# DUMFRIES ICE BOWL CURLING ASSOCIATION

# Annual General Meeting : 26th October 2010

**Present: Fiona Hardie, Mike Baird, Robert Sommerville, David Hardie, Billy Green, Eleanor Haining, John Graham, Alex Bryden, Jane Hogg, David Henderson, David Owen, Linda Owen, Andy McLean, Andrew Whyte, Ruariadh Whyte, Hazel Wales, Alex Dickson, Counillor McKie**

**Apologies: Jim Hogg, Caroline Donaldson, Robert Haining, Bill Holland, Colin Freeman**

**Chair** – Fiona Hardie

**Minutes:** Graham Sloan

| **Item** | Action |
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| The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to construction work taking place at the Ice Bowl the Curling Association had not been able to hold the Annual General Meeting in line with the Constitution; the Association were also disappointed in the advert that had been placed in the paper advertising the Annual General Meeting. The chair therefore asked that everyone present were happy for the meeting to continue as the Annual General Meeting. All present were in favour of continue the meeting.  **1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**  Minutes were proposed as accurate by Robert Sommerville and seconded by Billy Green  **2. Matters Arising**  From the minutes of the last AGM it was brought to the chairs attention that it stated;   * *New handles had been purchased last season and were waiting to be delivered by Kays Of Scotland. Once they arrive new larger numbers would be provided on them. All the new sets of handles were suitable for Cue users.*   There had been no sign of the new handles over this year period and new sponsors for remaining stones had been found and cheques cashed. In the absence of any representation from the Ice Bowl at the meeting the chair stated that a letter would be written to Colin Freeman asking for an update and outlining what measures would be taken to resolve the issue.  **3. Chairman’s Report**  The committee decided that the AGM should be postponed from the 2nd Tuesday in September (as per the constitution) as we had hoped to hold the meeting in the new lounge at DIB. Once we realised that the project was to be delayed tonight’s date was agreed.  Curling at DIB continued to be in a strong position during season 2009/2010.  Most of the problems we have previously encountered with the catering seemed to be sorted out. The curling ice last season was probably the most consistent and best ice we have ever had, our thanks must go the efforts of Graham Black and his team of icemen who obviously benefited from the ice-making course they attended during the previous summer.  Dumfries Young Curlers continued to perform well whilst representing Dumfries in Scottish Championships, Ruaraidh Whyte, Ross Whyte, Naomi Whyte, Fiona Telfer, Chay Telfer, Heather Morton, Grant Hardie  Grant Hardie won the Scottish Schools Championships, skipping his team from Merchiston Castle School.  Graham Sloan and Andy Mclean together with their volunteer coaches continued to provide the ‘Curling Cool’ program, which is still proving to be successful with many children moving into the junior programs. A big thanks to them all.  Competitions remained well supported and a big thank you must go to our sponsors Barbour’s, Border Office Supplies, Gillespie, Gifford and Brown, David Hardie Engineering, David Kingan, T McKie, Tarmacadam, Rivendell Guest House and Dumfries and Galloway Council.  Graham and Andy along with Robert Sommerville worked hard to gain various sources of funding and also to obtain a Sports Club Accreditation, which we believe will help with future funding.  John Graham has successfully managed to provide DIBCA with a website which is now online at [www.dibca.sports.officelive.com/home.aspx](http://www.dibca.sports.officelive.com/home.aspx) (just put it in your favourites or bookmark. Well done John.  Graham and Robert continue to work towards sponsorship deals and development ideas for the new rink; they would be pleased to hear from anyone who could help.  I am pleased to report that Graham Sloan’s position, as Curling Development Officer at DIB will become a full time post from January 2011. DIBCA, RCCC and Dumfries and Galloway Council will fund the post jointly,  Most of our committee meetings last season were taken over by our concerns regarding the refurbishment and development of the new dedicated curling pad. This is ongoing so my report will bring you up to date with the development.  It must be noted that DIBCA and the curlers of Dumfries did not request a dedicated curling rink.  Briefly, Dumfries and Galloway Council had established that the facility required to be upgraded to meet changes in EU regulations and also the decline in bowling numbers meant that they had looked at the provision of a dedicated curling pad as the skaters and ice hockey players were looking for more ice time which was not available as long as curling remained in the arena.  