

**Transcript of Proceedings of the  
177th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club  
Held at Murrayfield Curling Rink, Edinburgh on Saturday 13th June 2015**

**Present on the Podium:**

President	David Henderson (New Abbey)
Chairman of the Board	Alastair MacNish (Gourock)
Chief Executive Officer	Bruce Crawford (Abbotsford Curling Society)

**AGENDA OF BUSINESS**

- a) Welcome Remarks
- b) In Memoriam
- c) Apologies
- d) Letter from the Royal Patron
- e) President's Report
- f) Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14 June 2014
- g) Annual Report of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club
- h) Resolutions to alter the Memorandum and Articles of Associations and Rules of the Game.  
Details of the resolutions can be found on the RCCC's website;
  - Resolution 1 - Proposals by the Rules Committee and supported by the Board to add new rules and amend the Rules of the Game (3a to 3h)
  - Resolution 2 – Proposals by the Rules Committee and supported by the Board to amend the Rules of the Game for clarity
- i) Submission of the Annual Accounts appropriately certified
- j) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner
- k) Fixing of entrance fees and annual subscriptions and any levies  
(Subscriptions for 2016-2017 will remain unchanged - £19 ordinary and honorary playing, and £6 under 21 year old)
- l) Appointment of President
- m) Appointment of Vice-President
- n) Appointment of Directors
- o) Appointment of Chaplain
- p) Authorisation of the publication of the Annual
- q) Fixing of the place and date of the next Annual General Meeting
- r) Presentation of Trophies
- s) Presentation of Scottish Curling Awards
- t) Any other competent business (as notified before the AGM)
- u) Address by incoming President

## RECORDED ATTENDANCE

In alphabetical order by club:

**Past Presidents:** Arthur Beattie (Banchory), William Duncan (Bank of Scotland (Perth & District)), Patrick Edington (Boswall), Andrew Stevenson (Cawder House), Andrew Hepburn (Corstorphine), Matt Brown (Cumnock & District), Gifford Rickard (Denny (Inc. Denny LP)), Bill Marshall (Dumbarton), Jim Murdoch (Dundonald), Robbie Scott (Dunkeld), Alan Durno (Fochabers), Alistair McCabe (Kennoway), Charles Binnie (Panmure)

**Board:** Bruce Crawford (CEO/Abbotsford Curling Society), Cathy Maclean (Aberlady), David Hardie (Crocketford), Billy Howat (Cumnock & District), Alastair MacNish (Gourock), David Henderson (New Abbey), Robert Kelly (Reform)

**Areas Standing Committee:** Albert Middler (AWW), Boyd Houston (Dollar & Devon Vale), James Cullen (Earlston), Graham Lindsay (Forret), Bobby Corbett (Giffnock), Clive Thomson (Glasgow Academicals), John Good (Haddington), Bob Smith (Inverkeithing), Ormond Smith (Inverness), Gordon Gilchrist (Lesmahagow), Brian McArtney (Letham Grange), Joe Barry (Livingston), Jim Jamieson (Reform), Andrew Kerr (Troon Portland), Neil Calvert (West Linton)

**Staff:** Lindsey Booth (Welfare Officer), Nicola Glencross (Administrator), Judith McCleary (Head of Development/Keir), Barbara McFarlane (Performance Development Coach/Keir), Susan Murrin (Events Manager), Sara Turner (Administrator), Suzy Wakefield (Office Manager)

**Individuals Members:** Alistair Robinson (Abdie), Andrew Messenger (Abdie), Keith Rose (Abdie), Jim Stirrat (Abdie), John Arbuckle (Abdie), Ann Mitchell (Aberdour), Elizabeth Smith (Aberdour), David Aitken (Aberlady), Morgan Nicoll (Aberlady), John Shedden (Athenstaneford), Douglas Sands (Bank of Scotland (Edinburgh)), Margo Nicoll (Bank of Scotland (Fife)), Willie Nicoll (Bank of Scotland (Fife)), Christine Cheape (Blair Atholl), Roy Simon (Boreland), Stanley Howard (Boswall), Donald C MacDougall (Brookfield), Ian B Duffin (Broomhall), Martin Bald (Broomhall), Alex Flett (Broughty Ferry), P Ritchie Stewart (Buchan), Margaret MacLeod (Bute), Donald MacLeod (Bute), W D MacFarlane (Cadder), Alan Donaldson (Cadder), Chris Ormerod (Cadder), Jennifer Bain (Carrington), Lindsay Scotland (Carrington), Alastair Lindsay (Chirnside), Eric Barry (Corstorphine), Kenneth Knowles (Corstorphine), John Dignan (Corstorphine), Iain Baxter (Corstorphine), L Calder Benzie (Corstorphine), Isobel Edwards (Corstorphine Ladies), Fiona Hardie (Crocketford), Yvonne Chalmers (Crossmyloof), Sheila M Watson (Cumnock & District), Morna Aitken (Currie & Balerno), Susan Kesley (Currie & Balerno), Jenny Barr (Currie & Balerno), Ken Hunter (DAFS), R T White (Dalmellington Craigengillan), Margaret White (Dalmellington Craigengillan), Robin Niven (Delvine), Michael Niven (Delvine), Sue Howat (Disnae Virtual Club), Evie Houston (Dollar Ladies), Ian J Seath (Duddingston), Sheena Murdoch (Dundonald), Ian Borland (Dunfermline), Albert Rae (Dunfermline), Ena Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Kathleen Scott (Dunkeld), David Hay (Dunning), John Burns (Earlston), Alison Allison (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Agnes Strang (East Kilbride & Haremyres), David Affleck (East Linton), Susan Collings (Edinburgh Ladies), Robert S Miller (Edzell), David MacNair (Falkirk), Douglas Peters (Falkirk), Harry Johnston (Falkirk Ice Rink), Anna Burnside (Falkirk Ladies 1960), Jeanette Johnston (Falkirk Ladies), Mike Watt (Fochabers), Susan Durno (Fochabers), Ian Mackin (Forest Hills Trossachs), Liz Boswell (Galston Haymouth), Jim Boswell (Galston Haymouth), Euan Lawrence (Gangrels), Kirsty Letton (Glasgow Ladies), Judy MacKenzie (Glasgow Ladies), Maria Tait (Glenfarg Ladies), Karina Aitken (Gogar Park Young Curlers), Gina Aitken (Gogar Park Young Curlers), Rowena Kerr (Gogar Park Young Curlers), Gavin Barr (Gogar Park Young Curlers), Catherine Beattie (Granite City Ladies), Ian Dykes (Greenlaw), Graeme Maguire (Haddington), Isobel Hannen (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Rachel Hannen (Hamilton & Thornyhill), W Ronnie Dunachie (Helensburgh), Irene Stevenson (Hercules Ladies), Anne Malcolm (Hercules Ladies), Rhona Stewart (Howwood), Robbie Stewart (Howwood), Bob Tait (Inverkeithing), Phil Barton (Inverkeithing), Michael Frost (Jedburgh), Nanette McCabe (Kennoway), William Ralston (Kilsyth), Anne Porter (Kinross Ladies), Joyce White (Kinross Ladies), Hugh Templeton (Kirkcowan), Jane McArtney (Letham Grange), George McNeill (Linlithgow), Margaret Barry (Livingston), David R Edwards (Merchiston), Alan Chalmers (Musketeers), D Harold Forrester (Nairn), Bob Pottie (Nairn), Margaret Pottie (Nairn Ladies), Frances Henderson (New Abbey), Ian Keron (Oatridge), Eileen Thomas (Orwell Ladies), Jane Drysdale (Orwell Ladies), John Miller (Panmure), Trish Binnie (Panmure), J Walter Brown (Penicuik), Jim Ramsay (Penicuik), William Scott (Penninghame), Frank White (Pitkerro), Mary Anne McWilliam (Portpatrick), James Mason (Raith & Abbotshall), Harry,

