Kinross Curling Trust
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held at Kinross Curling Rink
20th August 2026 at 7.30pm

1. WELCOME

The Chairman, Jim Barton, opened the meeting and commended all the staff on their work over the past season. Attendees were asked to keep questions until the end of presentations. The minute taker was Angela Wilcox.

2. APOLOGIES

There were 13 apologies:

Jane Barr, Kim Dalland, Jan Drysdale, Liz Glennie, David Jones, Bill Linton, Elaine Paterson, Robert & Ena Stevenson, Alice Thomson, Morag Wellman, Steve Wilcox, Leslie Wilson.

There were 35 members attending,: Irene Baillie (trustee), Ian Baker, Jim Barr, Jim Barton (trustee), Phil Barton, Paul Baughan, Laura Boyd, Lora Burgess, Dottie Burt, Sue Cameron, Iain Cormack, Morag Erskine, Sandy Hay, Steve Kinninmonth, Alastair Lamond, Craig Lindsay (trustee), Cameron Lindsay, Alistair Low, Colin Low, Angie McCleary, Ross McCleary, David Neill, Sandy & Edna Nelson, Alan Paterson, Claire Paton, Stuart Rennie, Doug Ritchie (trustee), Maggie Saunderson, Elaine Spain, Bob Tait, Christine Taylor, John Taylor (trustee), Gary Waddell, Angela Wilcox.

3. MINUTES OF THE AGM OF 21ST AUGUST 2025

No issues were raised, the minutes were proposed by John Taylor and seconded by Alistair Low.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

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

The 2025-2026 season was, once again very successful both on and off the ice. As Doug will explain in his Financial Review, both ice and bar sales were up on the previous year for the 4th year running, bar sales significantly so.

In October 2025 we were able to fund the purchase of the rink, a huge achievement. It marks the culmination of incredible and sustained support from curlers at Kinross since the Trust took on responsibility for the refurbishment and operation of the rink in 2013. The purchase was financed largely through loans and donations from the curling community without the need for any commercial borrowing. Thank you to everyone involved.

Owning the rink brings with it extra opportunities and extra challenges. Opportunities come from freedom to do more things as the lease agreement placed on us some restrictions on how we operate. So, we want to look seriously at the business case for opening in the summer at what that would look like. Owning the asset brings responsibilities on how we do that. We have set up a Buildings Group that is already proving to be very effective. John Taylor will say more about that later.

There have been many highlights on the ice over the season. The biggest single event that we hosted, the finals of the Henderson Bishop towards the end of the season, was a fantastic occasion but there were many others including, the British Curling League, our International Bonspiel, the U14 Slam and the Indoor Grand Match. All of these events were tremendously successful, and we received so many positive comments regarding the quality of the ice, the fantastic catering and bar facilities and the warm welcome from everyone involved at Kinross.

Away from the ice, the 9th End Cafe and Bar goes from strength to strength. Whether it's providing food for bonspiels and club events, Christmas Lunches, Burns Suppers and Quiz nights or just lunch in the bar, the food is great and the welcome warm. We are very lucky to have the staff that we have and lucky too to have a very appreciative clientele.

We have a very strong focus on curling development which is lead by our Curling Development Officer, delivered by our fantastic coaches and supported through the Kinross Curling Development Club. Once again, this structure has resulted in

large numbers attending our Try Curling and Beginners sessions, particularly towards the end of the season due to the boost from the Winter Olympics, with many going on to join KCDC and/or one of our clubs. The curling development team really do deliver a fantastic programme over the season so it was great that the work was recognised when Kinross Curling was presented with the ParalympicsGB 'Club of the Month Award' for March 2026.

So, all in all, another really good season. We are already looking at what we want to do next season. Look out for a few events as we lead up to our 50th Anniversary the following season, and here I would like to say how sad we all were to hear about Sir David Montgomery's passing. It was Sir David who had the vision and drive to build

Finally, my thanks for everyone involved in supporting Kinross Curling in so many ways and making it such a great place to curl, or just visit.

6. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER

The Report of the Independent Financial Adviser, Thomson Cooper, is on page 4 of the accounts and has been signed by Sharon Collins on 6th August 2026.

7. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS TO 30 APRIL 2026

Doug presented the following report.

