

**Orwell Ladies Curling Club**  
**Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday 29 March 2022**

at Kinross Curling, Green Road, Kinross

The meeting began at 12:34 hrs.

### **Welcome**

President Fiona Doig welcomed 28 members to the AGM.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from: playing members Rosie Goudie, Grace Paterson, Jackie McQueen, Edna Nelson, Susan Scougal and Avril Baird; and social members Jane Smith, Dorothy Pollett, Bridie Graham, Mary F Paterson, Anne Bayne, Kathleen Brown and Susie Ballantyne.

### **In Memoriam**

President Fiona asked those present to remember two sister curlers who had passed away in recent months and observe a few moments' silent reflection.

Mary Morgan was a member of the club for several years, and resigned in 2016. She passed away on 11 December 2021.

Jane Bruce was one of the founding members of the club – she was at the meeting on 24 March 1977 when the decision was made to form Orwell Ladies. She was “made” a curler on 1st November 1978 at the club's second curlers' court. Jane served on the committee in 1980 and again in 1990. She was a club skip from 1982 until 1987 and was a very active player for many years, entering many competitions. In 2010 she changed to being a social member of the club. Jane passed away on 17 February 2022.

### **Minutes of 2021 AGM**

Minutes of the 2021 AGM had been circulated to playing members in summer 2021 and also to all members on email on 21 March 2022. There were no questions. The minutes were adopted as a true record of the meeting. (Proposed by Mo Robertson, seconded by Maggie Saunderson.)

### **Accounts and Treasurer's Report**

The 2019-20 Audited Accounts were emailed out on 21 March 2022, the 2020-21 Audited Accounts on 25 March 2022 and the 2021-22 Draft Accounts on 28 March 2022.

Referring to the 2020-21 accounts, Hester explained that although there appeared to be a large profit, some of this was represented by members' fees held in credit or to be donated to the Trust following the season being cut short due to Covid.

#### Reporting on the Interim 2021-22 accounts

##### Income

Hester said that subscriptions had been received from 36 full members, eight occasional (i.e. different mother club) and 21 social members.

She recapped on the full membership fee over recent years. In 2016 it had been raised by £1 to £30 and then to £31 in 2019. Out of that £31, £20 per full member went to RCCC and £4 to KDLB, leaving £7 as a club fee. Occasional members currently pay a £10 club fee and social members £5.

Hester proposed that the full membership fee be raised to £40 for 2022-23 as the RCCC subscription is rising from £20 per member to £25 per member. She also suspected that KDLB might increase their subscriptions.

There was some discussion regarding the level of membership fee. Hester was passed the minute of the committee meeting of 15 March at which it had been agreed to propose a membership fee of £36, not £40. Hester said she did not think £36 was enough to cover the various club expenses such as engraving etc. KDLB secretary Liz Glennie said that it was likely KDLB would put their membership fee up by perhaps £1. After some further discussion Liz Glennie proposed a fee of £40, seconded by Valerie Inglis. There was no counter proposal so the meeting resolved to put the full membership fee up to £40.

Subscriptions and ice monies were shown as one figure in the 2021-22 accounts as some members had a credit from the previous season.

There was no dinner or opening lunch due to Covid.

There had been a purchase of a sweater by a new member and a number of badges by a member going on tour.

The Losers' Pot was down to £180.50. This is less than previous years, perhaps due to fewer people carrying cash.

The miscellaneous figure of £93 was £78 from the previous social committee and £15 lunch payments.

#### Outgoings

The ice payments were £7709.85 with a credit note of £1639 deducted.

The donation of £1141.50 was to KCT by members who wished to donate their unused ice fees from the previous season (unused due to Covid closure).

Prizes and engraving costs were down as only the Opening Bonspiel and Thistle had been played the previous season.

Membership outgoings were 36 x £20 to RCCC and 36 x £4 to KDLB.

There was no dinner.

Secretary's expenses were £152.84. Eileen queried the figure for secretarial expenses which was a lot more than she had submitted. Hester said this covered expenses submitted by Angela as well.

The miscellaneous outgoings were £100 for the Pairs lunch and £80 for mince pies (and tea/ coffee) at Christmas.

#### Conclusion

There were still some adjustments to be made but Hester estimated that there would be a loss of approximately £500 for the year 2021-22.