Mitchell (Raith & Abbotshall), Anne Liddle (RBS Edinburgh), Jan Howard (Reform), David Howard (Reform), Judith Thomson (Rolling Stones), James W Porter (Rothes), John M Smith (Ruthwell), David Cunningham (S.I.A.E), Robert Forsyth (St Boswells), Harry Dodds (St Boswells), Naomi Brown (Stoneykirk), Derek Thomson (Stratheden), Marion Fraser (Strathkinness), James Dixon (Swinton), David B Smith (Symington), Ronald McQuaid (Torbex), David McIntyre (Troon Portland), Lillian McIntyre (Troon Portland), Julia Craig (Troon Portland), James Letton (Troon Portland), Janette Kennedy (Tullymet), Caroline Carnie (Uphall), Lauchlan MacLean (Watsonian), Malcolm Patrick (Watsonian), Doreen Calvert (West Linton)

**In attendance:** Alastair McWilliam, Isobel Torrance

**a) Welcome Remarks**

**DAVID HENDERSON (PRESIDENT):** Welcome everybody. Sister and Brother Curlers, Ladies and Gentlemen. I extend to you a very warm welcome to the 177<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. As is the case on all these occasions we have to go through a little housekeeping, whilst the dangers of fire aren't too great here I must point out the emergency exits, also we are not expecting a fire alarm, and should it go off please make your way quietly and without panic to the appropriate exit, women and children first please. Unusually I have remembered to turn off my mobile phone, but let me check that, oh no there it is. So, a very warm welcome to you all.

**b) In Memoriam**

**DAVID HENDERSON (PRESIDENT):** I would ask you all to stand and observe a minute's silence while the names of the deceased are displayed on the screen. *(There was a minute's silence)*

In alphabetical order by club: Bob Howie (Abdie), Charles Pressley (Aberdeen), Anne Stewart (Angus Glens), Ian Smith (Angus Glens), Hugh Sloan (Applegarth and Sibbaldie), Dorothy Brown (Ayr & Alloway), James Robertson (Ayton Castle), Colin Scott (Bearsden), James McCoull (Bellshill), Cathy Stirling (Benmore & Kilmun), Ian Munns (Boswall), E.M.Maccoll (Breadalbane Killin), Betty Hutcheson (Brookfield), Kitty Smith (Cambo Ladies), Dr Alexander M Mathewson (Cambusnethan), Thomas Kerr (Corstorphine), Betty Whiteford (Crawford Priory), Sandy Croal (Cupar), Graeme Cunningham (Darnaway), Norman Cathcart (Drystanes), James Gibson (Dumfries), Ella Gallanders (Dunfermline Ladies), Aileen Thomson (Dunfermline Ladies), Helen Anderson (Dunfermline Ladies), Dora Wardlaw (Dunfermline Ladies), Una Chalmers (Dunfermline Ladies), James Paul (Duntocher), Margaret Lambie (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Maureen Murray (Edinburgh Ladies), Paul Allan (Edinburgh Medical), Robin Stuart (Elgin), Isobel Woodrow (Erskine), Marianne Scobie (Falkland), William McKay (Fochabers), Alex Jack (Garnock Academy), Iain Brown (George Watson's College), Cameron Hislop (Giffnock), Dor Rutherford (Glasgow Ladies), Christine Stephen (Glasgow Ladies), T.M Nicol (Glasgow XX), Finlay Lochhead (Glasgow XX), Doug Buchan (Glenfarg), Tim Connell (Glenrothes), Julie Lyons (Granite City Ladies), J McPherson (Heart of the Highlands), Blair McNaughton (Heart of the Highlands), Eric Young (Helensburgh), Fiona Campbell (Inverness Ice Rink Ladies), Andrew Cassells (Kelvinside Academical), Marion Johnston (Kilsyth Ladies), Jessie Philip (Kinross Ladies), Donald Kinloch (Kinross Wheelchair), Mary Henry (Kirkoswald), Jean Pollock (Kirkoswald), David Torrie (Kirriemuir), Mattie Darroch (Lanark), Linda Lesperance (Laurencekirk), Dr Richard Wilson (Loch Ard), Betty White (Lynedoch Ladies), Dr James Anderson (Monifieth), Tom Miller (Musselburgh), Maggie Carr (Nairn Ladies), William Wright (Newport), Jim Smith (Old Fellows), Kenneth Gibb (Penninghame), Maureen Duncan (Perth Ladies), Ian Robb (Pitlochry), Grant MacGregor (Pollock), Myra Muncey (Raith and Abbotshall), Peter Aitken (Raith & Abbotshall), Cherry Kennet (Ross-shire Ladies), Vivian Macpherson (Ross-shire Ladies), Allan Milne (St Andrews), Roy Robertson (St Andrews), Bill Brown (St Andrews & Cambo), Helen Lawson (St Boswells), Lynn Kennedy (Stratheden Ladies), Jean Ritson (Stratheden Ladies), Robert Graham (Strathkinness), Edna Taylor (Stra'ven Ladies), William McKendrick (Thornton), Bruce Ferguson (Turriff), John Dunlay (Wishaw)

**c) Received Apologies**

In alphabetical order by club:

**Past Presidents:** Kenneth Scott (Blairgowrie), Rt. Hon Earl of Elgin (Broomhall), Leslie Ingram-Brown (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), Malcolm Richardson (Erskine), Inglis McAulay (Falkirk), Alex F Torrance (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Chuck Hay MBE (Kilgraston & Moncreiffe), William Sanderson (Oxenfoord), Tommy Hinnigan (St Boswells), Roy Sinclair (St Martins)

