



## EDINBURGH CURLING CLUB LTD

13a Riversdale Crescent  
EDINBURGH, EH12 5XN

Tel: 0131 337 4242 Fax: 0131 346 4654  
e-mail: [info@murrayfieldcurling.co.uk](mailto:info@murrayfieldcurling.co.uk)  
[www.murrayfieldcurling.co.uk](http://www.murrayfieldcurling.co.uk)

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EDINBURGH CURLING CLUB LIMITED held at 7.00 pm on 10th Sept 2020**

#### **1 Welcome**

John Hogarth President of Edinburgh Curling Club welcomed everyone to the meeting. and indicated that due to the COVID19 restrictions this meeting will be conducted via Zoom and the agenda is restricted to the three key topics to ensure compliance with the Edinburgh Curling Club Articles of Association.

He asked that all members mute their microphones and hoped everyone has read the previously emailed AGM reports as there will not be an opportunity to raise any questions verbally. However members were asked to email our company secretary at [pumpernicol@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pumpernicol@blueyonder.co.uk) with any questions, amendments or issues on conclusion of the meeting. It is hoped that if required, an EGM will be held at some future date.

I would invite the members to pay their respects for a short silence for the members who had died in the past year. They are :-

Richard Alexander	Edinburgh Rotary
Angus Dick	Carrington
Ann Goodall	Peebles

John Glidden	Penicuik
Iain Hamilton	Carrington
Jean Hamilton	Carrington
Phil Hutchison	SIAE
Gordon Mathieson	Bruntsfield
Ian Mackay	Penicuik
Hamish Duguid	Livingston
James Rust	Coates

If there are any names missing from the above list please email our secretary and the list will be amended.

## **2 Notice of Meeting**

The Notice of the meeting was advertised on the website and has been sent to all individual members.

## **3 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th Sept 2019**

A copy of the minutes has been available on the ECC website and have been emailed to all members/ The minutes were approved by Mike Williamson and seconded by Mike Wood.

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

There are no matters arising from last year's minutes.

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

Norman Watt's ,chair of Murrayfield Curling Limited, report has been emailed to all ECC members and is appended to these minutes. Norman made a brief comment indicating that we are in uncertain times but everyone has been working together to make the coming season a successful one. Both boards will work together to meet the challenges ahead. He thanked members for their continuing support.

## **6 Chairman's Report**

John H Hogarth's, President of Edinburgh Curling Club Limited report has been emailed to all ECC members and is appended to these minutes. He also made a short comment thanking all members for their support at the end of last season. Both boards have been busy all summer working to ensure we can curl this season. He asked all members to support staff to ensure we have a safe, clean environment to curling in. He thanked the staff, the competitions committee and the board for all their efforts.

## 7 Presentation of Accounts

Alasdair Seftor Treasurer indicated that due to the nature of tonight's meeting he would take members through a shorter summary of the accounts focusing on the statutory parts. If there are any questions about the Management information contained at the back or anything else, please email Margaret.

As you can see the turnover remained constant at £178k although these figures are slightly masked by a couple of factors.

We decided to change the way we financially organise competitions. Rather than the ice charges for competitions being paid directly to MCL they are now paid to ECC and MCL invoice to us direct

Bar income reducing from £56k to £44k because of us not having the autumn rugby internationals and the season finished 3 weeks early.

Membership income increased by between £2k mainly down to an increase in membership fee's. We believe this is down to the introduction of the new door system.

Admin expenses increased from £93k to £140k. There are 2 main factors that caused this change –

There was £11k increase in competition expenses – This was the ice as mentioned above

Development costs increased by £33k – This includes work done last summer and professional costs for the proposed balcony works

Other income of £52k relates to £42k (donations/gift aid) and the £10k grant from the government in relation to Covid.

Overall, the profit in this year was £17,715 or an EBITDA of just over £28k. If you excluded the donations and the development expenditure you get to a figure closer to £40k.

If you now turn to page 6, the balance sheet

Tangible assets increased from £38k to £78k because of the purchase of the new stones

Debtors increased from £402k to £774k and cash reduced from £410k to £63k because of a further loan we provided MCL of £390k. They have since repaid £30k so the total outstanding is £760k

Creditors increased as we included 2 grants £50k from Viridor and £4k from the Peter Harrison foundation. There is also the first payment to WCF for the stones. The £40k for the long-term creditors are the funds due to the WCF

Members funds increased from £794k to £812k

Several members have asked about the forecast financial position for the coming season. Whilst both boards can plan when there are sudden changes, such as we have seen today, it makes this very difficult to provide an answer to that question with any confidence.

Over the summer we have been constantly assessing our options and looking for solutions to open the doors in September. This will be constantly reviewed over the coming months. We are fortunate that both companies are well capitalised, and we believe this will stand us in a good place for the coming season.

John Hogarth seconded the accounts.

## **8 Appointment of Auditors**

Alasdair Seftor proposed that Johnston Smillie chartered accountants be re-appointed as auditors and Edith Butler seconded the proposal.

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

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

Margaret Nicol as secretary and Alasdair Seftor as treasurer were eligible for re election and I nominate them. Sean Murphy has seconded this proposal. I assume all members will readily accept these nominations.

