

Orwell Ladies Curling Club
Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 21 March 2023

at Kinross Curling, Green Road, Kinross

The meeting began at: 13:03 hrs.

Welcome

President Alicia Hay welcomed approximately 33 members.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from: playing members Lenore Kyle, Rosie Goudie, Fiona Doig, Lesley Johnston, Janis Walker, Maggie Scott and Margaret Greener; and social members Kathleen Brown, Mary F Paterson, Susie Ballantyne, Marion Forbes, Dorothy Pollett, Shireen Paterson and Allison Pirie.

In Memoriam

Mrs Mary Paterson sadly passed away this year aged 97 years. She was a keen curler most of her life, curling in Perth with Glenfarg Ladies before joining Orwell Ladies when the club was founded. She was an active playing member for many years and kept up with the club through the social and many family connections within the Club.

Adoption of 2022 Minutes

There were no queries. The minutes were adopted by a motion proposed by Sue Cameron and seconded by Christine Taylor.

Matters Arising from 2022 AGM Minutes

Alicia explained that, although the 2022 AGM minutes said we would run the Gairney as two leagues, not enough people had signed up to make this possible, so the committee came up with the format that we used in the season just ending.

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

Members had been sent a copy of the 2021-22 audited accounts and a copy of the 2022-23 interim accounts by email.

2021-22 Audited Accounts

There were no queries about the 2021-22 accounts.

2022-23 Interim Accounts

Hester explained what made up the various sums listed.

Receipts:

Membership subscriptions are made up of 33 playing mother club members, 10 occasional (multi-members), 21 social members and 3 honorary members. Fees came from the club leagues, pairs, points, mixed doubles and outside games. Four badges were sold. There is still money to add to the Losers' Pot. 'Lunches' referred to late payment from the previous season. The 'Miscellaneous' receipt of £166.50 was the £100 ice staff bonus from 2021-22 which had not been handed over and was returned to the club account and £66.50 surplus from social events. There is still money to come in from the KCT match that has not taken place yet.

Outgoings:

Most of these are self-explanatory. 'Rink catering' was refreshments for Points markers and mince pies pre-Christmas. The secretarial sum included £45 to have the club cards printed this season. The ice staff

bonus of £300 is £150 this year and £150 for the previous seas (£100 of which was refunded). Social event is the club dinner.

Kaye asked what an Occasional member is. It was explained that an Occasional member does not have Orwell Ladies as their mother club. It does not refer to how often they play. Occasional members are charged £10 membership to Orwell Ladies. The club does not have to gather in and pay their RCCC membership fee. (The RCCC term for this is 'multi-member'.)

Both sets of accounts were approved by the meeting, on a motion proposed by Laurie McKerrow and seconded by Frances Algie.

The Kinross Curling Trust is trying to raise funds for a new ice machine. The committee is proposing donating £100 from club funds. Laurie proposed that we donate £200. This was agreed by the meeting. The committee is proposing to raise the social membership fee to £10. There were no objections.

The committee is proposing to change banks to avoid service charges.

The Losers' Pot will again be used to cover the service charge for the annual dinner.

The committee is proposing to buy one of the new Honours Boards that the Trust is offering to record the Jubilee winners. A board has enough room for 30 lines. Rather than have a mainly empty board, the committee suggests having the results from the last 15 years engraved. We can get another board later to fill with the first 30 years of results if we wish. This was agreed.

Review of Membership *(Angela Wilcox)*

Currently there are 68 members in the club: 43 playing members and 25 social members. Sadly we lost Mary Paterson. Bridie Graham resigned as a social member. Catherine Ballantyne changed to being a social member. Avril Baird has requested a change to social member for next season.

There are two new people wanting to join: Fiona de Vries, a member of St Andrews CC, would like to join us as an occasional member. Proposed by Angela Wilcox, seconded by Hester Niven. Mel Porter would like join. Orwell Ladies would be her mother club. Proposed by Liz Glennie, seconded by Susan Scougal.

Match Secretary's Report *(Angela Wilcox)*

The winners of club competitions will be revealed at the dinner on 30 March and results of KDLB competitions will be covered by Christine Taylor in her report. By my count Orwell Ladies Curling Club have played in around 140 matches this season and that does not include all the curling that individual members do in outside competitions.

1. Friendly Matches

In our regular friendly matches, we won against Boreland, Dunfermline Ladies and KCDC, and lost against Fossoway and Loch Leven. No scorecards were provided for the Bishopshire game.