**Board:** Trevor Dodds (Oxenfoord), Kay Gibb (Northern Lights)

**Areas Standing Committee:** Ian Parkinson (Heart of the Highlands), Ali Asher (Nairn)

**Clubs:** Comrie, Kirkoswald

**Individuals:** Bill Rodger (Aberdeen), Jennie Duncan (Aberdeen Ladies), Angus Dowell (Athelstaneford), Lauren Gray (Balfron), Bill Linton (Bank of Scotland Fife), Gillian Haggart (Bellshill), Brenda Macintyre (Belmaduthy), Christine Cheape (Blair Atholl), Derrick Sloan (Blairdrummond), Elizabeth Scott (Blairgowrie), Morag Bisset (Bothwell Ladies), Aileen Neilson (Braehead Wheelchair), Angela Malone (Braehead Wheelchair), Michael McCreddie (Braehead Wheelchair), R.M. Munro (Caberfeidh), Yvonne Birnie (Cairngorm Ladies), G. Fergus Wilson (Campsie Glen), Robin Shand (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), David L Miller (Catterthun), Simon Elder (Craigie Hill), Robert Ireland (Crosshill), Susan Skene (Dalhousie), Kate Caithness OBE (Dalhousie Ladies), Sylvia Stevenson (Dalhousie Ladies), Robert McKenzie (Dalry Union), Lynne Rowley (Disnae Virtual), Ernest Mutter (Dundonald), Jennifer Mutter (Dundonald), Eve Muirhead (Dunkeld), Sheila Miller (Edinburgh Ladies), Elizabeth Aitken (Edinburgh Ladies), Grace Hind (Eskdale), Irene Campbell (Falkirk Ladies), Marjory McLachlan (Falkirk Ladies), Lillian Carnegie (Forfar Ladies), R. Jackson Robb (Forteviot), Murray Melville (Glendoick), Bruce Mouat (Gogar Park Young Curlers), Greig Henderson (Haddo House), W Peter Malcolm (Hercules), Anna Sloan (Hutton), Anne Moore (Kinross Ladies), Bobby Lammie (Leswalt), Duncan Menzies (Letham Grange), Mairi Milne (Letham Grange), Sandra Menzies (Letham Grange), Jim Menzies (Letham Grange), Hannah Fleming (Lochmaben Castle), Shelagh Fulton (Lynedoch Ladies), Joy Toshner (Maxwell Ladies), Alan Stanfield (Nairn), James Muir (Oxenfoord), Roy Meikle (Oxenfoord), Shirley Jeans (Panmure), Lesley Grant (Pitkerro), Vicki Adams (Portpatrick), Joe Kincaid (Sauchie & Bannockburn), Margo Bain (Stirlingshire Province), Hew Chalmers (Stoneykirk), Alan Muirhead (Stratheden), Ian S Anderson (Strathspey), Oswald Brewis (Swinton), Craig Bayne (Thornton), Ronald McQuaid (Torbrex), Douglas Hollingsworth (Troon Portland), Wendy Hollingsworth (Troon Portland), Alison Hogge (UGIE), Jon Parrott (West Linton)

**d) Letter from the Royal Patron**

**DAVID HENDERSON (PRESIDENT):** I have in my hand a letter from SW1A 1AA. As is normal we sent loyal greetings to our patron Her Majesty the Queen. I have a letter here addressed to "David Henderson, President of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Please convey my warm thanks to the members of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club for their message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of their one hundred and seventy seventh Annual General Meeting which is being held today at Murrayfield Curling Rink, Edinburgh. As your patron I much appreciate your kind words and in return I send my congratulations on the success of your Scottish teams during the 2014-15 season, and my best wishes to you all for a memorable and successful meeting. Elizabeth R".

**e) President's Report**

**DAVID HENDERSON (PRESIDENT):** It doesn't seem like twelve months since I stood before you at the AGM last year wondering just what I had let myself in for. But I need not have worried. This has been a very busy year and a hugely enjoyable one, in fact one of the most enjoyable that I have ever experienced. It has been a huge honour and privilege to serve as President of your Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Nothing quite prepared me for the warmth of the friendship and the support that has been extended to both me and Frances during my term of office.

The Royal Club is a magnificent organisation. It is large and it is complex and it strives to service the needs of over twelve thousand members, so many of whom have differing priorities. The role of President is also complex with many different elements to it. In this annual report the President traditionally recounts his travels and activities during his year in office and whilst I will refer to a number of very special events there are too many to mention them all in the time allocated to me. Should you wish however to see everywhere that I have been and all of the events that I have

attended please look up the details on the website, under the ASC minutes. It might even cure your insomnia if I don't manage that in the next few minutes.

As I mentioned, the role of President has many elements: serving on the Board of Directors; chairing the Areas' Standing Committee; attending and where possible contributing to the work of the various committees; representing the Royal Club at Championships and Competitions, both internationally and domestically; representing the Royal Club at dinners and courts; leading the Scottish team in the Four Nation's Championship.

I'm sure that I will have omitted some other important elements, so I ask your forgiveness.

I'm certain that you will all have seen, read and inwardly digested the Annual Report that was circulated with the papers for this Annual General Meeting so I don't propose to repeat everything contained therein but I would like to make a few observations.

I have much enjoyed contributing to the work of the Board of Directors. This has been a very significant year for the Board as it has led the process of determining a new strategy for the next four years. After extensive consultation with members and staff the new strategy was finalised and assisted the Royal Club in securing additional funding from SportScotland for the period through until 2019.

The Board has recognised as a key priority the need to work ever more closely with those that provide the ice for our sport. We must embrace the ice rinks as there is no doubt that we need to work together to support each other in developing our sport of curling.

A little later in our proceedings Bob Kelly and Cathy Maclean stand down from the Board and I'm sure that you would wish me to thank them on your behalf for the work that they have contributed during their time as Directors. Thank you, Bob and Cathy. (*Applause*)

To the Board we will welcome Rob Niven and Greig Henderson. Rob and Greig will bring to the Board extensive and comprehensive business expertise and more than a little curling knowledge at all levels. At an early meeting of the Board I was delighted that its members agreed to my suggestion that the Ladies' Branch President be invited to attend future Board meetings. This, I believe, helps in the Board's quest for greater transparency in its deliberations.

Whilst speaking about the Board I would just like to record my personal thanks to our Chairman, Alastair MacNish, to our CEO Bruce Crawford and to the other members of the Board for their support during my term as President.

The second element of the President's role that I mentioned was chairing the Areas' Standing Committee. As you will know from reading the Annual Report, the ASC has had a busy year and is in good heart. We have enjoyed lively and healthy debate which probably means that we haven't always had unanimous agreement. If there were there would be no need for a committee! The ASC has acknowledged that despite the lively debate there is a need to review the Areas' Structure and this is work in progress led by incoming Vice-President Clive Thomson. The review group, as noted in the Annual Report, will share its initial findings with the ASC and the Board in October.

The third element of the President's role that I mentioned is that of attending and where possible, contributing to the work of various committees. I have attended as many meetings as I could but will leave it up to others to determine whether or not I was able to make any useful contribution. These committees are the engine room of the Royal Club. The committees, whilst their terms of reference are all quite different, contribute significantly to curling at every level and as we adopt the new strategy 2015-2019 now may be a good time to review these terms of reference to ensure that they are properly in tune with the new strategic objectives.

To all those who have served on the committees this year I offer my sincere thanks for all the work that they have done and for all the time they have devoted to the Royal Club.

The fourth element is that of representing the Royal Club at Championships and Competitions both at home and abroad and as you might imagine this has been a hugely enjoyable duty. From Under 14 Slams to World Championships I have met literally hundreds of curlers participating in the sport that they love. Without exception Frances and I have been warmly greeted wherever we have travelled and we have witnessed young curlers and those not quite in the first flush of youth enjoying the friendship and camaraderie that is such an important part of our sport.

On the international stage our medal successes during the 2014 to 2015 season were from the World Juniors, the Europeans and the World Universiade. From the World Juniors, Gina Aitken and her rink of Naomi Brown, Rowena Kerr, Rachel Hannen and Karina Aitken came home with Silver medals and Bruce Mouat and his rink of Duncan Menzies, Derrick Sloan, Angus Dowell and Bobby Lammie came home with Bronze medals. From the Europeans, Eve Muirhead and her rink of Anna Sloan, Vicki Adams, Sarah Reid and Lauren Gray came home with Bronze medals. From the World Universiade, Kyle Smith and his rink of Stuart Taylor, Thomas Muirhead, Grant Hardie and Alasdair Schreiber came home with Bronze medals. Our congratulations to you all. To those coming home without medals we reiterate our support and share your personal disappointment.

