

Orwell Ladies Curling Club

Minutes of 35th A.G.M. held Thurs 19th Apr 2012 at 7:00pm in the Windlestrae Hotel Kinross

Welcome: President Susan Scougal welcomed members to the meeting and asked Angela to say grace.

Grace: Angela said the Grace

We all enjoyed a meal together before the business of the A.G.M. began.

- 1 **Apologies:** Jean Blackwood, Jane Bruce, Moray Coughtrie, Fiona Doig, Marion Forbes, Alicia Hay, Linda Hessey, Anne Inglis, Barbara King, Caroline McGregor, Mary Morgan, Katherine Nicholas, Christine Painter, Kaye Paterson, Kirsty Paterson, Mary Paterson, Shireen Paterson, Dorothy Pollett, Christine Robertson, Isobel Watson, Tinkie Welwood, Shiela Wills, Linda Young, Emma Niven
- 2 **Minutes of last A.G.M & E.G.M.:** Proposed –Beryl Harley, Seconded – Karen Lindsay
- 3 **Matters Arising:** None
- 4 **Review of Membership:** Janette Webster has decided to become a non- playing member. Resignations were regretfully received from Avril Flood and Caroline McGregor

We had three new applications for membership	Proposed	Seconded
Lesley Johnston	Maggie Saunderson	Sue Cameron
Jeanne Dean	Maggie Saunderson	Kathleen Brown
Lynne Page	Jean Robertson	Angela Wilcox

Our President then drew attention to one of our members sitting with us – Janie Buchanan. Janie was an inaugural member of Orwell Ladies in 1977, becoming a made curler in 1978. She was a successful club skip for many years and was president in 1981/82. Janie, not just once, but twice, represented Orwell Ladies in The Henderson Bishop, which at that time was known as The Scotsman Martini, no mean feat. Janie continued her curling success in the rural. A couple of years ago Janie retired from active curling, and Susan added, we had really missed Janie's lovely smile not to mention her sweeties. It was with great pleasure that she proposed Janie as an Honorary Member of Orwell Ladies. Seconded by Hester Niven. Janie was invited up to accept her certificate. Janie was delighted to accept and thanked everyone.

- 5 **Secretary's Report:** Maggie reported that the season 2011/2012 had found the ice challenging at times, some sheets more so than others, but Steven and the icemen had done a great job and generally the ice was excellent.
This year we had welcomed 9 new members to our club and she hoped they had all enjoyed their curling with Orwell Ladies. With our increased numbers we had been able to have an extra team in the Thistle and the Jubilee, this had meant no bye weeks in those competitions. It had also been great to see Orwell Ladies playing on all four sheets each Tuesday on Jubilee days. We had had an unprecedented amount of illness and injury, (thankfully everyone concerned was recovering well) and, she knew that it had been sometimes difficult to find subs for games, but we had managed it. She thanked all our reserves for stepping in

when needed, we had seen some faces back on the ice that we hadn't seen for a while which was great and it had given our new members a chance to get playing in a team right away. The weather had only disrupted one morning of curling when gale force winds had been bringing down trees all over the place, and police had closed some roads, as it had been dangerous to travel. As it had been much milder this year so there had been no chance of a Grand Match.

All our club competitions had been very competitive and our winners would be rewarded later that night at our prize giving.

We had played the usual friendlies with wins against Fossoway, West Stirlingshire, Dunfermline Ladies and Fossoway Men, and losses against Kinross Ladies, Bishopshire and Kinross Men.

Orwell Ladies had not done so well in the Green Hotel League this year and would play in Division 2 next year.

Wilma's team had won the Ladies super league.

Edna and Elma had won the KDLB Thistle Pairs high road. Valerie and Fiona Rutherford had been runners up.

Orwell Ladies had won the Blairhill Trophy –Maggie had said well done to skips Wilma & Elma.

Angela and Susan had won the Pairs at Perth and Susan had come first in KDLB points with Orwell Ladies - Susan, Laurie, Wilma, Eileen and Caroline winning the club prize.

