

**Transcript of Proceedings of the
178th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club
Held at Braehead Curling Rink, Glasgow on Saturday 18th June 2016**

Present on the Podium:

President	Billy Howat (Cumnock & District)
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 13 June 2015
- 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;
 - To approve a new category of membership – Scottish Curling Supporter, proposed by the Board.
 - To approve the new rules and amendments (3a to 3d) to the Rule Book proposed by the Rules Committee and supported by the Board.
 - To approve changes (rewording of existing rules for clarity) to the Rule Book proposed by the Rules Committee and supported by the Board.
- i) Submission and approval of the Annual Accounts appropriately certified
- j) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner
- k) Approve the Annual Subscriptions for 2017-18 remain unchanged.
(£19 Ordinary/ Honorary Playing, and £6 Junior (under 21 years of age))
- l) Appointment of President
- m) Appointment of Vice-President
- n) Appointment of Directors
- o) Appointment of Chaplain
- p) Authorise 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: Bill Duncan (Bank of Scotland (Perth & District)), Andrew Hepburn (Corstorphine), Bill Marshall (Dumbarton), Jim Murdoch (Dundonald), Robbie Scott (Dunkeld), Alan Durno (Fochabers), Alistair McCabe (Kennoway), David Henderson (New Abbey)

Board: Alastair MacNish (Gourock), David Hardie (Crocketford), Robin Niven (Delvine), Kay Gibb (Northern Lights), Trevor Dodds (Oxenfoord), Billy Howat (Cumnock & District), Bruce Crawford (Chief Executive)

Areas Standing Committee: Albert Middler (AWW), Calder Benzie (Corstorphine), Boyd Houston (Dollar & Devon Vale), Jim Cullen (Earlston), Graham Lindsay (Forret), Robert Corbett (Giffnock), Clive Thomson (Glasgow Academicals), Bob Smith (Inverkeithing), Gordon Gilchrist (Lesmahagow), Brian McArtney (Letham Grange), Joe Barry (Livingston), John Smith (Ruthwell), Andrew Kerr (Troon Portland), Neil Calvert (West Linton)

Staff: Aline Hardie (Competition Co-ordinator), Fiona Kennedy (Development Manager), Giles Lomax (Coaching & Workforce Manager), Judith McCleary (Head of Development), Laura Barr (Administrator), Lindsey Booth (Welfare Officer), Nicola Glencross (Administrator), Stuart McLean (Marketing Manager), Susan Murrin (Event Manager), Suzy Wakefield (Office Manager)

Individuals Members: Norman Bruce (Aberdeen), Ann Mitchell (Aberdour), Elizabeth Smith (Aberdour), Delphine How (Beechnuts), Graham McWiggin (Beechnuts), Joan Inglis (Beechnuts), Gillian Haggart (Bellshill), Peter Cleland (Bellshill), Ian Duffin (Broomhall), Ritchie Stewart (Buchan), Alan Hannah (Cadder), Alan Donaldson (Cadder), Stuart Walker (Cadder), Christine Stewart (Carmunnock and Rutherglen), Hugh Stewart (Carmunnock and Rutherglen), Robin Shand (Carmunnock and Rutherglen), Gwendoline Highet (Cathcart Castle), Alistair Lindsay (Chirnside), John Dignan (Corstorphine), Helen Hally (Craigielands), Fiona Hardie (Crocketford), Yvonne Cummers (Crossmyloof), Sue Howat (Cumnock & District), Susan Kesley (Currie and Balerno), Margaret White (Dalmellington & Craigengillan), Robert White (Dalmellington and Craigengillan), Robert McKenzie (Dalry Union), Robin Turner (Drystones), Ian Seath (Duddingston), James MacDonald (Dumbarton), Ian Campbell (Dun), Lorraine Campbell (Dun), Gemmill Jack (Dundonald), Sheena Murdoch (Dundonald), Albert Rae (Dunfermline), Jim Stevenson (Dunfermline), Ena Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Lynne Stevenson (Dunfermline Ladies), Elizabeth Cullen (Earlston), Agnes Strang (East Kilbride and Haremyres), Alison Allison (East Kilbride and Haremyres), Robert Miller (Edzell), Angus Dowell (Evenie Water), Cowan Macnair (Falkirk), David Westall (Falkirk), Mike Watt (Fochabers), Susan Durno (Fochabers), Ian Mackin (Forrest Hills Trossachs), Jim Inglis (Glasgow Academicals), Anne Airey (Glasgow Ladies), Kirsty Letton (Glasgow Ladies), Margaret Quin (Glasgow Ladies), Sheena Boyd (Glasgow Ladies), Sean Murphy (Gogar Park), Bruce Mouat (Gogar Park Young Curlers), Alice Mackay (Greenock Ladies), Nicola MacGregor (Greenock Ladies), Rita Carmichael (Greenock Ladies), Wilma Trann (Greenock Ladies), John Good (Haddington), Alan Stephen (Hamilton and Thornyhill), Isobel Waddell (Hamilton and Thornyhill), James Waddell (Hamilton and Thornyhill), Lindsay Haggart (Hamilton School of Young Curlers), Ronnie Dunachie (Helensburgh), Graham Davidson (Kelvinside Academical), Nanette McCabe (Kennoway), Lorna Higgins (Kilmacolm), William Ralston (Kilsyth), Joyce White (Kinross Ladies), Alison Taylor (Lesmahagow), Jane McArtney (Letham Grange), Ronnie Wilson (Markinch), Alex Forrest (Millport), George Eunson (Musselburgh), Harold Forrester (Nairn), Robert Pottie (Nairn), Margaret Pottie (Nairn Ladies), Colin Melrose (Neilston), Frances Henderson (New Abbey), Ian Keron (Oatridge),