What a year! Met with Jamie to discuss land to build new changing rooms and he suggests we might buy the rink. Knock backs from SportScotland, World Curling & CAF Bank when looking for funding. Hectic summer as the curling community lend support for the purchase.

A new card system (Clover)was installed and the accounting system moved from Sage to Xero.

INCOME		
Donations & Legacies	£27,328	Up from £1.5k
Charitable Activities	£345,251	Ice - Up by £11k
Other Trading Activities	£167,379	Bar – up by £45k
Investments	£3,939	Bank interest, up from £2.5k
Miscellaneous Income	£23,648	Sponsorship and equipment sales – up £12k
Total Income	£567,581	Up by £95k on last year
EXPENDITURE		
Trading Activities (Bar Costs)	£185,665	up by £59k on last year. Loss on bar up from £4k to £18k
Charitable Activities (Ice Hall)	£305,120	up from £268k. Restricted funds of £16k is depreciation on the building
NET INCOME		
2026	£76,796	2025 - £76.8k 2024 - £52k 2023 – (£5.9k) 2022 – (£9.5k) 2021 - £78k 2020 - £93k
BALANCE SHEET		
Increase in Tangible Assets	£410k	£433k additions; £23k depreciation
Stocks	£2,980	Up from £2k last year
Debtors	£5,852	Up by £3k
Bank	£287,061	Up from £234k last year
Creditors within one year	£99,950	HMRC £14k, trade creditors £1.6k, other £84k
Total assets	£1,495,459	Up from £1,418,663
EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (ICE HALL)		
Depreciation on building	£23,060	Up from £14k
Water & Rent	£2,908	Down from £36k, all bar £100 is water
Heat & Light	£87,168	Up from £54k
Insurance	£10,661	Up from £8.5k, buildings insurance increased
Repairs & Maintenance	£22,553	Down from £29k

Irrecoverable VAT	£10,851	Up from £7k due to increased electricity costs
Share of Support Costs	£109,676	Up from £89k, mainly ice staff wages
Share of Governance Costs	£22,699	Accountancy, legal and professional fees

Doug asked for the accounts be approved and this was proposed by Iain Cormack and seconded by Phil Barton. 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 ASandy Nelson.

9. FUTURE BUSINESS CHALLENGES

Rink Manager's Report

Ross said that the staff were all looking forward to a new season and hoped that everyone was looking forward to coming back. He said that all last years staff were returning except one, and that there would be a few new faces in the bar, and we were still looking for daytime bar staff. There has been significant investment over the summer of both time and money, primarily in a new chiller to replace the one that has been ailing for the last couple of years, and in a new booking system that Angela has been working hard on. We do expect a few teething problems with the new system, but bear with us and we will get it sorted. He finished by saying he would see everyone from 7th September.

Booking System Report by Angela Wilcox

Angela reported that the new booking system should have been available for use by now, but it has been delayed, however we hope to get the new website and ice diary available to view very soon, and the system operational soon after that.

Angela pointed out the new screen displays, one in the bar and one in the ice hall that show the ice allocation for the day. This will replace the white board downstairs. The new system allows us to show in the diary when the ice times have been changed from the standard times, something that was not possible in the previous system. The other major change is that practice ice will now be sold in half hour slots, with a fair use policy of half an hour of practice per day if you wish to practice alone, and 1 hour if you will be practicing with someone else. This will double the number of practice slots that we can offer, and reduce the cost of practice for those who only use part of the session. The new system will offer user accounts and will do a lot more than the previous system did, and hopefully do it better. We do expect a lot of questions at the start as there is no user guide yet, but with your patience we will get used to it.

Jim thanked Angela and John Taylor for all their work getting this in place.

Building Group Report by John Taylor

Jim said that owning the rink came with increased responsibility, but also increased opportunities, in that we can open in the closed season if we wish to, and run any events we want to now that the non-competition restrictions we had have been removed. He reported that we are looking for a floor covering that Ross will approve to put down so that any events will not damage the floor.

Jim reported that a Buildings Group had been established, led by John Taylor, and that John was going to tell us about it.

John said that the Buildings group had been setup to look after the rink and the surrounding area, and that it first met in January this year to put some terms of reference together for Board approval, which it got. The group consists of John Taylor and Craig Lindsay, as board representatives, Ross, as rink manager, and 2 curlers who joined with specific experience of buildings management and project finance, they are Colin Low and Sandy Hay.

