Orwell Ladies Curling Club

Minutes of 37th AGM held on Thursday 17th April 2014 at 7.00pm in the Windlestrae Hotel, Kinross

Welcome: President Eileen Thomas welcomed members to the dinner, prize-giving and AGM.
Grace: Vice-President Sue Cameron said the Grace before dinner.

Kinross Curling Trust
Prior to the business of the AGM, Margaret Elspeth Harman (one of the seven trustees) gave an update on the **Kinross Curling Trust**. Margaret Elspeth advised KCT had been awarded £400,000 from Sportscotland and £125,000 had been promised by Perth and Kinross Council. The contract price was £800,000. Full KCT funding is in place – curlers had provided £350,000 of which £220,000 is in form of loans. Building work includes replacement of asbestos roof and walls, new electricity substation, new plant, ice-pad, dehumidification, low emission ceiling, heating and lighting. Work is to be completed in August, followed by a grand opening bonspiel w/e 20–21 September.

KCT has set up a series of groups: finance, buildings, development and operations. They are looking at various ways of growing the business.

KCT thanked people wholeheartedly for their generosity in the past and for the future. The trust is still actively fundraising for the second tranche of work e.g. to install a lift.

Questions: Our club would like to continue being able to benefit from member contributions for special occasions (e.g. birthday cake). Before KCT took over running the rink this had not been an issue. Margaret Elspeth to raise the principle with the Board.

Eileen thanked Margaret Elspeth for the update and extended our thanks to the trustees for all their work to date.

1. Apologies: Lesley Brown, Lyn Baillie, Susie Ballantyne, Linda Bayne, Jane Bruce, Joan Foster, Anne McGrory, Mary Morgan, Katherine Nicholas, Emma Niven, Christine Painter, Kirsty Paterson, Christine Robertson, Linda Young.

2. Minutes of 36th AGM Proposed: Laurie McKerrow; Seconded: Angela Wilcox

3. Matters Arising None

4. Review Membership

- Resignations: Anne McGrory, Christine Painter and Jeanette Webster
- Mary Morgan will become a non-playing member
- Application for membership from Claire Cole. Proposed: Jackie McQueen; Seconded: Liz Glennie

5. Secretary's Report
Kathleen Brown extended a personal 'thank you' to the curling community and Orwell Ladies for rallying round her when she had become unwell. Special thanks to Maggie (Saunderson) for resuming the secretary role at end Oct – and to Eileen for organising the Points competition and reworking teams early in the season to accommodate those who'd had to withdraw due to personal issues, ill-health or injury.

Club Competitions

Opening Bonspiel – 24 Sept. The Vice-President's side won the bonspiel. Scores were tied at 32 apiece, shots-up tied at 11, so it went down to ends. The Vice-President's side had 17 vs 15 on the President's side.

Thistle: The result of the Thistle was also very close. Of the six teams, four were tied on 6 points each, so it came down to ends. Runner-up team was Elma's on 22 ends and the winner, with 23 ends, was Wilma's team.

Jubilee: Team changes: Frances Algie had to withdraw from the Jubilee before the competition started and her place was taken by Maggie Saunderson. This year saw Susan Scougal's team unbeaten, with a maximum of 7 wins out of 7.

Gairney: Frances Algie also had to withdraw from the Gairney before the competition began. Thanks to Gay Deas and new member, Sue Cain, for substituting for Frances and Kathleen Brown. Due to extenuating circumstances, Joan Foster felt unable to skip a Gairney team so a change to teams was made before the competition started: Maggie Saunderson skipped team 5 and Joan played third in team 3.
There were some mixed fortunes in the Gairney competition but it was the team skipped by Linda Bayne that won this year.

Mixed League: The winners of the Mixed League (with Orwell Men) this season were Gay Deas and Maggie Saunderson, with Donnie Scott and Sandy Hay.

Points: A total of sixteen people took part. Sue Cameron and Edna Nelson tied on 39 points (out of a possible 72). Sue won the tie-breaker. Allison Pirie was the highest up lead or second. Sue Cameron, Edna Nelson, Grace Paterson, Caroline Liddle and Allison Pirie represented Orwell Ladies at the KDLB Centre Points competition.

