

Kinross Curling Trust
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held at Kinross Curling Rink
24th August 2023 at 7.30pm

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 15 apologies: Irene Baillie, Sarah Bruce-Jones, Margaret Forrest, Liz Glennie, Gavin Hughes, Mike Laing, Bill Linton, Alistair Low, Alistair McCabe, Sheona Reid, Bill Rennie, Elaine Spaine, Robert & Ena Stevenson, Steve Wilcox,

There were 28 members attending, plus 2 non-members: James Barr, Jim Barton (trustee), Phil Barton, Dottie Burt, Mike Caffyn, Sue Cameron, Allan Dearing, Tom Graham, Iain Gwynne, Margaret-Elspeth Harman, Alastair Lamond, Craig Lindsay (trustee), Graham Lindsay, Colin Low, Ross McCleary, Sandy & Edna Nelson, Doug Ritchie (trustee), Bob Tait (trustee) Maria Tait, Christine Taylor, John Taylor, Gareth & Eileen Thomas, Gary Waddell, Debbie Weir, Morag Wellman (trustee), Angela Wilcox. Non-members: Laura Boyd, Angie McCleary.

3. MINUTES OF THE AGM OF 25TH AUGUST 2022

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 Phil Barton and seconded by Eileen Thomas.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

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

This report was deferred until item 9 as Jim is both Chairman and Operations Director.

6. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

The Report of the Independent Financial Adviser, Thomson Cooper, is on page 5 of the accounts and has been signed by Sharon Collins on 8th August 2023.

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		
Donations & gifts	£600	
Grants receivable	£1000	Scottish Curling
Other income	£4330	
Charitable Activities		
Ice Operations	£280k	up from £216K
Other Trading Activities		
Bar Sales	£76k	up from £42k; 2021 – Nil; 2020 - £52k; 2019 - £74k; 2018 - £65k; 2017 - £73k
Other Income		
Bank Interest	£450	
Miscellaneous Income	£2,708	
Total Income	£92k up	

EXPENDITURE

Trading Activities (Bar Costs)	£80k	up from £52K; 2021 - £16k; 2020 - £56k; 2019 - £74k
Charitable Activities (Ice Hall)	£291k	up from £230K; 2021 - £159k; 2020 - £199k; 2019 - £266k

NET INCOME

2023	(£5.9k)	2022 – (£9.5k); 2021 - £78k; 2020 - £93k; 2019 - £20k
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BALANCE SHEET

Decrease in Tangible Assets	£9k	£1.9k additions; £10.9k depreciation
Stocks	£1,567	£1,725 last year
Debtors	up by £2.5k	
Bank	£149k	SportScotland Grant £132k in 2021
Creditors within one year	£49k	
HMRC	£6k	
Trade Creditors	£29k	Engie £17k; MHG £2.8k; BCS £2.8K
WCF Loan	£10k	Due Sep 2023
Accruals etc.	£4k	
Creditors due after one year	£18k	WCF & personal loans 2024

EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (ICE HALL)

Rent	£28k	up from £22k due to higher sales
Heat & Light	£60k	up from £53k
R&M	£14k	up from £13k (2020 - £14k)
Cleaning	£5.3k	up from £3.7k – used contractor (no wages)
Sundry Costs	£6.3k	up from £2.9k (Brit Curl Supp for cabinet & Amazon)
Irrecoverable VAT	£34k	up from £6k

Doug explained the VAT being reclaimed by our electricity supplier, Engie. This is because, following an audit at Engie, they had decided that we were no longer eligible for the 5% VAT rate and so were backdating 20% VAT charges to the point we started using the 5% rate, around 3 years. He explained that charities are entitled to 5% but if you sell your services you are not. Unfortunately, there is nobody to appeal to, and the guidance is vague and applied randomly and down to interpretation. The contract with Engie finishes next April and we change to Corona, who will be giving us 5%. We pay 5% on our gas. Alan Dearing raised the concern that the new supplier might do the same thing, and Jim replied that if they did we would be no worse off than now.

Doug proposed the accounts be approved and this was seconded by Mike Caffyn. There were no objections.

8. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Doug proposed that we retain Thomson Cooper as our independent financial examiner, and this was seconded by Margaret-Elspeth Harman. There were no objections.

9. FUTURE BUSINESS CHALLENGES**Chairman's Report on Activities of the Trust**

Jim said that he started the year as Operations Director and then took on Chairman when Bob decided to stand down as chair at Christmas. Jim said he would like to start with the chairman's report on the activities of the Trust and then move on to the future business challenges. He said he would not have been able to continue as Operation Director if Ross had not been doing most of the work, allowing him the space to take on the chairman's role.

Jim said that last year Bob spoke about the challenges that faced us, and that he felt that none of us could have expected to have as good a season as we did have, both from a trading and operational perspective. The figures show a good surplus that we would have made if it were not for the loan repayments and VAT.

