



Midwest Curling Association: Meeting Minutes January 20, 2020 @ Exmoor CC Oakhouse

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm on Monday, January 20, 2020 by Jeff Wright.

In attendance were: Jeff Wright (President), Steve Wright (Exmoor), Russ Brown (USCA), Jeff Warner (Treasurer), Walter Burns (Wilmette), Jim Wilson (Vice President), Sherryanne Porter (Secretary),

By conference call: Phil Burian (Cedar Rapids), Sara Gaum (USWCA)

November Minutes, prepared by Jeff Wright, were approved.
(1st Russ Brown / 2nd Steve Wright)

Treasurer's Report by Jeff Warner was submitted.

See attached, with the following notes:

Financials are on a cash basis.

Curling stones are depreciated over 25 years. Website is also being depreciated.

Not all the leases for the stones are signed.

\$600 Windy City, \$400 from St. Louis for stones still due.

MCA Event Reports

- Junior Playdowns – Waltham CC (Dec 27-28)
Waltham Girl's and Boy's Team will represent MCA at U-18 Nationals at Chaska, MN in March
 - Waltham Girls: Bella Hagenbuch, Genevieve Salander, Mae Hagenbuch, Faith Geake
 - Waltham Boys: Max Salander, Logan Brandner, Logan Fahr, Dagen SetchellIssues: No official was present to run the event and resolve when the broomheads were found to be non-regulation. Went to the USCA as a complaint. Resolved by replaying the game. Will provide sign offs on the rules at the start of the events.
- Dar Curtis Bonspiel – Chicago CC (Feb 15-16)
Full sign-up less than a week after the event was released! Filled in a week with 16 teams.
- 2020 Club National Championships at Potomac CC, Laurel, MD. Mar 7-14
 - Women's Team (Windy CC): Heather Semenuik, Angela Schlie, Carol Collins, Kerry Myers
 - Men's Team (Exmoor CC): Jeff Wright, Russ Brown, Stephen Wright, Ken Brown

USCA Report by Russ Brown

- Feb 1, USCA / Rich Lepping will be interviewing three (3) applicants for the position of CEO. Curling background not necessary. Want someone who can grow a NGB. As the transition occurs, USCA will no longer have one representative from Great Lakes and one from MCA. Will only have one person to cover both areas. Two year term.

USWCA Written report by Michelle Rane

- U-5 USWCA Central to be held at Exmoor Feb 29-Mar 1. MCA has two ladies teams participating.
- National USWCA Bonspiel at Granite CC in Seattle will be Feb 19-23 Grand CC
 - Chicago CC: Julie Denten, Leslie McGregor, Ellie Laughlin, Susan Bennet

- Exmoor CC: Marcy Calaway, Amy Hartwell, Barb Kassner, Barb Hesterberg
 - St Louis CC: Becca Walters, Chesley Filipiak, Helen Becker, Carolyn Hotra
- Five and Under National Championships at Wausau CC will be Feb 21-23
 - Chicago CC: Todd Mackinson, Jim Klus, Pat Schuster, Brian Keto
 - St. Louis CC: Mikhail Kurbatov, Colin St. Aubin, Phil Stein, Chris Seiffert
 - Chicago CC: James-Grant Robertson, Philip Ledbetter, Katherine Wiacek, Aaron Knowlton
 - Windy CC: Anthony D'Arco, Scott Maples, George Collins, Jason Weible
- Ladies 2021 Scotts Tour will have one stop at Exmoor and one at Chicago CC, including lunch and/or dinner. Jennifer Geake handling the details.

Calendar Report

- Reminder: If a regional club has established bonspiel date, send flyer and dates to midwestcurlingassociation@gmail.com to be added to the calendar and website

Club Reports

Cedar Rapids CC Report by Phil Burian

- Leagues have grown to two draws of 6 ends to accommodate new members. This event is oversubscribed.
- The 5 week instructional league continues to generate new members.
- Two day promotional event of continuous L2C at the Coralridge Mall in December was attended by Olympian Tyler George, who made media appearances and chatted with onlookers.
- Outdoor 5 sheet promotional event scheduled for Feb 1 in North Liberty at their festival. Might be a future potential club site?
- The relationship with the new arena manager is off to a good start. He, along with a delegation of club members, will travel to Spokane to witness this year's national championships in preparation for 2021 in Cedar Rapids.
- Phil Burian started a conversation with Coralville VA hospital regarding an adaptive curling event for disabled veterans in Sept 2020 during a scheduled gold event.
- Officiating clinic proposed for this summer and Jan 2021 (just prior to Nationals).

