



Minutes of Forfar Curling Centre Club Executive Meeting Held at Forfar – Tuesday 14 November 2023

In Attendance:

Mike Ferguson, Neill Smith, Ian Taylor, Sarah Millar, Adrian White, Rob Inglis.

An Agenda had been circulated in advance.

Neill opened the meeting, thanking everyone for attending

1. The Season so far:

- Overall the bookings for the year are looking good. Some requests to delay games in October for farmers to get their harvests completed.
- 4 days of curling lost to Storms (Babet), as safety of Staff and curlers important considerations. Clubs have reacted positively accepting the alternative dates for re-scheduled games.
- 2nd half of the season ice bookings show very tight schedule.
- New IT & Systems are working well and scores kept up to date. Also all FCCC leagues and Competitions already played are up to date and Clubs / individual team's positions in those leagues are readily displayed. It is a reflection of the time and effort in developing the software and the painstaking time spent in its set up that is proving beneficial – both for the curling community and for FIS Management.
- The improved payment operation is working well and very little abuse of the process. Members have their membership cards ready for the staff taking payment.

2. Curl Forfar Development Fund:

- Mike keen to get this Fund up and running as quickly as possible.
- A leaflet setting out the Description, Objectives and Application process was presented, and this was all duly approved. The objectives were deliberately wide-ranging to cover any activities to "assist the existence, promotion and development of curling at Forfar Curling Centre". One suggested amendment was to reduce the amount of the normal maximum grant (from £2,000), to reflect the fact that overall Funds are not limitless. Consideration will be given to this.
- The current value of the Funds (prior to this season's fundraising) is approx £6,000.
- The recommendation to apply for Charitable Status of the Fund was approved. This is likely to involve an application to OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator). Mike to look into (with input from Sarah as appropriate) and get the application underway.
- A separate Bank Account will be required. Indications are that this will be an easy process and hopefully not too bureaucratic.
- Charitable status would make it easier for Clubs, individuals, Corporate bodies and Grant making Bodies to gift money into the fund.

- A separate web page will be set up on the Curl Forfar website with all relevant details of the Development Fund, including the application process.
- Besides the usual fundraising events (Forfar Farmers, Charity Bonspiel, Quiz Night etc), it was agreed to start a “Bonus Ball” competition. £1 per entry of 100 numbers on a sheet. When complete a random draw takes place with half the money (£50) as prize money and the other half (£50) to the Development fund. Mike agreed to get this underway immediately.

3. Coaching:

- The current coaching organisation is working well – a combination of Lorraine Campbell & Brian McArtney.
- The new Development Fund will be useful in providing funds to keep our accredited coaches suitably qualified – albeit Scottish Curling can provide a level of support for this as well.
- One TryCurling session had to be cancelled as there were too few interested participants. Mike tries to promote these sessions, but Club curlers need to be proactive also to share promotion on their own “non-curling” social media group organisation and contacts.

4. Competitions:

- The Forfar Farmers competition is sorted and covered (20 / 21 December).
- The British Players Open is not going ahead. This had been suggested as a National competition for elite players who were not part of the National squads. However other Ice Rinks are now trying to attract weekend competitions to fill their ice and with other competitions clashing with the proposed weekend, it has been decided to not go ahead. Thought will be given to that weekend ice (12 – 14 January) – maybe a Scottish Pairs qualifier on one day and filling with rescheduled Club curling on the Sunday.
- Scottish Curling Seniors Qualifiers (7-10 December). A significant amount of help will be needed for this and it is hoped there will be volunteers from Forfar curlers. It is quite a coup for Forfar to have the Qualifiers for this event. Mike intends to use the “bowling” hall as recreational space to give those curlers, who are not competing, a chance to unwind whilst they await their next game.
- Other competitions were briefly discussed. It was thought that a mixed doubles competition at Club level might not be an attractive event. There had been some enquiries of a Festive or Family competition, and while the rink could be opened say on 1 January – the needs of Staff have to be considered also.