North East Area 12 Management Committee

Strathmore Rugby Club, Inchmacoble Park, Forfar, DD81RL

Tues 3rd March 2026 at 10.30am

Minute

Albert Middler welcomed and thanked everyone for coming along on another lovely day.

Apologies: Tracey Collie, Andrew Walker, Emma Sinclair

Present: Alan Arnot (N&S Esk), Alistair Scott (D&D), Albert Middler (North Eastern),
David Stobbs (Angus), Philip Ross (Rep), Alistair Crozier (Rep), Janice Walls (Secretary)

Previous Minute: No matters arising:- proposed by Albert Middler, seconded by Alistair Crosier.

Previous AGM Minute: No matters arising:- proposed by Alistair Crozier, seconded by Philip Ross

Financial Update:

The balance at last year's Audit which was presented to AGM was £1,057. Balance at the start of the season was £535 after paying for engraving room Hire etc. The Levie's of £450 have all been paid by the 4 Provinces, as well as the gifts of silver curling necklaces for the 3 Senior Women who won Gold at the World Senior last year which have been purchased at a cost of £135 leaving us with a balance of £987.08.

I inadvertently didn't pay the ice for the Crichton Final last year of £136 and ask that we look at not paying it now or in the future. If I reimburse the teams from last year and pay £144 this year (no one has approached me regarding this), then also considering the gifts, room hire increased prizes and engraving costs, we are looking at a balance of £707.08 which will be a cash movement deficit of £350.44 for the year. The implications of this are raising the competition levies by £3.

Regarding the Cricton Final fees - Following discussion the question to answer was which would be the lesser option to take to the membership at the AGM is a) increase the Levy by £3 or
b) stop paying for the Crichton Final Ice. The consensus was that the latter would probably be more acceptable generally. Add as an Agenda point for AGM.

We discussed the lack of interest from the North Eastern Province clubs with only AWW and Banchory entering competitions. Generally, clubs are getting smaller and there is a real lack of interest in competing in Area Competitions. Many grass roots curlers are unaware of the Provinces and Areas and what their roles are. Janice tasked to sort out an information sheet to clubs and members via Province secretaries to promote the Area Competitions. This will give an explanation of each competition, provide Information about the function and structure of the Area and Provinces and highlight that all rinks charge membership rates for all Area Competitions.

Financial proposal: Abandon payment of the Crichton Finals Fees or increase the competition Levy by £3 which is £144 divided by 48 teams. To cover the rising costs of engraving and Prizes and gifts

We also discussed a member survey going forward.

Representatives Updates

Albert Middler:

Albert attended ASC meetings in Kinross, Edinburgh and Inverness.
As yet there is no decision from the RCCC or SC about the ASC becoming rink centric, there is a draft meeting minute from 25th Aug 2025 on the SC website that discusses the proposals, but no further minutes from other meetings held, therefore no recorded movement on Rink Forums.
Draft minute attached as appendix 1

We discussed the costs of outgoing tours incoming and out going , Province representatives asking if there were any funds available to help. Unfortunately, it's down to individuals to fund themselves on outgoing Tours, and Provinces must raise funds themselves to support curlers to participate in incoming tours. The general feeling from the Province representatives was that many curlers nowadays know very little about the Tours, both incoming and outgoing.

Alistair Crozier:

Has been to a few ASC meetings citing Alberts report as the same.
Curl Aberdeen has had a successful year and the Rink development group (which Alistair is a part of) are managing the curling very well. The new plant installation has led to much improved Ice and the Try curling sessions have been very successful.

Philip Ross:

Philip also attended the ASC meetings as above. Curl Forfar has hosted some good competitions this year with the Senior Qualifiers and Finals being a notable success, seeing Jackie Lockhart going forward again to the World Finals again in Geneva.
He felt that the rink missed an opportunity with Try curling during the Olympics. In contrast Kirkcaldy had over 100 curlers through the doors for Try Curling over the 3 weeks.

Secretary Vacancy:

Discussed Janice stepping down from secretary this year and will put the word out to look for someone to take on the role.

Competitions updates:

- **Indoor Bonspiel** – 15 entries, winning Province D&D, Club- University of Dundee

  A few issues on the day this year with N&S Esk Province Dun CC & Caterthun CC failing to show And North Eastern AWW also failed to field a team

- **Grant Trophy** – 15 entries. Winning Province N&S Esk, Club- Caterthun

  Only issue was AWW didn't play due to a traffic incident on the way to the rink

  Inter Province -N&S Esk, 3 entries, Angus 3 entries, D & D 3 3ntries, NE 1 full entry + 2 individuals

  Gateway Club played instead of NE 1 and NE 3 played 3 handed with 1 sub curler from N&S Esk Winning Province was, Angus, Roy Gray winners are Angus, Fraser, and Joe Lindsay

- Crichton Tankard - 15 entries – Semi-final on Sun 8th March 2pm, Letham Grange v Dundee CC and Fothringham 2 CC v AWW CC. Final takes place on Sun 5th March 11.30am

Albert apologised for the problems on the day of the Inter Province. We discussed issues fully and it was decided to carry on with no changes to the competition with the proviso that we may need to adjust the rules for lack of entries.