John Miller (Panmure), William Scott (Penninghame), James Normand (Perth), Robin Brydone (Perth Juniors), David Haggart (Pitkerro), Frank White (Pitkerro), Harry Mitchell (Raith and Abbotshall), Graeme Adam (Reform), Bob Cowan (Reform), David Howard (Reform), Jan Howard (Reform), Judith Thomson (Rolling Stones), Jim Hogg (Ruthwell), Alan Muirhead (Stratheden), Marion Fraser (Strathkinness), James Dixon (Swinton), May Steel (Symington), David McIntyre (Troon Portland), Julia Craig (Troon Portland), Lillian McIntyre (Troon Portland), Jannette Kennedy (Tullymet), Caroline Carnie (Uphall), Lauchlan MacLean (Watsonian), Doreen Calvert (West Linton), Alastair Campbell (Whitecraigs Tennis Club Curling Section), Gregor Cannon (Wigtown), Robert Parry (Wishaw), Scott Lumsden (Wishaw)

In attendance: Susannah Kay

a) Welcome Remarks

BILLY HOWAT (PRESIDENT): Sister and brother curlers, ladies and gentlemen, I extend to you a very warm welcome to the 178th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.

b) In Memoriam

BILLY HOWAT (PRESIDENT): We start with In Memoriam, I would ask you all to stand and observe a minute's silence while the names of the deceased are displayed on the screen.

You will see two of curling's great characters on the list, Iain Baxter and Sherriff David Smith, or The Sherriff as he was known. I would like to record the Royal Caledonian Curling Club's appreciation for all they have done for Scottish Curling. Iain within Edinburgh as Murrayfield's Ice Rink Manger and David as a trustee of the Scottish Curling Trust, David also left his vast curling collection to the Scottish Curling Trust. If you could be up standing please, thank you.

[A minutes silence was observed.]

In alphabetical order by club: Derrick Bigley (37 Club), Malcolm Smith (Aberdeen), George Morrison (Aberdeen & District Rotary), Dr Graeme Giles (Airthrey Castle), John Jardine (Applegarth and Sibbaldbie), Bill Bryce (Avondale Heather), Dennis Johnston (Ayr St. Columba), Helen Steel (Ayton Castle), David Arnott (Blairdrummond), Andy Burt (Breadalbane Kenmore), Colin Campbell (Broomhall), Ian Terris (Broomhall), Katherine Smith (Cambo Ladies), Jack Burt (Cambusnethan), Iain Baxter (Corstorphine), William Newbigging (Corstorphine), Irene Lyall (Corstorphine Ladies), Elspeth Young (Corstorphine Ladies), William Dunlop (Crosshill), T Brown McMaster (Crossmyloof), Ian Baxter (Delvine), Zita Johnston (Dollar Ladies), Dominic Muldoon (Douglas), Alexander Lamb (Douglas), William Plenderleith (Douglas), John Coltart (Dun), Ian Boreland (Dunfermline), Una Chalmers (Dunfermline Ladies), David Alexander (Dunsinane), Robert L Morris (Dunsinane), Evelyn McDade (Duntocher Ladies), David Murdoch (East Kilbride & Haremyres), Martin Melvin (East Linton), John Grigor (Elgin), Allan Paterson (Falkland), Len Read (Fife Ice Arena Virtual), David M Pattullo (Forfar), David Dandie (Fotheringham), Neil McLean (Glasgow Academicals), Nalda Provan (Glasgow Ladies), Aida Craig (Glasgow Ladies), Len Semple (Glasgow Ladies), Jim Smith (Glenfarg), Julie Lyon (Granite City Ladies), John Fleming (Greenlaw), Sandra Lapsley (Greenock Ladies), P McPherson (Heart of the Highlands), Stewart Hutton (Hercules), Lucy Fleming (Hercules Ladies), Roger Hoskins (Inverness), Gillian Robertson (Jedburgh), Derek McCulloch (Kinross), Anne Jack (Kinross Ladies), James Henry (Kirkoswald), James Darroch (Lanark), David Bell (Lesmahagow), Helen Hamilton (Lesmahagow Ladies Section), Grace Caird (Lundie

and Auchterhouse), Bill Ritchie (Lundie and Auchterhouse), Douglas Edwardson (Mel drum and Daviot), Adam Stark (New Monklands), Dan Carmichael (Panmure), Michael Dunlop (Penninghame), Frank Toner (Pitlessie), Don Fergusson (Port of Menteith), Jim Mitchell (Raith & Abbotshall), Andrew Philip (Rubislaw), Isobel Fyfe (Schiehallion Ladies), William Brown (St Andrews), Sheriff David B Smith (Symington), Hazel Smith (Symington), Alec Tinto (Toberargan), William Buchanan (Tulliallan), John McEwen (University of Dundee), Jean Plenderleith (Upperward Ladies)

c) Received Apologies

BILLY HOWAT (PRESIDENT): We have received apologies and for your information a list of apologies from clubs and members was available to view on the registration table prior to the meeting. Anyone that needs to be added to the list should see Laura after the meeting or contact the office on Monday.

In alphabetical order by club:

Past Presidents: Kenneth Scott (Blairgowrie), Pat Edington (Boswall), Rt. Hon Earl of Elgin (Broomhall), Andrew Stevenson (Cawdor House), Matt Brown (Cumnock & District), Gifford Rickard (Denny), Arthur Beattie (Edinburgh Rotary), Malcolm Richardson (Erskine), Inglis McAulay (Falkirk), Alex Torrance (Hamilton & Thornyhill), Chuck Hay MBE (Kilgraston & Moncreiffe), William Sanderson (Oxenfoord), Thomas Hinnigan (St Boswells)

Board: Greig Henderson (Haddo House)

Areas Standing Committee: Christine Cheape (Blair Atholl), Ormond Smith (Inverness), Hugh Templeton (Kirkcowan), Alister Asher (Nairn), Jim Jamieson (Reform), Joe Kincaid (Sauchie and Bannockburn)

