

Orwell Ladies Curling Club

MINUTES of the 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held as a **Virtual AGM** between

31 March and 6 April 2020

Background

In spring 2020, the Kinross Curling rink closed before the end of the season due to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. For the same reason there were restrictions on gatherings of people. The Orwell Ladies Committee therefore decided to run the club AGM 'virtually'. The process was as follows:

- 8 March (Prior to restrictions). Normal pre-AGM email inviting proposals from members. Deadline of 20 March.
- 18 March Letter to members intimating various decisions including holding a Virtual AGM.
- 18 March Email to members explaining plans and extending deadline for proposals to 22 March and nominations to committee to 29 March. Draft agenda provided.
- 31 March Individual email to each RCCC-registered member of Orwell Ladies consisting of agenda, link to 2019 draft minutes and link to online form designed for one-time anonymous voting with deadline of end of 6 April for completion.

Thirty-one members used the online voting form.

Minutes of the Previous AGM, held on 2 April 2019

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting.

Review of Membership

Currently there are 71 members in the club; 49 playing members and 22 social members.

Sadly, we lost Jessie Baillie and Gay Deas this year.

Kaye Paterson moved back onto the playing member list, and Bridie Graham and Katherine Nicholas moved to social members.

Fiona Rutherford applied to join at the start of the season (after the 2019 AGM) and therefore the formal approval of this AGM was required for her membership. Her membership was approved unanimously.

Joan Foster has decided to change from a playing member to a social member.

There are no new members wanting to join.

Match Secretary's Report *(by Angela Wilcox)*

The season was brought to an abrupt end due to the restrictions brought in because of the coronavirus. Of our programme, there were still one Jubilee, one Gairney, the mixed league final and the closing bonspiel to go.

Results

The results of KDLB competitions and the amazing Morton finals win will be covered in the representative member's report.

Club Competitions

The winners of club competitions would usually be revealed at the club dinner, however since this has been cancelled due to coronavirus they will be listed here.

Note: The Jubilee Plate was awarded to Valerie's team even though there was a game still to play as there was no realistic possibility of that team being overtaken.

Thomanean Plate (Opening Bonspiel)	Valerie Inglis, Caroline Liddle, Barbara King, Gill Roberts
Thistle Cup	Wilma Brownlie, Jane Drysdale, Jackie McQueen, Lesley Mearns
Jubilee Plate	Valerie Inglis, Ann Whitelaw, Jackie McQueen, Fiona Rutherford
Wooden Spoon (Jubilee)	Not completed due to coronavirus
Gairney Rosebowl (Leads & Seconds)	Not completed due to coronavirus
John Stewart Trophy (Gairney Skips & Thirds)	Not completed due to coronavirus
Mixed League Salver	Not completed due to coronavirus
Cuthill Salver (Points winner)	Angela Wilcox
Kay Quaich (Points runner-up)	Valerie Inglis
Jessie Baillie Rosebowl (Highest up lead or second in Points)	Gillian Russell
Kirkforthar Cup (Pairs winners)	Liz Glennie, Allison Pirie
Scougal Vase (Pairs runners-up)	Valerie Inglis, Gill Roberts
Wharlawhill Cup (Closing Bonspiel)	Not played due to coronavirus
Paterson Rosebowl	Not completed due to coronavirus

Friendly Matches

In our regular friendly matches, we won against Bishopshire, lost against Fossoway Ladies, Fossoway, Dunfermline Ladies, Loch Leven and KCDC, and peeled against Boreland.

In the Orwell match, we lost narrowly on three sheets but won big on one. Overall, we won 27 - 24. Brilliant, ladies.

Against Kinross, sadly we won two and lost one but overall we peeled 20 - 20. Well done, everyone.

