



FORFAR CURLING CENTRE CLUB

MINUTES OF AGM HELD AT FORFAR INDOOR SPORTS ON 18th September 2025

There were approximately 31 attending in total, representing 22 curling Clubs.

Prior to the meeting an apologies sheet was available. Apologies were registered from – Lillian Carnegie (Fothringham), Charles Gow (Aberlemno), Alistair Crozier (Pitkerro), Brian McArtney (Letham Grange), Jim Keillor (Letham Grange), Steve Adam (Letham Grange), Carolyn Jones (Letham Grange), Shona Kilgour (Fothringham & FYC).

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:

Neill Smith (President) welcomed all attendees to this AGM. He was pleased to see so many familiar faces. As a special occasion he noted that it was important to reflect on the past year, celebrate its achievements and look ahead to the future of curling at our curling centre. There are several developments, challenges and successes, and more of these will be outlined as we go through the agenda. Equally we will take time to look at how we can grow and adapt to make this centre a vibrant hub for curling at all levels for many years to come.

He thanked everyone for their ongoing support and dedication to the centre, whether through playing, volunteering, or simply being part of this centre, as this is what makes Forfar Curling Centre truly special. We have a fantastic team of volunteers, coaches and staff who give so much of their time and energy to make this place run smoothly.

2. 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. He invited comments or questions on them, but there were none and were thus approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President – Neill Smith highlighted matters covering the 24/25 season and the year since the last AGM:

- My thanks to the FIS team who have had a very busy summer preparing for the season ahead and making improvements to the facilities. These do not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for their continued efforts and the pride and care that the staff and owners bring to this centre.
- Forfar continues to be well represented across the majority of national competitions.
- All FCCC league competitions go from strength to strength and were completed successfully last season – thank you to everyone who took part and helped make it happen.
- The annual Awards night was a particular highlight – a great evening that celebrated achievements on the ice by both individuals and Clubs. What was especially pleasing to see was the wide spread

of award winners from across the curling community. I would encourage everyone to get involved in the nominations in future years – they are, after all, your awards.

- Beyond Forfar Curling Centre, our local curlers continue to shine on the world stage. A special mention to Callie Soutar and James Craik who have represented Forfar at the highest levels of international competition. We are equally proud of those other local curlers competing on the national and international stage – you are all great ambassadors for Forfar Curling Centre.
- The reputation of Forfar Curling Centre continues to grow. We have welcomed many visiting teams over the past year, both from across Scotland and overseas. This is a testament to the quality of ice and the facilities here – and, of course, to the warm welcome that visitors receive from our team and members alike. The feedback from visitors has been overwhelmingly positive on all fronts.
- A huge thank you to Andrew Ferguson and the ice team who once again delivered some of the most consistent and competitive ice in Scotland. Their hard work behind the scenes is essential, and with 2 ice team members off injured, Andy still managed to deliver competitive ice consistently and we hope he has a smoother season this year.
- Our thanks also to Sandra, Shelly and the bar and catering team. They had a busy season, and the quality of the food just keeps getting better. We look forward to seeing what's on the menu this season.
- On the coaching side, Lorraine, Brian and their team of coaching volunteers delivered another strong year, with TRY Curling sessions, development events and the always popular Monday morning walk-ins all well attended. I would encourage all members and Clubs to make use of the great coaching resources we have here.
- In November 2023, we launched the Curl Forfar Development Fund – an exciting initiative to support growth of curling in Forfar. Application forms for teams and individuals can be found on the website, and I would encourage you to apply. Specifically, I'd like to acknowledge the Bonus Ball initiative which continues to raise money throughout the season as all money raised goes back to Forfar curlers.
- Another success has been the IT system developed by Mike Ferguson – a tool that has brought the live curling calendar and real-time scoring to our fingertips. This has made a real difference how Clubs and players interact during the season, with new features that enhance the experience for everyone. Mike will cover more on this later – there is no other platform that exists for curlers anywhere and we are very grateful to him for the time, effort and expenditure that is put into developing, maintaining and improving the system.
- I would remind all curlers that this curling centre only exists and runs due to its dedicated staff. Last season, there were a number of issues raised by bar staff, admin staff, management and the ice team where members were unpleasant towards them. This is a place of work, they are employees, and the Committee will take zero tolerance towards anyone found being unpleasant to any staff. I ask you to take this message back to your Clubs and remind all your curlers.
- Finally, a sincere thank you to the Committee for their hard work last season and throughout the summer. Their efforts behind the scenes ensure we are well prepared for the season ahead. Thanks also to the FIS team, without their hard work throughout the summer, preparing the centre, completing ice bookings and all the other tasks that goes into making this centre a great place for us, the curlers, to enjoy, relax and curl. We are all very thankful.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Secretary – Rob Inglis gave this report and started by reflecting on where we have come from in the aftermath of Covid. Difficult decisions were made last year. We held our ice fees for the 2024/25 season in an effort to encourage curling at Forfar, whilst it was known that other ice facilities were struggling. The 2023/24 accounts produced a loss of £6,383 impacted significantly by highly fluctuating energy costs

as a result of worldwide events, and the hope was that these costs would stabilise. Turning to the 2024/25 accounts – how did this all play out?

