

**Orwell Ladies Curling Club**  
**Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday 20 April 2021**

The 2021 AGM consisted of a meeting via Zoom video conference held on Tuesday 20 April 2021 and an online survey which was open from the evening of 20 April until 25 April 2021.

Present at the Zoom meeting: Twenty-four playing members: Fiona Doig, Alicia Hay, Eileen Thomas, Angela Wilcox, Hester Niven, Caroline Liddle, Avril Baird, Margaret Nelson, Lenore Kyle, Fiona Rutherford, Liz Glennie, Elma McCulloch, Frances Algie, Valerie Inglis, Jeanne Dean, Christine Taylor, Susan Scougal, Jackie McQueen, Mo Robertson, Jane Drysdale, Maggie Saunderson, Sue Cameron, Catherine Ballantyne and Edna Nelson; and two social members: Dorothy Pollett and Kathleen Brown.

Thirty members completed the online form.

### **Welcome**

President Fiona Doig welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave some explanation of how it would run on Zoom. She explained that the Zoom meeting is mainly for discussion. Voting, where required, will take place via an online form to be made available in the days following the AGM Zoom meeting.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from playing members Lesley Brown, Wilma Brownlie, Rosie Goudie, Alyson Henderson, Laurie McKerrow, Grace Paterson and Gillian Russell and social member Bridie Graham.

### **In Memoriam**

President Fiona spoke about Jessie Lawrie who had passed away in October. Jessie was the first President of Orwell Ladies, and the first two AGMs were held at Cuthill Towers, Jessie's home at the time. Jessie very much enjoyed her curling and played into her late seventies. When she stopped being a playing member in 2003 she was made an Honorary Member of the club. Jessie was always a great supporter of our social events. When we had our 40th anniversary event four years ago, Jessie was invited to take part and cut the celebration cake. Jessie passed away peacefully on 6 October 2020 aged 95. Members will have many fond memories of Jessie.

### **Adoption of 2020 AGM Minutes**

There were no comments or questions about the 2020 AGM draft minutes at the Zoom meeting.

Online form question: Do you accept the minutes of last year's AGM as correct? 83.3% answered yes. The remainder answered no or don't know. Reason given: Was not present. [Secretarial note: there was no Zoom meeting for the 2020 AGM; it was via email and online form.]

The 2020 minutes are adopted.

### **Treasurer's Report and Accounts (*Hester Niven*)**

Hester apologised for not taking part in the 2020 AGM but had been unable to do so for medical reasons and had been unwell for much of last year.

Three sets of accounts had been circulated prior to this meeting: 2018-19 audited accounts and 2019-20 and 2020-21 unaudited accounts.

Hester explained that “contra” on the accounts referred to Angela’s expenses which Angela had deducted from her ice fees. This was difficult to account for and had nearly taken Hester and Alan Dearing, auditor, “over the edge”. Angela said she would not do that again.

Eileen had asked if the payments RCCC/KDLB/Club for 2019-20 could be separated out. Hester said that the sum was made up of 41 membership fees to both KDLB and RCCC, and a payment of £20 to Loch Leven Province. Eileen explained that she had not been clear as to whether clubs were paying a fee to KDLB for all their members or just mother club members. Hester said the KDLB sub is for mother club members only and Liz (KDLB Secretary) confirmed this. Liz mentioned that KDLB had not sought any subs from clubs for the extremely short 2020-21 season. The 2020-21 membership fees were for 36 mother club members to RCCC.

Hester said she would need to meet with Angela to look at the 2020-21 accounts again when restrictions eased. With two people having access to the account, Hester didn’t know what some of the payments were for. (Angela had become a signatory during 2020 and organised ice fee refunds/credits when it was clear the rink would not reopen again for the season.) The 2020-21 accounts are not a real reflection of the club’s financial position as some funds are held as credit for next season’s payments and some are pledged donations to the Trust.