KCT Competitions

- **KCT League Division 2:** Due to coronavirus, only six of the seven games were played. We ended up in fourth position so will play in this division again next season.
- **John Stewart Double Rink Knockout:** Valerie Inglis and Angela Wilcox skipped the rinks against Forret but were comprehensively beaten 19 – 9.
- **KCT Closing Bonspiel:** We had two teams entered, however the bonspiel did not take place due to the early closure of the ice rink.
- **Ladies Superleague:** This competition did not finish, but Valerie Inglis, Fiona DeVries, Angela Wilcox and Elma McCulloch were all in the running, depending on the results of the remaining games.

Province Competitions

This season we played in the Wilson Trophy, Province Bonspiel, Festive Potty and Blairhill Challenge.

- In the **Wilson Trophy**, our team, skipped by Susan Scougal, was knocked out in the first round by Orwell, who made it through to the final against Fossoway. The final has not taken place yet due to coronavirus.
- The **Province Bonspiel** was won by Kinross.
- The **Festive Potty** was won by the mixed Kinross and Kinross Ladies team.
- Orwell Ladies won the **Blairhill Challenge**. The teams were: Grace Paterson (skip) with Fiona Doig, Elma McCulloch and Jackie McQueen, and Sue Cameron (skip) with Susan Scougal, Alicia Hay and Margaret Nelson.

Lomond League

Orwell Ladies played 14 of the 15 games before Dewar's rink closed. We won six and lost eight. Overall, we came tenth out of 16 teams (two places lower than last year). Leuchars were at the top after 14 games.

Outside Competitions

Maggie Scott, Jane Drysdale and Fiona Rutherford were in the winning rink at the Kelso Ladies Open in October along with Fiona DeVries.

In November, Angela Wilcox, with Judith Dixon, Helen Forbes and Lucy Tile, all from Kelso, were runners up in the Perth Ladies Open.

Susan Scougal, Sue Cameron, Caroline Liddle and Fiona Doig were runners up at Forfar ladies Open in February.

In March, Susan Scougal, Sue Cameron, Caroline Liddle and Gillian Russell won the Perth Ladies Open.

Angela Wilcox won the English playdowns and would have been competing in the Senior World Curling Championships in Kelowna, Canada, but it was cancelled due to coronavirus.

I know that members of the club competed in many more competitions both here in Kinross and around Scotland. There are too many for me to know about and certainly too many to list here.

Thanks

All of this would not be possible without a hardworking committee, a group of readily available subs and all of you who make this club what it is.

Thank you also to Lenore for again printing the cards for us.

And finally, most of this information can be found on the website, with photos. If your achievement is not there I do apologise. Next season, remember to take a photo and send me a report and I'll put it on the website so other club members can see it.

Representative Members' Report *(by Alicia Hay)*

Caroline Liddle and I have enjoyed being OLCC Representatives on the KDLB committee for season 2019-20, and I am delighted to report on their activities over the season.

The season opened with the **KDLB Senior Pairs** on 3 October 2019 which was very kindly sponsored by Cameron and Val Gaudin, High Valleyfield Pharmacy. There were six teams entered, and a competitive day of great curling was enjoyed by everyone which was won by Lizzie Glennie and Eileen Thomas, with Valerie Inglis and Maggie Scott as runners up.

Our **KDLB Kinross Ladies Open** on 29 October 2019, which was kindly sponsored by Brian Johnston Pharmacy, Cardenden, had a good entry of 12 teams which produced a good day of curling in the true spirit of the game. Our winners for 2019 were Grace Paterson, Ann Whitelaw, Gay Deas and Jackie McQueen, with Ann-Maree Davidson, Liz Paul, Margaret Cairns and Anne Hewitt as runners-up.

The Ladies **Scottish Curling Henderson Bishop 2019-2020 Qualifiers** were held on 25, 28 and 29 November 2019. There were six teams entered from Kinross in this knockout competition over the three days and KDLB provided the prizes for this event. Runners up were (Team Glennie) Maggie Scott, Liz Glennie, Jane Drysdale and Eileen Thomas. The winners and qualifiers for the finals at Curl Aberdeen

27 February to 1 March were (Team MacFarlane) Pat McFarlane, Liz Thomson, Wilma Brownlie, and Mary Lamont. Congratulations to Team MacFarlane who reached the semi-final of the Cherrystone (Low Road) of this event, where they were narrowly beaten by the eventual winners of the low road..