In the Orwell match we won 1 and lost 3, with an overall loss of 19 - 39.

Against Kinross we won 1 and lost 2, overall loss of 15 - 26.

2. KCT Competitions

KCT League Division 2. With one game to go, we will probably finish top. We will certainly be promoted to the 1st division next season.

John Stewart Double Rink Knockout. Eileen Thomas and Susan Scougal skipped the rinks to the second round, where they lost to Kinross. Kinross went on to win the competition.

Ladies Super League. This competition does not finish until 29 March, but Wilma Brownlie is currently leading by one point, with Valerie Inglis in second place.

3. Province Competitions

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

We were knocked out of the Wilson in the first round by the Juniors.

4. Outside Competitions

Angela played in the Scottish Mixed Seniors at Stranraer.

Wilma Brownlie was in the winning team (skipped by Pat McFarlane) of the local playdowns of the Henderson Bishop. Fiona Doig, Lesley Brown, Sheona Reid and Maggie Saunderson were runners up. Both teams went on to the finals in Stranraer.

Angela Wilcox with Caroline Liddle, and Maggie Scott with Fiona Rutherford, took part in the Scottish Masters at Greenacres.

Laurie McKerrow played in Liz Paul's team at the Scottish Seniors in Hamilton.

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

Scorecards: This season there has been some chasing around to find scorecards, and some cards have been very poorly filled in. Could I remind the skips that it is their responsibility to ensure the card is completed correctly and signed, and handed to Angela or Eileen after club games. For all outside games, the skip should take a photo of the card and email that to us. We have some games this season for which we do not know the result. There is a problem with the Mixed League. The last group games were played last night but altogether there are three missing scorecards. Fiona, Angela and George Skea all won two games. We know who won the games but not shots and ends. If we don't find cards by tomorrow night, then Fiona will go through.

Thanks: Thank you to Eileen Thomas who has helped more than she should have to when I have been busy with the rink. Thanks also go to the committee for their support, to our group of available subs for filling in at short notice, and to all of you who make this club what it is.

Proposal re Substitutes

A proposal for the AGM had been received as follows: "If a player cannot get a sub themselves it should next be put out to Orwell Ladies Club online before going to the outside sub list. This would give all our club players an opportunity to play should they be available and be fairer to the membership."

Alicia said the committee is proposing to create a group email of all the subs so you will get an email address that will go to subs. A member can still phone subs. There will also be another email address for whole club. These should be used before approaching KDLB subs.

Next season the reserves will be listed in the card in order of lead, second etc rather than alphabetical order. Those who signed up for a competition but were excluded due to it being over-subscribed will still have their names in bold and should be asked first.

There was a long discussion on this topic. There was a suggestion from the floor of using WhatsApp and a query as to why Orwell Ladies substitution rules were different from the RCCC rules. The Orwell Ladies rules on substitution were read out from our constitution.

The outcome of the discussion was agreement that the email groups should be set up.

Representative Member's Report *(Christine Taylor)*

Fiona Doig and I have been the Orwell Ladies representatives on the Kinross & District Ladies Branch (KDLB) Committee for the Season 2022-23. KDLB work very hard to organise several events for the Ladies teams playing at Kinross.

Kinross Ladies Open (27 October 2022): Sponsored by Brian Johnston Pharmacy, Cardenden. Twelve teams competed in this event and played 3 x one-hour games within two sections. All 48 ladies participating enjoyed this competitive event which was played in the 'true spirit of curling', with only one end separating the top two teams. **Winners:** Sheilagh MacFarlane, Maggie Barrie, Shelagh Fulton, Sandi Buchan (visiting team from Forfar). **Runners-Up:** Ann-Maree Davidson, Anna Martin, Hester Niven, Anne Hewitt (visiting team from Perth).

Scottish Curling Henderson Bishop 2022-2023 Qualifiers (28 Nov, 1 & 2 Dec 2022): The prizes for this event were provided by Kinross & District Ladies Branch (KDLB). Seven teams competed in this event and played a knockout over the three days. All teams enjoyed this competitive event with close ends and a good sense of camaraderie and fair play. **Winners:** Pat McFarlane, Liz Thomson, Wilma Brownlie, Mary Lamont. **Runners-Up:** Fiona Doig, Lesley Brown, Sheona Reid, Maggie Saunderson. Both finalists

qualified for the Henderson Bishop Finals at Stranraer between Monday 27 February and Thursday 2nd March 2023. KDLB supported both teams financially for the Henderson Bishop Finals.

