



Lancaster & District Curling Club Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2024 Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

1. Meeting Opening

- 1.1. Call to Order.
 - 1.1.1. Liz called to order the meeting at 6:29pm.
 - 1.1.2. Present: Leanne Dumoulin, Alain Bellefeuille, Nigel Carlisle, Lynn Hurtubise, Aris J, Merina Mrzena, James Doonan, Heidi Gauthier
 - 1.1.3. Regrets: Eugene Belengario, Colleen MacCulloch, Linda Sinfield,
 - 1.1.4. Motioned by Nigel to Approve December 13th minutes. Seconded by Alain.
- 1.2. Additions to Agenda
 - 1.2.1.

2. Updates:

- 2.1. Treasurer's Report - [Appendix 1](#)
 - 2.1.1. ULINE Emergency exit signs, paper towels etc.
 - 2.1.2. Basic expenses - nothing out of the ordinary
 - 2.1.3. We have to pay \$2 per member at the end of Feb for curl-ON
- 2.2. Reimbursement of Smart Serve - Heidi
 - 2.2.1. Deadline by the end of the month for receipts are due.
- 2.3. Agrispiel - Heidi
 - 2.3.1. To keep at \$160 a team. 2 games for each team- either Thursday or Friday plus Saturday. Linda does the supper.
 - 2.3.2. We have applied for a license for the 50/50 for the Coleman MacDonald Memorial and awaiting a response.
- 2.4. Spending tool - James - [Appendix 4](#)
 - 2.4.1. Anything the board has to vote and any expenses that are similar to bonspiel, interest on bank accounts etc are not included in the Excel.
 - 2.4.2. There is an equipment list now available with dates of when the items will "expire".
 - 2.4.3. The more years you use the tool the more accurate it becomes. This first year is not an accurate amount.
- 2.5. Rowan's Law Webpage - Colleen
 - 2.5.1. Differed to February
- 2.6. Board Members Profiles - Nigel
 - 2.6.1. Oleg received a request that we create a profile page of our Board members with images on our website so new members can put a face to a name. Members are to provide their headshots for use by the next meeting if comfortable (February).
- 2.7. Ice Update - Alain
 - 2.7.1. Ice Tech's New Email - ldccicetechs@gmail.com
 - 2.7.2. Aris is communicating the email to convenors and bonspiel organizers.



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- 2.7.3. The ice schedule has to be submitted to the ice team a week before the bonspiel or any other event.
- 2.7.4. Ice melt went well. It was running pure, and level.
- 2.7.5. Equipment is not being put away well enough - signage is to be put up on ice.
- 2.7.6. Off-season maintenance - to be listed at Feb meeting
- 2.7.7. A hot water tank for pebbling will be needed.
- 2.8. Board members for the upcoming year - Nigel
 - 2.8.1. By the next meeting board members need to be prepared to notify the board if they are planning on stepping down from their role on the board so we can start looking for new board members.
 - 2.8.2. James will be stepping down all other members will be asked to come forward before the February meeting.
- 2.9. Bonspiel Planning Tool - Nigel/ Aris
 - 2.9.1. Nigel created a video on how to use the tool and has posted it in the drive and on YouTube. Aris will send a link to the planning tool to bonspiel convenors.
 - 2.9.2. <https://youtu.be/YZ74gMVgfvU>
- 2.10. Updates for Learn to Curl - Nigel - [Appendix 3](#)
 - 2.10.1 They made a little over \$600.
- 2.11. Calendar of events for January - Nigel & Aris
 - 2.11.1. Rentals
 - 2.11.1.1. January 13th - Public School Teacher Group 3:30-7 pm.
 - 2.11.1.2. After school variety of dates - High School Practices
 - 2.11.1.3. Special Olympics Ontario
 - 2.11.2. Bonspiels
 - 2.11.2.1. January 20th - SnowBirds Bonspiel
 - 2.11.2.2. January 27th - Kirsty McLeod

3. Matters for Decisions:

- 3.1. Feb 14th meeting (to keep or move)- Liz
 - 3.1.1. Feb 7th at 6:30.
- 3.2. Quote for carpet - Leanne - Appendix 5
 - 3.2.1. \$1036 to redo the carpet on the stairs (rangers).
 - 3.2.2. To look for a non-carpet - Leanne to get that quote.

