

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
POTOMAC CURLING CLUB
May 26, 2005

I. Call to Order: @7:18pm

Board Members in Attendance: Dominique Banville (President), FL Ettlin (Secretary), George Shirk, Michael Fry, John Bittner, Nick Datlowe, Bass Bass (VP), Barry Nichols

Other Members in Attendance: Mark Hartz, Brian Galebach, Dave Hamilton, Benjamin Yeung, Neil Christensen.

Board Members not attending: Kate Monagan, Rich Collins (Treasurer), Ann Drummie,

II. Secretary's Report:

- A. Approve minutes of April 26, 2005 Meeting - tabled
- B. Review Item Actions from April 26, 2005 Minutes

III. Treasurer's Report: Emailed from Rich. At the next meeting, we will have the new board and Rich will not be available at the next meeting. Charlie Jennings has offered to be our book keeper. Mark Hartz has been a Board Treasurer before – Red Cross, and would be willing to be the Treasurer particularly if Charlie Jennings was available as a resource. Possible to set up Mark Hartz (if elected) as Treasurer overseeing Charlie as bookkeeper. Comment: the last financial review commented that it is unwise to have one person handling the money.

IV. Old Business

A. Annual Meeting, final overview –

- 1. Awards discussed and agreed to in a closed session. Surka = Curling Achievement award, Volunteer = Doug Andrew & Scott Edie, Spirit of Curling = John Warshawsky & Heather Cook, Waddell = Nichols (who excused himself before the award was discussed).

B. Host for the USCA Men's Qualifier – We will be hosting the Men's World Trials Preliminary Round Dec 15th – 18th (Fairbanks in the West, Potomac in the East.) We need to find someone to chair this event and the earlier we get a chairperson the better.

C. The calendar has been updated.

V. New Business

A. Committees Annual Report -

- 1. Barry Bass (Membership Committee) – written report submitted.
- 2. Operations Team – written report submitted, will be updated additionally prior to the Annual meeting, per Bittner. June 11th is first work day. Discussion of raising the rental prices also took place. Discussion (brought up by Bittner) about possibilities of having a club credit card for purchases such as drinks. Discussion of Club Store – went well this year.
- 3. Kathy's email requesting membership information – information being collected.
- 4. Training – CORE clinic, 3 open houses in the fall, 4 LTC classes, Remiss in not offering a LTC2 class or advanced clinics but they are in the works for next season possible to add an Intermediate curling class in addition to LTC2 in order to capture more experienced curlers, 3 open houses in the spring, Frank did a fantastic job with coordination of the January training period. Training committee

– rentals multiplied at the end of the season and they are very difficult to staff. Possible to split instructor fees with instructors? Coming season – we’ve got 3 series of open houses coupled with 3 sets of LTC classes, including the Open House/LTC associated with the Olympics. Tentatively talked with Charrissa & Scott about LTC2. Looking for other people to teach specific skills such as hitting/take outs. New members bonspiel should be improved (Bonspiel 101). Brian G. is willing to run new member bonspiel (Bonspiel 101) next season if asked/needed. Olympic Open House is the 25th Feb (Thursday/Saturday) and a crash course LTC to be scheduled. Then we will do a series on Friday night, Thursday & Saturday pick up league.

5. Divergence into discussion about Media coverage for Curling and how to push the sport during the Olympics. USCA is sending out a marketing package. Dave Hamilton asked, with all this stuff being crammed into the schedule, is there any thought to extending the schedule by a couple of weeks?

ACTION: Nick & FL to put heads together to discuss schedule and who to contact about teaching an Officiating Clinic in this next season (November?).

ACTION: George to look into putting Teaching clinics in the schedule for the following season (doesn’t need to hold it here, but a nearby club.)

6. Events & Scheduling – Nick – in terms of leagues and such, will discuss at the meeting, but we need to be responsive to our members and listen before making decisions. In terms of events schedules, we had a lot of good ideas that didn’t necessarily get implemented, often because coordination was lacking, or put together late. Next season we need to line up coordination for events a couple of months in advance. We need to look for people to coordinate soon. End of year party went very well. Social events as well as curling events are well received.