1. **Provinces Feedback**

a) Angus – David Stobbs feels he's not much experience with the provinces workings yet, however, he has encountered issues fulfilling Area fixtures.

b) Dundee & District – Alistair Scott reported regular management meetings with Curl Aberdeen, the Try Curling has picked up really well recently with a good pick up of people going on to beginners sessions.

c) North Eastern – Albert reported that the Province is failing, they have only run 2 competitions this season down to falling numbers that are making them unsustainable. Try Curling mid January was overwhelming for coaching staff due to the push from the Olympics and having the schools in on a regular basis. Beginner classes are doing well, and Olympic Finals day was fully subscribed for the whole day. Reanan from Scottish Curling also came and provided Floor curling and special needs events

d) N & S Esk – Alan Arnot reported that things were running smoothly although he felt that Tracey (Province Secretary) was having to chase people up for competitions far more than she should be. Entries to Province Competitions were holding up and the Points competition was well subscribed.

2. **AGM preparation** – Forfar rink booked for 22nd April at 7.30pm

Email sent to Hayden Thomas re Inter Province cash Prize

Notice and previous minute sent to Provinces for sharing with Clubs and posters displayed in all 3 ice Rinks.
Agenda still to be distributed nearer the time.
Gifts of silver curling necklaces bought for 3 senior women's world Champions – engraving still to be done for boxes
Trophies to be collected and put to engravers and prizes to be ordered

3. **AOBC:**

- Discussed that many grass roots curlers are unaware of the Provinces and Areas and we were aware that many clubs were getting smaller and . Talked about what we could do to improve the situation and wondered what we could do to encourage more participation. Decided to compile an information sheet to distribute and ask club secretaries to share with members
  Janice will take this forward.
- Feedback on Local Crichton qualifiers – Will continue with current format as feedback has been quite positive. Although may need permission to tweak rules depending on circumstances
  Proposal will be: Will we continue to have Crichton Final in Aberdeen/Forfar on alternate years

  Financial proposal: Abandon payment of the Crichton Finals Fees or increase the competition Levy by £3 which is £144 – 48 teams. To cover the costs.

Date of next meeting: - AGM – Wed 22nd April 2026 at FIS **Booked for 7.30pm**

Meeting closed: 11.57am

Appendix 1

DRAFT MINUTES Date: 5/8/25 Start Time: 11:30 AM

Meeting Title: ASC Meeting Location: Kinross ice rink

Chair: Keith Prentice

1. Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting with a tribute to the late Tom Kirk, a valued member of the University of Dundee and multiple committees including the Competitions and Maintenance Committees. A minute's silence was observed in his memory.

2. Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from: • John Taylor • Colin Davis • John McGowan • Jim Hogg • Ali Asher • John McDermott • Alan Chalmers (late notice) It was noted that several members were absent due to attending Tom Kirk's funeral.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes (Meeting: 15 April)

• Previous minutes were considered accurate and comprehensive.

• Proposed: Colin Martin • Seconded: Derek Young • Approved unanimously.

No matters arising were discussed.

4. President's Report • The President noted he had only been in post for a month.

• The AGM was productive, with only the Members' Forum raising some contention.

• There was no formal written report, but key issues would be discussed under other agenda items.

5. Members' Forum Discussion

Key Points Raised:

• Strong desire for change and improved communication between members and the board.

• Concerns over the structure and purpose of the ASC. Many felt the current ASC had no clear function.

• Proposal to replace ASC with a rink-based Standing Committee or similar, focused on direct member representation.

• Debate over facility-centric vs. province-based representation.

• General agreement that each ice rink/facility should select its own reps to attend a national forum or committee, reporting directly to the board.

• Suggestions that each facility could send two representatives (e.g., male/female, senior/junior).

• Broad agreement that communication from board to members is lacking and needs to improve (e.g., via newsletters or direct email).

6. Feedback from Various Areas:

• Development committees seen as potential platforms to gather and feedback local input.

• Smaller rinks (e.g., Auchenharvie,) struggle to staff committees and need structural support.

• Concerns over overly rushed or top-down implementation of changes from Stirling.

• Discussion of junior clubs, development pathways, and successes such as the Gateway Club model.

• Several members called for better integration of junior players into adult clubs.

7. Structural Reform Proposal

• Widespread support for replacing ASC with a more effective communication and representation body.

• Agreement that:

1. It should be rink/facility-based.
2. Reps should meet 2/3 times annually with the board.
3. “Rink Standing Committee”, "Members Forum", or a similar name was proposed.
4. A clear purpose and reporting structure are essential.
5. Facilities must take responsibility for communicating decisions and gathering input

8. Communication and Governance

• Strong feedback that board minutes take too long to be ratified and shared.

• Proposal to circulate draft minutes marked as “unratified” to improve transparency.

• Need for clarity over roles and responsibilities between RCCC, ASC, and Scottish Curling.

• Concerns that Scottish Curling branding and functions are overshadowing the RCCC.

9. Development and Retention

• Successful examples of club development, such as Gateway Club and junior development pathways, were discussed.

• Emphasis on creating a clear pathway from junior participation to adult club involvement.

• Importance of local competitions, coaching, and member engagement in retention.

10. Summary of Agreed Actions

• Work towards disbanding ASC in favour of a rink/facility-based committee structure.

• Circulate a clear written proposal ahead of the next AGM for vote.

• Encourage each facility to set up or strengthen development/communications committees.

• Begin trialling draft minutes distribution.

• Review and clarify communications between board, committees, and general membership.

• Support development committees in expanding junior-to-senior pathways.

11. AOB • Reminder that board-approved minutes are currently delayed due to ratification timelines.

• Suggestion to offer digital communication support to clubs and provinces lacking capability.

12. Meeting Close - The Chair thanked all attendees for their input.

Next meeting date to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at: 12.55pm