

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY CURLING CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 21st March 2012, 7.35pm in the *Sheep Heid Inn, Duddingston*

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of A.G.M. held on 24 March 2011
3. President's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Constitution changes
 - (a) *Creation of the Position of Webmaster (Eoin McCrossan)*
 - i. *Amendment: Inserting paragraph 8.5 (Fraser Stockton)*
 - ii. *Amendment: Creating position in the Volunteer Policy (Michael Nicholson)*
7. Other Motions
 - (a) *Establishing Silent Ballot Voting System for Future AGMs (Alison McAteer)*
8. Election of Office Bearers
 - (a) *President*
 - (b) *Secretary*
 - (c) *Treasurer*
 - (d) *Vice President*
 - (e) *Publicity and Alumni Officer*
 - (f) *Safety and Equipment Officer*
 - (g) *Social Secretary*
9. A.O.C.B
10. Closure

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 21st March 2012, 7.35pm in the *Sheep Heid Inn, Duddingston*

Edinburgh University Curling Club

Present

Office Bearers:

Alison McAteer (President)

Katie McGaan (Vice-president)

David Jenkins (Secretary)

Andrew Grieve (Equipment)

Ordinary Club Members:

Thomas Edmunds, Graham Chernoff, Emma Wheeldon, Bethany Lane, Fiona McKay, Rory Williams, Eoin McCrossan, Nick Tauber (arrived 20.00)

The president constituted the meeting at 19.35.

1. Apologies for absence.

Michael Nicholson (Treasurer)

Fraser Stockton (Publicity and Alumni)

2. Approval of minutes of previous A.G.M.

The previous years minutes were approved. Proposed: Graham Chernoff, Seconded: Katie McGaan.

3. President's Report.

Alison McAteer gave a prepared speech detailing a review of the Club's year and how it had progressed. The speech in full is detailed in the Appendix A.

Brief Summary: The club entered several competitions this year, including sending two teams to Stranraer. The club also held several socials including Karaoke and attended the SU ball. Alison McAteer also expresses congratulations to Michael Nicholson for winning an award. Finally she thanks everyone for turning up for practice regularly.

4. Secretary's Report.

Again this was sent out prior to the meeting. The speech in full is detailed in the Appendix B.

5. Treasurer's Report.

Again this was sent out prior to the meeting. The speech in full is detailed in the Appendix C.

Brief Summary: Michael Nicholson describes the problems he is currently having with Bank of Scotland. The hand over this year from Katie to Michael was much more successful this year than the previous year. Michael Nicholson informs the AGM that the SU has issued an apology to clubs as, in general, less money was received by clubs.

Graham Chernoff asked for clarification about when the club receives their annual estimates from the SU. The committee explain that all the estimates are spent on ice fees, hence the club cannot book ice on the proviso that the costs will be covered by membership fees. Alison McAtee raises the issue that has recently come to the clubs attention that some members will be paying twice for ECC and RCCC affiliation under the current membership fees of the club.

Graham Chernoff questions the five pound fee per game for members in the Linlithgow league. A similar issue is also raised by Andrew Grieve as to why team members should pay a fee for playing in the SSS league when they are already missing training sessions voluntarily. Graham Chernoff asks whether the club should consider covering the costs of games out with the training times. Alison McAtee admits that it would probably not be feasible given the club accounts to fully subsidise both competitions. Graham Chernoff tells the committee that he thinks that the club should subsidise SSS games. There was a general consensus that the club should pay fully for SSS games. Committee will look at this for next year. Eoin McCrossan questions the committee about the absence of fundraising in the club. The development plan has still not been approved by the committee.

Next year's committee will decide whether they want to continue to participate in the SSS given that 3 out of the 4 games this semester were cancelled by the opposition teams.

6. Constitution changes

(a) *Creation of the Position of Webmaster (Eoin McCrossan)*

i. *Amendment: Inserting paragraph 8.5 (Fraser Stockton)*

ii. *Amendment: Creating position in the Volunteer Policy (Michael Nicholson)*

The details of this motion are presented in Appendix D.

No objections to the fact that it was submitted late. Eoin McCrossan is accepting the amendment submitted by Fraser Stockton, but not those submitted by Michael Nicholson. Alison McAtee explains that when the constitution was originally written, as the publicity master may not have the technical experience to run the website, the duties were not included in the role of publicity and alumni. Michael Nicholson's amendments are to make the role a voluntary role which Eoin McCrossan is rejecting. The AGM then discussed all the proposals. Katie McGaan proposed that, at the least, the webmaster needs to be someone on the committee as they are supposed to be responsible for the club.

Once the proposed motion and amendments had been debated, it was put to a vote.

