



## EDINBURGH CURLING CLUB LTD

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### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EDINBURGH CURLING CLUB LIMITED held at 7.30 pm on 6th Sept 2018**

#### **1. Welcome**

President Colin Baxter opened the meeting and on behalf of the Board, welcomed Honorary Members and all members of the Club present, thanking them for attending and asked anyone who had not yet signed in to do so. He asked those with mobile phones to switch them off or turn them to silent. He asked that anyone wishing to speak to stand and clearly announce their name and Club before starting to speak. He then moved to the formal part of the evening and asked the Secretary to read the names of members who sadly were no longer with us.

The Secretary read the following names:-

John Watt Corstorphine  
Lauchlan MacLean Watsonians  
Ian Tulloch East Lothian  
Polly Ridge Edinburgh Ladies  
Ian Dobbie Vets  
Catriona Fairbairn Colinton Ladies  
Stewart Robertson SIAE  
Roger Gifford Pentland Mens

Douglas Baxter Corstorphine

The President asked the members present if there were any other names they wished to add.

The President invited the members to stand for a short silence as a mark of respect for the members who had died.

## **2 Notice of Meeting**

Notice of the meeting was advertised within the club rooms, was on the website, had been sent to individuals and club secretaries.

The President asked the Secretary to read the apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from

John Good	Robin & Lois Copland	Kath Murray
Liz Aitken	Sweepers Club	Ken & Linda Hunter
Carolyn Tough	Sheila & Ian Miller	Jean & John Hammond
Brian Seftor	Elizabeth Sharp	David & Isobel Edwards
Malcolm Patrick	Catherine Edington	Holly & Heather Davis
Stewart & Jenniffer Dodds	Mike & Alison Dick	

## **3 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017**

A copy of the minutes has been available on the notice board and were also emailed to members. The Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 were proposed by Paul Stevenson and seconded by Jenny Barr.

## **4 Matters arising from the Minutes**

The President asked if there were any other matters arising from past minute. There were no matters arising from the minutes raised.

## **5 Report from Murrayfield Curling Limited**

The President invited Norman Watt chair of MCL to present his report.

Murrayfield Curling Report for ECC AGM 6th September 2018

Mr President and fellow curlers Good Evening.

This item on the agenda allows me as a member of the MCL Board the opportunity to share and advise you as members of ECC and as a group the majority shareholder in MCL, of its activities throughout the past year and to indicate its plans for the future. None of these plans and activities

are carried out in isolation from ECC. The close and productive co operation between both Boards continues to go from strength to strength and has been vital in delivering what will be the largest project in the history of curling in Edinburgh.

This past year since September 2017 has been a busy, challenging, eventful, historic and sad year.

Earlier we held a minute of silence for our curling brothers and sisters who had passed away during this last year. I wish in particular to mention Douglas Baxter our Ice Rink Manager. His passing was a very difficult time for his family, his work colleagues and the curling fraternity both here in Edinburgh and beyond. He will be greatly missed by all.

It is therefore fitting that the new ice pad will be dedicated to his memory.

The ice pad project, which as you are all aware is phase 1 of what has turned out to be a two phase project is in its final stage, with a confident expectation that the ice will be playable for the opening Bonspeil.

The project will be delivered on time and on Budget.

That ten word statement is a credit to, and the culmination of, a vast amount of effort, time and expertise put in by a long list of people.

Your President will I am sure during his report acknowledge the significant financial contribution made by donors both as individuals and clubs in raising funds necessary to underwrite the project.

Board members of ECC and MCL have spent many countless and selfless hours in discussions internally during the inception of the project and subsequently during its progress with funding organisations, legal advisers and contractors.

Scott Henderson and his team of Aaron, Stuart and Fraser have put in a Herculean amount of effort both in preparing the ice Rink for the invasion of the contractors who removed the old floor and after the floor was laid particularly in the last month in preparing the ice rink for its opening.

I am impressed by the outcome and I am sure you will be also.

The total cost of the phase 1 part of the development stands at £856 344 including Vat.