Clubs: Borestone & Stirling, Highland Junior Curlers, Highland Wheelchair

Individuals: Brian Cuthbert (Ayr Country), Margaret Robertson (Aytton Castle), Margaret Lambie (Balcaskie), Bill Linton (Bank of Scotland (Fife)), Derek How (Beechnuts), Andrew Williamson (Bellshill), Elizabeth Scott (Blairgowrie), John Mott (Borestone and Stirling), Morag Bisset (Bothwell Ladies), James Paton (Bridge of Allan), Gavin Hepburn (Bruntsfield Curling Society), Margaret MacLeod (Bute), Donald MacLeod (Bute), Ann Turnbull (Cambo Ladies), Adam Clark (Cardross), Michael Yuillie (Carmunnock & Rutherglen), Jean Hamilton (Carrington), Catherine Dodds (Carrington), Andrew Barr (Currie & Balerno), Margaret Nicol (Currie and Balerno), Beverley Yates (Dalbeattie), Susan Skene (Dalhousie Ladies), Kate Caithness (Dalhousie Ladies), Ian Mackay (Dornoch), Caroleen Clark (Druids), Eve Muirhead (Dunkeld), David Hay (Dunning), Sheila Miller (Edinburgh Ladies), Mike Ferguson (Edzell), Arthur W Smith (Evenie Water), Anna Burnside (Falkirk Ladies (1960)), Sandie Byres (Glasgow Ladies), Rachel Hannen (Hamilton and Thornyhill), Anna Sloan (Hutton), Phil Barton (Inverkeithing), James McGregor (Kilsyth), Annette MacDonald (Kippen), Bobby Lammie (Leswalt), Alan Stuart (Leven), Margaret Barry (Livingston), Sheila Clark (Lothian Ladies), Helen Smith (Lundie & Auchterhouse), Shelagh Fulton (Lynedoch Ladies), Claire McLaren (Lynedoch Ladies), D. Lindsay Hood (Monifieth), Alan Stanfield (Nairn), William Gibb (Northern Lights), Margaret Ritch (Northern Lights), Irene Robertson (Perth Royal Infirmary), Vicki Adams (Portpatrick), Karen Kennedy (Reform), Ruth Addinall (SIAE), Sarah Reid (Stewarton Heather), Norman Brown (Stoneykirk), Lyn Brown (Stoneykirk), Lynda Blackwood (Stra'ven Ladies)

d) Letter from the Royal Patron

BILLY HOWAT (PRESIDENT): It's been a busy time for the Queen but as normal we sent our loyal greetings to our Patron Her Majesty the Queen. I have a letter here from Buckingham Palace addressed to "Billy Howat Esq, President, The Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Please convey my warm thanks to the members of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club for their loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their One-Hundred and Seventy-Eighth Annual General Meeting which is being held today at Braehead Curling Rink in Glasgow. As your patron, I am pleased to be informed of the continued success of the clubs Scottish teams during the 2015-2016 season. I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send my warm good wishes to all those who are present today for a most successful and enjoyable meeting. Elizabeth R"

We wish our Majesty well in her 90th year.

e) President's Report

BILLY HOWAT (PRESIDENT): For those of you needing a break from the EU referendum debate hopefully you will leave this meeting well informed of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club's activities over the past year and plans for the future.

When taking up the best job in curling twelve months ago, I never thought a year could pass so quickly. My role as Royal Caledonian Curling Club President has taken me across the length and breadth of the country where I have been humbled by the warmth of the friendship and the support that has been extended to me. 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.

As president you serve on the board as a director and all the various committees. The board has recognised the challenges of retaining members and increasing the membership, to this end the Club and Member Development committee is to be revamped. Another category of membership is proposed for you to vote on today, again aimed to help stimulate the membership. I have thoroughly enjoyed contributing to the board hopefully positively. Many thanks to Alastair MacNish chairman of the board and all the board members for their help and support throughout this last year.

A little later in our proceedings Trevor Dodds and Kay Gibb 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, Trevor and Kay. To the board we will welcome Helen Hally and Graeme Adam. Helen and Graeme will bring to the board extensive and comprehensive business expertise and more than a little curling knowledge at all levels.

One of my roles has been chairing the Areas Standing Committee meetings. This has been another busy year for these members as they also serve on the various committees within the RCCC and then report back to the ASC and indeed to their Areas, Provinces and members. The meetings were enhanced by members of staff giving presentations and updates on their various roles within the RCCC; something I think was worthwhile and could be repeated. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the staff for their excellent contributions and all the ASC members for their help, support and covering for me when otherwise engaged.

As you will have seen from the AGM documents the Area Review Group concluded their report which has been approved. Thanks to Clive Thomson and his committee for their excellent report.

I would also like to recognise the contribution made by all those who work as volunteers whether it be through coaching, umpiring, time keeping, working on committees, taking on roles on club administration or anyone of the other innumerable capacities whether it be in their local curling rink, nationally or internationally. They are essential to the full enjoyment of curling and I thank them all.

Three of our members were recognised by sportscotland for their contribution to sport through the year. Campbell Ross, sportscotland Grampian Young Persons coach of the year, Marion Murdoch, sportscotland Lifetime Achievement Award and Alan Stanfield, sportscotland Technical Official of the year. Congratulations to them all, these recognitions are well deserved.

To all those who have served on all 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 RCCC.

The Olympic Celebration Tour partners Global Sports Development awarded 12 recipients the "2015 Athletes in Excellence Award" – amongst them Angie Malone, who has represented Scotland and Great Britain at both World Championships and Paralympic Games respectively as a wheelchair curling athlete. In Global Sports Development executive board member, David Ulich's own words, "These athletes consistently give back and motivate those who need it most, representing the true meaning of kindness". Congratulations to Angie on this award she is one of twelve from around the world.

Another element of my year has been that of representing the RCCC at championships and competitions both at home and abroad and as you might imagine this has been a hugely enjoyable one. At home we have had a very successful season with a wide range of winners. The junior and senior competitions have again been well supported; filling the ones in between has proved a little more challenging.

A notable achievement this season was Graeme Adam winning the Scottish Masters. Having already won the Scottish Schools, Scottish Juniors, Scottish Championship and Scottish Seniors he has now won at all levels in Scottish curling. I believe he is the first to achieve such a feat. Well done. His achievements did not end there he then went on to coach Estonia to the gold medal at the European Championship C Division.

On the international stage, congratulations to the ladies on a successful tour of Canada. Having followed their tour blog I was not sure whether to include that under curling or sociable, safer curling. The ladies also retained the Connie Miller Trophy at the Four Nations competition hosted so ably by Wales at Greenacres Curling Rink. The men and the mixed teams need to step up ready for next season's challenge when Scotland host at Ayr.