#### Approval of Accounts

The three sets of accounts were approved following a proposal by Jeanne Dean, seconded by Liz Glennie. President Fiona asked if the interim accounts could be audited by 1st July and if the auditor was willing to act again next year. Hester said the accounts could be audited by then but that the auditor is not going to continue so she will have to find someone else.

#### Losers' Pot

There was some discussion regarding the Losers' Pot. This had originally been a way of raising additional funds for KCT. At the 2020 AGM it had been agreed its use could be at the discretion of the committee. President Fiona explained that the committee had agreed to pay for the compulsory service charge at the upcoming Annual Dinner from this year's Losers' Pot, thus reducing the cost per person from £28.60 to £26.

The meeting was asked if the membership wished to continue with the Losers' Pot. A show of hands indicated that the majority were happy to carry on.

## **Review of Membership**

Angela Wilcox reported that currently there are 69 members in the club: 43 playing members and 26 social members.

Sadly, we lost Jane Bruce this season.

There is one resignation, Sue Cain, who moved to Ayr. We have wished her all the best and hear from her occasionally.

Two members have been made honorary members this year: Beryl Harley and Jane Smith. (Beryl and Jane were presented with honorary member certificates during the closing bonspiel lunch that preceded this AGM.)

There are two new members wanting to join:

- Kim Dalland, who joined us last summer after the AGM and has curled with us all season, and
- Janis Walker, a member of St Andrews CC, who would like to join us as an occasional member.

Kim's membership was proposed by Caroline Liddle and seconded by Liz Glennie. Janis's membership was proposed by Mo Robertson and seconded by Gillian Russell.

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

The closing bonspiel which took place on the morning of this AGM was won by Country with 39 (Wilma's team scored 15 of those!) over Town on 18.

The winners of club competitions will be revealed at the dinner on 21 April and results of KDLB competitions will be covered by Alicia Hay in her report.

By my count Orwell Ladies Curling Club have played in over 160 matches this season and that does not include all the curling that individual members do in outside competitions.

### Friendly Matches

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

In the Orwell match we won 1 and peeled 1 but lost overall 27 - 31.

Against Kinross we won both games convincingly, overall 22 – 12, that hurt them!

### KCT Competitions

KCT League Division 2: We finished sixth in this division this year, so just managed to avoid relegation.

John Stewart Double Rink Knockout: Fiona and Maggie Scott/Liz Glennie skipped the rinks to the semi-finals where they lost out to Forret.

Ladies Superleague: This competition does not finish until tomorrow, but Fiona Doig is currently leading by 2 points, with Maggie Scott in second place. It's not decided yet!

### Province Competitions

We played in the Province Bonspiel and the Blairhill Challenge. The Festive Potty was cancelled due to Covid.

We won Wilson Trophy, beating Orwell in the final. Very well done to Sue, Caroline, Fiona and Susan (round of applause). They will go to Scottish province finals.

### Outside Competitions

Angela Wilcox, Eileen Thomas and Caroline Liddle (with Julia Cormack from Dunfermline Ladies) won the local playdowns of the Henderson Bishop and went on to the Finals in Forfar, ending up third in their group.

Susan Scougal, Sue Cameron, Caroline Liddle, Maggie Saunderson and Gillian Russell took part in the Masters and ended up third in their group.

Angela was knocked out in the semi-finals of the Scottish Seniors Mixed by the eventual winners.

Still to come, Angela will be playing in the Senior World Curling Championships in Geneva, Switzerland, representing England. The meeting wished her good luck.

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 list here but please send me an email next season if you have a result you would like to share.

Thank you to Jane Drysdale who has been helping me keep the results up to date on the website.

Thanks also go to the committee for their support, to our group of readily available subs for filling in at short notice and all of you who make this club what it is.

Playing members will receive an email soon inviting them to indicate which competitions they would like to enter next season.

### **Representative Member's Report (Alicia Hay)**

Caroline Liddle and I have enjoyed being OLCC Representatives on the KDLB committee (Caroline interjected here to much hilarity) for season 2021-2022. It has been so good to get back to a 'normal' season and be able to host our five KDLB events and have teams competing in the Henderson Bishop and the Morton.