7. GNCC/USCA events – Club Championship (Neil suggests perhaps 2010 for that event – it brought in 12k this season in Chicago.)

8. Outreach – College money was used to promote college curling. With new College Sport channel is showing curling, perhaps we will get more interest. We should try to capitalize on any interest generated by such programming. Naval Academy person contacted Nichols asking about numbers because they are considering putting in a curling facility. Fink from Broomstones is also willing to help us (per Neil). Outreach was overwhelmed with incoming calls for rentals, and not much reaching out was attempted. High Schools would be an excellent route to explore in greater details. We just need someone to take the ball and run with it.. there is a great deal of potential in the high schools.

9. Communication – The newsletter is in hand, now. It was a difficult task to get it out, printed, organized, etc.. Although at the beginning of the season we had deadlines and such the follow-up never took place in a timely manner. Next year we may wish to rethink how it is done, or get assurances from the Whites that they can do a better job of getting the newsletter out in the future. Newsletter timing must be improved. Fry suggests we rethink what we want to do with the Spanner Banner, maybe we have other ways of getting “current” information out and use the Spanner Banner to be used to announce results. Perhaps the Spanner Banner should be PDFed and emailed out to everyone that is able to receive it in an electronic format. Website was wonderful, Howard & Brian did a great job. People get information via the web and our site was well maintained this past season. Table placards were kept up-to-date more so than in the past. Baxter did a good job of keeping them relatively current. PR/Community events – the Daves did a good job attending the various events. PCC Historian needs to get going (Nick) at keeping a sense of all of our events keep archives. Phone Tree – never organized. Communication Committee

may need to discuss how to communicate with our members, including mailings, emails, email lists, etc..

10. Ice – Scott Edie & Nichols spent a lot of time doing technical discussions and working with the ice committee to make corrections and maintain ice conditions throughout the season. We had a great group of volunteers who have been able to take the time to put in ice time as needed for special events. We learned some things about putting the ice in. It took a lot longer at the beginning of the year, in part due to our understanding of some of the dynamics of creating an ice surface. Having the sand base as opposed to having concrete – all of the pigments end up in the sand, and that is a water soluble material. When we went to flood we loaded up the early floods with a lot of the materials from the prior paints and it will get worse with each year unless something is done about it. The manual from the World Curling Federation mentions getting the paint out of the sand. We will have to remove a lot of the sand that is on the floor in order to get the paint off of the surface. Pigments also worked their way (particularly blue) to the surface and spread out. It was only with the use of de-ionized water that we were able to prevent additional bleeding. We will have to scrape sooner to help prevent as many problems with impurities. We had some problems when we flooded mid-year and had problems again when we flooded before the Nationals – we had to do some scraping to deal with the pigment bleeding to the surface problems. A lot has been learned this year, and we have had good turn out with volunteers, and hopefully we can start sooner and prepare better to save ourselves as much work as last season. Bittner asked if there is an Ice Maker class in the fall? If so, Nichols thinks we should get people into the school. **ACTION: FRY to check and see if a training session is scheduled.** Nichols suggests that the \$75 is well spent to buy your own copy of the WCF manual on ice making. The club already owns a copy, as does Nichols. Status of Scrapers: 5' has been disassembled and the blade will be reground to be ready for the fall. The 4' scraper was only use for rough work to protect the finer 5' blade. We (Nichols & Edie) will attempt to find a reconditioned battery operated scraper before the start of the season and will find money "outside of the budget" to pay for it. There is interest in someone buying the 4' scraper.

11. Finance committee – met during the late summer as a group, building on the experience from the year prior and looking at the limited input from the committee chairs. Not much was done after having the budget passed. Whoever chairs the Finance committee next year may wish to involve people from the club who are knowledgeable about finances. Nichols also suggests an independent review to look at the books on a month to month basis to flag things that must be discussed between the bookkeeper and the board/committee. Next year we will also have to refinance the loan with Sandy Springs bank and that will take coordination with whoever is handling the legal "Treasurer's" position, and with the finance committee to help negotiate a decent rate. Fund Raising – we came way short of our goals, Bittner & Banville met with Jay Davies. Bittner is considering the position of Fund Raising chairman. There are members of the committee that will likely return, and there is a need to increase the fund raising activity of the club in the next season. Mark Hartz suggests that we may wish to consider being part of the plAnnd giving campaign for the Federal Government. It is apparently a lot of work to get involved in that, but we could look into it again (Bittner had tried in the past, and was put off by the requirements.)