Financial accounts for the year ended 30 April 2024, the highlights:

Income:

- Membership fees increased by 22% - reflecting the decision to increase membership fees from £20 to £25.
- Ice fees were marginally down (1%) and reflected both a good level of bookings and the decision to hold the ice fees to the previous year's level.
- Curling coaching income was reduced – in percentage terms by 30%.
- Overall Income was just marginally down on the previous year - £1,700.

Expenditure:

- Wages & Staff costs increased by 15%. This is a reflection of the extra ice technician taken on at the start of last season, albeit he left part way through the season. FIS have picked up part of this cost.
- Energy costs, as anticipated, showed the biggest reduction after the post Covid volatility caused by world events. Electricity showed a 7% reduction and Gas a 50% reduction – overall nearly £28,000 reduction.
- FIS Management fee increased by £5,000 to £115,000 – This is still below the pre-Covid levels. Curlers will be aware of the significant investment made by FIS in the curling IT systems recently and these costs are largely retained within FIS.

Overall:

- Overall last year's loss of £6.7k has been eliminated and there is a profit of £3.5k – a turnaround of £9.8k. A very welcome result and the cumulative deficit of £19.0 k has reduced to £15.5k.

Questions were invited and responding to the reason for the reduced energy costs, the main reason was a reduction in the tariff rate, but Mike added that there had also been efficiency savings. He was also pleased with a new energy consultant who had been able to include the Centre within a large group of consumers.

Looking ahead to 2025/26

- Membership fees have been agreed and raised from £25 to £30.
- Ice fees have been agreed and raised across the board by £1 to cover rising costs of supply, staffing and other expenses, similar to many other businesses today.
- FIS have agreed that the rent will remain at £115k for next year.
- Energy costs remain uncertain and whilst we see increases in our domestic tariffs, we are hopeful that the Forfar costs will not be too dissimilar to rates experienced towards the end of last season, albeit we are on a daily tariff. It is important that we continue to manage the rinks to maintain maximum efficiency.
- There had been no success in trying to find an extra ice technician, and Mike explained that a number of ice rinks were looking for suitable candidates – a worrying time when this specialism is much needed for the future of curling in Scotland.
- A change in administration for Points competitions to be introduced. Points ice fees will be invoiced to Clubs, and Clubs will be responsible for paying for this. Clubs can then determine what participants should pay. There had been confusion last season with some paying at the bar, and then wishing refunds when Clubs paid. This will make it far easier to administer.

FCCC Charity / Development Fund

This fund is now firmly a Development Fund to help promote curling at Forfar. The fund currently stands at £8,609.

- Additions to the fund have come from: Bonus Ball tickets (£720), Forfar Farmers Competition Raffle / Auction (£1,820), Edzell CC from their Fashion Show held at the Centre (£500), Forfar Charity Bonspiel (£494).
- Grants paid out include: New broom pads (£623), Forfar Young Curlers trip to Fussen, Germany, bonspiel (£420), Scottish Senior Finals held at Forfar (£350), Forfar Prizegiving prizes (£500).
- Mike asked Clubs to consider making applications to the Fund that might meet the “development” criteria.
- The contribution to the Scottish Seniors Final, which helped boost audience numbers, was a significant factor in Forfar being awarded the competition again this coming season.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

- The Secretary indicated that all Executive Committee members were willing to remain in office for 2025/26 as most were within their normal period of holding office. There were no nominations coming from the audience, and thus the current Office Bearers were duly elected for the forthcoming year.
- Mike informed the meeting of how he and his family were considering the future management of the facility, given Mike & Sandra in particular are not getting any younger and recent events have highlighted the need for some lifestyle decisions. All management are very keen for curling to continue, but they need to explore how best this can be achieved as a long-term objective. This current season could be a year of transition as options are thought through. Mike wanted to reassure everyone that maintaining curling at Forfar will be front and centre of any decision-making, and he was grateful that there was a stable Executive Committee to help in this regard.
- Another development he would like to see was the establishment of a Development Subcommittee. Coaching and Development are very different, as development is about bringing awareness and thus introducing new people to the sport. He needs ideas from the membership and from Clubs and is looking for volunteers who might form part of a new Development Committee. Both Neill Smith and Ian Taytor have agreed to be the liaison between this committee and the Executive. One area currently being explored is to use part of the Forfar Development Fund to purchase a “Street Curling” inflatable rink. This could be used by Clubs in their local communities to help introduce groups to curling, or taken to events – Angus Show, Glamis etc. It could be set up at Forfar in the Zone for visiting groups (Scouts etc) without exposing them immediately onto the ice. Mike indicated he would shortly communicate with Clubs to seek volunteers to sit on such a committee.

6. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mike Ferguson presented the Management Report and covered the following:

- Last year had been successful. Losing one ice technician early in the season to injury (Keith) and then losing a second ice technician later (Joe, headhunted to a southern ice rink) had been a challenge, but overall standards were maintained, competitions completed and club curling remained active.
- The 2025/26 Season outlook is looking good with the curling calendar nearly full. Club bookings and FCCC leagues and knockout competitions are well supported.
- Coaching - Try Curling & Development Sessions confirmed on the website and in the coaching brochure. Lorraine could not make the meeting tonight and we wish Brian well with his current

health issues. More coaches are needed, and each Club should consider having one of its members trained to at least a Level 1 coach. There is a Level 1 coaching session scheduled in Forfar in February

- Competition rules are well documented on the notice boards, on the website and have been intimated to all competition skips. Last year there was some confusion, but it is hoped everything has been well publicized for the coming season.
- Encouragement for local curlers to enter the Forfar Open competition. It is your chance to play with and against the very best.
- Holding National competitions at Forfar involves hard work from management and volunteers are always welcome to help with these.
- The new membership cards for 2025/26 are coloured blue. These need to be shown to bar staff when paying for ice. Members who have already paid can pick up their cards tonight.
- The curling website has been developed to allow curlers to pay for their ice online. This is still being tested and looks as though it will work well. Payment must be made at least 48 hours before the relevant game to ensure the admin staff are aware in advance. This is not yet ready to roll out, but it is hoped it can be trialled in the next few months with one or two Clubs and any issues ironed out before opening this facility more widely.
- Competitions rules were reiterated:
 - Agricar Div 1 & Div 2. All players must be members of the Club they represent. A Substitute may only play for one team in either division. Games played to the bell, start on time and maximum penalty of 3 points (1 point for each 5 minutes late).
 - Super League Div 1 & Div 2. Maximum of 8 players throughout the season. A player can only play for one team in one division and cannot substitute up or down between divisions. Games played to the bell, start on time and maximum penalty of 3 points (1 point for each 5 minutes late).
- Mike explained the revised website.
 - The calendar is fully populated with some colour coding to help FIS staff. For instance, games that require food are marked in “yellow”, allowing staff to contact Clubs in advance regarding requirements.
 - The previous website layout had too many buttons, so the new design is more streamlined and more straightforward to navigate.
 - Some Clubs are becoming more demanding with their requests. FIS try hard to manage requests as best they can, but it all has to be fitted into the available times. Clubs continue to be accommodating with the allocations they are given.
 - There is an Events calendar (covers curling and non-curling events)
- Forthcoming competitions:
 - Swing & Sweep (Sat 4 October). One more team needed – which Edzell have filled. There may be a couple of individuals needed to step in to help teams that might be one short.
 - Opening Bonspiel (Sun 5 October). This is now full.
 - Forfar Open (10/11 October). As indicated, this is a great chance for local curlers to participate at a high level.
 - Scottish Pairs Qualifiers (25 October). Not many entries as yet, but hopefully more entries once the season is underway.
 - Forfar Ladies Open Pairs (Wed 19 November). Awaiting information from the Ladies Centre.
- The Scottish Curling Indoor Grand Match takes place on Sat 15 November. There are 24 Clubs competing over 3 sessions at Forfar. The draw is complete, and volunteer helpers are needed to assist during the day.

- Ice Maintenance arrangements for the coming season – Andy and Keith. We produce good ice for curling, and we want to keep it that way. Please keep your hands and knees off the ice, replace worn grippers, shoes and brush pads as required. Slow play can be an issue, so keep to the bell, keep shot selection to a minimum and importantly – don't blame the ice for poor deliveries!!
- Bar & Catering Services:
 - Sandra & the Staff have produced special menus for the season ahead – entitled “Bites & Banter”. They are keen to market this to a broader audience to curlers and non-curlers alike, so please use the clubhouse as a social venue to bring your friends.
 - There will be a club social evening on Saturday 1 November – a good opportunity for Clubs to “book a table”, 10 clubs booking a table for 8 would make a good Club social event for your members.
 - The Charity Bonspiel will have a themed meal in the evening – Saturday 31 January 2026
 - The Pub Night will be held on Saturday, 28 March 2026. This has always been popular.

7. AOCB

No matters were raised.

8. DATE OF NEXT AGM

Provisionally this will be held on Thursday 17 September 2026.

The President thanked everyone for coming and for the opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past season. There has been much to be proud of – from the achievements on the ice to the improvements in our facilities. Forfar Curling Centre remains a strong and vibrant part of the curling world, both locally and beyond. We have heard about exciting plans for the year ahead – from the continued development of our ice and coaching programmes, to the growth of the Curl Forfar Development Fund. It is heartening to see so many people committed to helping us build on that success. A special thank you to all members of the FIS team, the Committee, our coaches, volunteers, and staff. Your tireless work, dedication and support are truly appreciated, and the Centre would not be the same without each and every one of you.

The meeting was closed.