We as the curling fraternity of Edinburgh and the Lothians should be proud of what we have delivered.

Having completed phase 1 we are now turning our attention to the delivery of phase 2 the insulation of the curling rink walls, which is planned for summer 2019 subject to the availability of funding.

Turning now to the contributions made by MCL staff to our activities during this last year.

I have previously mentioned Scott Henderson. Earlier this year Scott was appointed Ice rink manager after working as Interim Manager during Douglas's illness. It is a credit to Scott's considerable ice making expertise that we managed to survive throughout last season on the old floor despite all the the known weaknesses. The terms silk purse and sow's ear come readily to mind.

Therefore it is an obvious conclusion to draw that our new ice pad will be in very capable hands when being looked after by Scott and his team of Aaron, Stuart Fraser and Andy.

Having now got a state of the art floor in place and the completion of the wall insulation in the very near horizon we need to maximize the use of this facility for the benefit of all curlers.

One of the key planks of the MCL strategy in this regard was the appointment of Evie Chamberlain as Curling Development Officer back in January 2017. Since that time Evie has been hard at work developing an understanding of the needs and requirements of MCLs customers whether it be clubs, ECS, schools and corporate demand. This has already resulted in some changes in ice times for this season, driven by the demands of curling clubs. A number of initiatives have been developed in the coaching area with ECS which should enhance the Try Curling programme and encourage new entrants into the curling world at Murrayfield.

There is a clear desire by MCL supported by ECC to listen to all interested groups and to put the resource into developing ideas for the benefit of us all. Therefore please continue to give Evie your support.

This summer has seen the transition from the old ice book system to the EZ facility. Whilst this system is not totally bespoke for use by our type of business it is considerably superior to it's predecessor. The bulk of this task has been carried out by Debbie. Whilst the scale of the switch is not of the order of a TSB IT upgrade we have managed it with very few problems thanks to Debbie's efforts and with some assistance from Jenny Barr and Evie.

Whilst I made a passing reference to them previously I would wish to record my thanks to the MCL Board members of Jenny Barr, Paul Stevenson, Michael Wood and Stewart Cobb for their tremendous input throughout this last year. Their dedication to the success of curling at Murrayfield cannot be questioned.

I have now completed my report other than by pre-empting a question from the floor regarding MCLs trading position.

At our Board meeting last night our management accounts were tabled for our year end of July 2018. Bearing in mind these are management accounts which will be subject to year end adjustments and also bearing in mind they show development costs, grant and loan incomes which at this stage are not complete, we have analysed our underlying trading position and this shows an almost identical picture to last year in that we had a turnover of £402,000 with a small profit of £16,000

Mr President I will take any questions now or as you direct.

Thank you

David Cunningham SIAE asked that if there might have been more profit expected due to the fact that ice fees had increased and the new lights were more energy efficient. Norman Watt responded indicating that overall ice fees had not increased but had been varied to accommodate different usage. Paul Stevenson indicated that the savings in power for the lights is helping to pay back the loan from Energy Resource Scotland.

Norman Watt went on to explain that the two major costs to MCL are power costs and staff costs. He indicated that in this coming year MCL are anticipating an 27% increase in power costs some of which will be n mitigated by the new floor but the full benefit of potential power savings will not be felt until the cladding is done.

David asked a further question about standard securities for the grant from Sports Scotland and the loan from WCF via RCCC. Norman indicated that this has been done and lawyers have drawn up the appropriate paper work.

## **6 Chairman's Report**

Dear brother & sister curlers,

This has been another busy year for us continuing with fundraising and then having the new floor laid. We want to thank all of you who have contributed to this and hope you will enjoy playing on the new floor. There is still work to be done and we anticipate the cladding will be done next summer and I would urge anyone who has not contributed to the redevelopment to do so now. We still need funds to complete the refurbishment so please dig deep.