The New Year started with the **KDLB Centre Bonspiel** on 6 January 2020 which KDLB sponsored with the prizes chosen by Glenfarg Ladies. We had a full complement of sixteen teams for this competition with teams representing our Centre's five ladies clubs and Kinross Juniors. This is a very social competition bringing all our ladies clubs' members together which displayed good curling and some great fun. The winners with 10 shots up (score 12-2) were Angela Wilcox (Orwell Ladies), Mary Mitchell (Dunfermline Ladies), Elaine Spain (Kinross Ladies) and Jane Drysdale (Orwell Ladies). The runners-up, 7 shots up (score 13-6), were Maggie Scott (Orwell Ladies), Sandra Ritchie (Dunfermline Ladies), Elspeth Caldwell (Kinross Ladies) and Mo Robertson (Orwell Ladies).

Orwell Ladies were prominent in the placings of the **KDLB Centre Points** on 21 January 2020, kindly sponsored by Loch Leven's Larder, Kinross. Nineteen ladies competed in this event, each completing eight disciplines across two sheets of ice. Orwell Ladies' Valerie Inglis won the individual Trophy with 22 points with runners-up Wilma Brownlie (Orwell Ladies) and Kathryn Spain (Kinross Ladies) both on 14 points. To complete the day, Orwell Ladies then took the team trophy with a combined score of 49 points from Valerie Inglis, Wilma Brownlie, and Gillian Russell.

KDLB Thistle Pairs was held on 6 March 2020, and was very kindly sponsored by The Kirklands Hotel, Kinross. There were entries from fourteen teams and a sociable and competitive day was enjoyed by all. The winners were Liz Paul and Ann-Maree Davidson, a visiting team from Braehead/Perth, with runners-up Liz Thomson and Wilma Brownlie (Dunfermline/Orwell Ladies).

Our final competition of the season was the **Scottish Curling Morton Finals** held at Forfar Ice Rink on 10 March 2020.

Firstly, a huge thank you must go to all the members who played in the home and away qualifying rounds, winning eight out of the nine games which took us to the finals in Forfar.

This is a highly respected competition in the Ladies curling calendar with teams and supporters coming from throughout Scotland to the finals. All of our five Kinross Centre Ladies Clubs were represented during this event within the following teams:

Rink 1: Irene Baillie (skip), Lynne Stevenson, Fiona Doig and Eileen Thomas.

Rink 2: Maggie Scott (skip), Pat McFarlane, Fiona Rutherford and Elaine Spain.

Rink 3: Angela Wilcox (skip), Laurie McKerrow, Debbie Weir and Maggie Saunderson.

In the morning the semi-finals were East (Kinross) v South (Ayr), and North (Stirling) v West (Lanarkshire), with East (Kinross) v North (Stirling) coming through to the final where Kinross were victorious. Huge congratulations must go to our Kinross Centre teams who won this prestigious event for the first time in its 55-year history.

This was a fantastic end to our 2020 curling for Orwell Ladies, and a huge congratulations to the club for a very successful season. Sadly, the social events of the cheese and wine and the AGM have been postponed until further notice due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak. We will hopefully all resume at the start of the 2020/2021 curling season.