Congratulations to the juniors men, Bruce Mouat, Bobby Lammie, Gregor Cannon, Angus Dowell, Robin Brydone and coach Alan Hannah and senior women, Jackie Lockhart, Christine Cannon, Isobel Hannen, Margaret Richardson and Margaret Robertson who provided us with two gold medals at the World Junior Curling

Championships and World Senior Women's Curling Championship. (Applause) The World Curling Federation will congratulate them later in the proceedings.

Silver medals were also secured by Eve Muirhead, Anna Sloan, Vicky Adams, Sarah Reid and Rachel Hannen at the European Women's Curling Championship. Ross Whyte also won a silver medal at the Youth Olympics when he was teamed with Yu Han of China for the mixed doubles - this is where the nationalities are mixed up so that more countries get the chance to compete. The curlers were also seeded, with the best performers paired up with weaker competitors from the mixed team event. The British mixed team consisted of Ross Whyte, Amy Bryce, Callum Kinnear and Mili Smith, who played well but were beaten in the quarter-final. Congratulations to all our medal winners.

Most importantly, Olympic points were scored at the Women and Men's World Championships where we finished fifth and seventh respectively. Gina Aitken and Bruce Mouat had an excellent performance to finish fourth at the World Mixed Doubles, which also secured Olympic points. With qualification points scored in all three events the outlook for the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea is looking good.

I attended the European Championships in Esbjerg, Denmark along with Ladies' Branch President Marion Fraser, the World Junior Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark and the World Men's Curling Championship in Basel, Switzerland.

At the Europeans Marion had the honour of presenting the silver medals to Eve and her team. With these championships coming to Braehead in November, Susan Murrin the RCCC Event Manager and I attended meetings with the WCF and the Esbjerg Local Organising Committee to assess the needs for Braehead. The Esbjerg LOC were very supportive and gave some great advice and feedback based on their experiences of delivering the event. Meetings were also held with the WCF who were equally supportive.

Erzurum in Turkey was due to host the World Junior Curling Championships but due to the troubles in the region the WCF switched the venue to Taarnby Curling Club, Copenhagen. A decision much applauded by all the curling nations. Congratulations to the local organising committee and the WCF for organising such a successful championship in five weeks.

The highlight of any presidential year must be presenting the gold medals to your team, and I had this honour. Bruce, Bobby, Gregor, Angus, Robin and Alan were worthy champions. A point of interest it was exactly 35 years to the day since Gregor's father Jim won the World Junior title.

As president you are delighted to have a world champion but to have two is just fantastic. Congratulations to Jackie, Christine, Isobel, Margaret and Margaret on being crowned World Senior Women's Champions. Unfortunately I was unable to attend Karlstad, Sweden, but like a great many others followed it on the internet. A title well won having been undefeated throughout the tournament. Christine now joins her son Gregor as a world champion.

The Scottish supporters at all these events are a credit to us all whether the team is winning or losing, our support for them is unconditional.

I offer my congratulations to the winners of all the competitions played throughout the season and my gratitude to all the participants.

Marion and I had two very sociable days at the Royal Highland Show entertaining members and guests. With our move from Cairnie House to new offices in Stirling this was the last year that the RCCC would be able to entertain at the Royal Highland Show. Thanks to the Ladies Standing Committee and members of staff for their home baking it was much appreciated, especially by me.

I also joined Marion for a fantastic day at the Junior Summer Camp where we were to join in the activities of the 46 young campers. I was assigned to the group to go mountain biking, I must say two hours on a bike is a bit excessive for a warm up exercise for the game of curling that was to follow. I'm not sure which was the sorest my backside or legs! One thing for sure, the youngsters were certainly having a great time. Congratulations to Judith McCleary and her team in running such a successful event. (Applause)

In early September I was delighted to attend the 4th World Curling Federation Congress in Belgrade, Serbia. The WCF is certainly in good health judging by the quality and passion of debate of the delegates. Congratulations to them on securing Mixed Doubles for inclusion in the 2018 Winter Olympics and because of this an extra session was fitted in to discuss the rule changes being proposed for adoption at the congress. I expect that sweeping will feature heavily at their next congress.

This was a very special year for the World Curling Federation as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. A celebratory dinner was held in Basel prior to the World Men's Curling Championship, at which Thomas Bach the International Olympic Committee President was the guest of honour. Never in my wildest dreams did I see myself at a dinner with the IOC President, indeed at the same table. Needless to say it was a very special evening which I was delighted to attend on behalf of the RCCC. At all the WCF events that I have attended, they have made me feel most welcome, my thanks to Kate Caithness, the WCF directors and their staff.

Saturday 24th October saw the South of Scotland crowned winners of the Alan Steel Asset Management (ASAM) 2015 Indoor Grand Match (IGM) with a 2154-1928 shots result over the North after a full day of competition. The day got underway at 10am with seventeen ice rinks across Scotland hosting the 2,376 curlers competing at this year's event. At Murrayfield, IGM HQ, the 105th Regiment Royal Artillery "The Scottish and Ulster Gunners" signalled the start by firing Edinburgh Castle's one o' clock gun from the venue's car park. The morning session saw the South take a narrow lead of 65 shots over the North with the score 708 to 643. The first of the two afternoon sessions kicked off at 12:45pm with the South doubling their lead by the end with a total of 1430 shots to 1302. The final session saw the South secure the Indoor Grand Match title for the fourth time in a row since the event's inception in the year 2000, with a margin of 226 shots. As you will realise such a successful day requires great organisation skills. Thanks go to the curling rinks, local organising committees, office staff and the IGM committee lead by Bob Smith. A special mention must be made to Alan Steel Asset Management for their very generous sponsorship, Alan Steel for his personal enthusiasm and attendance all day. My thanks to all our sponsors throughout the year.

During the year I have attended numerous celebratory dinners and courts stretching the length and breadth of the country indeed the last of these was on Thursday when I attended a Civic Reception in Stranraer, hosted by Dumfries and Galloway Council to mark the Gold Medal Achievements of local curlers. I applaud Dumfries and Galloway Council for their recognition of their local Champions; too often these achievements go unrecognised out-with the sport.