The first event of the season was the **KDLB Senior Pairs** (4 November 2021), sponsored by Loch Leven's Larder. Eight teams competed. The winners were Lizzie Glennie & Gillian Russell, and the runners-up were Wilma Brownlie & Liz Thomson.

**The Scottish Curling Henderson Bishop 2021-2022** Qualifiers were held on 29 November and 2 & 3 December 2021. The prizes for this event were provided by Kinross & District Ladies Branch (KDLB). Seven teams played a knockout over the three days. All enjoyed this competitive event which was played in the 'true spirit of curling'.

Winners: Angela Wilcox, Eileen Thomas, Caroline Liddle and Julia Cormack.

Runners-up: Irene Baillie, Dor Borthwick, Yvonne Wardrope and Diane Bell. (Sandra Ritchie played in the 1st round and Semi-Final of this event.)

The number of entries for the Henderson Bishop across a number of Centres was down this year (2021-2022) and a number of teams withdrew, prior to the Qualifying rounds. As a direct result of this, the Ladies Standing Committee (LSC), looked at the Centres with the highest team entries for their Qualifying rounds and as Kinross Centre was well supported with seven teams (which was really good and higher than other Centres) they were allocated two team places in the Henderson Bishop Finals. Hence, the two finalists both qualified for the Henderson Bishop Finals at Forfar Indoor Sports between Monday 28th February and Thursday 3rd March 2022.

Kinross & District Ladies Branch (KDLB) supported both teams financially by paying their entry fees for the Henderson Bishop Finals.

**KDLB Centre Points** (10 February 2022). This event was sponsored by Loch Leven's Larder, Kinross. Seventeen ladies competed in this event and completed eight out of ten disciplines across two sheets of ice. All of our ladies enjoyed this competitive event. The eventual winner was Liz Thomson of Dunfermline Ladies (17 points) and runner-up was Debbie Weir of Fossoway Ladies (16 points). The Team Trophy was won by Dunfermline Ladies; Liz Thomson, Pat McFarlane and Irene Baillie with a combined score of 40 points.

**KDLB Thistle Pairs** (11 March 2022). The prizes for this event were provided by KDLB. Twelve teams competed in this event with the winners being Janine Wilson & Gillian Black (visiting team from Forfar) with the runners-up of Sheilagh MacFarlane & Sandi Buchan also a visiting team from Forfar.

**KDLB Centre Bonspiel** (17 March 2022). This event was sponsored by KDLB and the prizes were chosen by Kinross Ladies. Twelve teams competed in this event over two sessions. All of our Centres five ladies clubs and Kinross Juniors were represented. Player numbers were reduced (some last minute, and many attributed to Covid), resulting in a few teams competing with three ladies. However, those participating enjoyed this event which was played in the 'true spirit of curling'.

At the end of the two sessions there was only one point separating the winners and runners-up teams:

Winners: Wilma Brownlie (Orwell Ladies), Eileen Thomas (Orwell Ladies), Lesley Brown (Orwell Ladies) and Mari Tomaney (Kinross Ladies).

Runners-up: Pat McFarlane (Dunfermline Ladies), Shoena Reid (Glenfarg Ladies), Christine Taylor (Orwell Ladies) and Kim Dalland (Orwell Ladies).

**Morton:** On 22 March 2022 the Scottish Curling Morton Finals were held at Curl Edinburgh, Murrayfield (previously postponed/rearranged from 8 March 2022 at Lanarkshire Ice Rink, Hamilton as a direct result of an ice plant failure).

This event was extremely competitive, played in the 'true spirit of curling' and supported by ladies from across Scotland who travelled to 'cheer on' their respective teams.

In the morning the Semi Finals were East (Kinross) v North (Forfar) and South (Stranraer) v West (Lanarkshire).

In the afternoon the Final was South (Stranraer) v North (Forfar) with the overall winners Stranraer. All of our five Kinross Centre Ladies Clubs were represented during this event within the following teams:

Rink 1: Wilma Brownlie (skip), Liz Thomson, Debbie Weir and Alicia Hay.

Rink 2: Heather Gough (skip), Elaine Paterson, Eileen Thomas and Sarah Bruce Jones.

Rink 3: Valerie Inglis (skip), Sheona Reid, Yvonne Wardrope and Elaine Spain.

Thanks again to all the ladies who played in the home and away games of this event throughout our curling season, winning six and drawing one out of nine games, as without them we would not have qualified for the finals.