Chicago CC Report by Sara Gaum and Jim Wilson

- Level I Instructor Clinic run by Ed Sheffield. All 6 participants were from Chicago CC.
- Capital campaign was pitched by Jen Parks at all 3 bonspiels. 60% participation and 50% funding pledges. If campaign does not get fully funded, projects like air conditioning (for summer rental income) and parking lot might get set aside.
- Men's Bonspiel won by team from Jacques-Cartier CC Quebec: Pascal Chouinard, Benoit Gagne, Vincent and Mathieu Paquet.
- Five (5) weekend L2C sessions remain in this year, filled with 32 paid sign ups.
- Membership is up two (2) from same date last year. Twelve Leagues currently being offered.
- The kids from Northbrook 5th grade curled over 3 days in Dec, twenty kids enrolled in junior league that starts on Feb 23, and twelve kids from Countryside Day School will curl for two days in Feb. Also, the boy scout troop to do a L2C in Feb.
- L2C at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (wheelchair curling) on Jan 20

Des Moines CC - No Report

Exmoor CC Report by Steve Wright

- Curling available 6+ days a week: Rookie League (Monday), Club Championship (Tuesday), Morning Ladies/Open League (Wednesday), Doubles League/Skins (Wednesday), Open League (Thursday), Friday (Mixed), Pick-Up League (Saturday), and Family Curling (Sunday)
- MCA Men's and Women's Playdowns co-hosted with Chicago Jan 24.
- Cherry Tree Men's Bonspiel on Feb 19
- MCA grant used to purchase a [ChronoCurl](#) to aid with instruction and training. The device is used to measure the speed of rocks.
- New scrapper and web streaming are on the horizon.

Northwestern CC Report by Andrew Wolek

- Hosted four practices in the fall, with several new members attending.
- Seven (7) practices scheduled at Chicago CC for winter/early Spring.
- Plan to curl at Exmoor CC on Saturday mornings.
- President is Andrew Wolek and new treasurer is Alexandra Berl

St. Louis CC Report by Becca Walters

- Curling in two arena locations
- Hosted the Winter Classic Bonspiel at Waltham which was won by Waltham Boys: Logan Brander, Maxwell Salander, Logan Fahr, and Dagen Setchell.
- All American Bonspiel to be held in April 2020 with Cedar Rapids CC
- Have already secured additional ice time for 2020/21 curling season.

Waltham CC Report by Steve Parke

- Hosting St. Louis Bonspiel from Jan 17-19, Waltham Men's Feb 21-23, and Waltham Mixed March 6-8
- Running experimental doubles curling on Monday evenings to gauge interest

Wilmette CC Report by Walter Burns

- Renting from Chicago CC. Everything running as usual with no additional items to report.

Windy City CC Report by Kerry Myers

- [Registration is open](#) for the Annual WC3 Open Bonspiel from April 17-19
- 2020 League schedule has 8 draws per week.

Old Business

MCA Banners Update

- Bought 10 at \$33 each. One for every club (2 for St Louis CC since they utilize 2 rinks).
- Leasing Agreement for St. Louis CC and Windy City CC stones need to be signed
- Wilmette Park District – Stones and Curling Program has gone dark. Jeff offered to help start the program, no longer responding. May make a personal visit.

Stone Purchase Status, update by Jeff Wright and Russ Brown

- Three sets (48) of blue honed stones available from Bruce Trummell at \$175 per stone \$8,400. Stored in wood crates, stacked in a chilled room. Want to weigh them before purchase.

- Currently, have 5 sets that are not very good and different weights. Two (2) sets are being leased to St. Louis. Would consider leasing the best (4) sets to St. Louis since they curl in two locations. Use the remaining set for L2C situations. The three (3) new sets would be leased to Windy City at a higher price with the goal of helping them improve their curling facility.
- Champaign (Kate Garfinkel & Jesus Barajas) will be running a L2C with 3 sheets, in 2 weeks. This plan would give MCA a set of stones to lend. If MCA pays for transport, Cedar Rapids CC would lend a set of stones (good only for outdoor use) to Champaign for their L2C.
 - Motion to purchase stones at \$175 = \$8,400 1st Sara Gaum
 - Discussion of weighing (Jeff and Russ to verify the weights and stone condition); discussion of timing of the purchase, discussion of old school ceramic handles, discussion of GNCC utilizing 22 sets of stones for lease as income stream.
 - 2nd Walter Burns. Motion passed.