All the events were all special, I certainly enjoyed your hospitality and hope you enjoyed my company. Thanks also to the members who have hosted me throughout the year your whisky, friendships and hospitality were exemplary. The curling family is alive and well.

During the year, ten clubs have become affiliated to the RCCC. I want 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.

The move from Cairnie House to Ochil House went smoothly in November; this has certainly given the staff a much better working environment. The staff led by Chief Executive Officer Bruce Crawford is also due a huge vote of thanks for all the work they do for us the members, the majority of which is never seen. My personal thanks to them all for their advice, help and support throughout the year. Thank you. On your behalf I would like to wish Barbara and Judith best wishes when they take up their new roles as mums during the summer.

I have had the pleasure this year to work with Marion Fraser in her role as Ladies' Branch President and I thank her for her friendship and support throughout the year and for inviting me to the Ladies' Branch AGM last month in Kirkcaldy. To incoming President, Clive Thomson, and Ladies' Branch President, Jan Howard, I offer my thanks and best wishes to them both for a successful and fulfilling year in 2016-2017. Thanks also to my brothers and son at home for picking up the slack in my absence. Penultimately to Sue, 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 fantastically enjoyable year and a great honour. Thank you all very much. (Applause)

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): Firstly can I express my sincere thanks to Billy on behalf of the whole board and from me personally. He was a superb president and a joy to work with, I wish him and Sue all the very best for the future. I would also like to personally thank Marion Fraser the Ladies Branch President for her considerable contribution to the board's working over the last year, thank you very much.

f) Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 13th June 2015

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): Before I ask for a proposer and seconder for last year's minutes I will try and explain as I did last year the procedures for the various issues requiring a vote. With regards to the minutes we have received 88 votes online or by post, there are 137 members present today of which 92 have chosen to vote, brings the total number of votes possible to 180. Those voting today will raise their voting cards either for or against the recommendation. Just before I do that can I ask for a proposer of last year's minutes please?

Proposer: Lauchlan MacLean (Watsonians)

Secunder: Clive Thomson (Glasgow Academicals)

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): Can I now ask those in favour of the adoption of the minutes please raise your cards, thank you very much. Those against, the minutes are approved.

g) Annual Report of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): We now move to the Annual Report which has been posted along with the Accounts on the RCCC website. Bruce our Chief

Executive will now highlight the business aspects of the Annual Report and will be happy to take any questions you have after his presentation.

BRUCE CRAWFORD (CEO): Thank you Alastair and thanks to Billy.

Having heard Billy describe the highlights of his journey over the last year, I am left to share a few of the business details of the RCCC for you.

I have half a dozen slides and a few sections to report on. The Annual Report was published last month on the website, so I hope that you have managed to find the time to study it. It is full of lots of interesting details and some nice pictures too and will remain on the website for some time.

Our accountants tell us that the RCCC is in good condition. This graph shows the trend over the last ten years where we have seen turnover grow from £760,000 to £1.16 million. In particular, in this last year the higher level income this last year is partly due to 17% increase in sportscotland grant income they give to us to undertake the development work which we carry out as the governing body for the sport.

I am pleased to report that Administration costs of the organisation remain below a third of our turnover. One of our key assets is our staff and I think it is important to note that we spend 40% of our total expenditure on employing the great staff that we have working for the sport.

At the moment we are reviewing our partial exemption for VAT. There is a complex formula when one gets involved in the organisation that provides services to its members and as a result we are unable to charge VAT but also reclaim VAT, so we will be reviewing that in the coming months.

This slide provides an update from the same slide last year where it shows a visual of the current staffing structure it is also shown on the website. In 2015 we welcomed 8 new staff into the organisation and I am pleased to report that apart from two maternity positions the staffing is more settled in 2016 and is achieving great results. We are fortunate to have such a great team of staff working for the sport and I would like to thank them all for their commitment and dedication over the last year.

The relocation of our new offices to Stirling went smoothly, last November. The modern open plan office is providing a welcome change from the previous cramped cottage and we are able to host meetings of board and committees in separate rooms from the main office.

Billy has mentioned the Areas Review, which takes effect from today. This map shows the previous Areas of Scotland that we had our curlers divided into and the next map shows the new Areas where we have changed from just having numbers to Areas by name. The new areas will be more balanced in terms of representation and I hope that the new Area representatives will help to facilitate engagement with members and their governing body. I would like to add my thanks to all those involved in conducting the review.

I am sure that you will be aware that the European Curling Championships is coming to Braehead in November. You may be interested to note that 75 of the premium season passes have already been sold. Those wishing to purchase one should get theirs soon. We have undertaken this and subsequent international events, to help

raise the profile of the sport and bring more people into our facilities and clubs. This is all part of our long term goal to increase levels of participation in the sport.

To meet our membership growth targets we have continued to build on our existing campaigns such as Try Curling and Curling's Cool, to attract new people to the sport. We have reviewed our membership structure and today members will be asked to vote on the creation of a new membership category for "Scottish Curling Supporters". We believe that we will be able to engage with people at an earlier stage in their involvement with the sport, whether as spectators, participants or volunteers and hopefully be able to entice them to play in and join curling clubs. The board recommends this proposal to you today.

A project that started 16 years ago to create a National Curling Performance Centre is one step away from becoming a reality. Stirling Council with support from sportscotland is close to final approval of design and costing for a dedicated 4 sheet curling facility adjacent to the multi-sport facilities in Stirling. If all goes according to plan the build starts on 10 July 2016 for 43 weeks. We are very excited by the prospect of such a facility bringing year round training opportunities to the sport, particularly for players in the performance programme, with Olympic and Paralympic ambitions.

Over the last 10 months we have been designing a new membership system and will soon be commissioning a company to upgrade our database and integrate new features that will help the organisation, clubs and members.

The RCCC continues to review our policies, procedures, systems and rules. You will shortly be asked to vote on a number of changes. Several of these relate to technical details of what happens during games on the ice. I would just like to mention one of them, 3d relates to Rule 16 - Inappropriate Behaviour, this change brings the rule into line with our disciplinary policy. This rule was applied to a player as the result of an incident at the Scottish Curling Championships in February. A Disciplinary Panel was convened and sanctions were given to the player. This small change and associated guidance will be published to provide clarity to players so that they will know the consequences that may arise if rules are broken. It also gives the organisation the right to publish the outcomes of such disciplinary cases.

