

Minutes of the Nanaimo Club Executive and Board of Directors

Thursday, August 13, 2020

Meeting Protocol:

Present: Brian McRory, Tom Weinreich, Mark Blackell, Mary Ellen Konyer, April Gale-Seixeiro, George Duffell, Andrea Trepanier, Vic Brice, Muir Meredith.

Regrets: Mark Duffell, Jim Boutillier, John Knox.

Mary Ellen Konyer called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Minutes:

- **Motion** to adopt Mark B.'s minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting (Vic/George). **Carried**.

Correspondence: Mark Blackell – None.

President's Report – Mary Ellen Konyer: See written report. Mary Ellen got more correspondence today from an individual who asked that we allow a member to pay for only a half a season. We agreed that, as we have already discussed, we cannot do this for financial reasons. We agreed, in response to another e-mail, to leave our sweeping rules as posted. We also agreed that we are sticking by our policy of no spectators.

We discussed, in response to a suggestion from a member, the idea of opening later than normal to see what the numbers of infections are like in late September. **MOTION:** (Mary Ellen/Vic): "That, due to COVID-19, we delay the opening of the season until October 30th and that we have registration from September 1st to the 25th." **Carried** (April abstained). We will set up the ice in early October if the numbers warrant doing so and if the return of elementary and high school classes on September 10th does not lead to a major COVID-19 outbreak.

We discussed the hydro bill and the letter from our MLA. We agreed to continue to try to get an exemption. **ACTION:** Mary Ellen will re-contact BC Hydro.

Treasurer's Report – Tom Weinreich: The finances look pretty good, considering the changes this summer. The profit/loss is better than last year due to the fact that we lost less than last summer (which is generally a period of financial loss); the CEWS helps with income coming in.

Team Reports

- a) Vice-president and Newsletter – Brian McRory: Brian brought some members' comments and questions to the Board. We discussed the use of visors over masks. Brian did some research and, according to current scientific literature, the visor helps protect the wearer more than others, and so we agreed to keep our policy as it is. We also discussed the need for masks and not bandanas. **ACTION:** April will clarify this in her next correspondence with members.
- b) Marketing – Jim Boutillier: no report.
- c) Fund raising – Muir Meredith: The 50/50 draw pot is up to \$1070. Andrea has already applied for two licenses.
- d) Membership and communications – April Gale-Seixeiro: See written report.

- e) Bonspiels – Vic Brice: The Masters’ and Senior Ladies’ spiels are cancelled. The Halloween spiel will be cancelled. We discussed the possibility of a one-day opening spiel; we will return to this issue later.
- f) Facilities – George Duffell: no report.
- g) Curling – John Knox: Andrea sent out e-mails to reps and the ball is rolling with the leagues. We need some new reps for some leagues and Andrea and Mary Ellen have been reaching out to people. We discussed some names of potential reps. Once the names are more settled the reps will be updated on the website.
- h) Nominations & Curl BC – Mark Duffell: no report.
- i) Strategic Planning – Mary Ellen Konyer: no report.

Manager’s Report – Andrea Trepanier: see written report. The dates in the written report will be adjusted to reflect the decisions made today about the season’s start date.

Old Business: none.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: (Vic) The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

- The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 3rd, 2020 at 7:00 PM (at the NCC unless decided otherwise).

Round Table.

Written Reports

President’s Report - August 11, 2020

I have received 14 emails in response to our Return to Curling 2020-2021 document. I will provide a brief version of the feedback here. If any board members require more details please let me know and I will forward these to you.

Expressing appreciation of our work: 7

In favour of masks: 6

Opposed to masks: 1

Not curling due to high risk element: 2

Questions regarding rules: 8

I responded as best I could and told members we would further discuss the following concerns at our meeting on Thursday.

Question 1

*Why couldn't the active sweeper sweep any of the **opponent's** moving rocks behind the tee line?*

My Response:

Regular curling rules give a skip priority on their own rock behind the T. Since they will not be allowed this, it would be an increased disadvantage to allow the opponent's active sweeper to do so.

Hmmm, while the regular rules give the skip priority access to their own rock, they cannot nonetheless prevent the opposition from having access to it in the regular way of playing. Personally, I prefer allowing the sweeper the opportunity to sweep, and as this would be the same opportunity afforded the other team in the same circumstances, I see no undue advantage to either side. Moreover, sweepers are accustomed to being permitted to sweep out an opponent's rock behind the tee line. It's just one more change in the rules that may contribute to confusion.

I appreciate that, if this proposed rule is insisted on, the same advantage-neutral situation exists. But my preference is to keep as many of the traditional rules in place as possible.

Question 2

There is no mention of visitors or spectators? Will spectators have to sign the declaration and be temp checked. Do we have a way of contacting spectators if need be?

Question 3

Has there been any thought to starting the season later? I have been told that Comox is not starting Curling at all until November in an effort to prevent having to abandon the season due to a second wave.

Question 4

Will there be chairs at the spots to put on shoes? Will these need sanitizing?

Question 5

Do we have a contingency plan for wheelchair curlers or those people who require the ramp?

Question 6

Is the club encouraging new curlers to participate? Will we have lessons for new curlers?