President Fiona asked if the last two years of accounts could be signed off before the end of July. Hester said that should be fine.

Jane said she didn’t envy Hester the problem of sorting out the accounts with this season’s extra complications and thanked her for her work. Liz echoed this. President Fiona agreed it has been very complicated this year and greatly appreciated what Hester does.

Online form questions:

Accounts 2018-19 – Do you accept the accounts from 2018-19 as correct? 93.3% answered yes, the remainder don’t know. The 2018-19 accounts are adopted.

Accounts 2019-20 and 2020-21 – These accounts have not yet been audited. If you have any comments about either of these please give details. Comment: Suggest that the RCCC, KDLB and Club payments are listed separately for clarity.

### **Review of Membership**

There are 70 members in the club; 43 playing members and 27 social members.

Sadly, we lost Jessie Lawrie (Honorary Member). Lynne Page resigned from the club last summer. Kathleen Brown, Barbara King and Allison Pirie have changed from playing members to social members.

There is one new member wanting to join – Linda Brown. Linda has previously curled in Stirling, but since moving to Abernethy wishes to join a club closer to home.

Online form question: Membership – Do you accept Linda Brown as a new member in the club? Linda Brown was unanimously accepted as a member.

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

The season started late due to coronavirus restrictions. There were strict rules in place to ensure social distancing on the ice and facemasks had to be worn off the ice. The bar did not operate and the area upstairs was used as a shoe-changing area.

Unfortunately, after only six weeks, the rink was forced to close again due to tighter Covid restrictions. We only completed two of our competitions and a few friendlies.

### **Club Competitions**

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

- **Mixed League (2019-20):** The previous season's mixed league final, which did not get played due to the premature closure of the rink in mid March 2020, was played in October 2020. It was won by David Cottingham, Wilma Brownlie, Donnie Scott and Gill Roberts.
- **The Opening Bonspiel (Thomanean Plate) (2020-21)** was won by Liz Glennie, Caroline Liddle, Margaret Nelson and Alyson Henderson.
- **Thistle (2020-21):** Due to a reduced number of players, some of the teams in the Thistle only had three players. The Thistle Cup was won by Angela Wilcox, Eileen Thomas and Alyson Henderson.

Well done to Alyson who won every competition we played in the season!

### **Friendly Matches**

The only friendly matches that were played were against Fossoway and Boreland. Susan Scougal and Fiona Doig won one and lost one against Fossoway but won overall with a score of 14 – 12. Caroline Liddle won against Boreland 5 – 4.

### **KCT Competitions**

- **KCT League:** Only one game took place in KCT League Division 2 where Wilma Brownlie beat Glenrothes 10 - 3.
- **John Stewart Double Rink Knockout:** Susan Scougal and Angela Wilcox took on Kinross in the first round of the John Stewart. They fought valiantly but lost on both sheets, so we were knocked out. The competition was later abandoned when the ice rink closed.

I hope that next season I will be again reporting on a full programme and the many outside successes of our members.

Thank you to the curlers who took on board all the new regulations with enthusiasm, and still managed to enjoy their curling.

Thank you also to the committee, and all of you who make this club what it is. We do not know what next season will look like yet, but we hope that the rink will be allowed to open and that any restrictions will be minimal. Only time will tell.

### **President's Report** (*Fiona Doig*)

Dear Sister Curlers,

What a curling season it has been! Twelve months ago, I would not have thought life would still be full of so many restrictions! Season 2019-20 had ended abruptly, but we were

optimistic about the coming season of 20/21. My brilliant team, Angela and Eileen, were amazing throughout the summer months. Organising zoom skip meetings, messenger calls, setting up our new online voting of skips/competitions and many more... thank you, ladies for all your help and support. You both work so hard and you make my life as president so much easier. I would be lost without you!