President's Report *(by Fiona Doig)*

This curling season has had some great achievements and some tragedy. The death of our sister curler Gay Deas was a huge loss to Orwell Ladies. We are so fortunate to be a very strong, caring club, and everyone got so much comfort from each other during a very difficult time. Gay was a founder member of the club in 1977. She was lucky enough to experience an outdoor Grand Match at the Lake of Monteith in 1979 and was in a team who were runners-up for the first ever Ladies Prize at a Grand Match. Gay skipped a team who were runners-up in the Henderson Bishop finals in 1984. Do you know Gay instigated the Wooden Spoon Trophy? Her team tended to hog their stones due to the ice being heavy first thing in the morning. She started fining them for each hogged stone. The amount collected after the first season was enough to buy the large Wooden Spoon and Fork awarded to losers of the Jubilee competition from

the second season onwards! Gay was in the winning rink of the Jubilee five times, three of them as skip. Her first win as skip was 1980-81, her last as skip was 31 years later in 2011-12. She also won the Thistle three times. Gay had been a key participant for many years, including being President of Orwell Ladies 1987-88 and, of course, a key player in most of our curler's courts over the years. She had a very successful curling career, and amongst her highlights was skipping the Scotland team at the European Curling Championships in Copenhagen in 1986, where, in a team with Beryl Harley, Edna Nelson and Jane Smith, came fourth. Great achievements from a great lady.

We also had the sad news of the passing of Jessie Baillie, who had a full life, living to the fantastic age of 99 years. Jessie was already a "made" curler and one of the more senior members when the club was formed. In 1983 she presented the club with the Jessie Baillie trophy to be competed for the leads and seconds, now the trophy for the highest lead or second in Points. Jessie was also the first Honorary member of Orwell Ladies.

This season's curling successes are listed in the Match Secretary's report so I shan't list them here but there are several ladies I would like to thank. The social committee, Lesley, Frances and Rosie have had a busy season organising all the events and with great success. Lesley and Frances have been on the committee for several years and are now standing down; thank you both. Hester, our Treasurer, as always, organises our accounts, and has done so with aplomb for many years, and it is hugely appreciated. My two secretaries Angela and Eileen have both been an amazing help to me throughout the season, most particularly through this testing time of coronavirus. Both work extremely hard and give up so much of their personal time to make sure the club runs smoothly, and they certainly have made my job so much easier! They must never be allowed to resign!!

Sadly, as you all know, the summer events have been cancelled this year due to Covid-19, but we can only hope that we will all be back curling in September.

Wishing everyone a healthy and safe summer, Fiona.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report and interim accounts were not available at the time of the AGM. These will be covered separately later in the year.

Losers' Pot

The Losers' Pot was originally set up as a way of raising funds to contribute towards the renovations at Kinross Curling. The proceeds have continued to be donated to Kinross Curling each year. It was proposed at this AGM that in future the committee is given discretion to decide where the proceeds are directed each year. The proposal was unanimously approved.

Election of Office Bearers and Committee

Lesley Johnston and Frances Algie stood down from the committee. The other committee members were happy to continue. Avril Baird and Alyson Henderson had agreed to be nominated as committee members. There were no further nominations, so voting for each position was not necessary.

The club unanimously approved the committee for 2020-21 as follows:

President	Fiona Doig
Vice President	Alicia Hay
Secretary	Eileen Thomas
Match Secretary	Angela Wilcox
Treasurer	Hester Niven
Past President	Caroline Liddle
Committee Members	Rosie Goudie, Avril Baird, Alyson Henderson
Representative Members	Alicia Hay, Caroline Liddle

Review of Club Programme

There were no motions submitted proposing any changes to the club programme. Therefore the current programme of competitions and friendlies will remain unchanged next season apart from the Lomond League. The numbers wanting to play in the Lomond League have dropped off significantly. A major factor appears to be that matches are now always played on a Tuesday and some members do not wish to play twice in the same day. The club will therefore withdraw from the Lomond League.

Review of Bye-Laws

There were no proposed changes to the bye-laws.

Result of Voting for Skips

Members had the opportunity to vote for up to eight skips via the online voting form. The eight members receiving the most votes were (in alphabetical order by surname): Wilma Brownlie, Sue Cameron, Fiona Doig, Valerie Inglis, Laurie McKerrow, Grace Paterson, Susan Scougal and Angela Wilcox.

The above 2020 AGM minutes were approved at the 2021 AGM.