DIBCA were presented with plans at the AGM last September. These plans concerned us, as they did not appear to have suitable viewing, which we felt, was essential to curling and also to enable future development at DIB.  David Hardie was co-opted on to the committee and together with Graham Sloan, Mike Baird and myself endeavoured to work with the Council Architects, Richard Greiveson, Colin Freeman and anyone else who we thought might be able to help. Numerous telephone calls, emails and meetings were held to try to find a way forward. In July we thought we had reached a compromise, whilst not ideal we thought we were going to have a suitable viewing and lounge area.  Currently it would appear that we have achieved a lounge area suitable for 6x8 tables. The viewing area is not ideal as the glass windows are just above the hacks and it will be difficult to view the near side.  We have requested a site visit to enable us to have a better idea of what the viewing will be but unfortunately it would appear that they are unable to accommodate us before the official handover.  With this in mind DIBCA have looked at the option of having cameras installed above each head with monitors in the viewing area. We feel that the council should provide this.  The latest report on the development is that the handover is expected towards the end of November  This concludes my report and I would like to say a very big thank you to Graham for all his secretarial work and to Robert for his work with the accounts and to all the committee for their support over the last season and I look forward to working with you all during the current season.  There were no questions  **4. Treasurers Report**  As Treasurer I am pleased to present my report which should be read together with the annual accounts prepared to 31st August 2010. These accounts were examined by Margaret Carruthers from the Bank of Scotland in Dumfries and found to be true and correct. I wish to thank Margaret for the time spent in doing this.  The accounts show a deficit for the year. Expenditure was £651.70 greater than the income received. This may be due to a number of reasons.  1/ A sponsor of a competition pulled out during the season. A replacement was not found in time and DIBCA had to provide the prizes for the competition.  2/ We purchased badges during the year and whilst we have sold some badges to recoup some cost we still have a stock of badges which, when sold, will bring more cash in.  3/ Ice Levy receipts fell from £1283 in the 2009 financial year to £805 in the past year – the reasons for this 37% drop are still to be given by the council.  To counteract this drop we have already recruited one additional sponsor for the coming season and approaches have been made to other potential sponsors. The ice levy has been increased by a further 5p per player for the present season.  One major gain in income during the year was an award of £500 from Nithsdale Sports Council which has been used towards the share of coaching costs paid from DIBCA to the RCCC. We have already secured funding from the Big Lottery fund which will be used during the coming season.  DIBCA has also made changes to the way it is run during the past year. We have registered the association as a curling club with the RCCC. The main benefit of this was to give us public liability insurance cover provided by the parent body but we have also been able to allow more curlers to become affiliated to the national body by collecting membership fees.  Finally I would like to thank all that have assisted with raising funds helping to run DIBCA over the past year – those from the council, the volunteer members and Graham Sloan for all his work on and off the ice. There were no questions  **6. Competitions Report** Graham Sloan gave the Competitions report to the meeting.Report attached Congratulations to all for their wins last season. There were no questions  **7. Coaching and Development Report**  Curling at the Ice Bowl had again enjoyed a good season and the development of curling at the Ice Bowl continued to grow. The development programmes that were in place and running strongly were due to the continued dedication from the group of voluntary coaches.  8 additional coaches had been highlighted at the end of the season and over the summer and have now attended the Royal Club Assistant Coach Course. These coaches are now completing the course by gaining coaching hours this season.  Junior Curling continued to excel and reach new heights. Members of the Junior Club won for the first time in its existence the KOSB Cup by defeating Lockerbie & Stranraer Juniors over 3 legs. Over 30 Royal Club Skills Award levels had been passed during the season.  