Paul Stevenson, Operations Director has completed his term of office as director and I wish to nominate Paul Davis from Corstorphine, 37 Club and Gogar Park as the new Operations Director, this has been seconded by Alasdair Seftor. I assume all members will readily accept these nominations.

Abi Fraser, Director has completed her term of office as director and I wish to nominate Kath Murray from Corstorphine and Colinton Ladies as a new Director, this has been seconded by Lyz Hogarth. I assume all members will readily accept these nominations.

There were no other nominations received from the membership.

## **9 Close Meeting**

John thank everyone for their attendance and I look forward to seeing everyone back on the ice at Murrayfield. I wish all of you a successful season and stay safe.

The meeting closed at 19.20.

## ECC President's Report

Well what a year !! Who could ever have imagined back in September of last year that we would encounter such a dreadful virus as COV19. New words suddenly became every day language such as self-isolate, lockdowns, reproduction rates which all resulted in the curling rink closing early on Wednesday 18 March 2020.

Thankfully it was March and the curling season was drawing towards a close, although some competitions could not be completed and some events had to be cancelled. On behalf of the board I would just like to thank all members for their understanding and support over the sudden enforced closure of the curling rink.

Yet again it was a hugely successful curling season at Murrayfield. Some of the highlights being :-

In October the Jackson Trophy was won by Team Forshaw comprising of Alan Chalmers, Calum Forshaw, Jim Glass and Alistair MacRae.

The Murrayfield Open Pairs event was played in November with Andrew Sommerville and Craig Brown winning over Gordon Addison and Andrew Penker. The good news was that both teams represented Murrayfield at the Scottish Pairs Championship at Stranraer in March.

The Edinburgh Seniors competition was held in November with the winning teams of John Duff and Jackie Lockart winning the respective mens and ladies titles. My thanks to Trevor Dodds, Robin Copland and their committee for organising this event.

In November at the European Championships Jennifer Dodds and Sophie Sinclair won a silver medal as part of Team Muirhead.

Murrayfield hosted the Scottish Curling's Continental Cup Competition on the 28 & 29 December.

The first ever Twixmas Funspiel was a hugely enjoyable day with family visiting from Argentina, Czech Republic and the Toppings from the Preston Flower Bowl. Everyone who played thoroughly enjoyed this event so much, we are planning to host it again on the 30 December, so please mark it in your diary. We raised £1020 from a raffle which was equally donated to Streetwork and Prostate Cancer

Congratulations go to Bruce and Jen for their team successes in winning the Scottish Mens and Womens titles.

Well done to Susan Kesley, Jenny Barr, Fran Stretton and Morna Aitken for winning the high road of the Henderson Bishop and to Kerry Clark, Katie Wood, Betty Gibb, Maggie Barrie and Margaret Nicol for winning the low road of Henderson Bishop in Aberdeen.

The Sellar Trophy was won by Perth's Ann-Maree Davidson's rink against Maggie Barry's team.  
To Jennifer and Bruce for winning the Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles Championship.

Congratulations to the four Ladies teams who all achieved an 8ender this season especially Kath Murray who achieved it twice. The four team lists are available on the website.

My thanks to Paul Davis for organising the highly successful and enjoyable Quick Curling night.

Congratulations to Susan Kesley for being appointed as the first woman RCCC Vice President 2020/21

I detail below the ECC members who received their RCCC 50 year medal this year - well done to all on this amazing achievement :-

Pat Edington

James Wyllie

Jim Cowper

Kate Dykes

David Steel

Jannette Johnston

Since the closure, over the summer months and especially now, the ECC and MCL Boards have been exceptionally busy to ensure that curling can recommence at Murrayfield this month. Many Scottish Government, Scottish Curling and SportScotland papers have been fully analysed and assessed to ensure that we deliver the best outcome for our members. As everyone will know we plan to reopen on Sunday 27 September however there will be a number of changes to ensure full compliance with the Scottish Government rules and Scottish Curling guidelines.

Turning now to the ECC competitions the first major event is the Jackson Trophy on the 17 & 18 October where we have eight teams competing for this prestigious trophy. Overall the response to the majority of our competitions has been very good although we have seen a slight reduction in numbers for some events. This is not totally unexpected and most of the withdrawals are related to the COVID19 virus. Regrettably we received a late withdrawal for the Cousin Trophy which means that we now only have three teams. If any member or club wishes to organise a team for entering the Cousin Trophy I would be delighted to hear from you. Please give this a serious review as I am keen to see this competition continue. The closing date for entries to the Cousin is Friday 18 September. However if we do not receive any further support, then regrettably the Cousin competition will be postponed for this year as it is not viable or appropriate to play with only three teams.

I would urge all members and clubs to consider entering this wonderful competition.

Turning now to the proposed balcony extension, the building warrant is due for final approval in the next week or so. Funding has been achieved from a number of our members and we are

planning to proceed with this development over the coming summer period. Further updates will be provided when appropriate.