**KDLB Kinross Ladies Open** (25 March 2022), sponsored by Brian Johnston Pharmacy, Cardenden. Twelve teams competed in this event and played three 5-end games within two sections over three sessions. All of our forty eight ladies enjoyed this competitive event which was played in the 'true spirit of curling'.

Winners: Heather Gough, Katy Spain, Elaine Spain and Mari Tomaney.

Runners-up: Edna Nelson, Sue Cameron, Gillian Russell and Ann Whitelaw.

At the start of the season it was decided to move competitions to later in the season. As a result, we have had a very busy March with four events this month. I'd like to offer a huge vote of thanks to our own Lizzie Glennie, secretary of KDLB who does an excellent job in organising all our KDLB competitions. There was a round of applause.

### **Social Committee Report** (Alyson Henderson)

Once again, due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to have our usual social events with one notable exception. On the afternoon of 7 September 2021, around 35 of us enjoyed a picnic in the Loch Leven Brewery marquee in the Market Park. The weather was wonderful and for most of us it was the first opportunity for many months to attend a large gathering. The catering was 'bring your own' and some of us brought tablecloths, best china and cake stands and others a Marks and Spencer's Meal Deal! Regardless of the standard of catering we chose to bring, all enjoyed the day.

The picnic was also an opportunity to present the prizes for the two competitions that we managed to complete during the very short 2020-21 season - the Opening Bonspiel and the Thistle - as well as a Mixed League trophy from the previous season.

I'm sure that everyone enjoyed our afternoon in the sun.

Our thanks again to Caroline and her brother, Jamie, for facilitating and for allowing us to use the venue.

As you know our Annual Dinner and Prizegiving will take place on 21 April and hopefully this is the start of a return to our usual round of social events.

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

Finally, we have an AGM that is not by Zoom! We didn't really know in September how the year was going to go, but thankfully and to everyone's relief we have had a very busy and successful season. Congratulations to all players who won club and external competitions. We are very lucky to have a high attendance of Orwell Ladies at other events out with our own club competitions. It is also lovely to see our social members who come along once a month on a Tuesday morning, to catch up with friends.

I have several thanks, and I will begin with our social committee – Rosie Goudie, Alyson Henderson and Avril Baird. Sadly, there have not been many events due to current circumstances, but the summer picnic was a huge success. Next time I will bring along my beautifully cut sandwiches, tray bakes, white tablecloth, flowers and candles .... instead of my small sandwich wrapped in cling film and mug of coffee! Sadly, Rosie and Avril are stepping down, but many thanks you to both.

Jane Drysdale has very kindly taken on the job of putting results on the website, which is a huge help to Angela. Thank you, Jane.

Our treasurer, Hester Niven for organising our accounts, under difficult circumstances over last couple of years whilst holding down a challenging job. Very much appreciated Hester, thank you.

And my team, Angela and Eileen. During my three years as president, they have always been there for advice and support. I could not have done my job without them! They, too, are busy ladies, that give up so much of their time for our Orwell Curling club. A "big thank you" for me.

When I took over the role as President, I was rather nervous at the thought of having to speak every Tuesday morning, announcing our latest results or information to everyone, but just as I thought, everyone in the club made my job very enjoyable and relatively stress free, and I have thoroughly enjoyed being your President. I think because we have a great team of Sister Curlers, who support each other, we have a very strong club which is so important in times when many clubs are struggling with a falling membership. Thank you, ladies.

## **Penalty Points**

At the 2021 AGM it was agreed to suspend penalty points for season 2021-22 due to the Covid situation and to review after a year. Attendees were asked to vote for one of the following:

- A. End the suspension (bring back penalty points)
- B. Continue the suspension for another year and then review

A ballot took place. The result was five votes in favour of A and 23 votes in favour of B. Penalty points will therefore continue to be suspended for season 2022-23 with a review at the 2023 AGM.

## **Review of Club Programme**

President Fiona asked if there were any comments on the club curling programme.

There was some discussion about the Gairney, particularly the Leads & Seconds Gairney. For 2021-22, Christine Taylor had been asked to co-ordinate the L&2 group. Players had had a chance to play in each position but were not forced to skip if they did not want to. Christine had surveyed the L&2 Gairney group at the end of the season. Various comments and suggestions were made. Alicia proposed that they try another year in this format. This was seconded by Frances Algie. There was no formal counter proposal so the format will be the same in 2022-23.

