



**The Board of Directors of  
The Potomac Curling Club of the National Capital Area, Inc.  
MINUTES: Season 2007-08 Meeting 9  
February 24, 2008 2:00pm**

**Board Members Present:**

Susan Armiger  
Ann Drummie  
Michael Fry  
Brian Galebach  
Emily Morris  
Bob Pursell  
Richard Warner

**Board Members Absent:**

Dominique Banville  
Barry Nichols  
Rachel Sethi

**Members Present:**

Van Anderson  
Ron Aubin  
Chris Barth  
David Baxter  
David Bykowsky  
Scott Correia  
Bob Kohler  
Alexx Macedo  
Charlene Macedo  
Charlie Macedo  
KC McGrath  
Monique Neaves  
Ken Wray

- 1) **Call to order** *Warner*  
2:13pm
  
- 2) **Approve minutes of January 13, 2008 Meeting** *Drummie*  
Motion – Fry  
Second – Pursell  
Vote – Passed
  
- 3) **Special Issues** *Warner*
  - a) **Board of Directors nominating committee**  
At this year's Annual Meeting, there will be 4 openings for Directors for 3 year terms.  
Richard Warner will chair the nominating committee and get members to serve on the committee.  
Bob Pelletier has offered.
  
  - b) **Awards nomination committee**  
Richard Warner will also manage the award committee.
  
  - c) **Site security**  
There is no update from the Gardens. Recent events suggest that if you are not parked between two striped lines, you may be subject to a ticket.

**d) Review of USCA 06-07 fiscal year financial information**

Richard Warner read through the information recently provided by the USCA. It has been distributed to other Directors for their information.

**e) Should we have an age limit for any Potomac-run bonspiels (ex. Inaugural, CPIB, Cherry Blossom)?**

Members from Chesapeake shared with Michael Fry, concerns about having juniors playing in the Meltdown/CPIB, suggesting that there has been assumption that it is an adult bonspiel.

- The issue does not seem to be related to the ability of the players.
- Re the legal aspect of the bar, it is common practice that the adult guardian/parent makes arrangements for alcoholic beverages.
- We don't want juniors to feel slighted, and we don't want someone to feel disregarded.
- Because the Meltdown is a close intimate event with Chesapeake, it is particularly compelling to talk about, to ensure the event's continued success.
- If it was a curler from a more distant club who would be choosing not to come back, it may not have as much potential impact.
- We received 2 voiced complaints that may reflect other similar opinions, at an event with 12 teams (48 people).
- The Meltdown has never had restrictions on age. Juniors have participated before. The Cherry Blossom has included juniors in the past as well.
- There are events designated as junior bonspiels, and senior, and men's/women's. There are appropriate places where people of age and gender are expected to be and not be. They can play amongst themselves as they decide. Ex. a men's spare on women's night with permission of the women.

Why a limit?:

- There is a large social component to a bonspiel; if not everyone in the room or at the same table is a peer, then you lose some of the social benefits that you signed up, paid, and traveled for.
- Participants may not want to feel pressured to be a role-model in all circumstances.

Why not a limit?:

- There are many opportunities to socialize at a bonspiel, beyond the time immediately after a game at a table.
- For individuals going through the transition into young adulthood, these ('not just junior') bonspiels are important opportunities to compete. We should be good role models.
- We shouldn't restrict participation by any group.
- People believe very strongly in openness being openness.

What else might be involved?:

- Would young family be able to come to watch an "adult" bonspiel?
- How would this impact the extent of opportunities for family teams?
- Is there a difference between 10 or 12 versus 16 or 18 years old? When we discussed this with respect to leagues, we had difficulty.
- Would there be enough interest in a new 'adult' bonspiel for it to be viable?

The Board and its committees (ex. Events re any restrictions for existing bonspiels and any new bonspiels to develop, and coordinating with Chesapeake for the CPIB 2009; Membership re further review of membership privileges) will further discuss with open committee meetings and encouraged broad membership input, over the summer. This will include research with other clubs and organizations similarly dealing with the issue.