I attended the European Championships in Champéry, Switzerland and the Men's World Championship in Halifax, Nova Scotia in addition to as many domestic competitions as I could fit in to the diary. It is hugely encouraging to see the quality in depth of our youngsters and I know that there is real determination to develop these talents to produce our medal winners of the future. It may have "aye been" but I would like to recognise the wonderful support provided by all the parents who take their young curlers all over Scotland to competitions from Stranraer in the south to Aberdeen and Inverness in the north.

The oldies do quite well too. The Seniors and Masters are two of our most popular competitions and it is great to see the rivalries between the teams as keen now as they were when they played as youngsters.

I offer my congratulations to the winners of all the competitions played throughout the season and no doubt you will have seen the list of these winners in the Annual Report.

Element number five is representing the Royal Club at Dinners and Courts. Each year for many clubs, provinces and ice rinks the highlight is celebrating some milestone in their history. It might be a centenary celebration, a bi-centenary celebration, something beyond or something in between but without exception a huge amount of work is done to put on an event appropriate to the occasion. It is therefore indeed a privilege with some responsibility to be invited to be a part of such celebrations. An appropriate speech has to be prepared - a toast to the celebrating club or a reply to a toast to the Royal Club - the same speech every time, topped and tailed for the occasion. From time to time there is an overlap and some poor folks have been exposed to the same speech more than once. To those affected please accept my apologies but spare a thought for Frances who has heard it dozens of times. To all those clubs, provinces and ice rinks that have extended hospitality to Frances and me, our very sincere thanks.

The last element that I identified was leading, with Ladies' Branch President Mary Anne McWilliam, the Scottish team to the Four Nations competition, this year played in Fenton's rink in Tunbridge Wells. It is clear to me now just what an inspirational leader Mary Anne is as the Ladies returned with the Connie Miller Trophy whilst the men, under my not so inspirational leadership, returned empty handed. The whole event was ably hosted by the English Curling Association and my preferred measure of success would be the fun and fellowship on and off the ice enjoyed by every participant. Well done Tommy Campbell and the English Curling Association. But beware next year - Billy Howat and Marion Fraser will be in charge of the Scottish contingent.

I think that I have covered what I perceived to be the role of President but if you will allow me I will mention a number of specific events and happenings. Inevitably something that should be included will be omitted but I ask your forgiveness as no disrespect is intended.

The World Curling Federation Annual Congress was held last September in Reno, Nevada. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that curling would take me to the desert but there was your President, at the congress as an observer, funded may I add, by UK Sport. The midday sun was so hot that I saw neither mad dogs nor Englishmen. Happily the Convention Centre was well air conditioned - no hot air, just passionate debate about a vision for the future of our sport, most ably chaired by our very own Kate Caithness OBE. Congratulations to Kate on being elected for a further term as President of the World Curling Federation. It is often said there can be no greater honour than to be recognised by one's peers and so it was that last month at the Ladies' Branch AGM in Stranraer, Kate was elected Honorary President of the Ladies' Branch. Our sincere thanks go to Kate for the enormous contribution that she makes throughout the world of curling. *(Applause)*

One of the highlights of any Presidential year must be an incoming tour and during November we welcomed curlers from Switzerland. I believe that they much enjoyed their visit to Scotland and I would like to record my thanks to those who helped with the organisation of the tour and those who participated in the matches played throughout the country. The two couriers, Joe Barry and George Delgaty did a marvellous job dealing with all sorts of requests from the tourists including one made without prior notification for a complete blood transfusion - duly delivered.

Your Board Chairman Alastair and I were invited by the President of the Renfrewshire 12<sup>th</sup> Province to attend a Question Time styled gathering in Brookfield Village Hall where we received a very warm welcome. I had the opportunity to say a few words about the structure and workings of the Royal Club and Alastair spoke about the new strategy and the challenges facing the sport of curling. The question and answer session, I believe, helped to inform those present about many aspects of the Royal Club and indeed managed to correct a few misconceptions. My thanks go to Jim Jamieson for arranging this gathering and whilst Alastair and Billy may not thank me for saying so I do think that it is something that could be repeated once or twice a season in different areas. Improving communications with members and transparency in what we do come rapidly to mind.

Mary Anne McWilliam and I attended one of the days of the Summer Camp in Stirling where we witnessed about fifty youngsters having a whale of a time on and off the ice. I was persuaded against my better judgement to try the climbing wall at the Peak but happily I was directed to the easiest section – not much more difficult than climbing stairs – so I didn't have the ignominy of falling off in front of some eager witnesses. Congratulations to Judith McCleary and her team in running such a successful event. *(Applause)*

At this time last year it was announced that the restoration of the Lees painting of the second Grand Match which was held on Linlithgow Loch had been completed and that it was hanging in the National Portrait Gallery. The Gallery held an event in November to celebrate the bringing together of two Lees masterpieces, the curling painting and his famous golf painting. I would recommend to you all that you should visit the gallery to see these two great pictures together. I was also delighted that Alan Steel Asset Management, based in Linlithgow, agreed to be the title sponsor of the Fourth Indoor Grand Match to be held later this year.

In January, the Penicuik Curling Club celebrated its 200th Anniversary with a series of events, the largest of which was a bonspiel held here in Murrayfield. All of the teams and indeed all of the Penicuik helpers were dressed in period costume which added greatly to the sense of occasion and fun. The bonspiel was followed by dinner in the Edinburgh Capital Hotel where the celebrations continued into the wee sma' 'oors. The event was five years in the planning and all those who attended reaped the benefit of the hard work that had been done in organising it.

My year as your President has been full of very special events and occasions – I have enjoyed them all.

I would like to bring this report to a conclusion on perhaps its most important note, a big list of "thank you's" or should I say a list of big "thank you's".

During the year thirteen clubs have become affiliated to the Royal Club and there are a further two in the pipeline. I wanted to offer congratulations and thanks to all those who have

encouraged these clubs into the fold and those who have been involved in setting up new clubs. Of the fifteen clubs I note that nearly half are from the Ayrshire Province where a huge amount of work has been done by the Ayr Development Group – even before Billy has taken over as your new President. We welcome them all to the Royal Club.

I would like to recognise all those who work at the ice rinks, making ice, preparing food, serving drinks and indeed many other jobs. They are essential to the full enjoyment of curling and I thank them all.

The Royal Club is a business. The business is run to support the members of the Royal Club, that's you, and to support our beloved game of curling. The staff, led by the Chief Executive Officer, Bruce Crawford all work hard on our behalf to provide the framework for us to enjoy our sport. The challenges that the staff face are often complex and I offer them all my enthusiastic thanks for the support they have given me and for the work that they do for us all.

The Royal Club is a Club. It comprises over twelve thousand members and amongst them is a veritable army of volunteers and these are the people I would like to recognise now. There are coaches, umpires, committee members and the same again in Provinces. These are the people who keep our sport together, each contributing in their own way. Without you all we are as nothing. Please keep up the good work and thank you all.

I have had the pleasure this year to work with Mary Anne McWilliam in her role as Ladies' Branch President and I thank her for her support and for inviting me to the Ladies' Branch AGM last month in Stranraer. To incoming President Billy Howat and Ladies' Branch President, Marion Fraser I offer my thanks and best wishes to them both for a successful and fulfilling year in 2015-2016.

Penultimately, to Frances my greatest helper and supporter, so very many thanks.