This year the catering has been taken over by Parsley & Thyne and I am sure you will all agree this has worked well. We are delighted Paul has agreed to continue this year and we look forward to our usual good catering service. With Paul's co-operation we have reduced bar staff and ice staff are also helping behind the bar when they have time once their ice duties are complete.

Lurna remains with us as the main member of staff for the bar. Having had this arrangement this year has allowed us to cut staffing costs.

The shop will be open as normal and we hope you continue to use it for your curling equipment.

The ECC Board has been working very hard this year without their dedication and commitment we would not have the new floor. I would like to thank all of them for the support they have given me this year.

We have the opening bonspiel on Sat 22nd Sept and I look forward to seeing many of you there and playing on the new floor. It has been an honour to be your president thank you to all the members who support the club.

## **8 Presentation of Accounts**

The President invited Alasdair Seftor the treasurer to present his report.

Good evening and welcome to my report for the year ending April 2018.

For those of you who have reviewed the accounts you will see significant improvement on last year that allows ECC to provide additional support to the development project.

Page 5 of the accounts is the overall profit and loss statement of the company. It incorporates the club Revenue, Bar, Shop and International profit and loss.

Turnover is down from from £295k to £193k with gross profit increasing to £109k. The administration charges reduced from from £95k to £76k.

The net loss last year was £7.7k and this was turned into a net profit of £34k

Page 6 is the Balance sheet of the company. Our tangible assets have reduced from £50k to £42k due to depreciation. The shop stock has reduced from nearly £44k to £34k. It clear to the board that we were overstocked and this has been addressed and will continued to be addressed over the next 12 months

Debtors reduced from from £13k to £6k. Included in last year's figure were prepayments of £7.7k that relate to expenditure for Curl 2018 that are shown in this years. P & L.

Cash at Bank has increased from £290k to £522k as a result of the fundraising and retained profits At the financial year end the fundraising balance stood at £322k and the retained profits at £200k

Creditors increased from £168k to £345k. Trade creditor's reduced from £14k to £2k. Last year's trade creditor included the £9k entry that related to the fraud. Other creditors increased from £144k to £339k. £322k of the outstanding amount relates to the corresponding entry to the cash at bank.

The member's funds have increased from £228k to £261k. Page 11 – Note 6 – As you can see from the second part of the note ECC provided a loan of £400k to MCL at the start of May.

This is a 25 year loan, charged at 2% per annum and is only repaid if MCL create a cash surplus at their yearend. MCL have been given a capital holiday until their year ending July 2020. There is flexibility in the terms if agreed by both sides.

The agreement in place allows us to advance further funds under the same arrangements.

We then move onto the Management Information that covers the overall position, the club, bar and Edinburgh International & shop.

Club Income has increased from £62k to £66k. The main difference is the increase in subscription income from £46k to £58k. However there was a reduction in the competition income from £11k to £5k.

The following page details the administrative expenses.

There is no longer a £5k expense for wages. Last year this was required to provide additional support in the office during the season.

The Printing and Stationary, Computer, Advertising costs have all reduced

There is an entry of £8324 for development costs. This is a one off expenditure and relates to professional costs accrued on the project over the last 2 years

Our accountancy fees have increased from £7.4k to £8.1k. This relates to accrual from last year's accounts and extra costs in relation to the gift aid submission

Bank charges have reduced from £2.1k to £1k. This has not actually reduced and the balance can be seen in the Bar P & L

Overall the club made a small profit of £6356.

I will now move onto the Bar & Catering Profit & Loss.

We can see the turnover has reduced from £147k to £70k. This year we franchised the catering.

We moved from a loss of £16k to a profit of nearly £10k

The new arrangement with Parsley and Thyme has worked well. Although separate businesses we have worked well together sharing resources. This allowed us to generate nearly £13k income from the franchise fee and catering sales.

The cost of sales has reduced from £155k to £50k. This is mainly manpower and catering costs.

The last page of the accounts is the P & L for the shop. Turnover for the shop has reduced from £64k to £50k continuing the trend seen over the last few years.

The purchases reduced from £39k to £25k as we have ordered less and better.