Liz Glennie had skipped the winning team in the 39th Scottish Police Championship's Tappit Hen Bonspiel – she had been the first winning lady skip in the history of that competition.

Edna and Wilma and partners had won the Ayr invitational mixed seniors and another invitational competition at Hamilton.

It had been great to see so many Orwell Ladies involved in the Scottish Seniors at Hamilton and she said well done to Grace, Elma, Sue C, and Wilma who had got through to the quarterfinals.

Maggie congratulated Grace, Sue Maggie and Kathleen who had won the British Ladies open at Stirling and gave a special thanks to Grace and Edna who had skipped some of our less experienced players in that competition.

Maggie said a final thank you to all of our members who had played, supported, organised, and kept Orwell Ladies the great club that it was, and she apologised if she had failed to mention anyone's successes.

6 Treasurer's Report: Hester had circulated copies of our club's accounts. She briefly talked us through them –subs for 44 full members, and eight occasional members.

RCCC membership £18:00

KDLB membership up from £1:50 - £2:50

Ice payments up, engraving costs up.

Therefore proposed increasing Orwell Ladies subs by £2:00 –agreed

No change in bonus to the icemen

£336 spent on club badges – These are held in stock to be sold over the next 7-10 years, this was the first time Hester had ever had to order badges.

£4852:67 is held for the Kinross Curling Trust

Miscellaneous was made up of postage, drinks for markers after points, and some wine for Hamish, who kindly audited the accounts. Hester added that she had been absolutely forbidden to give him any kind of gift this year.

She then invited questions from the members.

Treasurer's Report - Proposed by Sue Seconded by Lenore

7 **Update on Kinross Curling Trust:** This was specifically about the money our club had pledged to KCT. Susan asked members what we should do with the money we had raised and held for the Kinross Curling Trust as they were keen for us to hand it over.

- a. Keep a hold of the money
- b. Hand it over to the KCT now

There followed some discussion, comments included

- Other clubs were of the opinion that it could be used for curling needs other than the Trust.
- When we raised the money it was for the KCT and so that makes it difficult to give it to someone else or use for any thing else.
- It was raised to build a new ice rink.
- Tell the trust that we will continue to hold it for them until a definite plan is in place.
- Pots of money could be used up in admin costs.

Susan decided to take a show of hands – there was an overwhelming majority in favour of holding onto money for now till more definite plans are in place.

8 **Representative Members Report:**

Karen started by letting us know that the K.D.L.B. A.G.M. would be held on 30th April at 7:15 in the Carnbo Hall.

The Province A.G.M. was due to take place at the same time as ours, therefore we had no news from there.

Karen then gave us match results from throughout the year.

K.D.L.B. WINNERS

Senior Pairs Mary Barr & Karin Scott
Runner –Up Enid Brown & Helen Gordon

Open Winners: Anne Marie Davidson, Margaret Cairns, Liz Paul and Lynne Stevenson
Runners-up Mary Barr, Ena Stevenson, Dorothy Borthwick and Maureen Aitken

Henderson/Bishop Qualifying from Kinross were:
Mary Barr, Lorna Rennie, Jane Barr and Ena Stevenson
They went on to qualify for the Low Road (cherry stone) at Inverness but were knocked out in the semi-final..

K.D.L.B. Bonspiel Winners Edna Nelson, Sheona Reid, Phyllis Inch and Carolyn Clode
Runners Up Wilma Brownlie, Morag Wellman, Lesley Brown and Kathleen Brown

Centre Points Winner Susan Scougal
Team Winners were Orwell Ladies- Laurie McKerrow, Wilma Brownlie, Eileen Thomas and Caroline Liddle

Thistle Pairs High Road Winners Edna Nelson and Elma McCulloch
High Road Runners Up Valerie Inglis and Fiona Rutherford
Low Road Winners Betty Paterson and Barbara Nicholson
Low Road Runners Up Debbie Weir and Allison Reid

