



Berwick Curling Club



Annual General Meeting

May 13th, 2019

Date: May 13th, 2019

Time: 7:00pm

Attendance:

George Boyd	Linda Evans	Bryan Illsley	Hartley MacArthur	Donnie Smith
Gwen Boyd	Ruby Feetham	Pat Jodrie	Connie Milne	Faith Smith
Dave Charleton	Joy Gates	Dan Keddy	Dupie Milne-Aston	Tracy Tate
Lorraine Coffin	Carol Hampsey	Michelle Larsen	Joy Parker	Bev Vaughan
Judy Coulombe	Brian Hirtle	Mike Larsen	Matt Redden	Danny Vaughan
Todd Dempsey	Deb Hubbert	Claude Leblanc	Rick Rooseboom	Andrew Willsey
Cindy Easson	Greg Hubbert	Arlene MacArthur	Brad Schurman	

President Mike Larsen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

1) Approval of minutes of Annual Meeting April 9th, 2018:

The minutes of the April 9th, 2018 Annual General Meeting were posted on the Curling Club's website and a copy provided to each member in their email reminder of the May 13th, 2019 General Meeting. Bryan Illsley motioned to approve the minutes as provided. Seconded by Matt Redden.

2) Business arising from the minutes:

a. None

3) Committee Reports:

- a. Scheduling (Danny Vaughan) – Danny reported that everything went well this past season. There were more members providing 12-13 teams for Tuesday and Thursday Social Curling and 12 teams on Wednesdays. It is looking like there is a possibility of 16 teams on Wednesday nights in the upcoming season. One thing that is becoming more prominent is requests to be scheduled on a team with another person. While this has been an accommodation for couples as they tend to travel together, it is making random team selections more difficult. This may be something the Board will have to discuss in the future. As always, any suggestions for scheduling are welcome.
- b. Bookings/Rentals (Mike Larsen) – In Curt's absence, Mike reported that there was an increase in interest for bookings of the Club with revenues increasing from \$400 during the 2017-2018 season to \$2700 during the 2018-2019 season. The Board will be looking at updating the policy for rentals and a new fee schedule. Thanks were extended to Bev Vaughan for her research into the policies and fee structures of other Curling Clubs. To date, there are already rentals lined up for the 2019-2020 Season.
- c. Bar (Mike Larsen / Tracy Tate) – Mike reported that last year was the first time the bar broke \$20,000. When the fiscal year ends May 31st, 2019 for the current season, it is likely that the bar will break \$40,000! Tracy reported some of the highlights and findings from a season-ending meeting for the bar staff. The pour spouts on the hard liquor bottles are not working properly and a decision was made to source more marked shot glasses to be used instead. As well, glasses with etched pour marks have been requested for consistent

servings. They are looking at changing the large draft from a 16oz serving to a 14oz serving. They would like to obtain a second hand small deep freeze to store ice made at the Club versus buying bagged ice. They are also looking for an alternate overflow storage as opened cases cannot be stored in an unlocked area and the ice shed does not provide cold storage during the off season. The Bud Light keg will be removed to allow another craft beer to the offerings. As well, Tracy hopes to be able to add at least half a dozen more bartenders.

- d. Building – (Matt) - Lots of people came out to help with the move to the new Club. There were some ice temperature problems in the beginning but eventually the issue(s) were resolved. The 4x8 (advertising) signs still need to be hung in the ice shed. This will be completed when they determine the best way to do so. Lindsay's still have a few deficiency items to be fixed including patching drywall and correcting the rings. We have requested that the fitness centre get blinds for their windows to get the sun from shining in on sheet A.
- e. Ice (Brad) - This has been a challenging year, but they learned a lot. The ventilation was determined to be the issue for the varied ice temperatures and has been corrected.
- f. Junior (Alice) - The 2018-2019 Junior season kicked off with a development camp hosting approximately 50 youth from across the Valley. Starting with 23 kids and 7 certified coaches, some promotional events generated more interest so that the season ended with 45 registered junior curlers! When Alice took over as Director of the Junior Program 3 years ago, there were 13 juniors and 2 coaches.

Curling Canada provided two opportunities to Berwick Junior Curling this past season. In partnership with Curling Canada, Berwick Junior Curling was able to offer, free of charge, the Rocks to Rings program to the local schools resulting in more juniors registering as well as some of the parents to the evening schedule. As well, Curling Canada chose the Berwick Curling Club's Junior Club as one of only five across Canada to receive a grant from Jump Start which provided \$3000 of floor curling equipment to the Berwick School. The grant also covered the costs of coaches and ice time for the 80 participating children over the 5 week period and the first month membership fees to 10 kids who wish to return to curling next season.

The Berwick Juniors competed in various spiels and, with the benefit of playing and practising their skills in their "new facility and the amazing ice" they all played well and often returned home with hardware. There were 19 teams from across the Province registered in their home "Curl Into Spring" spiel.

Alice is at the end of her term as Director and is looking for someone new to take over this position with guidance from her in the transition. They are also looking for coaches and will cover the costs of training.