I would like to thank the board who have continued to help guide the organisation and have supported the staff to develop Scottish Curling over the last year. Particular thanks from me to Trevor Dodds and Kay Gibb stepping down after six years as directors and to Billy Howat for an excellent term as President. It has been great to work with you all and I wish you every success. Finally, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who have given their time to various committees, for their support and contributions, along with the many volunteers working behind the scenes, who help to keep the sport moving forward, thank you. (Applause)

Does anybody have any questions about the Annual Report or matters on voting today?

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

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): Thanks Bruce, we now move on to the various resolutions requiring approval.

Special Resolution 1 – is a proposal by the Board to approve a new category of membership – Scottish Curling Supporter. 93 members have already voted online or by post and again of the members present today 92 can vote, importantly it has to be a 75% majority of the total votes cast is required for it to be adopted. So can I ask all those in favour of adopting the new category please raise their cards, thank you very much indeed, all those against? The new category is approved.

Resolution 2 – are proposals by the Rules Committee and supported by the Board to add new rules and amend the Rules of the Game (3a to 3d)

3a) The first one is Rule 4 (b)(i) Position of Players, this is an amendment to the rule – ‘The skip, or the vice-skip when it is the skip’s turn to deliver or when the skip is not on the ice, is in charge of the house.’ 91 members have cast their vote so far, for the members here 92 can vote here. Can I ask those in favour of the amendment to please raise their cards again, against? The resolution is approved.

3b) Now we move to the mixed doubles and it’s Rule 14 (f) – Position of free placed stones, power play, use of last stone draw and positioning of players. There are six sub sections to approve with Rule 14 but we are proposing these to comply with WCF rules. Are you happy to take it as a block, rather than go through the 6 changes? Thank you very much. Those in favour of the Mixed Doubles changes please raise their cards, anyone against? This rule is approved.

3c) Now we move to rules related to Prohibited Substances – 94 members voted online or by post. Can I ask those in favour of the new words in the substances please raise your cards, those against. The resolution is approved.

3d) I think Bruce highlighted the next resolution, which is Inappropriate Behaviour – 95 members voted online or by post. Those in favour of the proposal to raise their cards, those against, thank you. The resolution is approved.

Resolution 3 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. 96 members have submitted their vote either online or by post. So if you are happy with the very small changes, can those in favour please raise their cards, those against? The resolution is approved, thank you.

i) Submission of the Annual Accounts appropriately certified

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): The approval of the Annual Accounts which were published on the website, 88 people have already voted so can I ask those in favour of the publication of the Annual Accounts to raise their cards please, any one against? Publication of the Annual Accounts was approved.

LAUCLAN MACLEAN (WATSONIAN): Do we get a chance to ask any questions about the accounts before we approve them?

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): You certainly can sir. Any questions, no.

j) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): We now move to the appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner for the RCCC, we did a competitive process this year to see who would be recommended and you will see it’s Drummond Laurie Chartered Accountants from Grangemouth we have selected and we would ask for your

approval, are you happy with that appointment? Thank you very much, that has been approved.

k) Fixing of annual subscriptions

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): Annual subscriptions for 2017-18, 98 members voted online or by post, we are proposing no increase. Before I put it to the vote, does anyone have any questions?

LAUCLAN MACLEAN (WATSONIAN): Do we not have to pick a subscription for the new category of members?

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): It is £5.00 to be a Scottish Curling Supporter, effective from today if approved.

All those in favour of the fee's remaining the same, all those against? Thank you, it's carried, there will be no increase to membership fees for season 2017-18.

l) Appointment of President

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): We now move on to the appointment of our President and I am delighted to ask Clive Thomson of Glasgow Academicals to join us on the stage as our incoming President, Billy could you please present Clive with his presidential badge and flash.

Clive could you please present Billy with his Past President's badge. (Applause)

m) Appointment of Vice-President

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): We now move on to the appointment of our Vice-President Jim Cullen of Earlston Curling Club. Jim's nomination as Vice-President is uncontested so please acclaim Jim as our incoming Vice-President, Jim Cullen. (Applause) Jim I am sure you will want to say a few words.

JIM CULLEN (Vice-President): Ladies and gentlemen, fellow curlers and friends, I will be known to quite a number of you but for those of you who don't know me I am a solicitor in private practice and have been for almost 40 years now. I hesitate to say that I have been curling now for almost as long, and you might think that one would become perfect at it but as in curling all that practice simply doesn't work that way unfortunately.

I am delighted to be appointed as Vice-President, it's a great honour and I am looking forward to supporting Clive in his year as President. I have been on the ASC now for two years and it really is quite an eye opener into the workings and the tremendous work that is done by the staff at the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, it really is as I say quite an eye opener and it's quite challenging and it's going to be a very busy year for Clive and I am looking forward to support him in that. As far as my own position is concerned as a solicitor I am now on the countdown to that Monday morning when the phone rings and my secretary announces that 'I am sorry Jim doesn't work here anymore', so I am looking forward to that and I am also looking forward to being Vice-President, thank you very much. (Applause)

n) Appointment of Directors

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): Thanks very much Jim. We now come to the appointment of Directors but just before we move on to that can I express my personal thanks to Kay and Trevor for their outstanding contribution to the Board over the last six years, it's really appreciated. I wish both of them every success in the future and I

am absolutely certain that they will continue to play a huge part in the furthering of our sport. Trevor and Kay you have been stars on the board, thank you very much indeed. (Applause)

You can see on the screen two nominations were received therefore their appointments were uncontested, I wonder if Helen would stand up and make herself known to the audience and I think Graeme who is well known to many. Helen and Graeme, welcome to the board. (Applause)

o) Appointment of a Chaplain

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): We now move on to the appointment of the Chaplain and I am delighted that Alan who is with us today and said the prayer at the lunch, has indicated that he is happy to continue as the RCCC's Chaplain, can I have your acclimation please. (Applause)

p) Authorisation of the publication of the Annual

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): Next to the publication of the Annual, 96 members have already voted either by online or by post. Can I ask those in favour of publishing the annual to please raise their cards, those against? Thank you very much indeed; publishing of the Annual has been approved.

