



FORFAR CURLING CENTRE

MINUTES OF AGM HELD AT FORFAR INDOOR SPORTS ON 15th September 2023

The AGM was held at Forfar Indoor Sports. There were approximately 35 attending in total, representing approximately 20 different curling Clubs.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:

Neill Smith welcomed all attendees to this AGM and reminded everyone that the curling season would commence in 15 days time on 30 September 2023 with the FCCC Opening Bonspiel.

2. APOLOGIES:

There were a number of apologies

Douglas Sparks, Brechin Castle CC, Jane Cuthill, Glenesk CC, Alastair Scott, Broughty Ferry CC, Jim Keillor, Letham Grange CC, Gilli McCulloch, Dalhousie CC, Ian Taylor, FCCC Executive & Suttieside CC.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM:

The President confirmed that the minutes of last year's AGM had been posted on the Curling Centre website for many months for members to read and unless there were any objections he would take these as read and indeed be approved. There were no dissents and thus they were approved.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President – Neill Smith highlighted a number of matters covering the 22/23 season and the year since the last AGM:

- The new colour scheme on the outside of the building tying up with all parts of Forfar Indoor Sports – Curling, Bowling and Skating – and giving the centre a modern feel.
- Members will also notice the new logo for the coming season – Curl Forfar, with similar new designs for Bowls Forfar and Skate Forfar.

- FCCC own leagues go from strength to strength, being well supported by our local Clubs. All leagues and all games were played to their conclusion.
- Forfar continues to be well represented in most National Competitions – particular mention must be recognised of the following:
 - Jill Donald and her Forfar Ladies team winning the Henderson Bishop Trophy in Stranraer, beating Stirling 9-3 in the final.
 - Kirstina Fairweather and her team of Forfar curlers winning the final of the National Gateway Challenge here in Forfar beating Stirling 5-3
 - James Craik and his team reaching the final of the World University Games in Lake Placid in USA and successfully winning the gold medal
 - Both James Craik and Lesley Young skipping their respective teams and both reaching the finals of the Scottish Men's and Women's Championships. Both championships held in Dumfries.
- The past season saw great visitor numbers, which was the result of some very hard work by the FIS team in marketing, advertising and bringing external competitions to Forfar. The feedback from visitors was very positive – particularly regarding ice quality, catering and overall running of competitions.
- I know from personal experience the difficulty of finding competent and reliable staff. The ice team, or rather the ice person – Andrew, did an incredible job last season working on his own for the majority of the time and my thanks go to him for all his hard work. The ice we enjoy is some of the best in Scotland. He has an experienced ice man joining the team this coming season, and I know they will continue producing top quality ice for us.
- The catering & bar staff also had a challenging season, but dealt with whatever was thrown at them with great service and food. I am sure Sandra and her team will continue this coming season as they finished the last and thank them for their hard work.
- We are fortunate to have healthy Committees looking after the curling interests here at Forfar and in particular dedicated individuals supervising Forfar Young Curlers, the teams involved with Coaching & Development, and the Forfar Ladies Centre.
- We all owe a debt of gratitude to what goes on behind the scenes with the administration team of Gill (and her assistant – Mike Ferguson!). There has been the usual work of the summer, but this year there has been the extra pressure of launching a completely new website and booking system – entering all the ice bookings manually. This website is one of a kind and we are lucky to be the only ice rink to have this technology available. I would like to thank Mike for all the hard work he has done and know that this has not been without its stresses.

- Lastly, my thanks to the Committee for their work last season and during the summer to prepare for the coming season, and thanks to our new executive committee member, Sarah Miller, for joining and know she will be a great asset to the Committee.

5. FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT REPORT:

The Secretary – Rob Inglis gave this report. As there had been a recent members evening when the accounts and ice fees had been the subject of some detailed discussion, he indicated that he would confine his comments to the essentials.

Financial accounts for the year ended 30 April 2023, the highlights:

- There had been increased ice fees introduced at the start of the 22/23 season for two main reasons – (i) to recognise that there had been a £8k loss the previous year and (ii) that the 3 year gas energy contract had come to an end and a significant increase in costs was anticipated.
- Income for the year increased by a net £28k, principally ice fee income increasing by £39K, and Misc income reducing by £13k (some government grants etc.)
- Expenditure increased by £21k, the principal increase being the cost of gas under the new contract. There were some savings in staff costs (down to one ice man for part of the season). FIS rent at 22/23 levels is still being discounted by £10k.
- Overall a virtual break even position is shown in the accounts

Budget forecast for the year ending 30 April 2024 and 23/24 Fee structure

- As discussed at the members evening on 21 August 2023, the ice fee structure for 23/24 reflects (i) increased ice fees for FCCC members – generally by £2 over most categories (ii) FCCC membership fees to remain constant at 22/23 levels - £20 for adult members.
- The forecast increased net income for 23/24, mainly from new ice fee structure, is £29k.
- The increased costs are forecast to rise by £50k, the principal increases being (i) electricity £34k, (ii) staff costs (extra ice staff) £11k, and (iii) a full year of Gas under the new contract £4k.
- The electricity contract consists of different elements, but the consumption element has increased from 15p per Kwh to 26p per Kwh. Overall it is an 85% increase.
- The budget has been completed based on bookings in 23/24 at the same levels as 22/23. However early indications are that Club booking requests

are marginally up on last year and FCCC competition entries are up on last year – so the forecast deficit it is hoped will be reduced.