The group have worked on several major and minor projects, including the selection and purchase of the new chiller plant, which will hopefully reduce our electricity bill. Also some significant tree management work was carried out over the summer, with one tree being taken down, the back side of the rink cleared, and another tree being reduced in height. There has also been a significant upgrade to the equipment in the kitchen. With approval from the Board, the group are now investigating options for renewable energy at the rink. We put in an expression of interest to get funding towards this, and passed that stage and are now at the stage with Community and Renewable Energy Scotland (CARES) of having a

consultation with an energy advisor, which is scheduled to take place next week. This will give us pointers as to where we can make savings, which we can use to build a full business case which we will use to get funding from CARES. We have looked into what Border Ice Rink have done there, which includes solar panels, battery storage, and air source heat pumps totalling around £185,000, for which they got almost 100% funding from CARES and 1 or 2 local funders. We are confident that we will be able to piggy-back onto what they have done, and do something similar here, but this is in the early stages at the moment.

John invited curlers to provide suggestions of projects that they think would benefit the rink. We have a wonderful building but we need to look after it and develop it.

Curling Development Report by Jim Barton

Kim Dalland was not able to be at the AGM and Morag, trustee responsible for curling development, is away on holiday, so Jim Barton summarised Kims report, which is provided in full below.

Curling Development Report

2025-2026 was a tremendous year for growth, mainly thanks to the Olympics and definitely thanks to our coaches' commitment and hard work. We held our largest number of sessions and retainment was at its highest.

We ran 158 coaching sessions on 196 sheets of ice, not including coaching for Juniors, VICKS and Dollar Academy. The biggest growth was in private Try Curling sessions, which went up from 7 in the previous season to 23 in this one. The number of 1-2-1s rose from 17 to 31, showing us that all levels of curlers can benefit from coaching, and we delivered.

We continue to encourage clubs to hold their own Try Curling sessions, where the clubs advertise and bring participants and Development provides ice and coaching. Glenfarg and Pitlessie excelled in this area, each booking a series of sessions and most importantly signing up their participants to their clubs.

The highlight of the season for newcomers was the Beginner Curlympic & Paralympic Bonspiel held in March. Twenty-six novice curlers made up eight teams with some of our club representatives as Skips. Eight of our coaches also joined in. Everyone had a great time and experienced the fun and friendship curling can bring. Some even signed up to clubs straight afterwards. We are grateful to Scottish Curling for a generous financial award towards running this event.

Coaches

We had 29 active coaches and 8 assistants through the season. One coach qualified for his level 2 certificate, bringing the total of level 2 coaches to five, and one achieved a Professional Development Award in Sports Educator Tutoring, in conjunction with Scottish Curling. We hope to increase our number of coaches and will be running a level 1 course at Kinross in November 2026; we ensure that all our trainee coaches get the mentoring and supervision they need.

As usual we recorded how many sessions each coach and assistant worked at and the total was a staggering 524! The number is much higher than the number of sheets sold quoted above because some sheets and sessions had more than 1 coach present and also because the figure includes coaching for Juniors, VICKS and Dollar Academy. This is up from 399 in the previous season. An incredible 64 of these sessions were coached by Elaine Spain.

The Kinross Supercoach of the Year award was presented to Stuart Morrison.

KCDC

Out of KCDC's 71 members, 34 were new this year and nearly all came directly from our Try Curling/ Beginner coaching programme. The new curlers thrived due to KCDC's varied programme of games (well done to the KCDC Committee) plus a thorough and consistent coaching programme led by Iain Gwynne.

Inclusion

In March, the month during which the Paralympics were being held in Cortina, we were honoured and excited to have won the ParalympicsGB Every Body Moves 'Club of the Month Award'. The award was presented in collaboration with Scottish Disability Sports and British Curling and celebrates clubs and providers in all sports setting the gold standard in delivering more opportunities for the disabled community to be physically active. We won out of a shortlist of 10 curling rinks and main credit goes to coach Dottie Burt for her involvement in and running of the inclusive programmes at Kinross.

After School Club

ASC continued to run as before, on 16 Mondays 4-5pm. Numbers were slightly down on previous years, but a few from the previous season had moved up to Juniors. The end of term tea-party after their last session has become a popular fixture.