Vote: Eoin McCrossan's motion plus Fraser Stockton's amendments were voted unanimous in favour of by a show of hands.

Therefore the amendment to the constitution shall be:

"Insert at 8.1.5.5. [of the constitution] 'be responsible for maintaining and operating the club's website.'"

*** Meeting break 20.19 – 20.29 ***

7. Other Motions

(b) *Establishing Silent Ballot Voting System for Future AGMs (Alison McAteer)*

The details of this motion are presented in Appendix D.

Alison McAteer proposes all future voting at AGMs is done by a secret ballot. After a brief discussion a vote is taken.

Vote: The motion was voted unanimous in favour of by a show of hands.

8. Election of Office bearers

a. President (Alison McAteer seeds the chair to Katie McGaan).

Eoin McCrossan	Proposed: Rory Williams	Seconded: Andrew Grieve
Fraser Stockton	Proposed: Eoin McCrossan	Seconded: Graham Chernoff

Both Nominees gave a short (2 minute) speech to Club members detailing why they would make a good President and explaining what they would bring to the role. Due to illness, Alison McAteer read out a pre-prepared submitted by Fraser Stockton.

Result of vote by show of hands: Mr Stockton – 9 votes; Mr McCrossan – 3 votes

Fraser Stockton duly elected

(AM retakes the chair)

b. Secretary

Eoin McCrossan	Proposed: Ted Edmunds	Seconded: Rory Williams
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No other candidates were proposed/came forward. Vote by show of hands unanimous in favour.

Eoin McCrossan duly elected

c. Treasurer

Schuyler Ward	Proposed: Eoin McCrossan	Seconded: Bethany Lane
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No other candidates were proposed/came forward. Vote by show of hands unanimous in favour.

Schuyler Ward duly elected

d. Vice president

Katie McGaan	Proposed: Eoin McCrossan	Seconded: David Jenkins
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No other candidates were proposed/came forward. Vote by show of hands unanimous in favour.

Katie McGaan duly elected

e. Publicity and Alumni officer

Rory Williams	Proposed: Fiona McKay	Seconded: Bethany Lane
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No other candidates were proposed/came forward. Vote by show of hands unanimous in favour.

Rory Williams duly elected

f. Safety and Equipment officer

There were no takers initially for this post, but after the other positions had been filled, nominations were opened again.

Emma Wheeldon Proposed: Bethany Lane Seconded: Katie McGaan

No other candidates were proposed/came forward. Vote by show of hands unanimous in favour.

Emma Wheeldon duly elected

g. Social Secretary

Emma Wheeldon Proposed: Bethany Lane Seconded: Fiona McKay

No other candidates were proposed/came forward. Vote by show of hands unanimous in favour.

Emma Wheeldon duly elected

9. A.O.C.B

Eoin McCrossan questions the committee as to why the committee minutes are not available online for ordinary members. It was decided that in future committee meeting minutes will be distributed by email to all club members.

Eoin McCrossan questions why the club has no equipment. It is explained that Michal Nicholson's computer hard drive was wiped so the application form was not submitted. Murrayfield Ice Rink have agreed to let the club store equipment at the ice rink. Michael Nicholson will draft an equipment form that can be submitted by the next committee.

Ted Edmunds raises the issue of coaching within the club. He says that the club has come a long way in terms of coaching, but asks why the coaching has not been continued through to the second semester. Ted Edmunds submits that some members are still unaware of basic issues and tactics. Graham Chernoff asks why there is less focus on some of the more experienced members in terms of coaching time. Alison McAteer agrees with this but says that it is not always possible to have all the coaches available due to university commitments. Eoin McCrossan expresses concern as being caught in-between being a beginner and a more experienced. David Jenkins states he thinks the problem is that to obtain a level 1 coaching course certification, coaches are only taught to train beginners and therefore do not know to progress the more experienced players. Ted Edmunds questions the lack of consistency with coaches coming to practice and the fact that the groups are of mixed abilities. There is an inherent problem that people are caught in-between the two levels. David Jenkins suggests that members could participate in some of the external coaching courses supplied by Edinburgh Curling Club. Ted Edmunds thinks that the club should be focussed on beginners. Bethany Lane thinks that the lack of consistency between coaches is causing confusion and that it can be discouraging. Katie McGaan will set out a plan of what should be taught each week. Rory Williams and Nick Tauber disagree that changing coaches wasn't a problem. Fiona McKay felt that some members, including herself, were getting left behind. Graham Chernoff also questions

the lack of training given to himself about, say, how to skip for beginners. Alison McAteer thinks there was been a complete lack of communication between coaches.