Morton East Section Borders-15, Kinross-10, Kirkcaldy –10, Murrayfield –1
Final Winners - Lanarkshire

9 Social Report: Liz Glennie reported that she had asked her mum, Anne Bayne, for some last minute advice about this evening and she had said "stand up, speak up and shut up" She then asked everyone if they could hear her. It didn't seem like a year ago that we were all gathered at the Windlestrae for our AGM, social and prizegiving. That evening Grace, Eileen, Allison and herself had been elected by everyone as committee members. In their capacity as social committee they embraced the challenge of arranging the clubs social events for the year. Over the next two-week period they had attended committee/skips meeting and a social committee meeting. With support from the committee and invaluable help from Angela they had planned the Club's social events programme for the year laughing a lot throughout the process.

The first social event was the Golf and Lunch at Milnathort Golf Club on Wed 8th June. On arrival the rain was falling heavily, however, that had not dampened spirits and they remained optimistic as there were clear skies in the distance. The golf was played in dry conditions until the fairway and green of the final hole when the rain started again. 18 golfing ladies played their round in teams of three, using a Texas scramble format. At the conclusion of the golf 11 non-golfing ladies joined them in the clubhouse where 29 ladies enjoyed an excellent lunch.

Golf Prizewinners were – Winners – Catherine, Jean and Caroline

Runners-up Joan, Lenore and Susie

Booby – prize Elma, Janette and Maggie

Thanks to Lenore for arranging the golf teams, tee-off times and lunch.

The second social event was the Bowling Fun Night at Carnbo on Tues 26th July. The weather was beautiful. They had the tables and chairs on the grass outside, so on arrival everyone could sit out and enjoy the sunshine.

The bowling took the format of a points competition over two rounds 17 ladies took part and 18 non-bowling ladies socialised and took part in the two quizzes that had been running in the hall. One of the quizzes was a valuation quiz with 20 items listed to be valued and the other was an identification quiz with 16 items on display. Both of these were equally entertaining and provoked lots of discussion, debate and hilarity. After this 35 ladies enjoyed a hot supper in Carnbo Hall.

Thanks to Grace for organising the hall and bowls and to Anne and Gay for an excellent supper.

Bowling Prizewinners 1st Sue Cameron 2nd Karen 3rd Beryl 4th Angela

Valuation Quiz Prizewinners 1st Elma 2nd Maggie and Lenore 3rd The golden oldies (Jessie B, Jessie L and Shireen)

Identification Quiz Prizewinners 1st Maggie and Lenore, 2nd Karen, 3rd equal Elma and Jackie/Anne

In September it was time to get back to curling and we met up at Kinross ice rink for our opening bonspiel. 32 members took to the ice with "start of the season enthusiasm".

Afterwards we went to Carnbo Hall where 17 non-curling ladies joined us and 49 of us had a superb lunch.

Thanks again to Grace for organising the hall, and to Anne and Gay for an excellent lunch.

Liz concluded by telling us that Grace, Eileen, Allison and herself had thoroughly enjoyed being part of the club's committee and she hoped we had all enjoyed the social events as much as they had enjoyed arranging them and she thanked Eileen for welcoming them into her home for their meetings.

10 Presidents Report: Susan recalled that when she first arrived in Kinross one of her good neighbours, Shireen Paterson, invited her along to a closing bonspiel lunch at Avril Bairds and before she knew it she was signed up for Orwell Ladies. She still does not know how that happened as she hates ice, ice is something that should be kept for putting in drinks, not to

be played on. Her first time on the ice was interesting to say the least. To her it was very reminiscent of the film "When Harry met Sally" – all she could hear were women's voices in varying degrees of excitement shouting – Yes, yes, yes – harder, harder, harder- It's good it's good keep going. She was thinking "you have to be kidding me" but now, years later, she finds she has joined that band of orgasmic women. For the first couple of years she wasn't entirely sure about the sport until an inspirational character, called John Stewart, coached her group in the art of curling and suddenly she was hooked. A few years later she was delighted to be asked, by Liz Steel, to be her Vice and now here she was making her closing speech, how time flies.

