

## **Areas Review Group Report and Proposal - January 2016**

**Review Group** – Clive Thomson, Billy Howat, David Henderson, Marion Fraser, Jim Cullen, Jim Jamieson, Alan Muirhead and John Good

### **Background**

In October 2014 the Areas Standing Committee Review Group submitted a paper to the RCCC Board following its review of the roles and responsibilities of the Areas Standing Committee. The Board approved the paper and agreed to its recommendations. One of these recommendations was to carry out a review of the 'Areas' structure to determine how best to serve and retain the support of the grass roots curling membership.

The Review Group had recognised that a number of 'Areas' were working well but others were not. The 'Roles and Responsibilities', as set out in the Information Guide for Committee Members, had been examined and found to be fit for purpose with the exception of a small number of minor matters which were recommended to be amended. However these roles and responsibilities were not being carried out as intended in a number of Areas.

At the present time the country is divided into ten Areas each represented by two members on the Areas Standing Committee. The ten Areas are identified numerically, although geographically based, and the number of clubs and members within each Area varies.

The geographical boundaries of the current Areas are based on Province boundaries with two to five Provinces forming an Area. Provinces vary in size both in respect of the number of clubs and the number of members.

### **Role of the Areas**

#### **Analysis**

An extensive consultation has been carried out by the Review Group seeking the views of Area Representatives, Province representatives, clubs and club members. The responses were many and varied. Every Area responded and there were direct contributions from almost half of the Provinces together with a number of clubs and individual members. One clear message from this consultation was to maintain the Provinces in their present form as they are steeped in history with many competitions organised and run by Provinces including many inter Province competitions within each Area. The general conclusion was that most of the Provinces, and some Areas, were generally well organised and functioned satisfactorily although not adhering to all the requirements laid out in the Information Guide.

It was felt that until such times as all the Area Representatives carried out the tasks set out there would be little improvement in the representation of Royal Club members and the communication between them.

To enable this communication to be as easy as possible for volunteers there should be a flow of information from the Board to the ASC, and from the ASC Representatives to the 37 Provinces, 634 Clubs and 12,295 members, and the same in reverse.

As part of the analysis the Review Group examined various options as follows:

1. Ice Rink based Areas

This would result in an Area representative for each of the 22 Ice Rinks in Scotland but it is clear that there is great disparity in the number of members playing at each centre. In addition, many of the Provinces are based at more than one Ice Rink and this would result in these Provinces having more than one representative on the ASC.

2. Equalising member representation

This was an attempt to allocate an Area representative for an apportioned number of members but this exercise proved unworkable due to the geographical diversities throughout the country. Such an exercise would have resulted in divisions within Provinces and would have been unlikely to receive support from members.

3. Equalising club representation

The same difficulty arose as with member equalisation. The variation and size of clubs would have resulted in splitting Provinces.

4. New Geographical based Areas

The Group first looked at dividing Scotland into 4 Areas, i.e. north, south, east and west but the drawing of the boundaries that would correspond with curling 'communities' that worked well proved too difficult. The division into 5 Areas was looked at to include a Central Area but the same difficulties were evident.

The Review Group concluded that any of the suggestions contained in Paragraphs 1 – 4 may well have been possible had the group been starting with a blank canvas and setting up an Area Structure from scratch. As there already was a structure based geographically into Areas and Provinces, the Group looked at what elements of the existing structure functioned satisfactorily and which ones needed to be changed.

**Geographical division**

The Review Group agreed that the current geographical division worked for certain Areas however the numerical identification of Areas was confusing and could be better clarified by the use of geographical or place names to give the Areas an identity.

The Review Group agreed that each of the Provinces should be retained as a unit contained within an Area.

## Conclusions

The Areas Review Group recommends the following:

### **1. Number of Area Representatives**

It is recommended that the number of representatives for each Area should be based on the number of RCCC members in each Area as follows:-

- 0 – 750 members - One representative
- 751 - 1500 members - Two representatives
- Over 1500 members - Three representatives

It is suggested that the number of members in each Area be reviewed annually but the number of representative(s) would only change if the bands were breached on a consistent basis for three consecutive years.

### **2. New Areas**

**Former Area 1** to be subdivided into two Areas, **each** having **1 representative** -

“**Ayrshire**” comprising Ayrshire Province, currently having 676 members

“**Galloway**” comprising Rhinns O’Galloway and Galloway Provinces, currently having 460 members

**Former Area 2** to be subdivided into two Areas, **each** having **1 representative** -

“**South**” comprising Dumfriesshire and Stewartry Provinces, currently having 634 members

“**Border**” comprising Border Province, currently having 512 members

**Former Area 3** to be subdivided into two Areas, **each** having **2 representatives** -

“**Inverclyde**” comprising Renfrewshire and Argyll Provinces, currently having 1032 members

“**Lanarkshire**” comprising Lanarkshire and, Biggar District and Upper Clydesdale Provinces, currently having 887 members

**Former Area 4** to be renamed “**Greater Glasgow**” comprising Glasgow and Dunbartonshire Provinces, currently having 987 members with **2 representatives**

**Former Area 5** to be renamed “**Edinburgh**” comprising Midlothian, East Lothian and Peeblesshire Provinces, currently having 1249 members with **2 representatives**

Former Area 6 to be renamed “**Forth Valley**” comprising Scottish Central, Stirlingshire, Forth and Endrick, and West Lothian Provinces currently having 1003 members with **2 Representatives**

Former Area 7 to be renamed “**Fife and Kinross**” comprising Cupar and District, West of Fife, East of Fife and Loch Leven Provinces having 1430 members with **2 representatives**

Former Area 8 to be renamed “**Perthshire**” comprising Upper Strathearn, Perth and District, Strathmore, Atholl, and Breadalbane Provinces currently having 778 members with **2 representatives**

Former Area 9 to be renamed “**North East**” comprising North and South Esk, North Eastern, Angus and Dundee and District Provinces currently having 1650 members with **3 representatives**

Former Area 10 to be renamed “**Highlands and Moray**” comprising Ross and Cromarty, Grampian, Inverness, Moray and Sutherland Provinces currently having 898 members with **2 representatives**

The altered structure would result in 13 geographical areas and the election of 23 Area Representatives to the ASC as opposed to 20 in the present structure. Although there will now be no official requirement to have a junior and a senior representative, Areas with more than one representative can organise their representation to ensure that their Area is adequately served. Each Representative, who will serve for 4 years, will have his or her own role and reporting responsibilities.

The Review Group recommends that before an Area elects a new Representative, that person is briefed on the requirements of the role and agrees to carry out the ‘Role and Responsibilities’ of that position. The Province(s) and Area whom they represent must agree to facilitate the requirements placed upon their representative.

New Area Representatives would be given an induction by the President, Vice President and CEO prior to their first ASC meeting. Existing Representatives would be reminded of their role and responsibilities and asked to agree to carry them out.

The Review Group recommends that Area Representatives should be selected from all Provinces in their Area on a rotational basis but the final decision would be made by the Area.