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

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): The next item is the date for the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 17th June 2017 at a venue that we will indicate through the website in due course.

ALASTAIR LINDSAY (LAMMERMUIR): You have a venue to be announced, I trust you will honour Mr Cullen with a more local venue than our previous President Mr Hinnigan who was left with Glenrothes and Kilmarnock, neither which are near the Borders. I would just like to raise that point that when Jim becomes president we are somewhere nearer the Borders.

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): That is a very good point; we will take that on board.

r) Presentation of Trophies & Awards

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): Can I ask Billy and Sue to go down to the side of stage to present the trophies.

a) Eight Ender Awards

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): First is the Eight Ender Awards, 16 were awarded and presented during the season. So there are no actual presentations, you will see the names going up on the screen. The winners are highlighted and very well done to all of them. You will notice one of the incoming board members and it's not Graeme Adam has her name up on that Eight Ender screen, Helen Hally. It's a wonderful achievement.

b) Sir Richard Waldie Griffith

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): Next is the Sir Richard Waldie-Griffith Trophy and the winners this year are Ayrshire Province and Andrew Kerr the Ayrshire President will collect the trophy. (Applause)

c) 150 Year Club Medals

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): There was only one club this year which is Perth Curling Club and the medal will be received by Ian Normand. (Applause)

d) **50 Year Medals**

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): We move on now to the individual 50 years medals, there were eleven who were awarded, those not present are highlighted on the screen. Sheila Clark (Lothian Ladies), Jean Hamilton (Carrington), D Lindsay Hood (Monifieth), James McGregor (Kilsyth), James Paton (Bridge of Allan), Arthur W Smith (Evenie Water) and Gavin Hepburn (Bruntsfield Curling Society & Raith and Abbotshall).

Those in attendance today to collect their medals are Isobel Waddell (Hamilton and Thornyhill), second Peter Cleland (Bellshill), next Harold Forrester (Nairn), and lastly Jim Stevenson (Dunfermline). (Applause)

e) **WCF Commemorative Banners**

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): Our next presentation was to be the WCF Commemorative Banners to our two world champions; unfortunately the banners are still in Canada and are on their way. I would ask first of all World Junior Curling Champions for 2016 Team Mouat, skipped by Bruce Mouat, Bobby Lammie (Third) I know he is on holiday, Gregor Cannon (Second), Angus Dowell (Lead), Robin Brydone (Alternate) and Alan Hannah (Coach), could they come to the front and take the applause from the audience. (Applause)

To the World Senior Women's Curling Champions, can I ask them to come forward Skip Jackie Lockhart, Christine Cannon (Third), Isobel Hannen (Second), Margaret Richardson (Lead) and Margaret Robertson (Alternate). (Applause)

s) **Scottish Curling Awards**

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): We now move to the Scottish Curling Awards, the winners were announced on the website on the 27th May.

Young Curler of the Year

The nominees this year were Bobby Lammie, Bruce Mouat and Ross Whyte. As shown on the screen Bruce was the winner with quite an incredible year, including Scottish Junior Curling Champion as skip, World Junior Curling Champion as skip, Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles Champion with Gina Aitken, fourth in the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship, which has given us wonderful points towards the Olympics, winner of the Goldline Scottish Curling Tour and the OVCA Superspiel Championship in Canada. Ladies and gentlemen, Bruce Mouat. (Applause)

Grassroots Coach of the Year

The nominees were Brian Park, Lorraine Campbell and Kenny Finlay. Lorraine Campbell has developed a fantastic coaching system at Forfar Ice Rink including the new coach development pathway programme which will provide the ice rink with a lasting legacy. Ladies and gentlemen, Lorraine Campbell. (Applause)

Ice Diamond Award

This year's winner is Alan Stephen; what a contribution Alan has made having been an umpire at local, national and international level for over 25 years, not only in able body curling but in wheelchair curling from its very earliest stages. Alan developed the draw master software which has been used for draws for at least the last decade here in Scotland. Alan has contributed immeasurably to the development of curling in

Scotland at all levels. The RCCC is immensely grateful for his dedication to the sport over many years, I can personally think of no one who is more deserving of this award, ladies and gentlemen Alan Stephen. (Applause)

Team of the Year

The nominees were Team Lockhart, Team Mouat and Team Muirhead. The winners were Team Mouat, skipped by Bruce Mouat, Bobby Lammie (Third), Gregor Cannon (Second), Angus Dowell (Lead), Robin Brydone (Alternate) and Alan Hannah (Coach). Ladies and gentleman, Team Mouat. (Applause)

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): Now we come to the presentation, can I ask Billy to present bouquets of flowers, firstly to Marion Fraser immediate Past President of Ladies Branch. (Applause) Secondly to Sue Howat, his wife. (Applause)

We now have a short video recounting all the RCCC and International Competitions over the season 2015-16. (Applause)

A huge thank you to Stuart McLean (RCCC Marketing Manager), for preparing this video, quite excellent Stuart, thank you very much.

t) Any Other Competent Business

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): We now move on to any other business, as you see there was no other business.

Lauchlan McLean (WATSONIAN): Earlier this afternoon we were asked to vote on the screen 'in favour' of something, I noticed the word favour was spelt the American way, is there any reason for that?

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): It is a mistake Lauchlan. There was not any other business but Robbie and Kathleen Scott both attended her Majesty's 90th Birthday Celebrations on behalf of the RCCC and Robbie would like to say a few words. (Applause)

ROBBIE SCOTT (DUNKELD): The Queen's 90th Birthday Patrons Lunch on the Mall, Sunday 12th June 2016. Kathleen and I were delighted to be nominated to attend this very special occasion and to represent the Royal Caledonian Curling Club and proud to wear the blue blazer.

There were 10,000 people present, representing 600 organisations for which the Queen is the Patron. In the morning as we queued for entry in the pouring rain we were a little damp before ponchos arrived, umbrellas were not allowed. Security was very strict and my paper downloaded off the website got a little bit disintegrated and this is part of Kathleen's paper here, it was supposed to be A4 size.