Ted Edmunds asks whether taking notes on the match report is distracting or not. He voices the opinion that the match reports are too long at-the-moment, as he feels they could be off-putting to potential newcomers to the club. Andrew Grieve questions why the reports are often being written by someone who did not play in the game.

Ted Edmunds suggests that new members are supplied with some handouts of the basics that are supplied by the RCCC. E.g. coaches handbook. Graham Chernoff suggests of including some theory in the coaching.

Summary: It is clear that the club needs to improve communication between coaches and members, especially beginners. The club is stretched in terms of members and coaches but they are trying to do the best they can. Graham Chernoff requests that coaching be on agenda for all the committee meetings. There is general agreement with this proposal.

It is agreed that the match reports will be made less formal.

Eoin McCrossan suggests the website be updated by more photos and information about club socials.

Graham Chernoff says his thanks to the committee for the work they have done over the year.

Alison McAteer states how she has enjoyed the last year, and her four years with the curling club.

10. Close

Alison McAteer closed the meeting at 9.21pm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's been a fantastic year for the curling club. Following the removal of the club's warning Yellow Card from the Sports Union at the end of last season, the club has gone from strength to strength over the 2011-2012 academic year.

Once again the club entered the SSS League, competing at the Dewar's Centre in Perth throughout the year. Many thanks go to the team: Andrew, David, Katie, Dionne (semester 1) Fraser and Michael (semester 2). Edinburgh finished a respectable 7th in the league, and we were always able to send a full team to SSS (unlike other clubs who have struggled with turnout). This is a testament to the dedication of the team.

We will also be sending two teams to the Universities Open in Stranraer this year – again, it's lovely to see so much enthusiasm for this tournament, just another example of how keen everyone in club has been this year to get involved. I hope you all have a great weekend and some good results too!

The club also played in the Linlithgow League again this year, with lots of close matches, and even the odd peel and win(!) during the season. Sadly, the results didn't reflect the enthusiasm and once again we got the wooden spoon. However, the standard of play was a huge improvement on last year, and with support and even compliments from other clubs in the league this season, everyone who participated for the university club can be proud of taking part. Many thanks to all the club members who played over the year!

Three teams from Edinburgh took part in the Edinburgh Centenary Bonspiel, a great weekend of games and a lovely occasion to be involved in! As our local rink it's really important for the club to be involved at Murrayfield, and the welcome and support we had throughout this competition really showed that the effort has been worthwhile.

The Varsity was another great match this year. Many thanks to Fraser Stockton for getting involved in so much publicity for the event. It was a really close game but sadly the team of Andrew, David, Alison (replacing Katie McGaan) and Fraser just couldn't hold on for the win. Commiserations guys – fingers crossed we can finally take the trophy next season.

There have been some fabulous socials this year – from the “Sophie Ellis Bextor!” moment at the karaoke, to dreadful line dancing at the Big Cheese, to the Christmas Dinner (complete with cracker jokes) at Teviot. Thanks to everyone for coming along and creating some truly memorable moments – and some best forgotten...

The biggest social of the year was the Sports Ball, which saw the highest turnout of the curling club in recent history, with a full table (almost!) enjoying dinner at the Corn Exchange and more curlers coming along for the after-party. The highlight of the evening has to be the award of the Neil Campbell Shield to Michael Nicholson for his services to the curling club. Congratulations to Michael and many thanks for all your hard work over the years.

The club has also had two nominations for colours accepted by the Sports Union this year, for Alison McAteer and David Jenkins. With four awards over the past two years, it's clear the club is making great improvements, with recognition from the Sports Union gratefully received.

Having two newly qualified coaches on the rota was an added bonus – many thanks to all the coaches for running sessions, and thanks to Fraser and Ted for taking the time to go to coaching courses and getting involved. Again, hopefully this is something the club can continue in future.

The fact that we have not once had to cancel training ice, and have frequently had to request extra, just shows how both membership and involvement in the club has grown. I genuinely cannot thank you all enough for your dedication and enthusiasm. It's been really fantastic to see the club doing so well this year, and it's been an honour to be involved.

Here's to an even better season next year!

Alison McAteer, President 2011/2012

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year the club membership had a total of 23 members including 3 non-Edinburgh University students. This breaks down to 20 full year members, 2 semester one only and 1 semester two only members.

