could also put

printed Trust membership forms in the bar so that people can join easily.

3. Jim said that we do have plans for a trophy cabinet, but that the finances did not allow that this year.
4. Jim once again wanted to thank all our volunteers, and specifically thanked Bob Mitchell who does a lot of work in the background, and Phil for his work on the Roar and sponsorship.

Jim thanked everyone for coming and supporting the rink, and Lars Christianson replied to thank the board for all their work over the past year.

Jim closed the meeting at 8:00pm.