- g. Day Curling (Judy) - There were 65 Day Curlers registered filling the 4 sheets each day of curling with players rotating to accommodate everyone. There were lots using the stick during the season. They held Home n' Home events with Middleton, Wolfville and Bridgetown and have a request from the Windsor Club to be included next year. They hosted a group of American Ladies and had 2 fun bonspiels amongst their group with lots of fun had by all. When requested, they have received lots of volunteer help.
- h. Bonspiels (Danny) - The bonspiels were all full this past Season. There were 3 Pay The Pig events with 32 players each time while the past few years hardly saw 24 players participating. There were 16 teams in the Murray Spiel compared to 9 last year. The Edie spiel was full again with 16 teams and the Apple Spiel filled up quickly and has a waiting list! Danny had a trophy created for the Apple Spiel which was further detailed by the talents of Judy Coloumbe. The Club hosted the Provincial Mixed Doubles which went well with lots of volunteers. Danny thanked all volunteers who helped during the year's events. All of the same bonspiels will be held next year.
- i. Learn To Curl (Claude) - There was great demand this past season for the Learn to Curl programs proving to be both awesome and challenging. Program A which ran from October to December, started with 40 participants. Program B ran from January to March starting with 37 participants. 40 participants seems to be the manageable limit for 4 sheets of ice in order that people are not standing around.

With such a large number, no less than 8 coaches are required on the ice for every session. This creates a demand on the 18 trained volunteer coaches. 6 of the 18 coaches were not active due to injury, other commitments or otherwise no longer able to assist, which left 12 active coaches who were not always able to attend making it difficult to have a minimum of 8 coaches on the ice each session. Despite this challenge, we were able to rely on help from some of the junior coaches and the Learn to Curl program was very successful in participant retention and club involvement.

Of the combined 77 participants from both programs A and B, 43 of them either joined the club as regular members and/or were involved in various spiels and club events during the season with some becoming actively involved in the club as volunteers. This is more than 50% retention ratio of participants to club members.

Extra ice time was provided for Learn to Curl participants on Friday evenings. With such a large number of participants joining the club at the end of Program A, a lot of them joined the Beginner League which filled at least 3 sheets leaving only one sheet for extra Learn to Curl ice. Claude will be working with Bill and Connie Milne who now coordinate the Beginner League, to ensure the Learn to Curl will have some available ice on Friday nights to continue to offer extra ice time to the Learn to Curl participants.

To further develop our Learn to Curl participants continuing, a Beginner Fun Spiel was held on March 31st with 16 teams of curlers with 5 years or less of curling experience. Many of these players were from this season's Learn to Curl programs. It was a great way to close the season. Plans are underway for a bigger and better Berwick Beginner Bonspiel with no less than 24 teams for a weekend spiel. The date for this spiel is already earmarked on the club's schedule for the 2019/2020 season.

Claude thanked all of the coaches who assisted with the program during the season as well as Bill Milne for taking over the Friday Night Beginner League.

The Learn To Curl program continues to be very popular; Claude has a list of 20 names for the October 2019!

Cindy Easson would like to see a stick coach available. Claude wondered if a stick curling clinic might be a better option. Pat Jodrie suggested that the sign at Preston's be displayed as Learn To Curl and Stick Curling. Mike Larsen noted that our Club would be hosting the Stick Curling Provincials in February 2020.

Bill Milne reported that the Friday Night Beginner League averaged 17 curlers with a maximum of 32. The Friday evening program offered the new curlers a no pressure atmosphere where they gained confidence and fun. Many began playing all positions and some became involved in the other programs. Bill thanked the seasoned curlers who came out to help and the day curlers for the use of their draw cards.

- j. Corporate Rec League (Michelle) - Michelle reported that the Corporate League had a huge increase to 14 teams from 8 the previous season. It is looking like there could be more teams for 2019-2020; the goal is to have 18 teams. The season went well and they were happy with the ice.

4) **Financial Report:** The current Financial Statement and notes were distributed.

Arlene reported that the bank balance is currently \$57,512.13 and will be approximately \$50,000 once all outstanding cheques clear.

Mike reported that the Curling Club was supposed to have been on a separate electrical meter but the Wildcats dressing room and multipurpose rooms had also been connected to the same meter. That has finally been separated at a cost of \$14,000 which was covered by the Building Committee (no cost to the Curling Club). The dehumidifier is on its own meter and the Club, another. There is a program that allows monitoring of the electricity so that a daily usage can be observed.

As per the Management Agreement, the Curling Club will share in the profits of the KMCC dinner and auction, and the golf tournament. We could potentially start seeing some revenue from the Wellness Centre next season. As some donations to Phase II, such as the Municipal contribution, were pledged over a number of years, funds were borrowed by the Berwick & District Community Association to finance the finals costs to complete this build. As the donation money comes in, it will go towards paying off the debt. There are 2 representatives from each division of the KMCC Governance Committee. Brian Hirtle noted that the County (of Kings) pledged \$10,000 to be used for operating expenses.

Year Round Rentals are a possibility and we hope to capitalize on that in the future. The lounge area has a capacity of 200 with a comfort level of 150 while the ice shed can accommodate approximately 1,100 people based on the rate of 1 person for each 11 square feet.