Pairs: a high road and low road format. The issues which had affected the earlier competitions continued and reworking of the teams prior to the competition starting was required (more difficult because of the format). Low Road Runners-up were Grace Paterson and Jeanne Dean and the Low Road Winners: Elma McCulloch and Hester Niven. High Road Runners-up were Susan Scougal and Lesley Johnston and High Road Winners: Laurie McKerrow and Fiona Doig.

Closing Bonspiel – 1 April 2014. The County won with 31 points over Milnathort with 26. The winning team was skipped by Laurie McKerrow with Jean Robertson, Lesley Brown and Jackie McQueen.

Other competitions at Kinross

Friendly matches: Orwell Ladies had wins against Bishopshire, Fossoway Ladies, Fossoway Men and Glenfarg Men. We lost against Kinross Men, Dunfermline Ladies and Orwell Men.
There was no game against West Stirlingshire Ladies this year.

Kinross and District Ladies Branch
Orwell Ladies have actively supported and participated in the Ladies Branch competitions. Notable achievements by our members:
KDLB Senior Pairs: Winner Maggie Saunderson (with Liz Mill Fossoway Ladies). Edna Nelson and Gay Deas were featured on the Kinross Curling website with their '8' ender during this competition.
KDLB Bonspiel: Grace Paterson skipped the winning team.
Thistle Pairs: Winner Valerie Inglis (with Fiona Rutherford). Runners-up Liz Glennie and Jane Drysdale.

Henderson Bishop Playdowns
Orwell Ladies CC was well represented at the Henderson Bishop. The team qualifying from Kinross was Valerie Inglis, Susan Scougal, Heather Gough and Sue Cameron. As Fife Ice Arena (Kirkcaldy) was short of entrants Jean Robertson, Fiona de Vries, Laurie McKerrow and Elma McCulloch played there instead of Kinross and won that qualifier. The Henderson Bishop Finals took place 24-27 February 2014 at Dumfries.

Green League
Orwell Ladies played in Division 2 this season and finished mid-table.

Coady's Bar Dunfermline, Ladies Super League (2013/14)
Orwell Ladies dominated in the Coady's Bar Dunfermline, Ladies Super League.
Winner: Wilma Brownlie (skip), Margaret Nelson, Caroline Liddle and Pat McFarlane. Runner–up Elma McCulloch (skip), Edna, Grace and Laurie
Third and fourth positions were Valerie Inglis and Liz Glennie

John Stewart Double Rink Knockout
Orwell Ladies participated in this competition organised by the ice rink.

Province and Area 7 competitions
Wilson Trophy: A team skipped by Elma beat Glenfarg on 29 November. This took Orwell Ladies through to the semi-finals where they played against K2 on Friday 17 January 2014. (K2 were the eventual winners of the competition).
Orwell Ladies also played in the Province Bonspiel, Festive Potty, Blairhill Challenge and the Inter Province competition (Fife and Kinross v Perth).

Ice Rink Closing Bonspiel 5 April 2013
Orwell Ladies (Eileen, Susan Scougal, Edna and Jane Drysdale) won the ice rink's closing bonspiel with 20 shots. There had been an agonising time watching Orwell men playing against Ceres and getting 19 points! We also played in the ice rink opening bonspiel.

External competitions
In this Olympic year, though we hadn't seen Orwell Ladies playing at Sochi, we had made our presence known at rinks throughout Scotland (… and in Houston, Texas – Angela).
Scottish Curling Senior Mixed Championship 11–13 October 2013
Several Orwell Ladies took part in this competition in Stranraer: Angela Wilcox, Sue Cameron, Maggie Scott, Wilma Brownlie and Edna Nelson.

Perth Open, Nov 2013
Maggie Scott was in the winning team with Fiona de Vries, Claire Milne and Mhairi Milne.

Ladies Sellar competition, Murrayfield, finals 16 January 2014
High Road won by Jean Robertson's team (Laurie McKerrow, Hester Niven and Fiona de Vries).

Scottish Curling Senior Championships 5–9 February 2014 – Lanarkshire Ice Rink (Hamilton)
Grace's team (Susan Scougal, Caroline Liddle and Sue Cameron) reached the semi-finals. Wilma Brownlie substituted for an unwell Caroline in the semis. The team was beaten by the eventual competition winners.

Dewars Ladies Open sponsored by Heat Works, March
Winners: Valerie Inglis, Susan Scougal, Sue Cameron, Allison Pirie

Scottish Police Curling Association Championships (Liz Glennie)
Liz Glennie was part of a successful team (Additional Note: Kenny Wilson, Bill Linton and Alan Vallance) that won the Gilchrist Stane (Low Road) at the SPCA (11 to 13 March 2014) at Stranraer. During the three days of the competition the team only lost one game out of six by one shot. Liz was unable to play in the semi-final and final games, however, due to injury.