Finally, my thanks to you all for allowing me to be your President, for your support and for your friendship. It has been a fun filled journey.

Thank you all. *(Applause)*

**f) Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 14th June 2014**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. Thanks David, before moving on to the voting procedure it would be unforgivable of me if I did not express my personal thanks to David for his support throughout the year. He has been an inspiration as President and I mean that sincerely. I wish Frances and him best wishes for the future. Thank you very much David. *(Applause)*

Before we vote on the approval of the minutes I will try and explain the procedure. We have received 107 votes either online or by post. There are 176 here today where 99 have chosen to vote today, giving a total number of 206 votes. As an accountant that is probably the wrong amount. Those voting today will raise their voting card either for or against the recommendation. So the first one, the minutes on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Can I ask those in favour of approving the minutes to raise as high as you can your cards. Thank goodness for that. Those against? Minutes are approved.

**g) Annual Report of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** If that was my only duty I would be delighted, I will now pass you over to our Chief Executive Bruce who will present the Annual Report.

**BRUCE CRAWFORD (CEO):** Thank you David for your President's report and Alastair. In the next few minutes I will share with you some of the achievements and changes that we have been working on for you, our members, over the last year. I had to cut out quite a lot as David has already said it. So it is my responsibility is on behalf of the directors, to report to you on the financial health of the organisation. Before looking into detail, it is worth noting that this accounting period that we have just completed reporting on is for twelve months, whereas the previous year included an extra month because we changed the financial year end from the end

of March to the end of April, so that the entire curling season was in the same financial year. As a result, within the accounts some of the comparisons make it look like there has been less activity which is not actually the case.

I don't know if you can see the detailed image slide from the back, but the chart shows that a significant amount of income is from grants that we receive from bodies such as SportScotland and UK Sport which is predominantly ring fenced and the majority of which is used for our development work. The second greatest slice of income is from membership which represents 1/5 of our total income. Without going round the whole content what we have concluded in a positive note is an approved surplus of £2,273 before tax. On the next slide, this shows our expenditure this year with development being the largest slice closely followed by in equal amounts Competitions, Player Developments, Staffing, Marketing and Administration. For those who analyse the figures, you will notice a couple of items with some very significant variations compared to previous years. The two that I will highlight are the cash in the bank which is up from £159,000 to £749,000. This is because the SportScotland grant was received in full before the end of April and because we moved the end of the financial year. It is showing as an amount received in the previous year. In the current financial year, we reported on for activities to take place the following year. But it also shows up on page 8 in creditors the amount is up from £28,000 to £600,000 for the same reason. I hope that in future years if the funding is received in time this will settle into a pattern so we don't have such significant swings but at the end of the day the change we have achieved is a 17% increase in our investment received in grants from SportScotland which is positive for the organisation.

David has mentioned the importance of the clubs. We ended the year with 634 clubs and among the new clubs we have two new disability clubs- Dundee Dragons and Lothian Wheelchair. To further develop the area we are currently seeking grants to support the development of the sport for people with disabilities. Over the coming months I hope to be able to share news of the new developments as they emerge.

We are delighted to recognise the continuous membership of a number of our clubs and Bute, Corstorphine, Strathspey and Thornton all celebrated their 150 years membership with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club this last year. Also, one of the oldest Provinces- the Scottish Central Province celebrated 150 years membership at the end of 2014.

Through our development work with partners at the Ice Rinks, we continue to see growth in the sport and this season there was 171 Try Curling sessions across 15 ice rinks where over 500 people were introduced to curling. Many have started beginner courses and we hope they will continue their involvement in the sport when the rinks re-open in the autumn. 4,500 primary school children were also introduced through the Curling's Cool programme and the number of junior curlers continues to increase and has now reached 1,240, which bodes well for the future of the sport.

We organised 9 seminars which attracted 196 curlers. Members have already contacted us to arrange similar events next season. In addition, 197 people attended coaching courses and 29 on umpiring courses. As David has reported on competitions, they continue to be well supported and there will be a short slide-show with some of the highlights and winners from our competitions later on, as well as the ones at which we were represented. We appreciate the work put in by staff, officials, ice rink staff and volunteers and the numerous people who help the competitions to run smoothly.

During the year we developed our new strategy for 2015-2019. We had input from staff and the Board last summer and engagement through consultation with members. The new strategy will be presented to SportScotland and used as a lever to support our investment bid and one of the key changes is the future international events which we have been successful in securing. The new strategy has also helped us to define our priorities and that's also helped us to reorganise staffing roles in the organisation. In December 2014 we were awarded 4 International Competitions by the World Curling Federation, this is a tremendous opportunity for us to interest more people in the sport and support our ice rinks in the process.

We created a new company called Curling Events Scotland, a wholly owned subsidiary, aimed at the delivery of these four events and in our presence today is Susan Murrin, who started two weeks ago as the new Event Manager. She will be involved in managing the events between now and 2020.

We are fortunate to have a great team of staff working for us all for the sport and I would like to thank them for their support and dedication for this last year. The next slide gives you a visual of the staff structure. We have posted this slide on the website so you can find it in the "About Us" section and we will update it when some of the current vacancies are filled.

Looking forward, there are further changes for the organisation as we plan for a new location to new offices in Stirling by the end of August and continue to fill these vacancies. I'd like to thank our volunteer directors who have challenged and supported the staff to develop the sport over the last year. Particular thanks to Bob Kelly, Cathy Maclean and David Henderson who while being President, was director of the Board during the last year, as they are all retiring this year and have contributed hugely to making the organisation successful. I would also like to thank, the volunteers for their various support on the committees and the many volunteers working behind the scenes to keep the sport moving forward. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**h) Resolutions to alter the Memorandum and Articles of Associations and Rules of the Game**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Thanks Bruce, now are there any questions that anyone has on Bruce's report? *(None)*

We will now move on to the various resolutions acquiring approval. It is the same voting procedure for the minutes:

**Resolution 1** - Proposals by the Rules Committee and supported by the Board to add new rules and amend the Rules of the Game (3a to 3h)

3a) The first one Rule 3a- "Where it is known prior to the start of an end that a team will have only three players, the first two players shall deliver three stones each and the last player shall deliver two stones" There has been 122 members voted online and by post. Can I ask those in favour of the resolution to raise their voting cards? Against? A huge overall majority, thank you. That's approved.

3b) The second rule is Rule 4- Any improper position of players will result in the delivered stone being removed from play, and any displaced stones shall be replaced but the non-offending team, to their positions prior to the violation taking place. Again, 120 members have voted can I ask those in favour of the resolution if you can raise your voting card, again the majority have approved it.

3c) If a stone which would have altered the course of a moving stone is displaced, or caused to be displaced, by an external force, all stones are allowed to come to rest, and are then placed in the positions in which they would have come to rest had a stone not been displaced. If the teams cannot agree, the stone is redelivered after all displaced stones have been replaced to their positions prior to the displacement taking place. If agreement on those positions cannot be reached, the end is replayed. If you understand that then you are really on top of the game. There were 121 by online or postal vote; all those in favour of the change if you could pop your card up, ok those against? Approved.

3d) Next rule change is rule 10- teams must not use electronic communication equipment, or any device to modify the voice, during a game. With the exception of stopwatches that are limited to providing "time" data only, the use of electronic devices during the games, which provide information to players on the field of play, are forbidden. Again, 123 voted online or by post, can I ask those in favour of the change to please raise their cards, thanks very much any against? Approved.