Whilst walking the dogs she had composed some really interesting speeches. Sadly due to her hormonally challenged brain by the end of the walks she had forgotten how they went. There were various themes – Curling a foundation stone of civilisation (joking)

-The good, the bad and the ugly (maybe not)

She settled for –The past, present and future.

Orwell Ladies has been built on a very strong foundation thanks to the hard work, commitment and talent of our members in the early years and to date. It's important not to forget how Orwell Ladies came to be and with this in mind Beryl had been asked to start a history of the club, which she has duly done and very entertaining it is so far. We would like all members, who were there in the early years, to write a paragraph or so on any curling memory, maybe in the context of how things are very different today, or, just a good memory. It would be great if this could be done over the summer so we can start compiling the material next season.

At present we are a very strong and successful club. This is a credit to all of us, especially, when many other clubs are struggling for members. What is it that makes a successful club? A few thoughts

- 1 Commitment – as seen by our participation not only in our club events but in Ladies Branch competitions, Opens, Senior and weekend events.
 - 2 Communication – should aim to be clear, considerate and constructive
 - 3 Support – not only in curling matters but in the ups and downs of life.
 - 4 Adapting to change – to date, change has been gradual. Our test might be in the next few years.
 - 5 Developing our skills – encouraging each other to reach our potential, no matter what level of curling we enjoy.
 - 6 Responsibility – taking our turn in the running of the club, even when we'd rather not.
- On the whole we do well on most of these points but as the end of term report always says – There is always room for improvement
- She left the most important thought for last.
- 7 Fun – above all this is why we do it, because we enjoy it and as long as the fun remains we will stay committed and the future will be good.

Before welcoming Angela to her new position she wholeheartedly thanked everyone for being behind her. Margaret Nelson and Liz Steel who have always been there for advice and support, her two lovely committees, Hester who conscientiously gets on with looking after our money whilst holding down a challenging job. Maggie who with very few years in the club is doing a great job and, last but not least, her Vice Angela, who has been a tremendous help. Especially in organising our new uniforms. Susan then let her sister curlers into a secret, that Angela is not half as scary as you think.

Susan then passed the President's badge to Angela. Angela accepted the badge and told us that there was a short time when she thought she might not become our president as there was a good possibility she would be moving, but that was not happening at the moment and she took over from Susan to chair the rest of the AGM.

11 Election of Office Bearers:	PROPOSED	SECONDED
Past President Susan Scougal		
President Angela Wilcox	moves up from vice	
Vice President Eileen Thomas	Angela Wilcox	Margaret Nelson
Treasurer Hester Niven	unchanged	
Secretary Maggie Saunderson	unchanged	
Rep Members Karen Lindsay & Susan Scougal	unchanged Sue Cameron	Wilma Brownlie
Committee Members		
Kathleen Brown (asst secy)	Joan Foster	Frances Algie
Jane Drysdale	Maggie Scott	Avril Baird
Gay Deas	Laurie McKerrow	Susan Scougal
Maggie Scott	Jane Drysdale	Angela Wilcox

12 Voting for Skips: Voting slips were distributed and all present put down their 10 choices for skip (8skips+2reserves). Mary & Norma counted the votes. The following skips were voted in - Susan Scougal, Grace Paterson, Elma McCulloch, Wilma Brownlie, Margaret Nelson, Gay Deas, Edna Nelson, and Laurie McKerrow. Reserves were Valerie Inglis and Angela Wilcox

13 Review of Club Social Programme: Golf / lunch this was popular and it was voted to continue with this.
 Summer outing – it was agreed to have something - various ideas were expressed - still to be arranged.
 Opening Bonspiel + Lunch-Sept, Closing Bonspiel + soup & sandwiches – end of March A.G.M./ Prizegiving- Apr – all as usual.
 Our last club curling outing to Stirling had been a fun day out. The club was asked if they would like another non-competitive curling day out arranged for next year. There were requests to try somewhere else, perhaps Murrayfield and at a different time of year. TBA