KDLB Centre Bonspiel (9 January 2023): Event sponsored by KDLB and the prizes were chosen by Orwell Ladies. Twelve teams competed in this event over two sessions. All five ladies clubs playing on our Centre's ice (Dunfermline, Fossoway, Glenfarg, Kinross, Orwell) plus Kinross Juniors and Tulliallan were all represented, with 48 participants (including seven Juniors) enjoying this fun-filled 'post festivities' event, which was played in good spirits with healthy competition and good sportsmanship. At the end of the two sessions there were only two shots separating the winners and the runners-up. **Winners:** Maggie Saunderson (Orwell Ladies), Gillian Russell (Orwell Ladies), Maureen Lewis (Kinross Ladies), Margaret-Elspeth Harman (Fossoway Ladies). **Runners-Up:** Heather Gough (Kinross Ladies), Sarah Bruce Jones (Fossoway Ladies), Alyson Henderson (Orwell Ladies), Kirsty Cassells (Orwell Ladies).

KDLB Centre Points (9 February 2023): Event sponsored by Loch Leven's Larder, Kinross. Twenty-two ladies competed in this event and completed six out of ten disciplines across two sheets of ice. Everyone enjoyed this competitive event which tests individual skills and rewards team contributions. **Individual Trophy: Winner:** Dottie Burt (Fossoway Ladies) [12 points]. **Runners-Up:** Liz Thomson (Dunfermline Ladies); Jane McFarlane and Debbie Weir (Fossoway Ladies); Lesley Brown (Glenfarg Ladies); Gillian Russell (Orwell Ladies) [all scoring 10 points]. **Team Trophy Winners:** Fossoway Ladies - Dottie Burt, Jane McFarlane, Debbie Weir [combined score 32 points].

KDLB Thistle Pairs (11 March 2022): Event sponsored by Earnside Coaches, Glenfarg. Fourteen teams competed in this event and played three games (5 ends x 3 stones each player) over three sessions. All 28 ladies enjoyed this competitive event which was played in good spirits and intense closely fought ends. **Winners:** Pat McFarlane & Rona Craig. **Runners-Up:** Angela Wilcox & Kim Dalland.

Scottish Curling Morton Finals (14 March 2023): This was held at Lanarkshire Ice Rink, Hamilton. After playing one away tie and two home ties, Kinross Centre did not reach the Morton Finals this season, however, the winners of our section (East) were Edinburgh and they reached the Final of this event, where they played the overall winners Stranraer, who retained the Morton Trophy for a second year. Thanks again to all the ladies from Kinross Centre who played in either the away or home games of this event throughout the 2022-2023 curling season.

Thanks: I would like to thank Lizzie Glennie, the KDLB Secretary and Debbie Weir as the current President, for the enormous amount of work that both give to the events and for their continuous support and enthusiasm.

Social Committee Report *(Alyson Henderson)*

Orwell Ladies Curling Club Social Committee Report 2022-2023

I'm delighted to be able to report a return to the full complement of social activities this season.

Our Annual Dinner and Prizegiving on 21 April 2022 was attended by 32 ladies. We all enjoyed a delicious meal and good company.

The sun shone for our **Annual Golf Outing** at Milnathort Golf Club on 14 June. Fifteen ladies played and a further 18 came along for the lunch which demonstrates that it's not just an event for golfers but another opportunity for everyone to get together. The winners were Alicia Hay, Elma McCulloch, Maggie Saunderson and Caroline Liddle. The Booby prize went to Ann Whitelaw, Beryl Harley, Wilma Brownlie and Mo Robertson.

The Summer Outing was the Curlers' Crackin' Clues Car Cruise and Supper – Gillian came up with the splendid name.

Thanks to Ann and Gillian for producing a fabulous car treasure hunt. The clues led us along roads I had certainly never been along previously. I think some residents were bemused by a stream of ladies interrupting their rural idyll on a summer afternoon.

The final destination was Ann's home in Glendevon where we were treated to Ann's fantastic hospitality and wonderful food. The weather held for the treasure hunt but the skies opened in the evening. Thanks to the array of tents and gazebos Ann had erected in her beautiful garden, all 32 of us managed to keep fairly dry.