He said that it had been like night and day with the new staff, resulting in a great atmosphere, and bringing Angie on in November has been hugely successful. We are looking to improve the offering in the bar if we can get the right staff in place. Jim thanked all the staff, but also the members for the way they had welcomed the new staff and helped create a real club atmosphere in the rink.

Jim spoke about the huge strides that were made last year with Try Curling, and that it was crucial to running a successful programme for new curlers to have sufficient coaches. It was therefore very encouraging to see that the number of coaches and on ice assistants had doubled over the past year. That we had run a number of successful bonspiels, and members from this rink had taken part in the Strathcona tour to Canada and the US Ladies tour.

Ice bookings are up again for next year and we look forward to the season ahead with enthusiasm and confidence.

Operations Director's Report on Future Business Challenges

Jim said that in his report last year as Operations Director he stated that the overwhelming business challenge was to return the business to an operating surplus as soon as possible, and that the strategy for doing that was to increase the number of curlers using the rink facilities by; preparing and maintaining good ice, fostering a welcoming and friendly atmosphere in the ice hall and lounge, and attracting new curlers.

He believes that we have been largely successful in all of these areas and thanked all the staff for the huge turn-around in the way in which the facility is now run. He also, on behalf of both the Board and the staff, expressed his appreciation for the encouragement and support that our members have shown.

Jim informed up that for the coming season Ice bookings are up with 98% of weekday evening ice and 95% of weekend daytime ice already booked. This is very good from a business point, but does present other challenges in that it is difficult to find space for new bookings. He said we are keen to increase weekday daytime and weekend evening usage, both currently running at just under 50%, and we would see a number of initiatives going forward, aimed at supporting clubs by providing their members with rink organised curling opportunities.

He said that we also want to build on the success of Angie and her team in the way that the bar and catering has developed since she joined us in November and offer, staff number permitting, a better and increased level of service.

He said that we want to continue to attract new curlers through the very successful Try Curling and Beginners programmes. That it is great to report that in September we will be running a Level 1 coaching course at the rink with nine of our members attending— hopefully meaning nine more Level 1 coaches in our coaching team. He also said that clubs might like to put on their own sessions for new members and we could be in a position to provide coaches to help with these.

Jim wanted to mention that we now have 2 major sponsors on board, Ness Plant, who joined us last season and sponsor the Thursday League and the Over 40s Bonspiel, and Loch Leven's Larder, who will be sponsoring the KCT League. He thanks Phil and Ross for their hard work on this.

Finally, Jim said that he was keen to encourage community based events in the lounge, and mentioned the very successful Race Night that took place in the summer, organised by Harry Gow for mental health charities. He also mentioned that Gary Waddell would be introducing the Sporting Memories club that will be starting soon. He felt that it was a good thing good for the rink to be part of the local community.

Rink Manager

Ross thanked everyone for their support and patience last year, it was much appreciated. He said that this season we will be looking to consolidate and build on the work done last season. One of our main aims will be to increase the footfall in the bar, and this will hopefully be possible if we can get the right staff in place. He hoped to offer a wider range of food options, and asked that members support it. He reiterated Jim's message that the lounge should be available for community use as well as for curlers.

Ross said the is planning on running three skins events during the coming season, on Saturday evenings, and encouraged everyone to come along. It would be great fun. The first one will be at Halloween, so there will be a possibility for fancy dress.

Curling Development

Morag Wellman praised Kim for her work running courses for beginners and said that we had run 19 Try Curling sessions with nearly 300 attendees, 8 beginners' courses, run over 2 sessions, with around 55 attendees, 2 stick sessions, and 18 private Try Curling events including Scouts, corporate events and even a stag party. Iain Gwynne ran 12 sessions for KCDC aided by Connor Boyd, and we put on a special course for our young helpers, and other assistants.

She said that we now have a pathway for our junior curlers. Last season David Ramsay ran a beginner After School Club, and that will continue and will feed into the Junior Club when they have reached a level to be able to play full length stones and join in with the juniors for a game.

Morag reminded us about the visually impaired curlers who meet on a Monday, and said that Dottie is always looking for helpers for this.

She said that we will be hosting the Scottish Curling Coaching and Umpire's conferences on our opening weekend, as we are one of the first rinks to open.

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 £15000 (last year £29000), mainly due to the fact that we have only Ross and Angie rather than 3 full time icemen.
- We currently have £99000 in the bank and £7000 in the fundraising account.
- We have invoiced clubs and so have debtors of £116000, and creditors of £7000
- For the coming season we are budgeting for £280000 of ice sales, an increase of 10%
- The budget for bar sales has increased by 20% to £68000, very achievable with Angie's enthusiasm and your support
- We are budgeting a surplus for next year of £26000
- Capital expenditure budget is £10500 (last year £0). We have a new oven and will be getting a new coffee machine but it only works with card, no cash. Also 2 new ice blades at the end of the year.