Definitely a busy and eventful season! Kathleen thanked everyone for making it a successful season.

6. **Treasurer's Report**: Hester Niven presented the accounts for the year to 8 April 2014.
   - The bonus to the ice staff had been increased to £100 and £50 bonus to bar staff
   - Miscellaneous expenditure included a refund of a sub paid twice and refreshments for the markers of the points competition
   - Sum of £7000 had been paid over to KCT
   - Current liabilities due to KCT of £222.30. This is the amount accumulated over the season from the 'Losers' Pot'. It was agreed to continue with the pot for the forthcoming season.

Accounts Proposed: Valerie Inglis; Seconded: Sue Jones

7. **Representative Members' Report**: Jane Drysdale

The main aim of the Kinross and District Ladies Branch is to encourage friendship and enthusiasm in the game of curling and encourage ladies to take part in competitions outside club level. Five competitions are held throughout the curling year.

3 October KDLB held the Annual Senior Pairs competition sponsored by Anne Whitelaw Powmill Milk Bar. Winners Maggie Saunderson, OLCC and Liz Mill, Fossoway. Runners-up were Debbie Weir and Anne White, Fossoway. We were delighted to witness an eight ender by Edna Nelson and Gay Deas. This achievement was recognised by the RCCC.

15 October Kinross and District Ladies Branch Open, sponsored by Caledonia Play. We had 16 teams competing. Winners were Anne Marie Davidson, Liz Paul, Margaret Cairns, Anne Hewitt. Runners-up were Claire Milne, Sheila Swan, Fiona DeVries, Carol Dawson.

6 January Kinross and District Centre Bonspiel. This is a fun competition is for local ladies. The teams are a mix of ladies from Dunfermline, Fossoway, Glenfarg, Kinross and Orwell.
Winners of this Bonspiel – Grace Paterson OLCC, Sandra Ritchie Dunfermline, Maria Tait Glenfarg and Linda Coleburn Kinross. Runners-up – Wilma Brownlie, Debbie Weir, Maggie Saunderson, Jeanette Harvey.

16 January Kinross and District Centre Points. This was sponsored by Loch Leven Larder. The winning team for centre points were Dunfermline Ladies. Enid Brown was our top individual.

13 February KDLB Thistle Pairs. This was sponsored by High Valleyfield Pharmacy, Cameron Gaudin. The format was a one day competition this year, which proved successful. Winners Valerie Inglis and Fiona Rutherford. Runners-up Liz Glennie and Jane Drysdale.

The Henderson Bishop Play downs were held on 25, 28th and 29th November in Kinross. Winners Valerie Inglis, Susan Scougal, Heather Gough and Sue Cameron. They went forward to the finals which were held in Dumfries Ice Rink on 24th February.

Morton Trophy –Kinross and District Ladies Branch narrowly won their section of the Morton so qualified to play in the semi-final at Kirkcaldy on the 11th March. We played against Ayr and unfortunately lost all our games. Ayr went on to will the final.

Jane invited all to the KDLB AGM on Tuesday 29 April in Carnbo Hall at 7.15. Annette Bennie is standing down as president and Jane is taking up this post. Jane has had a very busy and enjoyable year as vice president and thanked everyone for their support.

The Ladies Standing Committee AGM is on Tuesday 13th May in Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries at 2pm.

Ladies Coaching Day – KDLB is going ahead with a coaching day at the beginning of next season. All levels will be catered for.

Jane provided dates for the Henderson Bishop and KDLB competitions for next season.

Eileen thanked Jane and hoped there would be a good turnout of Orwell Ladies to support Jane at the KDLB AGM at Carnbo on Tuesday 29 April. Jane is stepping up to be President of KDLB a year early.

Report from Loch Leven Province AGM: Margaret Nelson
The Loch Leven Province AGM was held in the Green Hotel on 8 April 2014 and attended by Maggie Scott and Margaret Nelson. President Alistair Wood had welcomed the representative members and said how sorry he was to have lost two members this year: Jim Guthrie from Dollar and Devonvale and Dr Derek Anderson from Kinross.