The junior club teams in the club championship had made both high road and low road finals with the junior ladies retaining the ladies championship.  A decision was made to cancel the Adults Beginners League as there had not been sufficient demand to form enough teams. This was due to players attending adult coaching who had already joined a club and had commitments to club games already. It was decided that time would be better spent organising the Olympic Try Curl sessions. Dumfries held and Junior Try Curl and an Adult Try Curl which allowed 90 people to have a taster. They were then offered follow up sessions to the end of the season which were very well attended. 2 members from the Try Curl won invitations to Stirling to receive a lesson from the Olympic Ladies Team at the end of the season.  Local clubs requested Tactic & Strategy presentations. 3 presentations were well received. Club coaching sessions were also taken up by a couple of clubs.  With the development of the new ice hall going on in the background during last season the development group were working on new ideas that would expand current programmes and bring more curling to Dumfries Ice Bowl. Some of these ideas will be implemented this season from January 2011 other ideas will be developed more for the following season.  **January 2011 Examples**  Ladder Curling, Adult Coaching Block Booking, Welsh Curling Association Championships  Secondary School Programme  **Season 2011/12 Examples**  Bid for Royal Club Competitions, WheelChair Curling, Club Development, Master Class  Corporate Packages  Several other initiatives and being looked into currently  Coaching & Development looks forward to the opportunities that will become available with a dedicated curling pad feel exciting times are ahead.  There were no questions  **8. Ladies Section Report**  The Ladies Fun League had a successful season with continued good attendance. 10 rinks participated in the Loreburn Trophy which was won by Nancy Gallacher.  This year the Pairs Competition was a one day event and was won by Fiona Hardie & Betty Williamson.  12 teams took part in the Barbours Bnspiel and was won by Nithsdale Ladies.  Friendly games against Stranraer and Lockerbie were arranged. A successful day against Stranraer, but unfortunately Lockerbie had to cancel.  A fun Closing Bonspiel and lunch was held at the end of March. This was well attended and very enjoyable.  Dumfries Ice Bowl Ladies Section became affiliated to RCCC as a Ladies Centre on 11th May. This means we are eligible to host and enter teams into national competitions. Our first venture is hosting a Canadian Ladies Tour on Wednesday 17th November.  There were no questions  **9. RCCC**  Report from David Henderson, RCCC Area 2 Representative   1. Colin Grahamslaw resigned as Chief Executive of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club during the summer to take up the post of Secretary General with the World Curling Federation. Bruce Crawford has taken over as Chief Executive of the RCCC as from 4th October 2010. Bruce has over twenty years’ experience in leading public, private and voluntary sector organizations and has previously held the post of Chief Executive Officer with Snowsport Scotland from 1996 to 2007. 2. It had been hoped to play the Grand Match during the very cold spell in January 2010 as the thickness of ice was sufficient on the Lake of Menteith but other factors arose that prevented it taking place. The decision not to proceed was taken with great reluctance but on the advice of the “blue light” services. A full report on this decision was published on the Royal Club website on 15 January 2010. 3. The RCCC’s new website went on line just before the beginning of the 2010 – 2011 season. 4. Club Secretaries are reminded that the default position with RCCC Annuals is now “no Annual” unless ordered from RCCC headquarters. Previously Annuals were sent automatically to club secretaries but a change to this procedure was proposed by Dalbeattie Ladies Curling Club at the RCCC AGM in June. 5. Club Secretaries are also reminded that subscriptions to the RCCC were held at £17 for the season 2010 – 2011 if paid by the due date of 31st October. Subscriptions paid after the due date will be at the new rate of £18. 6. It is hoped to organize a series of RCCC local conferences at which Judith Macfarlane, Development Manager and Sheila Swan, Development Officer – Adult and Disability would make a presentation and lead discussion on ways in which club membership could be developed. 