There was a beginning to the season and the KCT and ice rink staff worked so hard to ensure everyone felt safe while curling. I thought it all worked well, but we did miss our coffee and chat! We got off to a great start with the Opening Bonspiel and even managed to complete The Thistle, but sadly Level 4 restrictions were applied, and curling ended.

So much has been added to our vocabulary, social distancing, level 1,2,3,4 restrictions, FACTS (what?) Hands Face Space, Astra Zeneca, vaccine passports. Zoom zoomed from nowhere into common usage and a place in the Oxford English.

The Social Committee have not yet had a chance to shine at their summer events, but hopefully they can this year, with the possibility of a simple summer gathering.

Six months on and sadly it must be a zoom AGM. But we are all once again full of optimism for the coming curling season.

I have a very special birthday to announce. Janie Buchanan will be celebrating her 90th birthday on the 9th of May. If it were normal circumstances, we would be celebrating today with some lovely cake after our AGM but sadly that is not the case. So Happy 90th Birthday, Janie, from all the Orwell Ladies and I hope you have a super day celebrating!

I hope everyone has a good summer, stays safe, and fingers crossed curling can begin again in September.

### **Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 2021-22**

Fiona explained that the president's term is normally two years but because we effectively lost a season due to Covid she offered at a recent committee meeting to stay on for another year. The rest of the committee agreed to her suggestion and all are also willing to stay on for another year. There were no new nominations.

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

Online form question: Committee – Since we have had no new nominations voting for each position is not necessary. Do you accept all committee members staying on in the same positions? 29 respondents said yes, one said no. By majority the committee is approved.

### **Result of Voting for Skips**

Voting for skips had taken place via an anonymous online form in the eight days prior to the AGM. Thirty-six members voted. The eight receiving the most votes were (in alphabetical order): Wilma Brownlie, Sue Cameron, Fiona Doig, Valerie Inglis, Grace Paterson, Susan Scougal, Eileen Thomas and Angela Wilcox.

## **Penalty Points**

A paper on this had been sent out prior to the AGM. Since 2018 penalty points in our internal club games have been a maximum of three. Last season penalty points were suspended as an emergency measure because of the Covid situation. This proposal is that penalty points are removed altogether.

There was some discussion. Some opinions expressed were:

- The wording in the paper had been disrespectful to leads.
- Happy with three-point penalty though understood the need for the suspension during Covid times.
- Suggestion of one penalty point.
- There would be no incentive to ring round for a substitute.
- It would be worth a trial for one season.
- Being named in the club card as part of a team is a commitment and players should try their best to get a sub.

The matter will be decided by the online survey after the meeting.

Online form question: Penalty Points – Do you agree with the proposal to remove penalty points? You can comment on this below if you wish to. Options given as a way of answering were: Yes / Yes, but review in a year / No / Don't know.

Six respondents left comments, some of which were similar to the bullet points above. Other comments were: "having 3 players can very much be an advantage! Maybe should be at both skips agreement." "Covid times have given us all problems, but altering the rules and making new changes is not appropriate or needed. No other major decisions/changes have been carried out, ie office bearers, committee. It was a temporary measure and who knows what will happen going forward. If it isn't broken, don't need fixing."

Voting was: Yes: 7 respondents (23.3%). Yes, but review in a year: 19 respondents (63.3%). No: 3 respondents (10%). Don't know: 1 respondent.

It was therefore agreed to suspend penalty points for season 2021-22 and to review at the end of the season.

## **Review of Club Curling Programme**

Fiona asked if everyone is happy with all the leagues etc. Sign-up numbers are lower for the leads and seconds Gairney. Christine has kindly offered to speak as a lead/second with other leads and seconds to try to find a satisfactory arrangement.

## **Social Programme**

Alyson Henderson had been due to report on behalf of the social sub-committee but was unwell. Eileen reported that at a recent online committee meeting it was acknowledged that it is difficult to make firm plans for social events due to the Covid situation. However, it was thought that an outdoor picnic with members bringing their own food might be possible in the summer – perhaps late July – depending on regulations at the time. Caroline has spoken with her brother Jamie, who has kindly agreed that when Loch Leven Brewery sets up its marquee in the Market Park, Orwell Ladies could use this on a weekday when not being used for the beer garden.