Alistair Wood was very impressed by the standard of curling in all the competitions. Winning clubs were: Wilson Trophy – K2; Province – Kinross Juniors; Blairhill – Glenfarg Ladies; Christmas Potty – Glenfarg.

Boyd Houston, Secretary/Treasurer thanked all the club secretaries and treasurers for paying so promptly. Subs remain the same: £20 per club, £10 for Juniors and £1 per member for Area 7. Alistair thanked Boyd for all his hard work and was pleased he was willing to do another year.

Hector Snoddy reported there will be an incoming Swedish Tour this November and each Province to provide one rink.

Alistair handed over to new President John Cassells from Orwell Men. The draw was made for 2014–15.
Doug Ritchie from Kinross Curling Trust rounded off the evening with a very informative update on all the work to be done to the ice rink during the summer for completion late August.

8. **Social Report**: Bridie Graham
The Social Committee for 2013–14 was … good fun! It was comprised of Margaret Nelson, Maggie Scott and Bridie Graham, with a lot of help from Jane Drysdale. The first event was the Golf Day at Milnathort Golf Club on 19 June, which was masterminded by Lenore Kyle, so many thanks to her for using her well-honed organisational skills. Twelve ladies took part in the 'Texas Scramble' and the winners were Catherine Ballantyne, Gay Deas and Alicia Hay. Seventeen more ladies came to have lunch with the players at the Clubhouse and it was very enjoyable.

We decided that our summer outing might be a garden visit and Dowhill at Cleish was suggested. The day chosen, 16 July, was a lovely day and everyone seemed to enjoy wandering around such a beautiful garden, before going on to The Hideaway in Dunfermline for a delicious meal. We had 38 people on the trip and it seemed to be a good one.

We helped organise the opening and closing bonspiel lunches. The opening bonspiel lunch at Carnbo is always fun and this is of course due to Ann Whitelaw's marvellous food, which seems to get better every year. Many thanks must also go to Grace Paterson for organising the hall and setting it up. The Closing Bonspiel lunch went well too, despite the fact that we'd been promised one kind of soup and were given a different one altogether!

Bridie said it had been a lot of fun on the Social Committee, with not much hard work, and noted Kathleen's help with lists and spreadsheets. Margaret, Maggie and Jane are all lovely to work with and any mistakes were probably my idea so you can address any complaints to me afterwards.

Maggie Scott also spoke about the forthcoming sponsored West Highland Way walk being organised by Lynne Stevenson in aid of Ovarian Cancer Action and thanked all those who had donated.

9. **President's Report**: Eileen Thomas

Eileen said she was no great lover of public speaking, despite having her announcements on a Tuesday morning likened to 'school assembly', and being nicknamed 'Headmistress'. Eileen felt it was simply better to make announcements out on the ice where everyone was together. There were many announcements to be made, including the great achievements of some of our members outside of normal club curling, so Gold Stars to everyone involved!

Remaining in 'Headmistressy' mode, Eileen took the opportunity to go over some rules! Unfortunately this season – very unusually – a number of games had to be forfeited, sometimes because there were not enough players on the day. Some of this was down to lack of communication.

It is one of our bye-laws that the maximum number of substitutes you can have in a team is two. It is really important that if you can't play, and you have organised a reserve to take your place, that you tell your skip, because if three people in a team simply send a reserve along without mentioning it to the skip, the game has to be forfeited. And if you are a skip and you organise a reserve for yourself, please remember to tell your third that they will be skipping in your absence.

Sometimes there was a bit of absent-mindedness and people just didn't turn up! Please do note your games carefully at the start of the season.

Of course, some members go to great lengths to get to their curling, including risking a speeding penalty, but managing to use their – ahem – natural assets, apparently, to evade a ticket.

While reflecting over the past year, we shouldn't let the evening go past without mentioning that a friend of the club – Dr Derek Anderson – passed away a couple of months ago. Eileen didn't know him but understood that in the early days of the club, he helped to get things started and taught some of the founding members about curling.

On the subject of friendship, it is lovely to see so many of our social members, including our Honorary Members, Jessie, Jessie and Janie, on the first Tuesdays of the month and at the social events. It has been very touching to see the concern shown by the non-playing members to some of our newer members who have been unwell or injured or in unhappy circumstances. Our club really is about so much more than curling.