4. Matters for Discussion:

- 4.1. Thursday League - Aris, Liz, Patti and Jeannine - [Appendix 5](#)
 - 4.1.1. Pat Lid could be introduced on open weekends similar to Doubles Days as one day bonspiel. That would create the "fun" aspect to Pat Lid.



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- 4.1.2. Thursday Mixed - as more and more members want to play competitively, the weds and thursday mixed leagues were not received very well by members.
- 4.1.3. Suggestion is to eliminate Pat Lid and combining convening with Marianna to optimize ice time, so no 3rd draw at 8:30 or 9:00pm is needed either night.
- 4.1.4. Discussion happened Liz to speak to Bernie about thoughts.
- 4.1.5. Discussion will happen at February board meeting - then to get a decision out of it. Draw 5, it will be launched.
- 4.2. Lottery License - Nigel
 - 4.2.1. There was an email received by a concerned member as to why we are not hosting those.
 - 4.2.2. Because we are a membership club, it is difficult to be able to get a license.
 - 4.2.3. If there is a 50/50 approval to be used for an event, the organizer will be the first signer and Nigel will sign off.
- 4.3. Newsletter format - Liz
 - 4.3.1. Suggestion to have a monthly newsletter. Jan 31st is the first monthly issue.
 - 4.3.2. Merina to remind board members to send items to her a week before due date.
- 4.4. Winter Break - Liz and Nigel
 - 4.4.1. 2 week break is needed for the ice team to A) melt the ice etc and B) for the organizers of the board to take a break.
- 4.5. Valentines day Bonspiel - Liz
 - 4.5.1. Liz will switch it to a doubles.

5. Action List

Action	Members Involved	Actions Taken/Date Completed
New Sheets	Ice Chair	By end of 2023/2024 Season
Uploading PDF meeting minutes	Secretary	Monthly
Restocking First aid	House	TBD

6. January Tasks - [Appendix 2](#)

7. Adjournment

- 7.1. Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Alan at 7:50 pm seconded by Leanne.
- 8. Next meeting is **February 7th** at 6:30pm.



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Appendix 1

Current Balance	\$	68,010.73	
ADD: RECEIVABLES	\$	1,672.00	
LESS: O/S DEDUCTIONS	\$	500.42	Cheq. 002055 Hendersons
	\$	818.99	Cheq. 002056 Amsterdam Bre
	\$	1,319.41	
Account Balance	\$	68,363.32	
<u>Upcoming Expenses</u>			
Enbridge	\$	617.72	Bill December 22nd - Automatic deduction January 11, 2024
Township Water/Sewer	\$	175.20	Bill December 24th - Automatic deduction January 15, 2024
Hydro One	\$	1,476.44	Bill January 1st - Automatic deduction January 23, 2024
Hydro One	\$	913.98	Bill January 1st - Automatic deduction January 23, 2024
Cogeco	\$	281.19	Bill January 2nd - Automatic Deduction January 16, 2024
BMO Mastercard	\$	3,273.24	As of today approximately- to be withdrawn February 4, 2024
Clean Home Professionals	\$	610.20	Approximate monthly cost
CurlOn	\$	342.00	\$2.00 per member Due February 28, 2024
TOTAL UPCOMING EXPENSES	\$	7,689.97	
PROJECTED CHEQUING ACCOUNT BALANCE INCLUDING UPCOMING EXPENSES	\$	60,673.35	
Bar Account Balance	\$	12,897.50	



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Appendix 2

January Tasks

Job Title	Job Description	Person Responsible	Date Completed
Furnace Filter	Change the Furnace Filter in the basement	House Chair	
Dish Washer	Arrange dishwasher service	Bar Chair	
Gas Meter	Ensure the snow is not covering the gas meter	House Chair	
Garbage	Garbage Collection is Thursday's. Ensure the Garbage and Recycling is ready at the roadside each week.	House Chair	
Weekly Bar Deposit	Conduct a weekly deposit of the cash in the cash register. Print out a report of the week and ensure the cash register balances. Place Deposit in the Safe.	Bar Chair	
Newsletter	Create and Distribute monthly Newsletter to members	Secretary	
Glengarry Cup	Promote the glengarry cup and have a sign up sheet with a deadline	Vice-President	



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Appendix 3

Lancaster & District Culring Club Bonspiel Income and Expense				
Name of Bonspiel			LTC Bonspiel	
Date			December 16th 2023	
Start Time			9:00:00 AM	
Organizer(s)			Marianne Ewence	
	Proiected	Actual	Expenses	Profits
Number of Teams	12	10		
Entry Fee Per Player	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00		\$ 800.00
Donations				\$ 485.00
Lunch Costs	\$ 345.00	\$ 345.75	\$ 345.75	
Income from Lunch		\$ -		\$ -
Number of Lunches Served	48	0		
Dinner Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Income from Additional Dinners	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Left Over Food Purchases		\$ 205.00		
Prizes	\$ 192.00	\$ 566.80	\$ 566.80	
Bar Sales				\$ 350.82
Ice Fees			\$ 75.00	
Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Sub Totals			\$ 987.55	\$ 1,635.82
Final Total Profit				\$ 648.27



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Appendix 4

Cashflow Summary	
2022-2017 Average Operating Expenses	\$ 86,804.83
Projected Cash on Hand Year End	\$ 57,111.02
Cash increase/decrease %	73%
COVID Year Operating Expense (min cash reserv	\$ 35,642.00
Spend Allowance	\$ 21,469.02

The COVID YEAR OPERATING EXPENSE (35K) SHOULD BE SEEN AS A BARE MINIMUM TO NEVER GO UNDER. WE NEED TO STAY BELOW THE AVERAGE OPERATING EXPENSES (86K) TO GET GRANTS. SO WE NOW HAVE ABOUT 17K OF PROJECTED SPENDING ALLOWANCE TO STAY ABOVE THE MINIMUM. BUT THE BOARD COULD ALSO CHOOSE TO SAVE TO INCREASE RESERVES AS LONG AS YOU STAY UNDER THE 86K LEVEL. KEEP IN MIND WE HAVE LEFT OUT AD REVENUE, BONSPEIL REVENUE AND SOME REGISTRATIONS ALONG WITH ALL DISCRETIONARY SPENDING BY THE BOARD SO THIS SHOULD WORK LIKE A WORST CASE SCENARIO.

Appendix 5

We didn't take this lightly and we met and reviewed and met some more and got some very valuable insight from Bernie. We wrote this out, so we wouldn't forget anything, so I would like to read it in full before we have any discussion. But feel free to make any notes as we go along.

Introduction: We are here to discuss the development and enhancement of our curling league, and to help develop strong, healthy league play. Our numbers are great, and the board has been doing an excellent job keeping this club thriving. We want to build on that and are offering our thoughts and experience on some areas where we think could be switched up a bit.

We realize that our Club is considered a Social Club, and it is very welcoming. Just because a Club is considered Social, doesn't mean it can't have some healthy competition. It is pretty evident that people want some competition because there is so much talk about the competitive Glengarry Cup. The Glengarry Cup rivalry of each Club's 12-person team is as



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competitive as it comes. That alone says a lot. Also, we host a Mixed Invitational and to keep Clubs coming to our Club and compete here, we should be sending teams to other Invitationals like Alexandria, Vankleek Hill and beyond. We can't do that if we don't have some type of competitive growth in our own club. This is good healthy curling.

Two areas we feel need to be addressed:

1. Pat Lid: The historical background to Pat Lid was to end the season "put a lid on it" and play the last night or just the last draw as Pat Lid. In the past, we have tried ending our season with Pat Lid in a few Leagues like the Tuesday Ladies and the Monday Men's. Honestly, the majority really didn't like it...regular league play was much more enjoyable and beneficial. Although we do understand the reasoning behind trying a Pat Lid League, it really isn't the type of game that should be introduced to newer players as a league. We have heard from some Pat Lid participants that they haven't liked it. Although some newer curlers or recent L2C participants may like it, they may not realize they are not developing their curling skills or understanding of the game by stepping in to Skip or playing 3rd so soon. Then without realizing, they want to play in the competitive league and feel they can play Skip or 3rd. This is problematic for the experienced skips. We understand, not all new curlers feel that way and some are really learning, paying attention, and studying the game. But as a whole and a club, we feel that Pat Lid isn't developing or enhancing curling skills to the best of our abilities to have healthy leagues.
2. The Second area is Thursday Mixed: The 1st & 2nd draws went very well, and we had 9 teams, so we had 2 time slots of 6:00 and 7:30 a Bye. It is evident that curlers, experienced and never want to be in this more competitive league. We lost a few seasoned Skips since the first draw due to various reasons, and they will likely be back when their lives settle. We still ended up with 10 teams in this draw (6 more players). The teams still show promising balance for this January draw. Our issue is we had to add a 3rd time slot at 8:30, which can be closer to 9:00 pm, if we clean the ice. We have heard and heard again that no one likes that late time slot.

So.... Here are some Positive Suggested Solutions:

Optimizing Ice Time: There are only 6 teams in the Wednesday Pat Lid, and 10 on Thursday night, and that really isn't optimizing our ice time.



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Suggestions:

Pat Lid could be introduced on open weekends similar to Doubles Days as one day bonspiels. That would create the “fun” aspect to Pat Lid. We worry as far as development, because Bernie works so hard on teaching the important “basics” to L2C participants, like balance, delivery, and sweeping and the first stages of the game. He feels, and so do we, that by introducing Pat Lid to new and less experienced curlers that the basic skills he taught will be lost. What he taught needs to be practiced and practiced. Pat Lid as a league, doesn’t really provide the gradual development which follows L2C basics. Jeannine and I both worry that it might discourage Bernie and he is one of the best things that has happened to this club. We want players to build on the foundation of their L2C training and that takes time. The only way that can happen is to integrate with experienced curlers and get a better understanding of the strategy of the game. It would be beneficial if someone could reach out to Bernie, to get his thoughts since he has been the driving force (with the help of others) of curling development in this club.

Thursday Mixed: More and more members want to play competitively and although people didn’t respond that well to the Wednesday, Thursday Mixed League last year, it may have been partly because the teams were not as balanced as they could have been. Asking players their preferred position in their registration doesn’t necessarily mean their preferred position is the right position. This year, players didn’t necessarily get their preferred position on Thursdays, but so far, the teams are relatively well balanced. We would suggest eliminating Pat Lid and combining convening with Marianne to optimize ice time, so no 3rd draw at 8:30 or 9:00 is needed either night. We could have 16 teams of balanced curling. We have taken a good look at the current Wednesday participants, and we feel there are enough experienced players between Wed and Thurs, to have 16 seasoned Skips and 16 seasoned 3rds, to promote some exciting curling. We feel in the long run, this provides a much better experience and skill development for the less experienced player. They will eventually be our experienced curlers. We also recognize that you can’t please everyone. We are here to offer our insight and help and even though some newer members may not support it, eventually they may realize it is the best thing that could happen to them. We’re not here to toot our own horn. We are



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here because we've been continuously asked to guide, or run a clinic, or for our knowledge, which we are more than happy to share. We believe in the club and have been around for many years. We didn't gain this experience by advancing too quickly. We gained it from our Skips before us, who we watched, we listened, we played each position for a while, and we paid attention to the game while it was being played. We feel, and so does Bernie, that after this January draw, it would be optimal to change the format to Wednesday, Thursday Mixed combined for the last few draws with 6:00 and 7:30 draws.

Thank you for allowing us to present our thoughts.

Patti McLeod & Jeannine Leroux