You will note the other costs have increased from £6.5k to £7.5k. This is a payment to MCL for effectively running the shop on our behalf

The shop profit increased from £8k to £17k. Unfortunately, there was not a positive outcome reported on the Fraud reported last year

You will be pleased to know I am not proposing any increase in the subscriptions for the 2019/20 season.

However, I would like to propose a reduction in the junior membership from £20 to £5 for the current season.

This will cost us roughly £1500 but the board believe we need to support our junior curlers.

That concludes my report for the year and I will happily answer any questions.

David Cunningham SIAE asked a technical question about the position of net assets of the club and how they appear within the accounts. Alasdair indicated that he had asked the accountants about this but would clarify this again and provided David with an answer.

Alasdair proposed that we reduce the Junior membership from £20.00 to £5.00 with immediate effect and this was seconded by Jenny Barr. The members present agreed to this proposal.

**8 Changes to the Articles** The President asked Alasdair Seftor to lead on this. Alasdair explain that unfortunately we would not be addressing changes to the articles at this meeting. As part of their grant conditions Sports Scotland have to approve our articles and they have just come back to us requiring changes mainly making the articles gender neutral. While these are in a sense minor alterations it will require changes at several parts of the articles so we thought it best that we make the changes and call an EGM to present them to the membership. It anticipated this will be in Oct.

Alasdair asked if any of the members had any questions about the articles that had been presented to them so if there are concerns these can be dealt with.

Ian Keron Midcalder asked about the signing in of non members on rugby days. He knows that one member could sign in 10 guests but he was concerned that some members who attend the rugby days might not appreciate that they are signing in non members and he wondered what their responsibilities for the non members were. It was agreed that this would be looked at.

Mike Wood then addressed the members about two specific points Sports Scotland had raised in relation to the articles which he wanted some guidance on.

1 The current and proposed articles outline that when a member is expelled then the right of appeal is to the board. Sports Scotland want this changed for this right of appeal to be done at the AGM.

The members agreed that this should remain at board level because of the potential sensitive nature of the issues which might surround the expulsion and because of the timely way the expulsion would need to be done.

2 The current and proposed articles require that that an person being nominated for president has been a director of the ECC board. SportsScotland want that changed as they feel it is discriminatory and narrows the pool. The members felt that there is an expectation that there is a natural progression from Vice President to President that they would be on the board anyway. Mike thanks the members for their comments and will present these when the changes are being discussed with Sports Scotland

## **9 Election of Office Bearers and Director**

The president indicated that he had one year more to do and he was willing to stand for re-election. This was proposed by Paul Stevenson and seconded by Moir Seftor.

The President indicated that he wished to nominate John Hogarth Gogar Park as vice president this was seconded by Nigel Fairhead Gogar Park. The members accepted this nomination.

The President Indicated that Margaret Nicol as secretary, Alasdair Seftor as treasurer and Paul Stevenson as operations director were eligible for re election and he nominated them. This was seconded by Norman Watt.

## **11 Appointment of Auditors**

The president proposed that Johnston Smillie chartered accountants be re-appointed as auditors. The proposal was seconded by Alistair Seftor.

In the absence of other nominations, the president confirmed that Johnston Smillie chartered accountants are duly re-appointed.

**12 Any Other Competent Business** The president asked if there was any other competent business.

Several events were highlighted

Sunday 19th October Carrington Curling Club are holding a sale and auction of memorabilia as fund raising for the redevelopment.

Tuesday 11th Sept RCCC are hold an open meeting at Murrayfield to discuss the strategic plan. All are welcome.

Applications are being sought for curlers to represent Scotland at the four nations competition to be held at the new ice rink at Preston. Further details on Scottish Curling website.

There will a men's tour to Switzerland in 2020 and applications are being sought. Again more information is on the Scottish Curling website.

There being no further business. Colin closed the meeting at 20.30hrs thanking all for their attendance and support and remarked that he looked forward to the new curling season and playing on the new floor. Trevor Dodds thanked the president for presiding over the meeting.