4) **Committee Reports:**

a) **Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee:**

*Nichols, Armiger*

**i) Treasurer's report**

The report was distributed. Membership fees should be higher with recent fee payments since January 31.

**ii) Renewal and rate change of loan with Sandy Spring**

We have recently changed from 8.5% to 6.5% on our mortgage.

**iii) Club fundraising**

There will be fundraising in the future. Specifics not yet determined for the Women's Challenge and the Cherry Blossom.

**iv) Junior fund**

The committee has developed guidelines for the Ed and Bill White Fund. Barry Nichols will review before next meeting.

b) **Events Committee:**

*Fry*

**i) Junior Bonspiel report**

The event had about 9 teams. Fun was had by all.

**ii) CPIB report**

There were 12 teams. We are not expecting a huge profit this year (may have spent more than needed on food?) to share with Chesapeake.

**iii) MACA report**

We hosted the last MACA yesterday. No report at this time.

**iv) All-American update**

There are four teams, therefore needing three draws for a round robin. Two draws have occurred. The third was planned for a Tuesday night, but because of a snow event, the Tuesday league is running out of Tuesdays. The All-American may coordinate with Thursday night to use two sheets one evening.

**v) Women's Challenge update**

The coordinators are aiming for 20 teams, having about 14 now. All committee chairs are in place, and now filling in holes for committee members.

**vi) Cherry Blossom update**

We have about 14 paid "out of club" entries, with the potential of maybe 4 others. There are about 2 weeks before entry deadline. They came in rapidly with original flyer which was sent to about 500 email addresses (including every USCA club and about 15 Canadian clubs). To be prepared in case we wind up back in a situation from a few years ago of having more interest than capacity, Michael Fry and Jason Sethi:

Set a cap for entries to 32 teams

Michael Fry confirmed that last year we didn't hold to 32 teams, but expanded to 36. This higher count is not desired as a long term precedent as it requires reworking the volunteer planning, asking more volunteers to take time off, asking curlers to walk around more bags in the locker rooms, etc. Experience suggests that a 32 team draw is a good balance for a successful event, for curlers and volunteers.

Set-up a deadline for in-house entries to allow for a lottery for 6 confirmed spots

Michael Fry confirmed that a 27<sup>th</sup> “out-of-club” team, though we’d hate to do it, would be turned away (assuming we have at least 6 in-house entries by the deadline). Various members confirmed that limiting “in-house” teams is common practice at bonspiels. It is also standard to handle “out-of-club” on a first come first serve basis so they can make travel arrangements. One of our club’s goals is to have ¾ participation at our bonspiels to be from out of the club. Currently “out-of-club” is defined as at least two team members not belonging to Potomac Curling Club. When curlers travel, and encounter a full field from the home club, some wonder why they made the effort. We want curlers to continue to want to come here.

Michael Fry outlined the options for filling the 6 in-house confirmed spots:

- playdown: tough for time and is biased for strength of team
- first come first serve: biased for who sees the email first or is at the club first
- lottery: seemed to have the least bias, which comes with the possibility that a team/player that really wants to play could miss out for years in a row

This year’s lottery process was only considered with the initial rush of outside interest. It was acknowledged that a standard process should be set before next season to manage expectations.

“Send the topic: ‘Method for handling entry requirements for Potomac run bonspiels’ to the Events Committee.”

Motion – Armiger

Second – Warner

Vote – Passed

This discussion highlighted our goal to have our members playing at other bonspiels. We need to be more strongly promoting this. Is our turnover rate contributing to the lack of consistency in understanding/pursuing this message?