The treasure hunt itself was, as you would expect, fairly competitive. The winners being “4 Lost Ladies”, Wilma Brownlie, Margaret Nelson, Mary Wilson and Mary Paterson. Their success was in no small part due to the tremendous range of different flowers they collected.

The Opening Bonspiel Lunch returned to Carnbo Village Hall on 27 September and 35 ladies attended. Once again, thank you to Ann for the splendid catering. As in pre-pandemic years, it was a very pleasant start to the curling season.

Thanks to my fellow social committee members: Ann, Gillian and Jeanne. It really has been a team effort with everyone playing their part.

President’s Report (Alicia Hay)

I find as President there is little left for me to mention as the ‘team’ cover all the key features of the AGM. However, as I write this report, I find it hard to believe that is our season over. It’s been a compact season with some great games and a lot of fun and enjoyment for us all. We are so proud of our many Orwell Ladies members who also play outwith the Club with some great performances at local and national competitions. It is also great to see our social members joining us on the first Tuesday of the month for a catch up and long may this continue.

As with any Club it doesn’t just happen, there is a busy team working behind the scenes to make sure everything on the day goes to plan. Firstly, I would like to thank the Social Committee of Jeanne Dean, Alyson Henderson, Gillian Russell and Ann Whitelaw who have done a sterling job of organising all the events which we have had a report of their successes. Ann so kindly invited us all to her home for the Treasure Car Chase, set up gazebos, designed the chase and did all the catering that day. She also made beautiful planters for the prize-winners at the golf day, one of which sat at my front door for the summer and was superb. What a talented lady, and we are all very grateful for all Ann’s help and I have a small token of our appreciation for Ann.

Hester, thank you for all the work you do to keep the accounts in order and for having everything here for us today. I know you have done this role for a very long time and we are very grateful, and I would like to thank you for embracing the new online way of doing the accounts we have adopted this year. A huge thank you to our secretaries Eileen Thomas and Angela Wilcox. These two ladies volunteer and carry out their roles with meticulous detail, giving a huge amount of their time to ensure that our Club runs as smoothly as it does. On behalf of the Club I’d like to thank them both for all that they do for us. Closing here, I hope you are all coming to the Dinner and Prize giving which I’m sure as usual the Grouse and Claret will do us well. Thank you Sister Curlers for your participation and support of Orwell Ladies.

Penalty Points

Since 2018, our bye-law on Penalty Points has been: *“If, at the start of play, only three members of one team are available, the game shall commence. Lead and second shall play three stones each. 1 point shall be forfeited after each 10 minutes that a player remains absent, up to a maximum of 3 points. The result of the game, including the penalty shots, shall stand.”*

At the 2021 AGM, due to the possible difficulty of finding substitutes due to Covid, and not wishing to encourage members to curl if they were unwell, it was agreed to suspend penalty points and review after one year. At the 2022 AGM it was agreed to continue the suspension for a further year and review at this AGM. A ballot of playing members took place. Members were asked to vote:

A: Bring back penalty points or B: Continue the suspension for another year and then review.

Social committee members counted the votes. The result was: A 13 and B 18.

The club will therefore suspend penalty points for a further season and review at the 2024 AGM.

Proposal for Separate Club Meeting

A proposal was received as follows: “Propose that we have a meeting for all playing members to discuss the direction of our club curling programme going forward so that it meets the needs/ expectations of all and, hopefully, pre-empts the sudden decline that we’ve seen in other ladies club over last couple of

years. There have been reduced numbers playing club competitions, points and pairs and I think we need to review this.”

Alicia said that the committee intends to have such a meeting. Time can be taken to work through any resulting proposals in preparation for the 2024-25 season.

Review of Club Programme

Thistle: There was a proposal to change to an Ends competition. Alicia read out the proposal, which was: “Change the Thistle to an Ends competition. This means that the winner is the team with more ends, regardless of the score. The team with more ends would get 2 points even if they have fewer shots overall. If the teams have the same number of ends, they would get 1 point each (peel). Ranking would be decided on points, ends, shots up and total shots as now. Ends competitions need different tactics, and level the game slightly, in that one big end does not dominate the game. This change would mean that the Thistle and Jubilee are different.” There was a suggestion from the floor that ends should just be added up rather than awarding points. Alicia suggested we vote on the principle of whether to change to an Ends competition and the committee will examine the issue of scoring. By a show of hands, there were 20 to 5 in favour of trying out the Ends competition for one season, to be revisited at the 2024 AGM.