We entered through gate number 5, we received a commemorative box with a cup and a saucer, and we thought it was tea leaves but it actually came from PG Tips. We got a goodie bag from Boots containing lots of items, plus sun cream. Moving on to station 8 we went on to pick up our Marks and Spencer's Hampers (I have one here) along with our plastic glasses. It was absolutely amazing what was packed into these hampers, plastic cutlery, plates and napkins, a feast of Scottish salmon and chicken salad sandwiches, oatcakes and cheese and a mini pork pie, you may have seen that on the television. All of this to be accompanied by the Pimm's of course.

Our table companions were delightful and we met people representing Rugby League, Real Tennis, Archery, MCC Cricket and the Royal Yacht Club. We were entertained by parades, acting the six decade of the Queen's reign in music and in dance, accompanied by plaques naming the 600 organisations present. We have emailed a photo of the plaque to Bruce with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club on it. By now it had stopped raining and ponchos came off and the sun shone and the Royal family came on to the mall. Prince Harry who was absolutely delightful came along to our section and posed for selfie's with the crowd, he laughed and joked with many guests. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were driven up and down in the open top Range Rover after which they were entertained to a second parade around the mall, this time in the sunshine. The proceedings finished about 4pm when we all gathered our souvenirs, our hampers of course and belongings together to say good bye to our new friends and make our way back to the hotel on the Strand, just as the rain started to come down again. This concluded a very happy and memorable day for Kathleen and myself, thank you. (Applause)

u) Address by incoming President

ALASTAIR MACNISH (CHAIRMAN): It is now my great pleasure to ask our new President to address the meeting and offer a vote of thanks, Clive. (Applause)

CLIVE THOMSON (NEW PRESIDENT): Chairman Alastair, Past Presidents Billy and Marion, Ladies Branch President Jan, Honoured guests, sister and brother curlers, ladies and gentlemen – I hope that covers everyone here.

It is a great honour to be elected to the position of President of the Royal Caledonian Club. Thank you very much indeed.

Although I am looking forward to my year as President - I do so with some trepidation - as it will be impossible to live up to the standards set by my immediate predecessors Billy and David.

I have enjoyed getting to know both of you during the past year and learning the skills you bring to the office. During the year I have also had the pleasure of getting to know Marion Fraser and observing the huge amount of energy she brought to the role of Ladies Branch President.

Billy, you devoted yourself to the organisation whole heartedly over the past year, travelling the country and supporting our teams overseas. I know this was much appreciated by all.

You brought your considerable playing knowledge and experience to the board and sub- committees and I am pleased that you will be serving on the ASC for a further year. Billy, you were supported magnificently throughout your year by Sue and I would like to thank Sue, son Ben and Billy's brothers for enabling Billy to take time out of the farms to carry out his duties. We have come to know Billy as "The man from Auchinleck", as he kept reminding us and I would like to thank him, on behalf of all the members of the RCCC, for an outstanding year as President. (Applause)

2016-17 is going to be an exciting time for Scottish Curling. Braehead will host the first of 4 major international events coming to Scotland in the next 5 years. I do hope you will all support the European Curling Championships to be held on this ice pad and in the Arena in November, whether in a volunteer capacity or by your attendance at the event to support our teams. I understand that over 400 volunteers registered on our

website by the closing date, which is a tremendous response we have had already and I am sure it's going to be a fantastic event.

Our Ladies Branch will be hosting an incoming US tour also in November and I have the honour of captaining a men's tour to the US, in January and February 2017. The organisation for both tours has been in progress for many months and my thanks go to all who have been involved.

As you have heard this afternoon, there is a huge amount of work going on in our sport in Scotland. This is being undertaken by the largest number of staff we have ever had, together with a dedicated group of volunteers, without whom the sport would not survive. Thanks to both the staff and volunteers.

Our excellent staff will be working hard to grow the sport in general, and increase the membership in particular. They will be working on the Strategic Plan to ensure that we meet all our targets.

I am looking forward to working with Ladies President Jan Howard and Vice-President Jim Cullen this season. Jim played a significant role in the preparation of the Areas review. Our aim when reviewing the Areas Structure was to ensure that the members found it easy to contribute and comment on the activities of the RCCC. Our area representatives have roles and responsibilities within our organisation. New representatives will be advised of these responsibilities and existing members will be reminded of their responsibilities as we move forward into a new season. So please contact your Area representative if you have concerns about any aspect of the organisation.

We have been advised that two members of the ASC are standing down at this time and I would like to thank them for the work they have done for the RCCC. They are Bob Smith and Alistair Asher. I would like to welcome new ASC members - which gives me the opportunity to mention the new Area names. Firstly, Jim Inglis from Area 4 - now Greater Glasgow, Joe Kincaid from Area 6 - now Forth Valley, Alan Stuart from Area 7 - now Fife and Kinross, Tom Kirk from Area 9 - now North East and Ian Mackay from Area 10 - now Highlands and Moray.

Billy referred to the Club and Member Development committee which is being renamed the 'Member Development committee' but be assured that its remit will include serving and developing our clubs. The makeup of the committee is being strengthened and applications are being invited from any RCCC member for the roles on this committee to ensure that it is populated by members with experience and those most suited to the roles required. Details and an application form were posted on the RCCC website yesterday.

Finally I would like to thank the staff at Braehead for looking after us so well this afternoon, and also Suzy and the staff of the RCCC for the organisation of the AGM. Thanks to Alan Donaldson, our Chaplain, for saying Grace at lunch.

I would also like to thank the members of my clubs for their good wishes – Glasgow Academicals, Beechnuts, and Whitecraigs Tennis Club Curling section. I would also like to congratulate Billy and Alastair for chairing the meeting in such a professional manner and to thank you for giving up your Saturday afternoon to attend the meeting.

I look forward to meeting you all during the coming season and I hope you have a great summer. Thank you. (Applause)

That is the end of the formal part of the AGM, I hope you will stay around and network as they say nowadays.

I now pronounce the meeting closed.