**vii) GNCC Mixed playdowns January 29-Feb. 1, 2009, on-site chair**

Ann Drummie has offered to be the on-site chair. Ann will let the GNCC know.

c) **Outreach Committee:**

*Pursell, Warner*

**i) Rentals update**

All rental events since the last meeting have gone well.

|         |                           |   |
|---------|---------------------------|---|
| Jan. 26 | Kungle                    | unofficial numbers \$300  |
| Jan. 30 | Barrie School             | \$500   |
| Feb. 2  | Chesapeake Therapy        | \$500 gave them a huge break on pricing; considering we cancelled the league on that day. |
| Feb. 8  | Corporate Executive Board | \$2,000   |

Ahead:

There are two rentals on Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> (3-7 and 7-11).

Jeff Vanarsdall is trying to rent the club so Bob Pursell is working with him.

Bob Pursell is also trying to work with Capital Hill Day School, as a repeat request.

Bob Pursell reported that has turned down three rentals considering the volunteer hours versus the revenue.

He is however developing, with Brian Galebach, the potential logistics for accommodating groups of 8-10 to come on a Thursday during the normal instructional hour.

Considering the high demand, Bob Pursell will consider how to increase our rates, and return with a proposal.

**ii) Garden's bulletin board**

A flyer is on the board.

d) **Training Committee:**

*Morris, Banville*

**i) Learn to Curl update**

We had cancelled the Thursday one, but had a full Saturday one.

**ii) 5 point poster**

No report.

**iii) Officiating Chair**

Unofficially FL has offered. Emily Morris will confirm.

e) **Leagues Committee:**

*Galebach*

**i) Under 1416 in non-drop in leagues**

All 4 motions were passed by email.

The policy should say under-14 not under-16.

**ii) League updates**

Leagues are going great. We may need to readdress the policy of allowing 5-and-under teams as a lot of teams expressed interest this half.

f) **Communications Committee:**

*Drummie*

**i) CurlTV codes**

Every member should now have received a CurlTV code from Ann Drummie. It was suggested to those who already paid for a membership, to direct their inquiries to USCA for any possible refunds.

**ii) Updated membership roster**

An updated membership roster was distributed to Board members. Ann Drummie will check with Charlie Jennings to reconcile the last few second half memberships.

g) **Vision Committee:**

*Warner*

**i) General update**

In light of the references to our goals re % involvement in bonspiels, perhaps we need to heighten the focus on this.

h) **Membership Committee:**

*Sethi, Yeung*

**i) Second half recruitment**

Roughly, we have 12 brand new members this half.

**ii) Member handbook**

Rachel Sethi has drafted the handbook. Benjamin Yeung is to do a review. Sherri Fillingham is still working on new member handbook to send to us.

**iii) Retention planning (interviews, new member coordinators)**

Benjamin Yeung has been talking with Bill MacDonald about means for working with new members. Bill would like to get rolling. Ann Drummie is to send an email to the members now to initiate.

The interview effort just hasn't happened yet. The committee still wants to get it done this year.

The idea of a survey has been raised. The committee is looking into it/finding a chair for the effort.

i) **Ice Committee:**

*Nichols*

i) **General update**

We seem to be losing glycol. We'll have to wait until the summer to investigate.

The compressor is shutting itself off/on. The committee is monitoring.

The teams pebbling on league nights could learn more about how to identify the ice temperature and things that can be done if temperatures need to be adjusted. Barry Nichols will coordinate a training session.

j) **Operations Committee:**

*Sethi, Armiger*

i) **Pro Shop update**

No update.

ii) **Locker update**

No update.

iii) **Kitchen book**

Various members have mentioned interest in creating a 'how to' book about operating the kitchen.

5) **Other Business**

**Mixed Doubles Bonspiel**

David Bykowski raised the topic of our running a Mixed Doubles Bonspiel. Mixed Doubles will be an unofficial event at the Olympics. David Bykowski will put a proposal together, so that questions can be answered and plenty of lead time to plan and advertise. (ex. When would it be? Do we stand out if we make it a cashspiel?)

6) **Next Meeting.**

Sunday, March 16 at 3pm (Sunday of the Women's Challenge)  
4:10pm