## Update on Kinross Curling Trust

Angela is a trustee of Kinross Curling Trust and gave an update.

Huge amounts of money have been going through the KCT account. The staff are on furlough. There have been business continuation grants. Over £100,000 has been awarded from sportScotland. Going forward, the business is still viable. There are stiff restrictions on what the sportScotland money can be used for. (It really has to be for Covid safety measures.) Regarding things like improvements to the changing rooms, the Trust will have to wait until a reserve is built up again before considering improvements.

Sue suggested that when KCT has to make another repayment of the World Curling Federation loan, the timing is judged to take advantage of the best exchange rates. (The payments are made in dollars.)

Liz as KDLB secretary would find it useful to know if the bar/lounge will still be used as a shoe-changing area. It is difficult for KDLB to put ice requests in by the usual time of beginning of May without knowing what the facilities will be. (Some KDLB events require a social space and catering so KDLB needs to consider carefully.) Angela said that KCT will be thinking of alternatives to using the lounge as a shoe-changing area. It will also depend on what hospitality restrictions, if any, are in place at the time. Liz said that if people could even bring flasks and their own sandwiches, that would help. Angela said she would put that to the board. Liz thanked her.

## Any Other Business

- **Ladies Branch:** Liz reminded members that the KDLB AGM will be on the first Monday in May. KDLB is still looking for a Vice President and she encouraged everyone to think if they know someone who might be willing to volunteer for this post.
- **Province trophy:** Sue wanted to mention to Christine, who is on the Loch Leven Province committee, that Sue has the Blairhill Trophy.

Additional comments made via the online form were:

- "I think you girls do an excellent job with Orwell Ladies. I do not have one complaint. Well done, keep the good work up."
- "If/when a substitute is required for any game of curling please advise/remind our club members that it is always 'good practice/etiquette' to inform the skip of any player change."
- "I am a bit concerned that a sub committee seems to be making club decisions."
- "The losers' pot should not be used for any other funding other than the donation from Orwell Ladies to the ice rink!" [Secretarial note: This comment refers to an item in the 2020 AGM minutes, where it was proposed that the committee be given discretion to decide where the proceeds are directed each year. This had been unanimously approved by the 2020 AGM.]

## Vote of Thanks (*Alicia Hay*)

On behalf of the Club I would like to offer a vote of thanks. It goes without saying that this has been a season like no other, and hopefully one that will not be repeated. However, for our short season of six weeks I would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make

curling safe and enjoyable for us who wished to curl, namely the Kinross Curling Trust, the staff at the ice rink and all the volunteers and Covid Officers who so kindly stepped in to learn and distribute all the Covid Regulations to ensure all our curlers were kept safe.

I feel at this point, on behalf of all of us Sister Curlers of Orwell Ladies we are indebted to our Chairman Fiona Doig, and Secretaries Angela Willcox and Eileen Thomas for the extraordinary amount of time and work they have given to us all over the past year. It has been trying times, but they have done their utmost to make sure Orwell Ladies Curling Club members have been kept safe, informed and allowed to make the most of this very difficult year to which I speak on behalf of everyone we are truly grateful.

Thank you for attending the AGM and for your support of Orwell Ladies Curling Club and on a final note...Here's to a great season in 2021/2022.

### **End of Meeting**

President Fiona brought the Zoom meeting to a close at 10.45am.

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Following the Zoom meeting, all playing members were given the opportunity to vote and comment via an online survey between 20 April and 25 April 2021. Voting results and comments have been added in to these minutes at the appropriate points.

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**The above 2021 AGM Minutes were adopted as a true record of the meeting at the 2022 AGM held on 29 March 2022.**