Kinross Curling Trust
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held at Kinross Curling Rink
21st August 2025 at 7.30pm

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Jim Barton, opened the meeting and commended Ross, Duncan and Angie on the work done in the bar. Attendees were asked to keep questions until the end of presentations. The minute taker was Angela Wilcox.

2. APOLOGIES

There were 10 apologies: Sue Cameron, Lars Christiansen, Jane Drysdale, Graham Lindsay, Elaine Paterson, Iain Rennick, Bill Rennie, Robert Stevenson, Robbie Stevenson, Steve Wilcox.

There were 48 members attending,: Irene Baillie (trustee), Ian Baker, Jim & Jane Barr, Jim Barton (trustee), Phil Barton, Laura Boyd, Connor Boyd, Sarah Bruce-Jones, Lora Burgess, Dottie Burt, Mike Caffyn, Iain Cormack, Kim Dalland, Allan Dearing, Ian Drysdale, Margaret Forrest (trustee), June Geyer, Karen Gibb, Liz Glennie, Sandy Hay, Derek Laird, Alastair Lamond, Craig Lindsay (trustee), Bill Linton, Alistair Low, Colin Low, Angie McCleary, Ross McCleary, Sandy & Edna Nelson, Alan Paterson, Claire Paton, Sheona Reid, Doug Ritchie (trustee), David & Fiona Rutherford, Elaine Spain, Ena Stevenson, Bob Tait, Christine Taylor, John Taylor (trustee), Gareth & Eileen Thomas, Gary Waddell, Debbie Weir, Morag Wellman (trustee), Angela Wilcox.

3. MINUTES OF THE AGM OF 29TH AUGUST 2024

The correct version of the minutes of the last meeting have been on the website since last September, but the version posted in the notice about the AGM was an earlier draft with some typing errors and a paragraph left over from the previous year's minutes. There are no substantial changes to the correct version.

No issues were raised, the minutes were proposed by John Taylor and seconded by Phil Barton.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUST

Last season was another terrific season, in a time when you think that you will not be able to top the last one, but we did. This is in terms of the general feeling in the rink, but also, and more important here, is the fact that both our ice and bar sales were up, which was great. We also had a new major sponsor come on board, LGT Wealth Management, who really took part and held 2 corporate days here, with 32 people attending the second one. They are already booked in to return this season. We really want to engage with our sponsors, not just take their money.

Last season saw the first event of the new British Teams League (those not in the British or Scottish development programme) take place on the first weekend of the season. It went very well and some teams told us that the ice was as good as any they had ever played on. They are returning again next month on our opening weekend. We are also proud to host the Asham under 14 slam again, and congratulations to Craig Lindsay and the Juniors for how well it went last season. Apparently the bar was packed and a lot of chips were sold. Also, the international bonspiel continues to go from strength to strength and went up to 20 teams last season, and this is a great credit to the rink.

Our curling development officer has a very important role, and she, and the team of coaches, have done a terrific job in the development of new curlers. The junior club is also strong and it is good to see so many of them being recognised in the development squads and competition results.

6. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

The Report of the Independent Financial Adviser, Thomson Cooper, is on page 5 of the accounts and has been signed by Sharon Collins on 14th August 2025.

7. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS TO 30 APRIL 2025

Doug Ritchie, Treasurer, summarised income and expenditure that were detailed in the full set of year end accounts.

INCOME		
Donations & Legacies	£1653	Down slightly
Charitable Activities	£ 334,646	Ice - Up £18k
Other Trading Activities	£ 122,055	Bar – up £16k
Investments	£ 2,445	Bank interest
Other Income	£ 11,430	Sponsorship and equipment sales
Total Income	£472,229	Up by £33k on last year
EXPENDITURE		
Trading Activities (Bar Costs)	£126,631	up by £9k on last year
Charitable Activities (Ice Hall)	£268,786	down from £2k on last year, due to lower staff costs
NET INCOME		
2025	£76,812	Up £25k on last year
BALANCE SHEET		
Decrease in Tangible Assets	£6.5k	£8k additions; £14.5k depreciation
Stocks	£1,894	Slightly down
Debtors	£2,785	Up by £1.7k
Bank	£234,735	Up from £173k last year
Creditors within one year	£20,640	HMRC £8k, trade creditors £5.4k, other £7.2k
Total assets	£1,418,663	Up by £70k
EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (ICE HALL)		
Rent	£36,305	up from £30k due to higher sales
Heat & Light	£54,046	down from £58k – less electricity used
Insurance	£8,514	down by £2k
Repairs & Maintenance	£29,807	up from £22k – expected as equipment ages
Cleaning	£5,250	
Sundry Costs	£6,694	
Telephone	1,802	up from £1k due to change of supplier
Irrecoverable VAT	£29,807	down from £34K (VAT reclaimed by electricity supplier)
Foreign exchange difference	£0	WCF loan was paid off last year
Share of Support Costs	£88,975	mainly ice staff wages
Share of Governance Costs	8,982	Accountancy, legal and professional fees

Doug asked for the accounts be approved and this was proposed by John Taylor and seconded by Alistair Low. There were no objections.

8. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

Doug proposed that we retain Thomson Cooper as our independent financial examiner, and this was seconded by Allan Dearing.

9. FUTURE BUSINESS CHALLENGES

Rink Manager's Report

Ross reported that we have roughly the same level of bookings as last season, perhaps very slightly down, and we are hoping to fill some of the gaps with events or corporate sessions. We did try and run a couple of events last season that had to be

cancelled due to lack of numbers, but hopefully we will get more support this season, so please keep a look out for new events.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back. Most of the staff are returning, along with a couple of new bar staff.

The chiller, which had problems at the end of last season, has been serviced and repaired, and is running on both compressors.

Curling Development Report by Morag Wellman

Morag started by saying that this report was produced by Kim, and that she was not going to go through all the details, but that it would be included in the minutes. She thanked Kim and said that we would not be able to develop without her. She mentioned the new inclusion club, run by Dottie, that is available for those with any disability or those who simply do not have the confidence to join another club.

Next season is an Olympic year and Kim is arranging an Olympic bonspiel.

Morag finished with a quote from Kim "All I want is a hassle-free year where coaches and participants turn up when they say they will, get on with it, and do what they are told. I don't want to have to send constant emails which are ignored, and when I say I want feedback, I only want the kind where people tell me how wonderful I am."

Kim's report is below.

Try Curling and Beginner Coaching

Our staple sessions were well-attended and retention from Try Curling to Beginner Coaching and then to club membership was high. We ran 27 sessions with 245 people attending.

We continue to have two sessions of Beginner Coaching after Try Curling before joining our development club. New this season was 'Beginner Extra', which is a coached game, for beginners to experience a real game before joining a club, and these were very popular. 20 beginner sessions took place with 116 participants.

Two special-need Schools and an inclusive sports group made a series of group bookings. 9 sessions took place with an attendance of 39 people.

We are keen to encourage clubs to hold their own Try Curling and Beginner Coaching sessions, which we can run for them if wanted. This season St Andrews, SDGC, Fossoway and Glenfarg took up this offer.

Corporate Try-Curling is now managed by Duncan.

Coaching

New this season was the 1-2-1 coaching for curlers of any ability. This comprised of half an hour of coaching followed by half an hour of practice. 17 people booked this form of coaching.

Improver sessions are one hour coaching sessions in groups of up to 4. 16 improver sessions were held with 76 participants.

There was also a very successful Sweeping and Tactics Masterclass for all abilities.

After School Club

Held on Mondays from 4-5pm during term-time. We had 17 children, 13 of whom were new this season, and ran 18 sessions. The age range has been 8-12 but next year we will only take new recruits from P6 upwards. A number of last year's children moved up to Juniors, as defined by our pathway.

This season I was particularly proud of the friendships which grew between the children from working together at the sessions, and we held a tea-party to end the season which was enjoyed by the 15 who attended.

Inclusion

Kinross Wheelchairs, The Phoenix (previously Scottish Disabled Golf and Curling), and the Visually Impaired Curling Club all continued. New this season was the Kinross Inclusive Curling Club, held weekly for an hour and a half. This new club has 7 members; two in wheelchairs and the others using stick delivery, and 14 sessions took place.

Kinross Curling Development Club

15 new members brought the club up to 50. We continued to run coaching sessions for their members. Twelve were held through the season, with 8 participants at each. Some beginners choose to go directly into mainstream clubs instead of KCDC.

Stuart Morrison has taken up the role of liaison between KCDC and the Trust. He will attend their committee meetings and be in a position to advise them when needed and to pass on any concerns to myself and the Board.

Coaches

We have a total of 30 coaches. This year we gained one new level 1 coach and two qualified for their level 2.

An Advanced Sweeping Seminar was held for our coaches. 17 attended.