Bryan Illsley motioned to accept the Financial Statements as presented. Seconded by Michelle Larsen. Motion passed.

5) President's Report (Mike) –

Mike opened his report with a reflection of the history of the challenges imposed on the Berwick Curling Club over the years starting in 1963 and again in 2008 when decisions were being made if a new curling club should be constructed. When the funding announcement for the current facility was made 3 years ago, planning got underway and continued right up until the day of the grand opening. The first year in the new Club proved to be a great success.

The Club opened on time and held its largest ever bonspiel, the House Warming Spiel, that will continue to be held annually. The Club “hosted a tremendously successful Provincial championship, our first in many years, and one that will lead to bigger and better opportunities going forward.”

“Although we had a few things to figure out, the ice quickly earned a reputation as one of the best surfaces for curling anywhere in the Province.”

“We were hoping for a membership bump.....and we got a burst. Adult membership up almost 60%, the Corporate Rec League going from 8 to 14 teams, and Junior curling growing almost three fold.”

“Our Learn to Curl program sold out both sessions, and ended the season with a 16 team Beginner Bonspiel. That's 64 curlers with 5 years or less experience.” It is quite possible that 5 years ago, the Club may not have had a total of 64 members.

Mike noted that none of the successes mentioned would have happened without the work by many volunteers over this past season and he personally thanked an entire list of people who helped make this past season a huge success. Going forward, even more volunteers will be required as next year is shaping up to be even busier. In an effort to get more people involved, plans are underway to create “how-to” manuals and job descriptions so that those volunteering will know what they are signing up for.

“In closing, I'll again say that if we had tried to dream up a best case scenario for how the first season would go, it would have been pretty close to what actually happened. It wasn't always smooth, but that's to be expected when you aren't sure what to expect. We dealt with the issues that came up very well, and we've set ourselves up for even better things ahead.” Mike Larsen

Danny Vaughan thanked Mike for his contribution for all of his contribution to the Club.

6) Election of Officers and Board of Directors –

Last year there had been an ask that the Board stay intact for better cohesion as we transitioned from the old Club and into our new facility. The proposed slate of officers was presented to the membership. Board members typically sign on for 3 years with a rotation of 3 new people coming in while 3 leave. Claude Leblanc and Deb Hubbert who remained on the Board for an extra year will be exiting as Officers of the

Board. Three calls for nominations from the members in attendance went unanswered. Matt Redden motioned to accept the proposed slate of Board Members as presented to the membership. Seconded by Linda Evans. Motion passed.

7) New Business

- a. Lobster Boil – June 15th The Annual Lobster dinner will be held June 15th with a goal of 250 tickets to be sold. George Boyd has ordered the lobsters and salads, has the permit underway and has a full line-up of volunteers ready for that day. The ask is that all members help to sell the tickets. There have been 75 tickets distributed with the remainder held by Brad at Schurman's Industrial. Pat Jodrie offered to sell some tickets.
- b. Job Descriptions - With input from current committee members, Mike is in the process of creating job descriptions for each required area of the Club such as Corporate League, Kitchen, Publicity, and Social.
- c. Next Season's Schedule – The Club's website calendar has been updated to the end of December for all events. The guys will need to flood the ice twice so there will be two weekends that will be unavailable during the Season. There are 17 events spoken for at this time!
- d. Other –
 - Pat Jodrie asked about more advertising such as radio. New for the coming season, we actually do have 40 radio spots available for use as part of a deal with K-Rock. The Town electronic sign is being used but the Town still have not removed the Curling Club off of the sign at the intersection of Commercial and Orchard Streets. Another request will be submitted to the Town to remove this outdated directional sign.
 - Joy Parker asked if delivery was being offered in Berwick for the lobster dinners. Yes, we will be offering this service again.
 - Dupie Milne suggested that there be a volunteer signup section on the member website. This could be set up the same as sparing. Maybe there could also be a table at registration to sign up to volunteer.
 - Andrew Willsey spoke about the season of Sunday afternoon Mixed Doubles. There were 6 teams playing for their first year. He will have a booth at registration and look at possibly having other ice times. They need to be able to make a schedule. To encourage more people to play and try it out, they could have "open" doubles rather than having only mixed teams. As a point of interest, there were 80 teams at the Provincial Championship in BC while there were 15-20 here in Nova Scotia.
 - Brian Hirtle suggested that the Club have a Projection of Needs – a "wish list" and a "must have" list for next year. A budget is something that has not been done in the past and now we need to. Danny Vaughan noted that we also need to put money away for the future.
 - Connie Milne advised the membership that there were 2 high school teams curling out of Berwick this past year and the Club hosted the High School Regionals.
 - Pat Jodrie asked about the Club being used for Pickleball in the off season. She also mentioned that there has been interest in a new Lawn Bowling facility in the area.
 - Dan Keddy asked if membership fees will change. Mike advised that he will need to go over the completed Financial statement once finished to know. The Club's Year -End is May 31st.

8) Adjournment-

Michelle Larsen motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Arlene MacArthur, Secretary