2025-2026	No of sessions	No of sheets
Try Curling	18	21
1-2-1s	31	31
Scouts	7	16
Private Try curling	23	30
TC/Beg Clubs	13	13
Beginner	24	25
Corporate	5	16
Improvers	8	8
Stick	1	1
KICC	16	23
KCDC	12	12
Total	**158**	**196**

Jim also announced that we had been successful in getting 90% funding for a new member of staff, to be called a Membership and Community Engagement Officer. Their job will be to engage with clubs to help them grow, to reach out to the local community to bring new business in, and to work with the Office Manager and the Curling Development Officer to help with admin. This is a 3 year post and is worth around £50k to the rink. Angela put in most of the work, together with himself and Morag and Scottish Curling helped to ensure our bid had all the required elements in it. We are delighted to have received this money and are sure that we will see a boost in terms of membership in the years to come.

Treasurer

Doug said that after last year we really needed a quiet year (in terms of finance), however this was not to be.

- The possibility of having to replace the chiller became a reality, £70k, plus £14k irrecoverable VAT
- The dishwasher needed upgrading due to the amount of work it has to do, it and other ancillary items came to £8k
- The booking system, £15k

So although we are rich on paper, we have a lot of commitments and need to be careful. Iain Cormack and Sandy Hay have helped to produce a projection for the next 7 years so that we can be sure we can meet out outgoings. We have 5 year commitments to repay all the loans, which is £78k per year, and the interest on top of that.

In the May to July accounts we have a net loss of £59k, but had budgeted for £68k, so are on target, and all the ice invoices have gone out and the money is now coming in. The budget for the ice sales this year is £378k, a 4% increase on last year, and the bar sales £178k, a 10% increase. We are budgeting for a small surplus at the year end, 30th April.

The current electricity contract runs to the end of this season but the gas contract changes on 1st September this year to a higher value. However electricity is about £10k per month whereas gas is under £2k, so the gas price does not affect us as much as the electricity price.

Alastair Lammond asked if there was anything that could be done to increase the amount of VAT that could be reclaimed. Doug replied that there was not, as we are exempt from VAT ion ice activity, so VAT on any purchases that relate to ice activity is irrecoverable.

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 Doug Ritchie and Jim Barton, and both are seeking re-election. Since there are only 2 nominations there is no requirement for a formal election and Doug and Jim were appointed to the board.

There is still one space on the Board and they can co-opt someone onto the Board, so if anyone is interested speak to one of the trustees.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

50th Anniversary Celebrations report by Phil Barton

Phil reported on the current state of planning, saying that the framework is in place but that there is a lot of details to be added in the months ahead. He thanks John Taylor and Ena Stevenson for their support.

The date for the celebration is April 2027 to April 2028. As far as we can gather the rink was supposed to open in early 1977, nut although there was some curling then, it was autumn before curling really got started. Our plan is to start the 50th Anniversary at the end of this season.

We are celebrating because we have a rink to be proud of, and while several rinks around Scotland are struggling, we looking ahead. If we look at the beginning, then credit needs to be given to Sir David Montgomery and the Green Hotel, as without them we probably would not have a rink. However, we also have to recognise the importance of the Kinross Curling Trust, which started in 2009 and took over the running of the rink in 2013. What we would like to focus on over the months ahead, is to find out the impact of curling here on curling clubs, and the impact of curling clubs on the development of curling in Kinross. We would like to talk to anyone who was curling back in 1976 who would be able to share information about that time.

The programme so far is

- On the final day of the season, Saturday 3rd April, we will have a Curling in 1976 bonspiel where we will play by the rules that were in place then.
- The Opening Bonspiel will be in September 2027, giving priority to clubs that were curling here at the start.
- Closing Bonspiel in April 2028 open to all who curl here.
- The celebration dinner is in April 2028. The venue is still to be decided, and will depend on whether we have floor covering for the rink so that we can hold it here.

We are also producing a timeline of curling through the years which will be on display, and are looking at having a booklet about the 50 years, which we hope clubs will contribute to, and we hope to get a page on the website soon as well.

There will be a couple of fundraising events this season. a wine tasting evening on 28th November and later in the season there will be a “Kinross has got Talent” evening, so we will be recruiting people to take part in that.

How can you help – we are looking for stories and photos of events over the last 50 years that we can celebrate, and will be looking for volunteers to help run the various events. We will also be asking all our curlers to support us in signing up to take part.

Jim thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8:20pm.