Treasurer

Doug said that he had just a few facts and figures:

- The accounts for the 3 months up to the end of July show a net loss of £50k, but we had budgeted for £48k, and most of the bar renovations are included in this although we had allowed £10k capital expenditure for this, but due to the piecemeal way this was paid for, it could not be treated as capital expenditure.
- We have budgeted for ice sales of £367k, an increase of 9% on last year, which comes down to the price increase. The higher price increase came down to the £1 increase in the minimum wage and the increased employer national insurance costs. Doug said he is hoping to keep price increases to no more than 50p on ice for the next few years.
- The budget for bar sales is £130k, an increase of 5%.

Alastair Lamond asked if all outstanding loans have been paid off, and Doug confirmed that they had been, and that we are currently loan free.

10. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

There are currently 7 elected trustees. Our Articles require 2 elected and all co-opted trustees to step down each year. This year that will be Irene Baillie and Craig Lindsay, and both are seeking re-election. Since there are only 2 nominations there is no requirement for a formal election and, Irene and Craig were appointed to the board.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Purchase of the rink. Jim said that Doug would update everyone on this, but he wanted to say that he and Doug had spent considerable time on this, but they have had support from Sandy Hay and Iain Cormack, and he wanted to thank them for the work they have done.

   Doug said that we agreed a price of £425,000 and have shaken hands with Jamie, on an agreement to purchase subject to being able to raise the funds. Unfortunately, we got rejected by both Sport Scotland and World Curling, as neither could support the purchase of an existing facility. We also had issues with the value of the land when looking for commercial finance, which resulted in the appeal for loans last week. The response from the curling community was fantastic and Doug wanted to thank everyone for their response. We are comfortable that with what we have in loans and donations, and our own reserves, we are able to make the purchase in October without the need for a commercial loan. We have had the first meeting with John Cassells, our lawyer, and he is now making contact with Jamie Montgomery's solicitors. He said that if anyone was still considering a loan or a donation, we are still taking them, as the less we use of our own reserves, the more we have available for future work, and circumstances change, and not all the loans may still be available when required.

   One big advantage will be that we will be able to do whatever we wish with the property, and we are hoping to extend to put on extra changing facilities, something that was difficult to do on a lease, as we would get nothing back from the investment when the lease ended.

Ross has also stated that he would like new stones, around £35-40k.

Morag Wellman asked if people are lending money over different periods of time, otherwise how are we going to be able to pay back everything in 5 years. Doug replied that most of the loans are over 5 years, but one is over 2-3 years. But most loans will be paid back yearly, so for a 5 year loan, 20% of the loan plus interest will be paid each year. Jim said that if we operate at a similar surplus as this year, and add the £36k rent, there is a good bit of slack in the budget to cope.

Alan Paterson asked if there would be any restrictions on events once we own the rink, and Jim replied that there would not, as all the restrictions are in the lease. Jamie has offered to include the scrubland at the back of the rink in the purchase, and this is where we propose to put any new changing facilities.

Sarah Bruce-Jones asked if, in the absence of a commercial loan, we were still going to do a full survey, and what the condition of the roof is. The answer was no, the building is only 13 years old, and even under the lease we are responsible for all building repairs.

Phil Barton wanted to thank the Board on behalf of everyone present for all their work on this project.

2. Phil Barton gave an update on the preparations for the 50th anniversary due in the 2027-28. Phil, Ena Stevenson and John Taylor have formed a small committee to take this forward. They have met with Angie and Ross and come up with some ideas, and will also be asking for other ideas from curlers. It is exciting to be planning for this anniversary when we are aware of all the struggles and issues that other rinks are having.

   There will be a celebration dinner, bonspiels and other curling events, possibly a commemorative book, displays, and merchandise. Fossoway Curling Club are also celebrating 50 years. There will be information on the website and in the Roar about all this. If anyone has any ideas or would like to be involved they should speak to Phil, Ena or John. We have 2 years to plan this celebration.

3. Jim reported on the results of the member survey, first thanking everyone who had completed it. Over a hundred responses were received. Very reassuringly, the responses were overwhelmingly positive about the ice and the bar, thanks Ross and Angie and the team.

   Here are some of the comments just to give you an idea
   - top of the list was upgrading the changing rooms
   - a screen to replace the white board downstairs – this is planned in the next iteration of our booking system
   - make better use of the rink in the summer – this is planned and will be possible once the restrictions are gone
   - put a sign at the entrance to tell try curlers to meet upstairs
   - pickleball and floor curling over the summer
   - dedicated place for bags and brushes – new shelving already in the lounge and some milk churns for brushes
   - more bar events
   - remove the curling stones from the viewing window – this will be done

Jim thanked everyone for coming and noted that we had got through everything in record time.

Jim closed the meeting at 8:20pm.