It was suggested that since it had been 5 years since we had held a court, and as we had lots of new members had joined during that time that we should try to arrange one this year. There was a show of hands asked for this, with a majority in favour. After discussion it was agreed to try to hold this in November

14 Review of Club Programme –
 Opening Bonspiel -There was a request to rename this from- Juniors v Seniors to President v Vice President. This was agreed, names to be drawn for each team.
 Thistle, Jubilee, Gairney, Points, Mixed League, Closing Bonspiel -all to be played as normal. Pairs came up for discussion, it was put forward that at the end of the season, when pairs is on, if you are not involved or are knocked out in the first round there is a long time with no curling. It was pointed out that it is your own choice if you don't want to play in pairs. There followed various ways that pairs has been played in the past . It was decided to try a High Road/ Low Road this year with Pairs to allow more games per player, and to keep it in March. Mixed League – Lenore asked what were the numbers wanting to play in this competition as there were a lot of men in Orwell who were waiting to play.
 Laurie raised a concern at the numbers in our competitions. That perhaps we need to keep more reserves and reduce the teams.

As we needed to wait to check the competitions list to see who had signed up for what it was decided that we would discuss it at the next committee meeting, Green Hotel League, Loch Leven Province, K.D.L.B Competitions will all be played as usual. Friendlies – Kinross Ladies had sent in a letter saying that as they are mainly an evening club they had found it more and more difficult to get players for during the day and so regretfully they had decided to withdraw from our annual friendly game. All our other friendly games will continue.

British Ladies Open -Stirling-members were asked if we could keep this Tuesday free again to enable members to take part in this competition as we had last year. There followed some discussion, it was asked why we were even having this discussion but it is because this competition always takes place on a Tuesday the same day as our club curling. Some people thought that we should just stick to playing opens which do not take place on a Tuesday. Those that had played at Stirling had appreciated being able to take part in this event and it had been a team of 4 Orwell Ladies who had won it. Several ladies would like to go back again next year.

There was more discussion, then our president asked for a show of hands if in favour of extending or reworking our fixtures to let members play in this open. The majority was in favour.

We would enter 2 teams for the Grand Match as usual.

Uniforms – This project had been started at the last AGM and was still going on, The first orders had been ok, the second order had been delayed then after waiting 4 weeks they had told us there was a problem, they were not able to supply the same weight of fleece as the original order. After much discussion back and forth, that order had now gone ahead and when it arrives if anyone prefers a lighter weight fleece we will try to arrange swaps.

A.O.B. There was some more discussion and information on the Kinross Curling Trust. The KCT had been looking for an alternative site for a new ice rink, but this had proved difficult. They are looking at all options to provide curling facilities including leasing/refurbishing the existing rink and it may mean 4 rinks, not 6. They still very much need all curlers behind them. The position of the Green Hotel seems to be they are very much in favour of keeping curling available but as a business have difficulty accessing grants, whereas a charitable trust can approach more potential sponsors. There was no more definite news at this time

Beryl complimented Angela on the new uniforms, it had been a lot of work but they looked great, so many thanks for that.

Close of business: - 10:30pm

Date of next meeting: - Thurs 25th April 2013 at 7:00pm

Presentation of Prizes

Vote of Thanks - Eileen proposed a vote of thanks to the following: the Windlestrae staff for the lovely meal and for looking after us well; Karen Lindsay for being Representative Member at Ladies Branch; Sue Cameron, who was finishing a four-year stint as Treasurer with Ladies Branch; Margaret Nelson for providing fudge, tablet and baking at all sorts of times; the reserves, especially Anne Bayne, who nobly stepped up to be a Gairney skip; Lenore for publishing the card; the committee for all the work they do and especially Susan, outgoing President, for having led the club in such a kind and encouraging manner.