7. Competition Boards have been prepared with the objectives of projecting a more professional and standardized image at all RCCC competitions. The boards will comprise six panels, be free-standing and easy to fold away for transportation. The top three panels would be used to display team lists, draws, results etc. The lower three panels would have images representing curling at its best. 8. The third Indoor Grand Match of recent times was played on Saturday 23rd October with over 2000 curlers participating in fifteen ice rinks throughout the country. The South won by a margin of 379 shots. It would be hoped that Dumfries could be involved in any future Indoor Grand Match. 9. The delivery of the new dedicated curling pad is awaited with eager anticipation and it will provide a great opportunity for the further development of the sport in the South West. Thanks go to Graham Sloan for his on-going work and enthusiastic commitment in promoting curling to so many in our region.   There were no questions.  **10. Junior Section**  The club had enjoyed a successful season with new events being introduced to the season schedule.  Membership was growing steadily with 35members for the season.  Junior League was won by – Ross Whyte  Speed Pairs was won by – Ruariadh Whyte & Allison Whyte  Open Pairs was won by – Ruariadh Whyte & Rian Hill  Most Improved Junior – Christopher Howat  Junior Club won the KOSB CUP for the first time.  The club was going through the process of sports club affiliation with the local sports council supported by Andy McLean in the process.  Dumfries Young Curlers continued to perform well whilst representing Dumfries in Scottish Championships, Ruaraidh Whyte, Ross Whyte, Naomi Whyte, Fiona Telfer, Chay Telfer, Heather Morton, Grant Hardie, Ross Whyte, Zack Stewart, Paul Donaldson & Chris Howat.  There were no questions  **11. Constitution**  There were several proposals put to the chair regarding changes within the constitution.  The constitution states in 5.6.2. Notice shall be given to all voting members of any General Meeting as specified in 5.3 and then any proposal to change the Constitution shall he given in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days prior to the meeting. Such proposals will be displayed on the Club Notice Board at least 15 days prior to the meeting. As these proposals had not been put in writing and displayed on club notice board due to construction at the ice bowl the chair suggested that these changes be given in writing to the Association who would then follow the guidelines of the constitution by displaying them on club notice board, new website and then an Extra Ordinary General Meeting would be called and advertised to address the proposals formally. All in attendance were in favour of this suggestion.  **12. Election of Committee Members**  No retiring members.  David Hardie had been co-opted on to committee last season and needed formally elected.  Billy Green Proposed and Eleanor Haining seconded.  3 spaces for elected members were available for new members to join committee.  Robert Sommerville proposed David Owen and Billy Green Seconded – David agreed to join.  David Hardie proposed Alex Dickson and Mike Baird Seconded – Alex agreed to join  A further position was available for a ladies section representative. Hazel Wales was asked to check with Ladies Section for interested rep.  **13.** **Council Business**  **In the absence of any Facility Representation the following points would be lettered for the attention of and action by Colin Freeman.**  1. New Stone Handles  From the minutes of the last AGM it was brought to the chairs attention that it stated;  -    New handles had been purchased last season and were waiting to be delivered by Kays Of Scotland. Once they arrive new larger numbers would be provided on them. All the new sets of handles were suitable for Cue users.  - Curling Association would like proof of purchase (invoice),  - Details of measures being taken to get handles to Ice Bowl from Kays of Scotland if purchased and order made if no purchase has occurred to date.  2.Sponsorship of remaining stones  Details of What has happened to the Sponsorship money generated last season and over the summer for the handles that were offered for sponsorship.  New sponsors have had cheques cashed but no return for sponsorship - Suggested that List of sponsors be displayed in Facility until resolved.  DIBCA would like to see paper work and package sent out asking for sponsorship from last season.    3.Brush Maintenance  From the minutes of the last AGM it was brought to the chairs attention that it stated;  Brushes were being cleaned and ones past cleaning would have replacement pads purchased for start of the season. Loose heads on the bristle brushes would be tightened or fixed.  - Hair Brushes are still not fixed and falling to bits with plastic coating peeling off shanks.  