Jubilee: No comments.

Gairney: Several people liked the format this year (involving players rotating every two ends, except the Third) so the intention will be to keep same format. [Post-meeting note: in the event, insufficient numbers signed up, so following an email to playing members, the committee decided to revert to the traditional Gairney format with club skips at lead and everyone else moving up one position.]

Pairs: There had been a proposal to change the Pairs competition from a one-day competition to spread over three mornings as previously (though as a bonspiel, not a knock-out). In view of the decision to have a general meeting, the proposer withdrew the proposal.

Other competitions/scheduling: President Alicia briefly ran through the names of other competitions. There was a comment from the floor that some members never get asked to play in outside games. This matter will be taken to the skips’ meeting in the summer.

There was a request to have Mixed Doubles again, but with more notice.

There were requests for the Mixed League not to be scheduled on the same day as the Ladies Super League, and a request not to have curling on the same day as the Henderson Bishop finals.

Review of Social Programme

Alicia listed the usual events and there were no comments.

Laurie asked why the AGM was so early. Angela responded that it is not early; it has been on the day of the Closing Bonspiel for about seven years [excluding Zoom AGMs due to Covid]. The dinner is earlier than it sometimes is, however.

Election of Committee and Office Bearers

		<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Seconded</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	Eileen Thomas	Susan Scougal	Maggie Saunderson
<i>Match Secretary</i>	Angela Wilcox	Jackie McQueen	Jane Drysdale
<i>Treasurer</i>	Hester Niven	Kaye Paterson	Jeanne Dean
<i>Committee members</i>	Ann Whitelaw	Wilma Brownlie	Frances Algie
	Gillian Russell	Susan Scougal	Caroline Liddle
	Jeanne Dean	Wilma Brownlie	Elma McCulloch
	Frances Algie	Liz Glennie	Mo Robertson

No election required:

President	Alicia Hay
Vice President (and Representative Member)	Christine Taylor
Past President (and Representative Member)	Fiona Doig

Result of Voting for Skips

Voting for skips had taken place via an online vote between 11 and 20 March. President Alicia read out the results in alphabetical order as follows: Wilma Brownlie, Sue Cameron, Fiona Doig, Valerie Inglis, Maggie Saunderson, Susan Scougal, Eileen Thomas and Angela Wilcox.

Any Other Business

Substitutes

[This matter was actually brought up during Review of Social Programme]

Frances expressed the view that substitutes should contribute financially. The committee has considered this matter several times. Angela put forward the idea that a note could be put on the club card suggesting that, if they wished, substitutes could make a contribution to club funds. Sue said she did not see why the club should get funds, as ice fees have already been paid for. Angela said we could keep the donations ringfenced and used to offset ice fees for following season. Substitutes may make a contribution to the club if they wish, or players may make an arrangement between themselves. The club is not setting a rule about it.

Vote of Thanks

Christine Taylor said:

“It is my honour to propose the vote of thanks.

Firstly, on behalf of the club and all its members, I would like to thank Kinross Curling Trust and all of the staff for their support this year.

Thank you especially to Angie and her team for their excellent service behind the bar. I’m sure you will all agree that it has been a pleasure to spend time together enjoying a tea, coffee or drink in the bar and sample Angie’s delicious food.

I would also like to thank Ross and his team of icemen for their hard work preparing the ice for us to enjoy. At times the ice has kept us on our toes, but then that’s one of the many things that we love about curling!

It’s also appropriate to thank Alicia and the rest of the Committee for their hard work and dedication over the past year. I’d of course thank all the Committee members personally, but Eileen and Angela merit a special mention as for many years they have gone above and beyond what is asked of them. I hope that they both realised that they were taking on a job for life!

Let’s also hope that Hester has also signed up for life as without a great treasurer we would all be lost. Equally we cannot forget the tremendous work done by the Social Committee who work hard behind the scenes organising our many enjoyable events. The past few years have made us realise that the Social calendar is an important part of our Club and our curling year.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your support to the club and its activities throughout the year and for attending the AGM today.

It goes without saying, though I’ll say it anyway, without all of you there would be no Orwell Ladies Curling Club.

Thank you all, and K-E-E-P Curling!”

End of Meeting

The meeting ended at 14:46 hours.

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The above minutes were approved at the 2024 AGM