FCCC Charity / Development Fund

The Secretary outlined potential changes to the Charitable fundraising historically undertaken by FCCC.

- Historically we have raised funds and handed these over to either local or national charities. After the handover there has not been any meaningful communication between the Charity & FCCC subsequently. In the last 2 years the funds raised were specifically to help the Forfar Ladies Centre act as hosts here in Forfar for the Scottish Finals of the Henderson Bishop national competition.
- There is a thought that perhaps we should direct our fundraising efforts to benefit matters “closer to home” – and rename the Charity fundraising to a “Development Fund”.
- No decision has been taken on this but there was support for this at a recent full Committee meeting, and we wanted to let members know what might be contemplated.
- There has been thought given to this by Coaching / Development members (Brian McArtney & Lorraine Campbell).
- Some thoughts are (i) to encourage our juniors to take up opportunities to enter Scottish competitions – U14, U17 Slams for example, (ii) arrange novice games for participants at Try Curling, or from Club novice curlers, (iii) other development opportunities that Clubs might identify.
- The slide presented showed where most funds were raised – the Forfar Farmers Raffle & Auction, FCCC Charity bonspiel & Quiz night, some other events.
- Currently there is £6,496 held in these funds – these are outwith the financial accounts.

There were no objections raised to these suggested changes.

6. OTHER REPORTS

In prior years reports were given by individual organisations operating within FCCC. It was decided not to have these as there had already been these organisations own AGM’s and relevant members will have had the opportunity to attend these.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The Secretary showed a slide with all the existing Office Bearers. These had in the main been voted into office last year and most were within their normal period of holding office. The exception to this was the position of Secretary and any nominations from the floor would be welcome. With no nominations from the floor, the Secretary agreed to remain in office for another year.

All the existing Committee were duly endorsed.

Those representatives of the other organisations on the Full FCCC Committee are voted in at their respective AGM's

8. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mike Ferguson presented the Management Report and covered the following:

- Season outlook is looking good with the curling calendar nearly full. There are more Club bookings, FCCC leagues with more teams, FCCC knockout competitions strong.
- There are more National competitions being held at Forfar, which is important for filling weekend ice. One of the main attractions is the catering facilities offered at Forfar as not all rinks have this nowadays.
 - With Ayr in doubt Forfar now have the entire Scottish Seniors Qualifying competition.
 - A British Players competition is coming which is attracting a lot of interest.
 - The Maxwell finals are coming to Forfar for the first time.
- The FCCC Opening Bonspiel entries are full, as is the Swing & Sweep competition.
- The Forfar Open (14/15 October) has 12 entries. It would be good to have 16 and Mike encouraged local curlers to consider entering as it allows good local curlers to test themselves against some of the good curlers from across the country.
- The Forfar Ladies Open Pairs (2 November) has good entries, but again more would be welcome from our good local players.
- The new procedures for playing on the ice were outlined – in particular (i) the revised session times – all 6 sheets will have the same start and end times (ii) the payment slips will be discontinued, but payment slips with membership numbers must be included in the sheet envelope and importantly the score cards must be completed with names & membership numbers as before, (iii) New membership cards must be shown when paying for ice – not just quoting your number, (iv) Clubs must remind those

playing 2nd to accurately complete the score cards and place them in the relevant boxes.

- A lot of work has gone into producing a Coaching brochure; All the Try Curling & Development sessions have been agreed. All coaching under the guidance of Brian McArtney and Lorraine Campbell. Lorraine asked for all Clubs who need involvement from the coaching staff to get in touch with her. Brian mentioned that all coaches would be accredited this year. Mike showed how to access a coaching training video via the new website.

There then followed a demonstration by Mike of the new website that has been developed and the capability of individuals and Clubs to access the data, view and provisionally book any available ice, see all their Club games etc. FIS will do their best to enter all scores into the website from the yellow scorecards in a timely manner.

9. AOCB

- For those who have already paid for their FCCC membership, Gill had the membership cards ready and they could be collected this evening. There were also forms available for anyone to complete tonight. Alternatively members can visit the website where completion is quick and easy.

10. DATE OF NEXT AGM

Provisionally this will be held on 13 September 2024.

The President then closed the business of the AGM