3e) Rule R11 scoring. When a late penalty applies in any game, ends forfeited shall be deducted from the total ends to be played. In all situations the non-offending teams will have the last stone

in the first end of actual play. Again 122 voted by postal vote and online, those in favour of the proposal please raise, those against? Thank you very much, approved.

3f) Rule 13- Wheelchair Curling. Insert as (g) and re-number the points. If a delivery violation occurs, the delivered stone shall be replaced by the non-offending team, to their positions prior to the violation taking place. With 118 members voted online, by post. Again if we can have your approval for those in favour please raise your hands, those against? Approved.

3g) Next resolution is Rule 14 relates to Doubles Curling. If a delivery violation occurs, the delivered stone shall be removed from play, and any displaced stones shall be replaced, by the non-offending team, to their positions prior to the violation taking place. Should the infraction not be discovered until after the delivery of a subsequent stone, play continues as if the infraction had not occurred. Again, 117 online and postal votes cast, can I ask those in favour to please raise their card? Those against? Approved.

3h) We move onto resolution 3h, rule 15 prohibited substances. The use of prohibited substances or drugs, whether taken knowingly without therapeutic exemption or otherwise, is unethical and forbidden. If such use occurs player(s) will be disqualified from the competition and it could lead to further suspension. 120 voted online or by post can I ask those who are in favour to please raise their cards, those against? Approved.

**Resolution 2** is the rewording of the existing rules for clarity to the rules of the game as proposed by the Rules Committee and supported by the Board. 121 came online or by post. All those in favour of changing this? Those against? Thanks very much. Approved.

**i) Submission of the Annual Accounts appropriately certified**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** The annual accounts were posted online, 108 people voted so therefore can I ask those who are in favour of publication to please raise your cards, those against? OK that's carried.

**j) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We move forward now to the Independent Financial Advisor. Our current independent financial advisor is Thomson Cooper in Dunfermline. We are recommending that they be re-appointed. Can I have your acclamation? Thank you very much.

**k) Fixing of annual subscriptions**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Subscriptions are to remain the same for the 2016-17 Season (£19 ordinary and honorary playing, and £6 for those under 21 years of age). Again 123 members voted online or by post. Can I ask your approval for subscriptions staying the same? Any against? Thank you very much.

**l) Appointment of President**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Now the most pleasant part of the afternoon, apart from saying goodbye today to David and Frances. As Billy Howat is currently Vice President and his nomination as President was not contested can I ask you to confirm his appointment in the usual way? *(Applause)*

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Could I ask David to present Billy with the President's Badge and flash? *(Applause)*

**m) Appointment of Vice-President**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now move onto the appointment of Vice President. Clive Thomson from Glasgow Academicals was uncontested so there will be no ballot. Can I ask you to acclaim Clive as the Vice President of the Royal Club? *(Applause)*

*Billy presented a badge to Clive (Applause)*

**CLIVE THOMSON (Vice-President):** Fellow curlers, Ladies and Gentlemen, it's a great pleasure to be elected and nominated for this position as Vice President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. I'm looking forward very much to a successful year working with Billy and Marion and I

hope we do a good job. I realise that I know quite a number of you here but not terribly many, so I thought I would quickly give a quick resume of my background. In business, I was stockbroking for many years and now own a professional conference organisation. In sport very importantly, I have been very involved in tennis, particularly the administration side in Scotland and the Lawn Tennis Association in London. I have also been on the Wimbledon Championships Committee for 12 years.

But most importantly in curling, I started curling in school and joined Glasgow Academicals Curling Club. I'm currently President of Glasgow Province and have been President of Dunbartonshire Province before that. It has been a great honour to serve on the Areas Standing Committee over the last six years and to chair with David Henderson the Areas Review Group. We have been working quite studiously over the last couple of years looking at the roles and responsibilities of the ASC but more recently looking at how the Areas are working efficiently and effectively for you the members, so we are hoping that our report coming out in October will provide a way forward and a successful way forward for the communication between you the members, and the ASC and the Board. Finally, I would like to congratulate David on a very successful year in office and I look forward to working with Billy in his year, thank you. *(Applause)*

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** I'm actually very pleased he did that, I forgot to get Billy to give David his Past President's badge, so Billy would you present David with the Past Presidents Badge?

**DAVID HENDERSON (PAST PRESIDENT):** Thanks, Billy. *(Applause)*

**n) Appointment of Directors**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now come to the appointment of Directors. Before we do that we have already had thanks from David and from Bruce but Cathy and Bob step down this year and can I just add my thanks for their support and contribution to the Board for the past year. It's been greatly appreciated by me personally and I wish them both well in their future endeavours. But I do wish you all the best and thanks very much for your input. Two nominations were received, one from Greig Henderson of Haddo House, and the other from Rob Niven of Delvine Curling Club. Greig is currently abroad but could I ask Rob to stand up and make himself known to everybody. Welcome to the board Rob. *(Applause)*

**o) Appointment of a Chaplain**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Now we come to a very important part. We have had our chaplain for a number of years now sadly we sometimes take these things for granted. I will pass over to David who will say a few words on the outgoing Chaplain, Bill Holland.

**DAVID HENDERSON (IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT):** Thank you Alastair. For the last 29 years, this item on the agenda has taken little or no time. Bill Holland has served as our Royal Club Chaplain since 1986 and at each AGM there has been warm and enthusiastic applause when he has agreed to continue in this role. After so many years of service to the Royal Club, Bill my loyal friend and fellow New Abbey Curling Club member, has decided to step down from this position. I think stepping down has been delayed for a year or two because when Fiona Hardie, also from New Abbey Curling club, came on as Junior Vice President of the Ladies Branch, Bill kindly said he would stay on to support Fiona, and when I came on as Vice President he kindly agreed to stay on for my time as well. For the last 29 years Bill has carried out his chaplaincy duties, travelling to many formal occasions and many curling events in Scotland and beyond. During this time he has got to know not only the curlers but also their families. He has often found himself holding a number of pastoral situations, weddings, funerals, and more often people wishing to speak about matters which concern them. Bill has carried out his duties quietly and discreetly and many have sought and benefited from his thoughts and guidance. By his side throughout this time is his wife Helen who many of you have met over the years. We are always grateful to you Bill for your devotion that you have given to the role; I would ask you and Helen to come forward so that I may present to you a little token of our appreciation. *(Applause)*

**DAVID HENDERSON (PAST PRESIDENT):** This is a limited edition print of the first Grand Match held at Penicuik, in 1847 and on the back there is a whole lot of information about the Match.

**BILL HOLLAND (PAST CHAPLAIN):** President Billy, ex-president David, honoured guests, sister and brother curlers. Thank you David for your kind words and for your very unexpected gift. I'm sure Helen and I will treasure it for years to come. I consider that it has been a tremendous honour and privilege for me to serve as Chaplain to the RCCC. When I started I really only knew curlers from Stewarty and Dumfriesshire Provinces. My first duties were quite formal attending AGM's, meeting the overseas tourists and saying a grace. This built up my contacts and I knew even more curlers. After touring eastern Canada in 1993 for the Strathcona Cup, I found that I had even more contacts, I moved on to a more personal and pastoral role and this tied in with my idea of the Parish ministry that I was available to everyone that wanted to approach me. In my day job it made it impossible for me to attend the main competitions, Helen and I started to attend the weekday competitions including the Henderson Bishop and Junior competitions, national and international. We also attended world curling championships including three in Canada and found even more part of the fellowship of curling. More recently, with the extension of junior competitions throughout Scotland I was able to watch the young curlers making a name for themselves and had contact with the parents and some of them were quite fraught by the end of the competition.