It is going to be a very different curling world in 2020/21 but I ask that members fully support and co-operate with all of the new measures. These are being introduced to ensure that curling continues successfully at Murrayfield this season, but more importantly to ensure that our staff and members have a healthy, clean and safe environment to play and enjoy curling.

There will be a significant amount of cleaning and disinfecting before and after every game to ensure that we can minimise all risks to our members and staff when on the ice and upstairs in the lounge. Please again support the ice staff and comply with all of their requests. At this point I would like to thank Scott, Aaron, Stewart, Andy, Fraser, Kirsty and Lurna for their magnificent effort and dedication over the last season. In addition my thanks to Paul Thomson and his team for providing an excellent catering service. We will do all we can to support you this season Paul.

I would like to thank Paul Stevenson and Abi Fraser for all of their support and contributions over the years as they step down from the ECC committee. Paul has been very involved in the Curl Edinburgh Project and devoted a significant amount of his time and effort to get the tasks completed on time and budget. Similarly Abi has been heavily involved with all ECC publications and I thank her for her support.

In addition I thank Lindsay Scotland, David Andrew, Abi Brown, Aileen Beaton, Colin Baxter, Sean Murphy and Mike Wood who are all members of the ECC Competitions Sub Group. Their ideas and support are much appreciated.

And of course to all ECC Board members I thank each and everyone of you for all of your support and contributions over the year. I really appreciate your time and commitment.

Finally my thanks to all members for their support for last season. Please continue to support this wonderful club during the forthcoming season and enjoy the social side of curling by using the upstairs catering and bar offerings.

In conclusion I wish all clubs and members another successful season and I look forward to seeing everyone back on the ice.

## MCL Chair's Report

Fellow curlers and members of Edinburgh Curling Club Ltd,

It is my pleasure to present to you my report regarding the activities of Murrayfield Curling Ltd since last years AGM.

The curling year started off on a very upbeat basis. All development work in relation to the wall insulation, installation of the lift and the air conditioning equipment had been completed during the summer.

The quality of the ice laid by Scott and his team was very evident and their ability to maintain that quality throughout the season stood testimony to the benefits derived from having a well insulated building, a correctly designed floor and up to date air handling equipment.

The benefits of reduced energy consumption are being realised. Our electricity consumption has reduced during the season by around 27% with some of that advantage being eroded by an increased gas consumption as a result of the operation of the air conditioning equipment. This overall reduction in energy mitigates against the ever increasing cost of each kwhr of energy consumed.

During the year, good progress has been made in a number of areas related to our administration function. The ice book is now on line allowing visibility of ice availability. Our accounting function has been brought in house allowing us to prepare monthly management accounts and process banking transactions.

Through constructive discussions with Edinburgh Curling School we have absorbed their administration arrangements within MCL and as a result freed up the coaches to allow them to coach. The part played by these coaches is vital to the ongoing need to create a pathway for new entrants into our sport and our clubs.

On your return to the ice rink later this month, you will notice in the car park near the entrance to the rink, two bays set aside for the charging of electric cars. This project was conceived, progressed and coordinated by David Craig of Gogar Curling Club with some assistance from MCL. On behalf of MCL and curling members who will be able to make use of this facility, I wish to thank him publicly for his efforts and foresight.

So far I have managed to avoid the use of the term Covid, however as we all know in March we in the curling world along everyone else had to face up to its consequences. For us, its immediate effect was the early curtailment of the season with a resultant loss of ice income.

Despite having done so in a Newsletter earlier in the year, I wish to put on the record as part of the AGM minutes our thanks to those Clubs who donated their refunds for unused ice to MCL. This act of generosity is greatly appreciated.

Since March our staff have been furloughed with the exception of Scott, Kirsty and Andy who have been working from home.

The summer has been very busy, as we along with ECC evaluated our ability to start the new season in a manner that would be supported by the curling clubs. A lot of effort has gone in to preparing the ice rink and the return to curling guidance notes which were circulated at the weekend.

The support from clubs has been very encouraging and although we do have an understandably lower demand than usual, we are confident that we can operate around break even for the season to come.

The close working relationship between ECC and MCL has been pivotal in allowing both Boards to provide maximum support for one another during a very challenging time. This relationship has been further cemented by your President John Hogarth attending MCL monthly Board meetings since last September.



Turning to our financial performance, at our Board meeting last week, our monthly management accounts were tabled for year ending 31st July 2020. In round figures and subject to audit adjustments, our turnover was £465,000 up £15,000 on the previous year. Our expenses were £420,000 down £70,000 on the previous year. We generated a profit of £45,000 against a previous year loss of £35,000. Our cash position at the end of July was £194,000 which included a bounce back loan of £50,000 from HM Government.

The last but not least item I wish to cover is an acknowledgement of thanks to the efforts and hard work of our staff, headed up by Scott Henderson, ie Kirsty Galloway, Aaron Forsythe, Andy MacPherson, Stuart Dodds and Frazer Shaw.

In addition, I want to thank my fellow Board members, Jenny Barr, Paul Stevenson, Michael Wood and Stuart Cobb who contribute a tremendous amount of time and expertise to the ultimate benefit of yourselves as curling members of ECC.