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Meeting: Esquimalt Curling Club Board of Directors

Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Location: Archie Browning Lounge

Attendees: Al Teasdale – ECC President/Senior Men’s; Karen Hoban- ECC Secretary/Sunday Funday; Cheryl Eason – ECC Treasurer; Len Hanishuk – Director of Advertising; Torben Wilson – ECC Past President/Doubles; Steve Peckford – Curl BC Rep; Rachelle Perry – Youth League; Lu Neilson – Golden Girls; Dianna McIntosh – Monday Afternoon Ladies; Kathy Dann – Doubles; Brenda Byrne – Rebels; Greg Renton – White Ensign; Bob Herbert – Senior Select; Ken O’Connor – Sportsmen’s; Brad Walsh – Monday/Wednesday Men’s; Yvonne Leach – Monday Ladies/Senior Mixed; Graeme McLaren- Senior Mixed

1. Call to Order

President, Al Teasdale called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There was a quorum present.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was distributed by email on August 27, 2023.

Additions to agenda: Bonspiel/Ice Rental rates

Motion: [Accept the August 29, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Agenda with noted additions.](#)

Moved/2nd: Al Teasdale/ Torben Wilson

Results: Approved without dissention

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the January 25, 2023 Board of Director’s Meeting were distributed by email on prior to the meeting.

Motion: [Accept the Minutes of January 25, 2023 Board of Director’s Meeting be adopted with noted correction.](#)

Moved/2nd: Lu Nielson / Bob Herbert

Results: Approved without dissention

4. Introductions

Everyone present at the meeting introduced themselves and stated the league(s) which they represent.

5. Old Business

4.1. Policy Manual

- We have been running for a long time without a policy manual to guide the board of directors and club executive.
- A draft manual was created, but never completed

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- Steve Peckford volunteered to clean up the formatting of the draft manual and to do some editing.
- All board members are encouraged to read the manual before the next meeting.
- Al would like to get the manual approved this season.

Action Item: Karen to upload Steve's edited/formatted draft to Dropbox and to share Dropbox access with all league reps.

6. New Business

9.1. BC Provincial Championships

- The men's, women's, and wheelchair provincial championships are going to be held at VCC and Esquimalt January 22-28, 2024.
- In mid-May, Paul Addison (VCC President) forwarded an e-mail to Al, from Meissa Soligo (Curl BC), stating that Curl BC was negotiating with Esquimalt Rec to rent ice for the championships. They were also looking for co-chairs from each club for the event.
- Al started the search for a co-chair in July and approached multiple people. Pei Mei Chi (past president of JDF curling club) enthusiastically accepted the position.
- Last week, VCC named Sandy Martin as their co-chair.
- A meeting is scheduled for Sept. 1 with the co-chairs, VCC Manager, VCC President, and ECC President.
- There is a lot of work to be done and the committee is far behind in planning. It has been suggested that a number of subcommittees be formed. The chairperson from last year's championships in Chilliwack is offering advice as he can. Volunteers will be needed to help run the event.
- Esquimalt Rec has said that the championships won't affect league curling because all events will be in the arena, but there will likely be some impact such as limited parking and use of the lounge.
- Curl BC is responsible for the "Big things" such as ice maintenance, officials, television. ECC & VCC responsible for volunteers, transportation, etc.
- Curl BC is providing some funding, but we need to raise additional funds. Curl BC will take 15% of profits. Al has been thinking of ways to spend profits and one thought is to subsidize ice rental for a learn to curl program.
- Cheryl asked who is the treasurer putting together the budget for the event and who is assuming the risk of hosting the event. Al does not know, but said that Curl BC expect funds to go through the Clubs' accounts and to use our 50/50 licenses.
 - It would make sense to go through VCC's accounts because they are set up to accept credit cards.
 - ECC does not currently have a 50/50 license, but probably should to cover all the leagues and to allow for draws at club events.

Action Item: Cheryl to look into/apply for a 50/50 license for the Esquimalt Curling Club.

9.2. Rental Contracts

- Ice rental rates increased by 2% in January 2023 and are set to increase another 3% in January 2024.
- Some leagues have already received their contracts, others have not received them yet.

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- There is a discrepancy between daytime, “primetime”, and weekend rates. Primetime rates are \$30 (60%) more than daytime rates. Primetime = Sept 15-Mar 15, weekdays 6-30pm-11pm and weekends 10am-10pm
- Al feels this is backwards. If we want to attract younger curlers, we shouldn’t charge them more, so he is going to try to get the rates harmonized (over ~ 5 years). This would also make accounting easier for Esquimalt Rec.
- Torben pointed out that despite being told multiple times that Esquimalt would look into figuring out a price break for the Doubles league, full price is still being charged. Torben acknowledged that even though there are half as many curlers on the ice, the ice maintenance required is the same as for four-person curling.
- Karen stated that she was informed that Esquimalt is no longer offering a free “shorty” to each league.