My response

At this time we can't say for sure if we will be offering our learn to curl programs. There are lots of challenges in this regard. In the past we have had a Wed. evening 4 and 8 week classes. This coming year is uncertain because we are not sure if there will be available ice time. Having 6 sheets rather than 8 will decrease our capacity. The Friendly Five is a very full league and may require 2 draws on Wednesdays, rather than one, which will make that ice time unavailable. We will know better after registration begins and we have a chance to evaluate available ice times. Also, we are not sure if we will have coaching staff as well. We will be contacting the coaches from last year and asking if they are willing to coach with the changed requirements as outlined by Curling Canada. I believe coaching will expose curlers to a greater risk than curling with our own teammates. Because all our coaches are volunteers it may be more difficult to find coaches willing to take this responsibility. We had planned to

run a coaching course early this season to hopefully get a few more certified coaches for the program, but Curl BC has not confirmed if the course will be offered yet. So the short answer is, we are not sure yet.

I am not sure that asking coaches to do this this season is considerate of their health and safety. Thoughts?

Question 7

There will be 4 or 6 people at a table where those people are NOT 6 feet apart. How is this social distancing?

Response:

When we are in the Canada 150 Room I think we are governed by the BC Provincial Health Order that says 6 people in a group. I think this assumes that the 6 people are in the same bubble. This will likely not be the case in the rink. We plan to spread the table out so that social distancing occurs between tables. I think our tables are 6 ft across. So I made a little model with a 6" bowl and some wine stoppers. If 4 people were at a table and they were all sitting one ft. from the table I think we would be 2m apart. This won't work with 6, so I hope that people will consider this (and not do it). But that still leaves the tricky part of having 6 chairs around each table. I will ask at the board meeting Thursday and get back to you.

I have received a response from Sheila Malcolmson regarding our questions concerning the large *minimum* charged by BC Hydro due to our decreased usage due to COVID 19. I have sent board members the email and will keep you posted when I receive a response. I appreciated a response by phone call that I received from the Liberal MLA, Greg Kylo, who is the oppositions BC Hydro critic.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Konyer

Membership and communication report - August 2020

- Quite a few communication tasks were accomplished last month.
 - Initial email notification of AGM went out on July 31. Notification was also placed on the front page of our website.
 - Return to Curling guidelines were communicated on August 1.
 - Sent in email to members, and link was shared on Facebook and Twitter.
 - Comments on Facebook, mostly from members, were positive, thanking us for our work.
 - Comments on Twitter, from curlers across North America, were also very positive. See below for some screenshots.
 - Member Survey result link was sent via email to our members on August 4. Two responses were received, thanking us for our work.
 - 50/50 draw announcement was communicated via email, Facebook and Twitter.

- Curl BC retweeted our announcement and hopefully we got a few more ticket sales as a result.
 - VI Bonspiels Facebook page has been updated with all VI bonspiels listed on the shared VI bonspiels calendar, or that I could find on clubs' websites.
 - After our Return to Curling guidelines were released, I added a note on the VI Bonspiels page that NCC bonspiels are open to only NCC members this year.
- Tasks to do:
 - Send a reminder about the AGM
 - Cost of Curling presentation
 - Work with Andrea on season-starting emails and social media posts
 - Meet the Board Member posts on Facebook
 - Meet the Volunteer series preparation

2021 BC Seniors

- Work has not started on this. I notified Curl BC that we were going to run this as a barebones event and they were agreeable to this.

Possible future Grand Slam of Curling

- Slams for 2020-2021 have been cancelled through April 2021. This includes the Vegas Slam scheduled for January 2021. I have not spoken to the City or to Sportsnet. I don't see how it will be possible to plan for Slam for a couple of years.

Respectfully submitted,

April Gale-Seixeiro

Nanaimo Curling Club - Managers Report

Aug 10, 2020

Facility

- Lift is booked tentatively for Aug 17 to 21 for fire inspection (Aug 20), camera adjustments, window maintenance, etc.
- Boiler, Power pack and A/C Unit repairs booked for early September.
- Staff have begun installing walkways and divider boards for 6 sheets.
- Contactor repair to compressor will be done prior to start-up. Start-up will be Aug 28.

Coffee Shop

- Review of survey responses completed with management.
- Kitchen service will resume with the curling season and food consumption will be upstairs in the Canada 150 Room. Kitchen staff will maintain cleaning protocols when the Top of the House lounge is closed.

- Kitchen staff will be undertaking a thorough cleaning of the kitchen area before the season begins.
- Management is considering options for accepting debit and credit card payments.

Bar

- Nothing to report.

Pro Shop

- Initial season orders have been placed with emphasis on grippers, less expensive brooms and delivery sticks and stabilizers.
- Will be opening in September for people to access purchasing their own equipment prior to the season starting.
- Going to sell off all used equipment during this pre-season sales.

Staffing

- Have verified return of Darren, Daryl, Stephen for plant and ice maintenance. Deb has chosen to go into full retirement. Happy for her, sad for the club. Missie is not returning. CJ, Al and Spencer have all expressed interest in continuing with bar service. Have not heard from JD yet. Still in discussions with Kory.

Building Usage

- Had one rental for a strata AGM.

Bonspiels

- Nothing to report.

Leagues

- Tuesday Men's League rep has declined to volunteer this season. Need a new rep. Mail Chimp sent out to all Mens Division.
- Monday 2s and 4s league rep has declined to volunteer this season. Need a new rep. Checking internally with someone.

Other

- 50-50 fundraiser is going well. Pot as of Monday, 2:30 pm: \$745!!

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Trepanier