

Fergus Curling Club
184th Annual General Meeting
April 4, 2019

Chair: Avon Giddings, President

Secretary: Deb Wilson

Meeting called to order: 9:10 p.m.

A moment of silence for members passed.

Attendance: 78 members in attendance constituted a quorum.

The minutes of the 183rd AGM (2018) were distributed.

Motion to Accept: Bruce Hawkins

Seconded: Krista Pedersen. Carried.

President's Remarks:

- 2018/19 season was a pretty good year. 259 members, our best year in a while, Great year for bonspiels. Introduced two new ones, the Community Spiel and Mixed Doubles. Retired one too. Saturday will be the last Bill Taylor Memorial after a very long run. Tomorrow will be the second annual Elora Fergus Friendlies. Bonspiels have been remarkably profitable too, contributing over \$20K in net profits to the Club.
- Good year for Club improvements as well. Installed New lights throughout the Club, a new front door and two new ice doors. Also installed a Variable Frequency Drive on our Brine Pump motor. Year over year from the September installation of all these has seen our Hydro Bill down by around \$4,000 and got another \$4,000 in a grant from Savon Energy
- At the end of the day though the story of the Fergus Curling Club is all about our volunteer club. From the league, bonspiel and kitchen convenors, the people helping on the ice, Wok with Scott, the Golf Tournament to the quiet managing of our cash by Sue Otto and Shannon Brinkman. Krista and Janet managing our social media and communications, Janet as Chaplain, Gloria and the 50/50 draw, Dora and the volunteer hours, the people working in the kitchen and behind the Bar, Working with the school kids, Little Rocks and juniors, the Pro Shop, flowers at Xmas, OCA reps, the Fish Fry, McGinn's Big game, Sana Clause Parade.

- It's inevitable that day to day differences of opinion, arguments about whatever and the like, it's easy to lose sight of the enormous amount of energy, good will and all-round cooperation that keeps this club running.
- I'd like to thank all the Directors for their service to the Club this year and especially to Greg Moulton completing his three year Term as Games Director. A hugely delicate job at times and I think you have performed it masterfully. To Kevin and Phil stepping down this year, thank you for your contributions.
- We'll go through the details shortly, but all this to say, this is a great curling club with great people. And it's the people that will keep us successful into the future.
- I was asked what my goals were for this year. I only had two. First was to join the ranks of the Past Presidents. Second was to leave the Club in a better place than I found it, or at least not break it. Now we'll find out how well we did.

Financial Report: Steve Graham: The financial statement was distributed and outlined. This statement was reviewed by George Loney and Gary Waterhouse. The Financial Books were closed as of March 31, 2019.

Motion to Accept: Rick Marshall

Seconded: Phil Kidston. Carried.

Steve Graham motioned to appoint George and Gary to another term as financial reviewers.

Motion to Accept: Frank Stillo

Seconded: Al Kenney. Carried.

Future Plans, Projects and Investments: Presented by Callum McGeachie and Tim Hitchcock.

The Board has been wrestling, really for the last couple of years with identifying upcoming capital needs, projects, things that must get done and how to prioritize them. It's a difficult, time-consuming and never-ending task. Some are more time and money than others. Here is where we are:

- **Leaking Foundation Wall** in the women's change area. This might turn into a very expensive one. Once spring is well and truly here we'll need to continue working with the township to address this. It is our number one priority. No costs have been determined yet.
- **Club Room redecorating.** This will certainly involve at least painting and probably additional shelving and organization. Wok with Scott got us off to a pretty good start at funding this.

- **Bar redesign** – for several reasons. We need more room for storage and organizing. We need to move forward with a cash management/Point of Sale system and are looking at an exterior ‘gate’ for better and more efficient security.
- **Wild Card** – The big condenser out back. Kent Stuckey of Kore Mechanical our plant mechanic tells us we should be thinking of a re-build or replacement over the next couple of years. He will assess inside the condenser over the summer and give us a better sense of timing. A rough estimate of the replacement cost is \$40K No condenser, no ice.
- **Ice arena updating.** Paint at least the lower ‘wainscoting’ and some type of carpet or covering of the side boards. Several instances of very slippery conditions throughout the year here and marked deterioration of the lower side walls.
- **Storeroom organizing and general cleanup.** Not a big capital cost but some serious time to get our storage, cash room and filing areas cleaned out and organized more effectively over the summer.
- **New curling stones** – in the last communication I walked through the thinking the Board has been doing around our curling stones. It is becoming increasingly clear that we need to do something with our current set of stones, in terms of consistent performance, the liveliness of the stones and overall speed. The Board invited Kimberley Tuck of Canada Curling Stones to inspect and speak to us about the state of the stones. Her advice gave us a few options to consider. All of them ended up in buying new rocks but in varying timeframes. The options we considered:

1. Do nothing over the next year or so while we raise funds for new rocks;
2. Invest in the refurbishing of the running bands of the rocks to buy us 2 – 5 years while we raised funds for new rocks; About \$7,000
3. Invest in the total remanufacture of the rocks which might buy us 10 years before we replaced the rocks. This might however result in the rocks being mildly underweight. Cost around \$12,000.
4. We investigated purchasing a remanufactured set of competition rocks but felt we would be in about the same boat as Option 3.
5. Buy new rocks at an all-in cost in the area of \$44,000. The Board had actually made the call to redo the running bands over the summer and strike a committee to raise the money for new rocks over the next couple of years. We were approached by a group who feel confident that they can raise the money for new rocks as early as next season. We’ve asked them to present their plan to you this evening.

New Rocks Presentation: Calum McGeachie

The committee is looking for \$64,000 in sponsorship to cover new rock costs and signage/advertising. They are seeking Corporate and Member sponsorship. Information packages are being prepared by the

Committee. There was some discussion and questions. Tax receipts could possibly be available through OCA under their Capital purchase. To be investigated. What would happen to the old rocks and the current sponsored rocks? It was suggested that the handles could be displayed on a commemorative wall in the club or perhaps the sponsored rock could be purchased by the donator. The trade-in value of the old rocks to Canada Curling Stone could possibly be \$8,000.

Committee Reports:

Each Director presented a report on the year and a copy of each was given to the Club Secretary. There were no questions regarding the reports.

Nominations: Board of Directors – Brian Gibbon, Tim Hitchcock, Callum McGeachie and Kiril Rashev offered to stand for the upcoming season.

Motion to Accept: Rick Marshall

Seconded: Lynda Waterhouse. Carried.

OCA Representatives: Shannon Curran and Stephanie Matthews have agreed to stay on in this role.

Motion to Accept: Tim Hitchcock

Seconded: Krista Pedersen. Carried.

Chaplin: Motion to appoint the President or Designate as Club Chaplin.

Motion to Accept: Bruce Hawkins

Seconded: Callum McGeachie. Carried.

New Business:

Curl for the Cause Bonspiel will require a new chairperson for the 2020-2021 year. Bruce Hawkins was thanked for his hard work and dedication for making this bonspiel so successful over the years.

Tim Hitchcock would like to introduce a Sunday night League.

Adjournment: 10: 30 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn: Shannon Curran

Seconded: Krista Pedersen. Carried.