



Tuesday 12th January 2016

Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association

Monthly Meeting Minutes

King Street, Dumfries

- 1. Present : John Graham, Mike Baird, Jim Hogg, Rosemary Lenton, Graham Sloan, Hazel Smith, John Smith. Guest : Ian Barr**
- 2. Apologies : Iain Gallacher, Nancy Gallacher, Gillian Graham, Fiona Hardie, Kenny Murray, Brenda Sillars.**
- 3. Minutes of Last Meeting : Proposed by Hazel Smith, Seconded by Rosemary Lenton**

Welcome to Jim Hogg to the Committee and to our Guest, Ian Barr, the Regional Council Events Officer.

- 4. Agenda Items : Ian Barr (Funding)**

The Committee explained to Ian Barr how the Curling events at Dumfries have grown dramatically over the last few years and he was provided with a list of these.

It was highlighted that these events promoted curling locally and also the Region both Nationally and Internationally.

He was provide with information on the You Tube hits for events which we had recorded.

He acknowledged that these events generated income to local businesses as they brought visitors to the area.

It was explained that in order to continue the momentum that consideration was being given to the viability to enhance the facility to make it an Arena style with high level seating which would provide more rooms for the facility and if this could be done along with a solid ice pad as opposed to the sand pad currently there then this would possibly minimise energy costs and increase the use during the summer by way of overseas or outside curlers who are apparently looking for training facilities. This would include improved air handling and ice quality for all curlers.

In order to continue our current events DIBCA require to look for funding methods as without this we cannot continue to run such events

and the concern was that once lost they cannot be regained and may have a knock on effect to other events.

Ian Barr commented that the Council is very proactive regarding events, and he regarded the Ice Bowl as being under profiled and under represented. He however explained that funding for the season 2016/7 has closed – October was the deadline. Ian Barr would like to see this deadline extended.

He suggested another option would be through Leader – the European Rural development committee – either applying on DIBCA's own behalf or a joint initiative with partners, an example of Lockerbie or Stranraer. There is merit in looking at this funding programme.

Another option Mr Barr suggested, was the Windmill energy funding programme, which funds community councils within a 10 mile radius of windfarms – if 3 or 4 clubs worked together in a cohesive approach it could be worthwhile – maybe for a curling minibus to link the outer areas etc. Mr Barr is going to supply a list of community councils where this fund is available.

Event Scotland also supports Dumfries and Galloway – grouping events together can maximise assistance.

Mr Barr suggested visiting one of the Leader workshop events – to see what is available for the wider view and long term development in the meantime,

Mr Barr offered as a goodwill gesture, to pay for a photographer for one of the upcoming events, grateful thanks for this and also the time and contribution tonight at our meeting. Ian Barr left at 7.30pm.

After Mr Barr left, it was decided that a sponsor was urgently required having missed the grant deadline for this year, as it would be hard to cover the loss for the CCT event again next December. (Last year the council provided a grant of £5K towards the event which generated a local income of some £30K) It would be regrettable if the CCT had to be in doubt for this year – as it could be lost permanently.

Rosemary will investigate the Leader proposition etc.

Winners Boards ; no update but still need to complete to a satisfactory conclusion

5 AOCB

RCCC : John Smith updated the Committee that the RCCC had had a review of the areas - with the South of Scotland covering D&G – there will be 1 representative from each area, unless the area has more than 1500 members. This will be implemented after the AGM.

John Smith also offered his assistance with the prize giving at the Under 14's. There is a Coaching conference coming up at Murrayfield on the 6th & 7th

Jim Hogg asked about circulation of the Minutes and it was identified they went on the Notice Board downstairs and that it had been agreed that abbreviated minutes would be put on the Dumfries Curling Web site. It was agreed that once on the web site there would be a face-book link to them. Consideration would also be given to using Mail Chimp to circulate them wider.

100 Club to be c/f Rosemary to investigate.

Christine retired, however, due to ill health within the Ice Bowl, she is currently back working.

Cllr David McKie arrived at 8.10pm

Finance Update :

The current balance is £16000.95, but to keep this balance healthy still looking for sponsors.

A break down of this was later provided and is as follows –

There are still outstanding invoices for the CCT event amounting to approx. £2500.

In addition the forthcoming Mixed Doubles will cost us approx. a further £7500 (includes £5000 prize money).

The next instalment of Development Officer cost's will also be due approx. £1650.

Total expenditure = £11650 which would leave us with a net balance of approx. £4500 by year end and we still have to pay for all our local competitions.

Competitions :

Graham Sloan apologised for no report this month, but he is concentrating on his Development Officer duties. He explained that following changes within the RCCC they were now in a position to look at their targets etc. and this was resulting in him having to review the tasks he under took.

Thanks were given to Graham on his work for the CCT event. It was highlighted the comments from the teams which were mainly for more ice time and more games.

Scott Henderson was complimented on his excellent job as ice technician, but a report he had provided did flag up that the Ice Bowl has inadequacies for consistent good ice.

Discussion took place around the cost and effort of running the event and it was questioned whether this equated to the rewards gained. While DIBCA did not appear to gain anything it clearly enhanced the facility in the curling world and generated income to the local economy and therefore must be worthwhile.

Cllr David McKie suggested it would be worthwhile to work out how much revenue our events bring into the region – to the third parties, hotels, restaurants, tourism etc.

It was agreed that a decision would require to be made soon as to whether we were in a position to fund a further CCT event.

Graham commented that the Ice bowl will host the Scottish Women's Bonsel in March 2017.

It was also highlighted that representatives of the Junior Club had played away and managed to retain the National Regional Divisional 1 title. This was a tremendous achievement.

Teams were -

Ross Whyte, Sophie Jackson, Finlay Howat, Mollie Marley- Milligan

Fraser Kingan, Hamish Gallacher, Ellie Hamilton, Chris Howat

Graham Sloan also highlighted the need for greater participation on DIBCA and its events by curlers and commended each member of the Committee to try to recruit further members.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm