



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2019 @ Exmoor CC Oakhouse (Highland Park, IL)

Jeff Wright called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM. Attending were Jeff Wright, Russ Brown, Mark Striblen, Steve Wright, Phil Burian, Andrew Wolek, Becca Walters, Sara Gaum, and Kerry Myers. A motion to accept the September meeting minutes prepared by Russ Brown was approved by Russ Brown and seconded by Sara Gaum.

Treasurer's Report by Mark Striblen:

Mark Striblen presented the report, and it was approved. A motion was called by Russ Brown and seconded by Sara Gaum.

USCA Report by Russ Brown:

The Sixth Member's Assembly was held at Milwaukee CC where 83 USCA members participated in various seminars and clinics both on and off the ice.

MCA Events Report:

A 'Guide to Hosting an MCA Bonspiel' Flyer was created and will be distributed to all clubs for future use. A hard copy was handed out to all attending board members. The Prairie State Challenge was successfully held at Exmoor CC and Chicago CC. Twenty-four teams played in the event, which is high compared to recent years. The 5 Year & Under will be hosted at Windy City CC from Nov 16-17, and the Dar Curtis registration will be released in mid-November. The event flyer will be shared on Facebook, the MCA website, and via email.

All MCA events and major MCA club events have been added to the calendar on the MCA website. Any information posted was retrieved from club websites or social, and a link to the event flyer or website was always added, if available. This means that in the 'Find a Club' section of the website, visitors who click on Chicago CC, for instance, will see all major bonspiels being hosted by Chicago CC this season (Old Boys Bonspiel, Gloamin' Gaels Bonspiel, MCA Mixed Playdowns, etc.). If a regional club has established bonspiel date, send flyer and dates to midwestcurlingassociation@gmail.com to be added to the MCA calendar and website.

MCA Club Reports:

Cedar Rapids CC held a very successful 5-week instructional league. They currently have more members than ice time available at the arena. Cedar Rapids CC will be hosting a weekend-long promotional event at the Coral Ridge Mall Rink (Dec 7-8). Tyler George will be on hand to generate media buzz, and they will be using the event as the first promo push for the 2021 US National Championships. Chicago CC's capital fundraising campaign continues. Exmoor CC has a total of 121 curling members. On Monday nights, they rotate between a Rookie League and

Women's Curling League (Moonsweepers). They host a full men's league (4 sheets) on Tuesday nights, an open interclub league (3 sheets) on Wednesday night, and a Thursday night open league that is currently so full that some games are being played on Wednesday nights. On Friday and Saturday, Exmoor CC hosts guest parties and corporate events. And their family curling league takes place on Sunday afternoons. Exmoor CC has new banners, new carpet, and plans to invest in a new scraper and video streaming equipment in the upcoming year. Exmoor CC has 20 teams participating in their Mixed Bonspiel in mid-November, and the Men's Continental in December already has 40+ teams. Northwestern CC has received funding from the University for the 2019-2020 season. They are working with Chicago CC to rent ice time and are hoping to return to normal functions by the new year. St. Louis CC has both arena clubs up and running. Their purchase of two used sets of curling stones is complete and received. They also successfully picked up the two sets of MCA rental stones from Windy City CC. Waltham CC is officially open for the season. They held an adult open house with limited attendance, but they plan to hold junior open houses each Sunday in November. Waltham CC beginners league is scheduled to run Monday evenings (Nov-Dec). They currently have 12 new members registered. Last year, they had 24 new members with ten upgrading to full membership to play in regular leagues. Waltham CC is hoping for similar results this year. Their Men's early-season tournament has begun, and the ice is flat and fast so far. Steve Parke attended the USCA Member's Assembly and got some valuable information to share with the other club directors. Lastly, Waltham CC's complete schedule of group outings sold out before their season began. They normally sell out 90% of the scheduled sessions within the first 30 minutes after the announced registration date/time. Windy City CC is hosting leagues three nights a week. They are excited to host their first MCA Event, the 5 Year & Under. Draw sheets are scheduled to go out the week of Nov 3. Also, the Windy City CC spiel dates have been confirmed as April 17-19, 2020.

Old Business:

MCA Banners are in progress and will likely be purchased in the upcoming weeks (10 banners in total). A new leasing agreement for St. Louis CC and Windy City CC stones will be completed and forwarded to both clubs for signatures in mid-November. Jeff Wright has been following up with the director and has not received an update regarding the status of Wilmette Park Districts' stones or their potential curling program. In regards to purchasing more stones, Jeff Wright has confirmed three sets of stones are available, and he plans to view stones and confirm their condition before determining if stones are to be purchased by the MCA for future club use.

Mark Striblen provided organization name clarification. The Illinois Curling Association, Inc. is still the official name of the organization. We applied for an assumed name with the Illinois Secretary of State. The assumed name is Midwest Curling Association. This means the ICA can do business either under the Illinois Curling Association, Inc. name, or the Midwest Curling Association name. As of November, the secretary position is still open, and Mark Striblen is to

retire from the treasurer position. Jeff Wright is reviewing potential candidates for the treasurer position. Lastly, Exmoor CC reached out to the USCA high-performance team to get advice about a timing device, and they plan to complete the purchase sometime in December.

New Business:

Chicago CC presented for board approval the use of their MCA Grant (\$1,085) to buy a new computer for live streaming, grippers for Learn2Curl sessions, and more brooms for general club use. Windy CC presented for board approval the allocation of their MCA grant (\$291) to print and digital marketing that can help grow club membership. Waltham CC (\$293) requested funds to purchase new grippers for upcoming Learn2Curls. Cedar Rapids (\$154) and St. Louis CC (\$279) presented for board approval the use of the MCA Grants to help offset the travel costs of their instructors during an All-American bonspiel held in April 2020. All MCA Grant proposals were reviewed and approved.

Chicago CC held their Level I Instructor Clinic in which five people attended (Sara Gaum, Chris Longee, Todd Mackinson, Grant Robertson, Greg Sorenson). St. Louis CC plans to host their instructor clinic in Spring 2020. The status of an MCA Officiating Clinic is still pending. The 2019-2020 Playdown events schedule has been distributed. All events can be found on Facebook, and more information/flyers are located on the website. Upcoming events include the U18 Playdowns at Waltham CC (Dec 27-28), the Men's and Women's Club Playdowns at Exmoor CC (Jan 23-26), and the Mixed Playdowns at Chicago CC (Feb 8-9).

The Midwest Curling Association website visit count has increased with a peak during MCA bonspiel registration when 60-70 people visit the site per day. Upcoming blog posts include a highlight on Simon Ganet from Windy City CC who is participating in the CanAm Tour and a highlight on Cedar Rapid's 2021 US Nationals. MCA meeting minutes are now publicly available via the website (starting with minutes from January 2017). The MCA Gmail has some technical difficulties and was ending up in people's SPAM. The issue has been mostly remedied, but it is a problem to be aware of. And lastly, thanks to all those who helped share the MCA President's Letter! We had lots of clicks via Facebook and the website due to that letter.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM. Next meeting will take place on January 20th at 7:00 PM at Exmoor's Oakhouse, Highland Park, IL.