Valerie Inglis suggested that we try Doubles if there is a spare day in the schedule. This was generally agreed.

## Review of Social Programme

The Annual Dinner and Prize-giving is on 21 April. Emails and letters have been sent out. Please respond by 8 April. It is hoped that we will get back to a normal programme of golf, summer event and Opening Bonspiel lunch.

## Election of Committee and Office Bearers

**President:** **Alicia Hay** was nominated by Fiona Doig, seconded by Fiona Rutherford.  
**Vice President:** **Christine Taylor** was nominated by Alicia Hay, seconded by Frances Algie.  
**Secretary:** **Eileen Thomas** was nominated by Mo Robertson, seconded by Jeanne Dean.  
**Match Secy:** **Angela Wilcox** was nominated by Maggie Saunderson, seconded by Margaret Greener.  
**Treasurer:** **Hester Niven** was nominated by Liz Glennie, seconded by Ann Whitelaw.  
**Committee:** **Alyson Henderson** was nominated by Eileen Thomas, seconded by Wilma Brownlie.  
**Ann Whitelaw** was nominated by Alicia Hay, seconded by Wilma Brownlie.  
**Gillian Russell** was nominated by Alicia Hay, seconded by Sue Cameron.  
**Jeanne Dean** was nominated by Mo Robertson, seconded by Lesley Johnston.  
There are normally three committee members with responsibility for social events but it was decided by general agreement that there could be four.

### Representative

**Members:** Past President and Vice President usually double up as representative members.  
**Past President:** **Fiona Doig.**

## Result of Voting for Skips

Alicia read out the results. Members had been invited to vote for up to eight skips. Thirty-eight people had voted. The results are: Angela Wilcox, Susan Scougal, Wilma Brownlie, Fiona Doig, Valerie Inglis, Eileen Thomas and Maggie Saunderson, with Laurie McKerrow and Jane Drysdale tied on eighth place.

## Any Other Business

On behalf of Jane Smith and herself, Beryl Harley thanked the club very much for the honour bestowed on them today. She said it was wonderful to see that Orwell Ladies is still such an active and animated club and thanked members very much indeed. There was a round of applause.

## Handover of Presidency

Fiona said she had thoroughly enjoyed her time as President. She wished Alicia Hay well and said was sure Alicia will do an amazing job.

Alicia thanked Fiona and said she would have a hard act to follow and big shoes to fill. On behalf of Orwell Ladies Alicia thanked Fiona for her outstanding leadership over the past three years. She said Fiona had guided us through some difficult days and kindly stood for a further year to see us through the Covid implications before handing over, for which Alicia was very grateful. She presented Fiona with a bouquet of flowers to a round of applause.

Alicia said that taking on the Presidency coincided with her 20th year as a member of Orwell Ladies, and she did not know which thought was more scary!

She welcomed the new social committee members and looked forward to working together with all the committee for the coming season.

## **Vote of Thanks**

New Vice President Christine Taylor said: "It falls to me to offer the vote of thanks. First, on behalf of the club, I would like to thank Kinross Curling Trust and all the staff for their support during the year. Thank you especially to Shona and Susan behind the bar for today's lovely lunch as well as the numerous teas and coffees served to us throughout the year. I would also like to thank the icemen for their hard work preparing the ice for us to try to play on!

"I would like to offer special thanks to Fiona, the outgoing President, for her hard work during a particularly trying time. I'm sure Alicia is hoping that her spell as President is a little more straightforward. Fiona would be the first to admit that she could not have done it without the extraordinary endeavours of Angela Wilcox and Eileen Thomas – I'm not sure what we would do if they ever decided to step down! It is testament to the committee over the past two years that Orwell Ladies is one of the most robust clubs in Kinross.

"Finally, I would like to thank you all for attending the AGM and supporting Orwell Ladies Curling Club and I'm sure you join me in hoping for a successful and Covid-free 2022/23 season Thank you."

## **Close of Meeting**

Following the vote of thanks there was a round of applause and President Alicia closed the meeting at 13:45 hrs.

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**The above AGM Minutes were adopted at the 2023 AGM**