Pads on brushes again need cleaning or replaced. Do facility have any maintenance programmes in place to help keep standard high?    4.Ice Conditions  It was accepted that the new pad would require a beading in period from an operational point but it was felt staff were being asked to work with substandard equipment which was leading to poor ice conditions but unavoidable with current standard of equipment.  What is being done to improve required equipment?  Blades needing sharpened and stolen ones replaced to allow staff to perform duties to high standards as shown last season.  What are the implications involved in getting new blades and sharpening?  It was felt that there was not point in having a great facility if equipment did not match up to those new standards.  Concerns that if staff not given suitable equipment and working conditions that their motivation would be lost.  DIBCA wanted to make it clear that they needed the staff who had shown in the past dedication and motivation to be encouraged and given the best chance to produce quality playing conditions or they may well look for alternative jobs.  When would the new manager be in post to provide some leadership and motivation?  5.Game Price  Curlers paying £8.10 per game expect good service and high quality equipment - stones, brushes, ice surface.  Where does the £8.10 per game go? Can some of this not be set aside and used to replace stones which have been reported as below serviceable condition and in need of trade in?  Can Facility adjust cost per game if they know ice conditions are not going to be good for the evening or week? Teams walking of the ice is not a good look.  Can Players be informed of conditions before they start the game if below standard and offered discount?    Fiona Hardie ask Councillor McKie if the project had been on budget  Area Committee had no details as yet but were expecting report soon.  Robert Sommerville asked Councillor McKie to comment on recent bad paper and Tv reviews.  Councillor McKie felt that these reviews were unfair and detrimental to the hard work and effort that had been put in by contractors and staff. It had been a priority to get the facility to a standard that could open to allow the Ice Sport user groups to get there season underway and continue with there development for the year.  14. AOCB  David Hardie asked if 4ft Line Markings would be possible for new pad.  Andy McLean suggested that a House half way up sheet 1 or 6 for junior curling would help develop junior programme.  Could the new Changing and current viewing facilities be made available for the incoming Canadian Tour? It would be rather embarrassing if these were not available.  It was suggested that the Council re-think providing the camera system as viewing was inadequate and this was one of the areas the project team had stated they would ensure was suitable – a revised quote had been given by NIS Systems saving £600 from the initial quote.  David Hardie pointed out that the staff had taken pay cuts from last season and encouraged the curlers and committee to keep encouraging the ice staff as they are key to the success of good curling conditions at the ice bowl.  The Chair presented a printed image of the new curling lounge to the meeting with options selected by the committee on furniture for the area.  Fiona Hardie had spoken to the company who were providing the furnishings. The current situation was that the company required 2-3weeks from order to provide the furnishing. They were currently waiting for Colin Freeman to return from holiday to organise a meeting to make a final decision on what was required. Fiona Hardie asked that the Curling Association be at this meeting to save time and provide input to the most suitable furniture. This was agreed by the company. It was also requested that an urgent site visit be arranged for 3-4 members of the committee so that they could make the best choice for heights of seating in relation to the view provided. Councillor McKie agreed with this and would see what he could do to help.  Graham Sloan on behalf of the Ice Staff asked if there were any preferences in colour for the ice markings.  Option 1 – Red and Blue  Option 2 – Purple and Green  The majority vote was for Option 2 as it was felt that this would leave more of an impression to visiting teams and curlers as it would be unique to Dumfries Ice Bowl.  Graham Sloan ask pointed out that it could almost be used as a trial as half the season would be passed before even curling on new pad and if colour scheme not liked at end of season then it could be re-looked at for next season. All in attendance agreed that it should be review at end of season.  **15.Date of next AGM**  Due to the proposed changes in the Constitution the Date of the next Annual General Meeting would be decided at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting when called by the Curling Association |  |