9.3. Bonspiel Ice Fees

- Bob Herbert informed the board that ice rental fees have quadrupled for bonspiels.
- Esquimalt Parks and Recreation Bylaw 2665, schedule C gives the rate schedule for ice rental.
- The schedule states that a bonspiel may pay 8% of entry fees or \$21/hr per day. Does not state “whichever is greater”. (Note: rates set to increase in January 2024).
 - Brad stated that the Driftwood bonspiel encountered this last year. Because the number of entries was down, they paid the hourly rate.
- The issue seems to be an interpretation of the rate schedule. The rates are listed as per hour, nowhere does it state per sheet.
- If the rate is multiplied by 2hrs x 6 sheets, the result is twice the cost of renting the arena.
- The rate schedule does not state what the curling club’s discount is. Al believes it is 50%.
- Bob said that the rates are currently being negotiated and the bonspiel contracts will be adjusted.

9.4. Esquimalt Curling Club Fees

- A motion was passed at the last meeting to increase the club fee from \$5 to \$10 per person.
- All money from club fees goes directly back to the club. Administrative costs are covered by sponsorship money.
- Bonspiel rates will be increased to \$500 and leagues without a bonspiel will receive \$250.

9.5. Advertising (Added to agenda mid-meeting)

- Going well – all of last year’s sponsors accounted for and 2 new sponsors. Will probably have 26 sponsors this year
- Invoices are being sent out. Already ahead of where we were at this point last year.
- Al suggested we look into giving tickets for the provincial championships to sponsors.
- Lighthouse Brewery would like to add a special 25yr anniversary logo. Willing to pay for an additional in-ice logo.

9.6. Open House/Learn to Curl

- Last year the learn to curl was postponed in anticipation of holding it later in the year to align with Esquimalt Rec’s registered lessons, but Esquimalt did not have the staff to run the course.
- If we have an open house in September, we could also do another in February.
- We usually get 15-20 participants in the learn to curl open house, but no where for them to go afterwards since most leagues are full.

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- Ideally, we could have the learn to curl open house, then a 4–6-week program of lessons.
 - If the club runs the program, we would need to rent the ice.
 - Al has spoken to Esquimalt about partnering with them to offer learn to curl and/or drop-in curling. Esquimalt is meeting next week to determine if programming will go ahead.
 - If ECC partners with Esquimalt, we could negotiate ice rental
- Open house learn to curl will be held on September 24th
 - Ice will be available at open house for members to practice, but if it is required for learn to curl participants, they members will be bumped
 - Instructions and some sticks available for anyone wanting to try stick curling

Action Item: Karen to send email to club members asking for volunteers.

Action Item: Karen to poll the leagues the week prior to the open house to find out which leagues have room for more teams/players.

9.7. Ice Maker Support (added to agenda mid-meeting)

- Last season some curlers asked for the club to find ways to make the ice better, to make it more comparable to VCC's ice.
- Last season ECC purchased two tanks of Jet Ice to match the amount purchased by Esquimalt and provided sticky mats.
- Bob spoke to Al Sutherland (Head Ice Maker), and Al suggested that for really good ice, even more Jet Ice is required, but is cost prohibitive. He aims for 14 second ice.

Action Item: Al T. to ask Al S. if one extra tank of Jet Ice would be helpful. The club has the funds to cover the cost.

Action Item: Al T. to let Esquimalt Rec know that curlers are complaining about the quality of the ice.

- Al S. also suggested that for leagues that butt up with another league, if they could delay their start (~15 min), it would allow more time for ice maintenance.
- Cheryl noted that the biggest difference she has notice between ECC and VCC is in-ice vs. on-ice hacks.

Action item: Al T. to ask Al S. if he thinks on-ice hacks would be beneficial to ECC.

9.8. Changerooms (Added to agenda mid-meeting)

- Tatum has requested that all leagues ensure that the last person out of the changerrooms lock the doors because people have been found sleeping in them.
 - Reminder that the door between the women's changerroom and the washroom must also be locked.
 - Ensure that the changerroom keys are returned to the hangers in the curling rink.

7. Next Meeting

- *Wednesday, October 25th at 7:00pm.*

8. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn meeting.

Moved/2nd: Ken O'Connor/ Len Hanishuk

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.