Questions

1. Margaret-Elspeth mentioned that her golf club had a loyalty card where member load money onto the card and then spend from it, and asked if there were any possibility of having such a system here. Angie answered that this is something that is possible with the new machine and that they will be looking into it. Doug mentioned that this had been considered when they looked at a membership subscription, but the subscription model had been rejected due to the amount of work needed to run it. Margaret-Elspeth said she did not mean a membership card, but simply a card that when used gave a discount on the price.
2. Dottie asked how we were planning to deal with the car park, since there are some very busy times in the evening changeover. Jim said that it is not possible fit any more parking spaces in. Colin Low suggested parking charges might encourage people to car share, and Ross said that when Perth did this it discouraged curlers. Dottie raised the point that the problem was cars parking down the middle and blocking other cars in and could this be a no parking area. Jim said that we could look into hatching this area, but it is very expensive.

10. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

There are currently 7 elected trustees and 1 co-opted trustee. Our Articles require 2 elected and all co-opted trustees to step down each year. This year that will be Bob Tait and Jim Barton along with co-opted trustee Mike Laing. Bob is not seeking re-election, but Jim is, along Mike Laing. Since there are only 2 nominations there is no requirement for a formal election and, since there were no objections, Jim and Mike were appointed to the board.

Jim then went on to acknowledge the incredible contribution that Bob has made over many years during two stints as chairman of the Trust. Bob was a director of Scottish Curling between 2005 and 2009, and chairman from 2008 to 2009. He was the lead person from Scottish Curling when we were looking at having a national academy here at Kinross. When it became clear that this would not happen, Bob turned his attention immediately to securing curling at Kinross and became the first chair of the Kinross Curling Trust, a post which he held for 7 years. He returned to the board in 2020 and led us through covid and staff changes, as well as the successful bid for the £132000 Sport Scotland grant. He leaves us in a much

stronger position, with a new, dynamic team, steady bookings and an optimistic outlook. Jim then, on behalf of the board and the curlers, thanked Bob for all he had done and presented him with a bottle of whisky.

Bob reassured everyone that this time he will not be coming back. 20 years as a volunteer in curling politics and administration, both in Kinross and in Edinburgh, is long enough for anyone. He said that he leaves still fully committed to the Trust and curling in Kinross. He acknowledged the work the board had done, but said that the main reason that the rink is thriving is because of the curlers and their continued support and enthusiasm. He thanks everyone and said he would still be curling for a year or two until the limbs gave up.

Jim then briefly introduced Laura Boyd who, along with Lora Burgess, will be taking over the safeguarding officer role for the rink, and thanked her for taking this on.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Iain Gwynn raised an issue with the allocation of ice for his club. He commented on the system where clubs can request to keep ice that they are happy with, only works if everybody is happy. He felt his club's allocation was not evenly spread out. He said they making great effort and taking weekend ice, which is not what they want, to make it all work. Jim replied, as match secretary for Inverkeithing to say that the system works well for his club, and that clubs need to be able to get a similar allocation as they had the previous season, and that if they needed more, the club would have to accept that this may have to be at a weekend or during the day. They cannot simply expect to get more ice. He said that Dollar & Devon Vale were in the unfortunate position that they had lost a lot of players. They have now built the club up again, but you had lost the ice. Iain replied that he was meaning he wanted his ice more spread out. Ross commented that this could be looked at for next season. Craig Lindsay (Forret) commented that they had moved their friendlies to Kinross as Perth had no catering. He said he would be open to swapping sheets to help out. Jim suggested that Iain keep an eye on the booking system in case any sheets become available. Angela requested more information when they put their allocation in next year to highlight where the issue are.
2. Phil Barton thanked everyone for their contributions to the newsletter and reminded everyone that it is for clubs as well, and that they can send in articles. Jim thanks Phil for all his work on the newsletter.
3. Gary told us about the Sporting Memories club that will be starting at the rink on 12th September. Gary works for Sporting Memories Foundation Scotland, which is a charity, and his job is to setup community clubs. He has 5 in Fife at the moment, and this will be the first in Perth & Kinross. The clubs are primarily targeted at older sports fans, but everyone is welcome, particularly anyone who has become a bit isolate or lonely. The clubs bring people together, including disabilities and dementia sufferers. He asked everyone to speak to other about it. It will run for 10:30 till 12:00 on Tuesday mornings. There is no cost, but members will be encouraged to buy a coffee from the bar. Gary also asked for volunteers to help run it.
4. Jim reminded members about the garden tidy up that is planned for the weekend, and said that Angie would be providing bacon rolls for lunch. He also thanked Sandy Nelson, who had already been round several times and made a great start.
5. Colin Low said that Dunfermline have some curling artifacts, and he thought other clubs would have as well, and he asked if the rink had thought about a display cabinet for these. Jim commented that the problem would be space, and Ross said that it had been discussed. Morag mentioned that the Scottish Curling Trust have a store and can hold items on club's behalf.

Jim closed the meeting at 8:50pm.