All MCA Board Positions Now Filled (New Secretary / New Treasurer)

Review of Volunteers – best way to get them involved - Tabled

Status of Grants Approved and Action Steps Taken

- Exmoor CC purchased a ChronoCurl with their MCA Grant and submitted their receipts
- Chicago CC purchased a new computer and grippers with their MCA Grant and submitted their receipts

Ladies 2021 Scots Tour

- Gave \$1,000 for Men Scots Tour although \$3,000 was spent.
 - Motion \$1,000 1st Russ Brown / 2nd Jim Wilson. Passed

New Business

MCA Grants for MCA Clubs

- Send receipts to Jeff Wright and Jeff Warner to get reimbursements.
- Wilmette CC on behalf of Walter Burns want to roll over the \$45 to next year. Approved.

MCA Instructor Clinic

- St. Louis CC plans to host instructor clinic in Spring 2020

MCA Officiating Clinic

Playdown Event Schedule

- Men's and Women's Club Playdowns at Exmoor CC from Jan 23-26
- Mixed Playdowns at Chicago CC from Feb 8-9
 - Largest participation in many years! May need to warn participants that number of teams determines the number of days of the playdowns (Time off of work).
 - Dave Haverick looking for timers. Jim Wilson has not gotten responses from Windy City CC or St. Louis CC. Want participating teams to send someone from their clubs to time.
 - Mixed now leads to Worlds (used to be a dead end).

Website Updates

- Upcoming Blog Posts:
 - [CanAm Tour Profile](#): Simon Ganet (published in early Jan)
 - [Dar Curtis Results](#) (scheduled for Feb)
 - Cedar Rapids 2021 Nationals Highlight (scheduled for March)
- New board members have been [added to the website](#)

Facebook Updates

- Midwest Curling Association Warm Room created on Facebook to allow regional clubs to share local flyers and ongoing initiatives in a group setting. Set up by St Louis but being run by Shannon.
- Champaign, IL L2C - Shannon assisted with press release and a flyer which was shared online.
 - Flyer reached 1600 people and was shared 12+ times.

Wrigley Field/Gallagher Way Wrigley Field L2C Report by Sara Gaum and Wes Mancoff

- First week of curling has been completed. Sessions are run by Hickory Street capital, a Rickett family organization. Jared Rush is main contact. Rink manager is Louis.
- Sessions are three days per week: Jan 7-9 and Jan 21-23 at 6 pm, 7 pm, and 8 pm. Two sheets of ice. 16 people per session.
- Never provided with a list of signups but rink manager said that most sessions are sold out.
- Ended up cancelling one night due to weather. It was about 50 and the ice was too wet to run the sessions safely. I am not sure if Hickory Street will schedule a make up session or refund everyone's money. They are charging \$50 per person per session.
- Chicago CC, Windy City CC, and Exmoor CC are providing instructors for the sessions. In the past these have been volunteers but this year they are paid \$50 per session. I am not sure why they decided to pay instructors but since they are profiting off the sessions I think it's appropriate.
- Twenty-nine people signed up to be instructors, giving everyone between 2 and 4 sessions. There are 17 from Chicago CC, 5 from Exmoor CC, and 7 from Windy City CC. Simon Ganet was the coordinator for Windy City CC and Russ Brown coordinated for Exmoor CC.
- Windy City CC provided an old set of stones, grippers, sliders, and brooms. Hickory Street pays them a few hundred dollar rental fee.
- Hickory Street bought two house mats that they froze into the ice along with the hacks. The hacks, even tonight with the warm weather, were in the ice very solid, which was a problem in past years. Until tonight the ice was in reasonable shape. Like past years, they have two sheets that are about 2/3 length. It's not good enough to play on but it's better than in past years. They don't have a scraper or nipper but they have a pebbler to pebble each night.
- In past years the ice has been so slow it was hard to get stones into the house. This year it's fast enough you can throw the length of the ice and even do take outs. It's basically bad arena ice, but it's good enough that you can run the sessions and participants can get a feel for throwing stones.
- The ice is slick compared to normal curling ice so we haven't been doing much sweeping for fear of injuries.
- This year, they let us advertise at the event. With Lorna's help, I made a Chicago CC Banner to hang at the entrance to the skate rental facility where people check in. Windy City CC was going to send a banner, but it's not there.
- This year, there's no broomstacking. In past years, they gave people free drink tickets. Broomstacking is supposedly across the street at Smoque Daddy Barbeque, and they are supposed to have curling specials, but I haven't seen many people go over there.

MCA Directory

- Sherryanne to work on a directory of all Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Media persons of every member club.

Meeting adjourned 7:09 p.m. January 20, 2020 (1st Jim Wilson / 2nd Walter Burns)

The next meeting is March 23rd 7:00 p.m. Exmoor Oak House , Highland Park, IL

Respectfully submitted,
Sherryanne Porter, Secretary MCA