Over the years I have had ties with many of the curlers some of them happy some of them sad, I hope that in my position as Chaplain I have been some help to curlers and their families. I'm aware of the support and help I have had from the people over the years, Presidents, office bearers, office staff, province officials, and it has been a delight to see so much happening in curling and so many people enjoying the great sport we all love. I also want to thank Helen very much for the support she has given me over the years. She is not a curler, she tried it once in the north in Aviemore and came home with a sore arm and then found she was pregnant.

So all in all thank you again for the honour and privilege for being your Chaplain and thank you very much indeed for the gift you have given us. I wish all the best and every success to my successor. *(Applause)*

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Thanks very much Bill. Could I now introduce the incoming Chaplain, if approved? Alan Donaldson is 46 years of age, he looks younger than that. He is an active member of Cadder Curling Club and was introduced to the sport through his children's participation in Dumfries. He has been chaplain at several schools, his golf club and his own curling club. Alan has been in the ministry since 1992 mainly working in Dumfries, Leven and Boswall, his current work is director of the Baptist Church at the Baptist Union of Scotland. Can I ask you first of all to approve him? *(Applause)*

Can I ask Alan to come forward and for Bill to try and put the new badge on Alan?

**ALAN DONALDSON (CHAPLAIN):** Thank you very much Bill. It is certainly an experience I have had over the years curling with Cadder and no-one gives you credit for the good shots there as Chaplain. President Billy, fellow curlers, former Chaplain, thank you for the opportunity to serve the Royal Club. The faithfulness that has been exemplified by Bill Holland will be impossible to match. I was trying to work out the age I would be, I would need an accountant to help me match the faithfulness in Bill's length of service he has served. Maybe I can offer something different. Larry Walters was in his mid-thirties when one morning he woke up and said "I need a new perspective on life" so he went down to his local army surplus store and purchased 42 used weather balloons and a helium tank. He brought them back to his house and with some help from friends he blew up 42 weather balloons. Tying them to his wooden garden bench, he then sat down on the bench with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, why they have to eat that combination I have no idea. He took a six pack of beer and a small pistol thinking he could shoot the balloons one by one when he wanted to come back down to the ground. His friends untied the wooden bench and instead of slowly drifting to about 100 feet to where he planned, he wasn't a good engineer, he soared to 11,000 feet and straight into the flight pathway for Los Angeles International Airport which had to be closed for several hours causing chaos throughout the United States of America. Too afraid at 11,000 feet to shoot the balloons, he waited until the helium dissipated and he slowly drifted back down to the ground at which point he was arrested. When he was released from the local county jail, the press vans with the satellite dishes were waiting for him, they generally had three questions: Were you scared? Yes. Will you do it again? No. Why did you do it? Because you can't just sit there.

I am proud to be associated with a club that doesn't just want to sit there, they want to develop and to grow and see our sport grow across the nation and see young people develop and flourish over the years. I just hope with a new perspective on chaplaincy as the years go by, the club along with the board we can help together and make it happen. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

**p) Authorisation of the publication of the Annual**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Thanks Alan for a very good start to your Chaplaincy. We now move on to the authorisation for the publication of the annual. We had 114 postal votes and online votes to approve. All those in favour of the publication raise your card, those against? OK we will publish the annual.

**q) Fixing of the place and date of the next Annual General Meeting**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now move onto the announcement of the next Annual General Meeting. The next annual General Meeting, the 178<sup>th</sup> AGM will be on Saturday 18th June 2016, if I had my way of a venue it would be in Portugal. We haven't got a venue yet but as soon as we know it will be published on the website.

**r) Presentation of Trophies**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Can we now move to the presentation of the trophies and awards. Can I ask David and Frances to come down on the right hand side to present them? Thank you.

**a) Eight Ender Awards**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** The first is the Eight Ender Awards which have already been presented; there are actually ten of them. All of which are appearing on the slide show.

**b) Sir Richard Waldie Griffith**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We move on to the Sir Richard Waldie Griffith Trophy. I am delighted to announce the winners are the Renfrewshire 12th Province, which is my province however; they didn't invite me to play in it. Could I ask Donald MacDougall, President of the Province to come up and accept the trophy? Thank you. *(Applause)*

**c) 150 Year Club Medals**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Clubs collecting their 150 year medals are: Bute Curling Club, to be collected by Margaret MacLeod *(Applause)*. Corstorphine Curling Club, to be collected by Eric Barry *(Applause)*. Strathspey Curling Club, no-one is present to collect the medal. Thornton Curling Club, no-one is present to collect medal.

**d) 50 Year Medals**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** A total of fourteen 50-year medals were awarded this season. The following recipients are not present: Oswald Brewis (Swindon), Irene Campbell (Falkirk Ladies), Marjory McLachlan (Falkirk Ladies), Murray Melville (Glendoick), David L. Miller (Catterthun), James Muir (Oxenfoord), R.M Munro (Caberfeidh), R. Jackson Robb (Forteviot) and G. Fergus Wilson (Campsie Glen).

Can we now proceed to the presentation of the 50 year medals: Lorna Gray (Lanark Ladies), John Arbuckle (Abdie), Iain Baxter (Corstorphine), Ian Dykes (Greenlaw) and David Smith (Symington). *(Applause)*

**s) Scottish Curling Awards**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** We now move to the Scottish Curling Awards. Members were asked to vote for their favourite from 29 April to 14 May 2015, and the winners have already been announced on the RCCC website on the 25 May 2015.

**Young Curler of the Year**

The first category is Young Curler of the Year. The nominees were Gina Aitken, Bruce Mouat and Ross Whyte. The winner is Gina Aitken. *(Applause)*

### **Grassroots Coach of the Year**

The nominees were Scott Dakers, James Lochridge and Robbie Stewart. The winner is Robbie Stewart. *(Applause)*

### **Ice Diamond Award**

The nominees were Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association and Kinross Curling Trust. The winner is Kinross Curling Trust. *(Applause)*

### **Team of the Year**

The nominees were Team Aitken, Team Mouat and Team Muirhead. The team of the year is Team Aitken - Gina Aitken, Naomi Brown, Rowena Kerr, Rachel Hannen, Karina Aitken and David Aitken their coach. *(Applause)*

Could I now ask David Henderson to present the following with a bouquet of flowers: Mary Anne McWilliam, Immediate Past President of the Ladies Branch. *(Applause)*

Can I ask David to present a bouquet to his wife Frances. *(Applause)*

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Thank you very much David and Frances.

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Now you thought it was all over but it's not yet. We now have a short video on the season 2014/15.

*At this point a video containing photos of all the RCCC and International competitions over the course of the season was played. (Followed by applause)*

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** On behalf of us all can we thank Jonathan and Stuart for putting that video together.

### **t) Any Other Competent Business**

**ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN):** Only one more formal part to go through, that is Any Other Competent Business and there is nothing. Therefore it remains, that I pass you over to the incoming President to address the meeting and say a few words, Billy. *(Applause)*

### **u) Address by incoming President**

**BILLY HOWAT (NEW PRESIDENT):** Good Afternoon, it's great to see such a great attendance at the AGM. Past President David, Ladies Branch President Marion, honoured guests, brother and sister curlers, ladies and gentlemen. Firstly, may I thank you all for bestowing upon me the great honour of becoming President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. I realise that great responsibility comes with such an honour and I will work to the best of my ability to further the aims of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club during my year in office.