Eileen thanked those who had shown her their support with positive words or actions in her first year as President; the year had not always been easy. She thanked all the committee members for their work, but especially Maggie Saunderson. Maggie had been secretary for several years and stayed on the committee to be a source of advice because Eileen became President a year earlier than expected, and our Past President would be in America. It was also Kathleen's first year as Secretary. Not only did Maggie deal patiently with all Eileen's queries, she without hesitation resumed looking after the score-cards and other secretarial duties when Kathleen became unwell.

10. Election of Office Bearers

Past President, President and Vice President stay same.

		Proposed	Seconded
Secretary	Kathleen Brown	Margaret Nelson	Kaye Paterson
Treasurer	Hester Niven	Avril Baird	Bridie Graham
Committee Members			
1	Maggie Saunderson	Bridie Graham	Jeanne Dean
2	Jane Drysdale	Maggie Scott	Cath Ballantyne
3	Fiona Doig	Maggie Scott	Laurie McKerrow
4	Bridie Graham	Eileen Thomas	Sue Cameron
KDLB Representatives			
1	Maggie Scott	Eileen Thomas	Jane Drysdale
2	Liz Glennie	Maggie Scott	Jane Drysdale

Eileen noted that Sue Cameron was willing to be involved in the social committee as well as being Vice-President.

11. Voting for Skips

Asked to vote for eight skips. Gay and Jean did not want to be considered.
Results: 1. Elma, 2. Grace, 3. Laurie, 4. Margaret Nelson, 5. Susan Scougal, 6. Valerie, 7. Wilma, 8=Edna and Sue Cameron.

Thanks to Norma Anderson and Mary Paterson for counting the votes.

12. Review of Club's Social Programme

Social events for the forthcoming season were agreed: Golf and lunch, a Summer outing or activity, Opening and Closing bonspiel lunches, a Club dinner, AGM and prizegiving.

13. Review of Club's Programme:

a. Club Leagues
   i. Thistle – no change
   ii. Jubilee – no change
   iii. Gairney had been discussed at a meeting of skips and committee and the same criticisms that come up year after year were again aired. We could do something radical e.g. scrap it and have differently designed games. Idea of leads and seconds and thirds and skips competition. Maybe one league, such as the Jubilee, could be played in two sections, like the Mixed League, so that you end up with a final to be played out, rather than simply amassing points. Committee thought there was not enough time to work out a proposal to bring to the AGM. Would suggest setting up a

small working group to look into ideas throughout the coming session. Canvass players of all positions to see what they think. Work out proposals, such as how many weeks it would take to play, how many teams required etc. Recognising Gairney had been unsatisfactory again this year, Committee is recommending trying out the idea of experienced skip at Third at least for this year as that would be straightforward to implement. There was an extended discussion followed by a vote: those in favour of keeping the Gairney as is = 16; those in favour of an experienced skip at Third = 15. A working party to be set up to review and report.

iv. Pairs – Last year and this year have had a High Road and Low Road format. Purpose: to let everyone who entered to have at least two games, and to keep more people curling up to the end of the season. Has been difficult administratively. Recommendation to go back to knock-out format. Agreed to revert to knock-out with draw taking place in the summer.

v. Mixed League – agreed

b. Green League (now KCT League) – agreed
c. Loch Leven Province – agreed
d. KDLB Competitions – agreed
e. Club Friendly Games – agreed
f. Grand Match – Indoor/Outdoor – agreed
g. Henderson Bishop Trophy – agreed
h. John Stewart Double Rink Knockout – agreed

14. Minor amendments to Constitution and Bye-Laws

Following discussion, all but one of the proposed changes to the Bye-Laws were agreed. The proposed change to the Gairney bye-law not agreed as no change to Gairney competition.

The proposed change to the Constitution regarding appointment of auxiliary skips at the discretion of the committee was not regarded as necessary. The committee, as voted by the club, is there to run the club.

15. Any Other Business

a. Interclub reserve list – deferred to KDLB.

16. Proposed Date of Next Year's AGM – 16th April 2015.

17. Vote of thanks – Sue Cameron proposed a vote of thanks to: the Windlestrae Hotel staff; Lenore and Angela for the club card; Margaret Nelson for shortbread and goodies; the Committee especially Maggie Saunderson for picking up the secretarial work; Jane, Maggie Scott and Margaret for KDLB work, thanks to reserves especially Sue Cain and Lesley Johnston; and finally all for turning up on the evening and staying until the end.

Cath Ballantyne thanked the committee.