The club was active in two competitive leagues this year: the Linlithgow (local league based at Murrayfield) and the SSS (inter-university competition based in Perth). The club performed much better this year in the Linlithgow, finishing with two wins and one draw, and overall the majority of the games were much closer than last year. Unfortunately the club still finished bottom of the league, losing narrowly to Heriots FP in what turned out to be a bottom place 'play-off' in the final game. Despite this the competition gave everybody a chance to play in a competitive game with several of the newcomers playing multiple games. Edinburgh University enjoyed mixed successes in the SSS this year, finishing with 6 points to lie mid-table. Unfortunately these points were obtained by default, with three of the four games scheduled for the second semester being cancelled by the opposition teams. On a positive note, Edinburgh University was competitive in most of the games, with two games coming down to the last end. The club also participated in Varsity, where we narrowly lost to Heriot Watt in the final end. Club members also participated in the Edinburgh Curling Club Centenary bonspiel.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This year has proven to be a difficult one in terms of the Treasurer's duties, as continuing problems with the Bank of Scotland have made it difficult for necessary changes to be made to the club's account. Despite several attempts dating back as early as when I took office on 1st June, I was not authorised by the bank as a signatory to the club's bank account until 5th October 2011; even then, it was not until the end of that month that I became aware of this fact, having gone in to a branch to complain about the length of time approval was taking. In addition, several attempts to sign the club up for the bank's Digital Banking Service have proven similarly fruitless, the most recent correspondence indicating that there will be a further delay. As the registration is per signatory, and not per account, this will be of little use to next year's committee.

It is my understanding that the Sports Union is considering switching banks, though I have heard little since this was first mooted. Given the problems this year, I would welcome that change. However, should this not happen, I recommend that signatory changes and online banking authorisations are pursued as soon as practicable, on the understanding that the new signatories cannot authorise payments until they officially take office on June 1st.

The handover from Katie McGaan was more successful than last year's, and the five folders in which the financial records were previously kept have now been consolidated into a much more manageable two. I intend to further reduce this by getting rid of records no longer necessary for auditing, and will meet with the relevant staff at the Sports Union to establish what age of documents is extraneous. I will scan these older documents before destruction in order that the information be retained for future reference.

The Sports Union again awarded the club £1600.00 in funds, all of which has been spent on ice fees at Murrayfield Curling Ltd (though £110.40 of that has not been claimed, and will be spent on additional ice which was booked for the latter half of the second semester). The system used to calculate Sports Union funding is changing for next year, and therefore the club should not count on receiving the same amount again. The new system of allocating funds is, as yet, unknown.

The club entered a number of competitions this year, asking members for a £5 per game contribution. Without this contribution, the club simply could not afford to enter anything other than the SSS league. As these other competitions have widened participation in the club and improved the quality of curling from our players, it is recommended that the £5 stipend remain in place next season. The club is already registered to play in next year's Linlithgow League (which cost £478.80 this year). The SSS league cost the club £100.00, plus transport costs which are yet to be calculated. The club funded participants in the 2011 Universities Open at £20 per person and will do the same again this year. Participation in the Edinburgh Curling Club Centenary bonspiel was funded at half the full costs, totalling £60.00.

The balance at February 24th (the date of the last statement) was £1092.18 with some payments due to go both in and out. This represents a year-on-year decrease of £36.91, though once all costs are settled the deficit is likely to be significantly greater, which is representative of the club's greater willingness to spend money this year.

The membership fee for 2012 – 2013 shall remain at £50, with ECC and SUCC affiliations to be taken from this. It is recommended that these deductions are made more prominently advertised to allow experienced curlers to avail themselves of them before affiliating elsewhere.

MOTIONS PROPOSED

1. **“The duties of the role of webmaster should be included with the duties of publicity officer.”**

Proposed by: Eoin McCrossan

Seconded by: Ted Edmunds

Amendments:

(c) Propose that the motion be amended to:

“In order to regulate the activities of the Webmaster, the following should be inserted in the Volunteer Policy:

3. a.

vi. Webmaster

1. A duty to maintain the presence of the club on the World-Wide-Web, including, but not limited to, maintaining the structure of the club website and social networking accounts.

2. A duty to provide basic content for the website and its associated social networking accounts including, but not limited to, fixture lists and results, statistics, photographs, club documents and news updates.

3. A duty not to amend content submitted by other members without the authorisation of the Publicity & Alumni Officer or the President.”

Proposed by: Michael Nicholson

(d) Propose that the motion be amended, with the addition of:

“Insert at 8.1.5.5. [of the constitution] ‘be responsible for maintaining and operating the club’s website.’”

Proposed by: Fraser Stockton

2. **“A proposal that all future committee elections are held by secret ballot. Votes made are to be counted by the Chair of the meeting, which in the majority of cases will be the club President. In the election of the club President, votes will be counted by the vice-president. The number of votes for each candidate, and the number of spoiled and abstaining votes, will be announced when the winner of the election is announced. All other votes at meetings will continue to be a public vote with a show of hands for and against motions.”**

Proposed by: Alison McAteer

Seconded by: Ted Edmunds