On your behalf I would like to thank Past President David and Past Ladies President Mary Anne for their diligent and very successful year in office. They have supported our curlers nationally and internationally and have worked tirelessly to enhance the reputation of the Royal Club both locally and abroad. The support and help David and Mary Anne have shown me over the past year has been invaluable and I thank you both.

I'm delighted to have Clive Thomson as my Vice President. Clive chaired the Areas Standing Committee review group and is currently chairing the Areas Review group, a professional conference and event organiser, qualified accountant, a past President of the Lawn Tennis Association and most importantly a keen curler. His CV is impressive and I look forward to calling on his knowledge and expertise to support me during the coming year.

Congratulations to Marion Fraser on her election as Ladies Branch President, Vice President Jan Howard and Junior Vice President Margaret Pottie. I look forward to working with you all over the next year.

There are a number of members standing down this year. After 29 years, Bill Holland is retiring from his position as Chaplain. Fiona and David managed to encourage him to stay on for another

year; I would like to thank Bill for all his support and guidance he has provided to our members over that time and wish him a very happy retirement, our best wishes and thanks for all you have done for us. *(Applause)*

The Royal Club is evolving and our new Chaplain- Alan Donaldson- I saw him standing here doing his speech from his mobile phone. Times are moving forward. It's great that he has come along as our new Chaplain and we wish him well and hope he stays in the position for the next 29 years and a beautiful print like that can be yours as well. Thanks to Cathy Maclean and Bob Kelly who are retiring from the Board of Directors. Your knowledge, time and commitment to the Royal Club has been noted and is much appreciated.

Congratulations to Greig Henderson (that's David Henderson's Grandpa) and Rob Niven, well known faces within the Curling circles on their appointments as Directors. Their skills and experiences will be a great asset to the Royal Club. I look forward to working with all the Board members over the next 12 months.

The Areas Standing Committee has three members standing down this year. They are John Good, Ian Parkinson and Clive Thomson. Our thanks for their time and contribution to the committee. We welcome to the committee Calder Benzies and Christine Cheape. It's very good at last to have a member that can multi-task...and nice to have Christine on board as well.

In my year as Vice President I have observed and indeed worked with a great number of volunteers, from the Board of Directors, Umpires, Time keepers, coaches, committee members at local curling centres and everyone else too numerous to mention. I have found them all to be wonderfully enthusiastic and dedicated to our great sport. Indeed, many of you here today will fall into this category.

The staff, led by Chief Executive, Bruce Crawford are tirelessly committed to their work and should be applauded for their contribution to our great game. *(Applause)*

The new members of staff have also blended in well and provided another boost of enthusiasm and professionalism to the Royal Club.

As this has already been mentioned, if you can excuse me, I would like to take a few minutes to mention it again. Over the past few months the Royal Caledonian Curling Club has successfully drawn up a new strategic plan for the period 2015-2019. Success of this has secured additional funding to the Royal Club from SportScotland. With the funding come many commitments and targets to meet. The 6 core objectives of the plan are: Facilities to support curling, ice rinks and to have a new performance centre and Royal Club headquarters in operation by 2019.

The second is membership - to support clubs that welcome new members and increase junior membership to 1,300 and the total membership to 16,000.

The third objective is development - to support more people curling by delivering programmes such as "Try Curling" to at least 2,000 people annually and deliver seminars to 300 people per year.

Objective four is competitions – to support quality international and domestic competitions.

The workforce is objective five - to support a dynamic workforce of coaches, officials and volunteers by providing a full range of training.

Lastly is performance - supporting a strong pathway with teams winning medals - on the World stage.

The targets set out in this plan are challenging but achievable with the hard work of both staff and volunteers.

Also, within the document are the Mission and Value statement which I will draw our attention to. Our mission is to develop a robust infrastructure of clubs and facilities which will support the growth of the sport, increase the number of people who enjoy curling in Scotland and sustain medal success at all levels.

The values are just as important and the Royal Caledonian Curling Club understands and respects the history and culture that surrounds curling but we recognise that this has to evolve and change.

Our core values are integrity, transparency and accountability and we must not forget that ultimately we are custodians of the great game of curling which will exist for future generations.

As has been mentioned already, Scotland has been successful in our bid to host four international championships from 2016-2020. This prestigious series of events will begin in 2016 with the European Championships at Braehead, followed by the World Junior Championships at Aberdeen in 2018, the World Wheelchair Championship at Stirling in 2019 and the World Men's in the SSE Hydro at Glasgow in 2020. This has been achieved by the hard work of our office along with Events Scotland, UK Sport and key local authorities.

An additional piece of good news, as you have seen on our website is the Curling Mixed Doubles has been recognised as an Olympic sport in the 2018 games in South Korea.

The women's friendship curling tour to Canada sees 20 of our lady curlers depart to central Canada for three weeks in November. Having been on the last Canadian Tour I'm sure a fantastic time will be had and many great memories brought back. I look forward to hearing about it on their return and wish you good curling and happy memories.

2376 curlers in 594 teams will take to the ice on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 17 ice rinks across Scotland for the fourth Indoor Grand Curling Match. It will be a fantastic day, a day to enjoy the true spirit of curling, and by that I don't just mean the whisky, a little bit of that certainly, a little bit of curling definitely but a huge amount of laughter, friendship and blethering. Indeed what curling is all about. For those of you that have not yet entered there are only 4 team positions left so get your entry in soon.

The written work of John Watson President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1954/55 came to mind. "There are two sports that Scotland can rightly claim as their very own- curling and golf and along with whisky make a wonderful combination to the leisure and pleasure of man". *(Applause)*

Thank you to our sponsors and advertisers whether it be at local, national or international level. Your support is hugely appreciated and we are particularly delighted to welcome Alan Steel Asset Management as the title sponsor of the Indoor Grand Match.

Congratulations to the Stirling Wheelchair Curling Club Volunteers on their award of the "Queens Award for Voluntary Service". This is a fantastic achievement and is the highest award that can be given to a local voluntary group. The volunteers include Fiona Glass, Jacky McLaren, Judy MacKenzie, Sylvia Barclay, Muriel Holroyd and Rosemary Miller. I'm not sure if any of you are here today but thank you to you all. *(Applause)*

I would like to congratulate all those who have won competitions locally, nationally and internationally or represented their country over the past season whether it is at home or abroad, I wish them success in the next season. Congratulations also to all those receiving their 50 year medal today, and if I may on a personal note say how nice it is to see David Smith receive his medal, I would like to thank David for all he has contributed both to my local club of Ayr and nationally for curling and the Royal Club, a great character. *(Applause)*

In conclusion, I would like to thank Murrayfield Ice Rink for looking after us so well this afternoon and to Alastair MacNish for chairing the meeting here today. The next AGM will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at a venue still to be confirmed. I look forward to listening, working and talking to as many of you as I can over the coming season. We within this great Royal Club have a bright and exciting time ahead of us and I will personally strive to continue the good work and continue to work with and improve communication with our members. Finally, can I wish you all luck, and good curling next season and a safe journey home. I now declare the meeting closed. *(Applause)*