12. Board – Banville – thought length of meetings was better, trying to keep it down to less than 2.5 hours each. We need to keep better track of the action items, because minutes weren't going out on time for people to be reminded of their action items. Follow-up wasn't great. Next year we need to follow-up on action items better. It

was suggested that we discuss the organization, that the President be elected by the membership rather than nominated by the board and a system where you have a president-elect, a past-president and a current president. That would involve changing the bylaws. Banville asks for info on how to do things differently organizationally. Fry mentioned that there may be people who offer other ways of board organization. Banville – we are always open to suggestions, but changes would require bylaw updates. Nichols suggests that for the last 3 years we made it a point that at Board member be a chair for key committees, but perhaps it would be more effective to reduce that and allow non-board members to be the key component in committees. Maybe the board as a whole should consider who should fill the committee head slots instead of leaving it to the individual board liaison to find someone to take over the leadership of the committee they are helping with. Bittner says that it's a rare organization where the members don't want to elect a president – but it can also cause an awkward situation because more often than not it becomes a popularity contest.

- B. GNCC Meeting – Potomac is the 2nd largest curling club in the GNCC, next to Broomstones. The GNCC is hosting Men's Worlds in April 2006. They are in dire need of volunteers, there are about 275 signed up and about 400 are needed. They are looking for people to come down and give what time they can. They have put out a brochure with Tickets packages, and hotel is sold out already. Money will come back to clubs in GNCC probably based on man hours of volunteers. General Meeting notes – GNCC was 5k in the black last year, first time not in the red in a few years. Faith Lundgren is the new training coordinator. There is a revised insurance package forthcoming – Banville should look for that. We have been asked to host the Women's challenge in 2008 and offered the Kayser for either 2010 or 2011. Proposal on the table from the Dykes Chair is that there will be playdowns (3 qualifying bonspiels) to get to the Dykes.. more information to follow. Kayser proposal is that only 4-sheet clubs could host. Club Championship USCA – Neil C suggests we apply in 2010 and 2011 timeframe. Gordon Emmett will be held as a separate event as the playdowns as discussed at the executive level. Now you must play at least 2 games to get to the National level from the GNCC. USCA is still looking for a host of the Gordon Emmett next season. GNCC changing questions in a forthcoming questionnaire. GNCC thinks USCA is no longer worried about grass roots efforts, and is going to gather facts and bring the information back to the USCA and point out that USCA has forgotten it's sport development. GNCC age is 55 for seniors, although worlds is 50 – per person, not average age. \$435 dollars sent to USCA from club pins sales. Next meeting is Sept. 14th in Fishkill, NY.
- C. Can we get a Saturday afternoon early in the season to bring together 5-and-under curlers for a mixer and to help them organize teams? (Caitlin Shaw emailed Dom about it.) Can the Board subsidize money for the event, with \$1 a slice back from attendees? Nick to look into helping schedule the event. The Board agrees that money can be fronted for the event.
- D. Clai Carr meeting – Bittner wants to set a date. We could have done it earlier today, or could with meet another time with “The Powers that Be” to include Carl Duncan, Jay Davies, the Board of Directors. This conversation will be our relationship with the Gardens, how it came to be, where it should go in the future, and iron out any bumps. Suggestion is to have a supper meeting with the new and old board members, and Clai. We can set a date for the next Board Meeting and contact Jay, Carl & Clai to see if that date works for a supper meeting prior to the Board of Directors meeting.
- E. Neil C – Block out June 30th @ 7:30pm & July 13th @ 7:30pm for Inaugural meetings. “All the Presidents Men” is the current theme.
- F. Next Meeting: Tuesday 21st of June @ 5:30 or 6pm to start with Clai Clar. Board of Directors meeting to start at around 7:30pm.

Adjourn (move to adjourn Bittner, Bass) – motion passed. 10:30pm.