

Minutes
Great Lakes Curling Association
Date: October 1, 2016
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: West Chester Township, OH

Attendees: Karen Hamilton (CCC), Ben Levy (Detroit CC), Mike Graves (Midland CC), Martha Lemert (Fort Wayne CC), Jonathon Penney (Cincinnati CC), Tammy Hoffman (Circle City CC); Sandra Takata (Great Smoky CC), Steve Imes (Columbus CC), Scott Piroth (Bowling Green CC), Adam Rivera (Detroit CC)

Phone: Mike Harwat (Curl Troy), John Zimmerman (Midland CC), Courtney Schmidt (Mayfield CC), Jay Clark (Bowling Green CC), Dave Eggli (Traverse City CC), Gordon MacLean (Copper County), Mike Moore (Mayfield CC)

Proxies: John Zimmerman held for Jeff Michael (Lewiston), Sandra Takata held for Kathy Kohtala (Delta Rocks), Paul Eisenman held by Gordon MacLean (Copper Country), Ben Levy for Josh Lopez (Detroit CC)

Absent: Mark McElwee (Lansing CC), Marcus Gleaton (Kalamazoo CC)

A quorum was established.

1. Call to Order: 1:15 p.m.
2. Minutes from the previous meeting, May 7, 2016 (Lansing Curling Club) were reviewed and approved.
3. Congratulations to our arena club members, Cincinnati men winning silver at Arena Nationals, and Indianapolis Women winning fourth.
4. Club Updates

Bowling Green - reports that they are building out a dedicated 4-sheet facility. It should be open by January 1st. It will have a full bar and they are planning a bonspiel for Ground Hog Day weekend in February. They are also intending to have an opening event to which all GLCA curlers are welcome. They will have livestream and video and are in talks to have games shown on local TV.

Cincinnati - reports that they have temporarily resolved their lack of arena ice by moving to the Sports Plus facility. The prior arena they were curling at has been scheduled for demolition. The Club has bought a floor curling stone set for presenting at schools and is planning outdoor demos on Fountain Square.

Circle City Curling Club - has also changed arenas to the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Curling on Thursday and Sunday nights. They are in the process of raising money for dedicated ice and have over \$100,000 raised in eight months.

Columbus Curling Club - indicated that their neighboring space had a fire which caused some ceiling tiles to have smoke damage but they are nonetheless opening up with leagues starting next week. There are plans to expand the warm room in the spring. They are hosting a "Brush Like a Badass Clinic" November 11th-12th as well as holding a potential promotion with the Columbus Bluejackets at their arena during a game. Beers of the World Bonspiel is sold out, and are holding the men's Sliderspiel and Women's Spiel during their season as well as the GLCA mens/womens' championships .

Copper Country - reports that it has new lighting and club house warm room area, which has greatly improved the broom stacking experience, and announced its bonspiel for the weekend of January 21st, which will feature a golden stone, a fundraising idea that teams can bid for that would allow them to throw a ninth stone once during a game.

Delta Rocks - reported that it's having an open house in November and should be playing between December and February.

Curl Troy reports that it has open registration for its league. It is curling in two different locations and plans to move back to the Springfield chiller in the spring. It also will be holding a second annual bonspiel in May between the 19th and 21st with a Star Wars theme.

Detroit has been investigating its floor issues and will continue to do so this spring but is putting in its ice, getting ready for a busy season of bonspiels including the junior event U21 between December 17th and 18th. It is holding a mixer spiel for some newer curlers and juniors in March and is holding the USWCA 5 and Under January 21st and 22nd. They will also be hosting the men's Scot Tour on the 29th of January.

Fort Wayne - reports that it successfully held its first spiel of the season, The End of Summerspiel, the third week in September. It has a couple of other spiels on the calendar, including a cashspiel one for the Ontario Curling Tour in November. Also, Rob Swan from Curling Across America will be stopping in Fort Wayne at the end of October as part of his multi-country tour in an attempt to create a Guinness Book of World Records for the most number of countries curled in a two-week period.

Great Smokey - will be holding the Rocky Top Open the first weekend in June. There's been a new floor put in at the arena at which they curl and leagues will be starting up soon.

Kalamazoo – no report from Kalamazoo but discussion held regarding its move to five sheets. It is hosting an Ontario Curling Tour cash spiel event in October, and also a sold out bonspiel in November associated with the craft beer festival.

Lansing - no report but discussion held regarding the status of their leagues. It was reported that they are renting ice in Kalamazoo and have ended their relationship with the arena in Lansing.

Lewiston – report from John Zimmerman that Lewiston will be registering all active curlers with the GLCA. It is hosting a bonspiel in February.

Mayfield – report held regarding various bonspiels’ setup including October Men’s Invitational, January Women’s One Day, and the Evergreen Mixed in February. Their season will end around the 26th of March and they will also host the Scot’s Tour January 30th.

Midland - reports that it made investment of streaming equipment for video streaming. It is hosting of a sold out spiel in mid-October. It will also be holding a junior clinic with Shawn Rojewski on November 19th and 20th.

Traverse City – it was announced Don Piche will be the USCA volunteer of the year, which will be announced at the USCA members’ meeting. Traverse City is also in discussions with USCA about hosting Curling Night in America with NBC Sports for October, 2017. It is also hosting its third annual April Cherry Bonspiel for which registration will be open in December. Leagues that will be starting up next week and they are doing combination “Learn to Curl” leagues where an experienced curler plays with three rookies to integrate people into the sport.

5. Audit/Finance

- a. Treasurer’s Report – Email by Mark McElwee reporting an account balance of almost \$11,000 with around \$2,800 payable for the stone purchase for which only few payments remain. All taxes and licensing documents have been filed in federal and state governments.
- b. In terms of the 501(c)(3) update – Mark reports that we need to submit a budget in order to finalize the paperwork for that and we must approve a budget at the spring meeting for fiscal year 2017-2018. The Finance Committee will circulate a proposed budget in advance of that meeting. In the last year, Treasurer reports received over \$7,200 in dues income, which was a healthy increase.

6. Membership

- a. Stone Rental Update – The two new sets of stones being purchased by the GLCA are being rented by Traverse City, who is at the end of their three-year lease of them at \$500/set. There was discussion held regarding possibly renewing that at one-year intervals if Traverse City has a continuing need for them. Petoskey kept at \$100 per set. Discussion was also held regarding the existence of other stone sets within the region and putting together a spreadsheet identifying extra sets or stones that are on lease including going lease rates.

- b. Bonspiel Promotion/Pins Program – Karen Hamilton reported that she needs to order new pins and approval was given to order 300 new pins for the GLCA. Pins were purchased at cost by participants for the Scots Tour. Discussion held regarding the US WCA’s initiative for clubs to sign up their bonspiels so that participants can get points for spiel results. Discussion also held regarding getting the bonspiel poster showing all the GLCA’s bonspiels for the season printed by each club and put at all the clubs in the region for easy access, and also being placed on the website. Bowling Green also brought up the idea of promoting friendlies between clubs as a low cost way of getting newer curlers to learn the joys of speling. Bowling Green is interested in hosting friendlies for clubs that want neutral territory as it is centrally located to a lot of different clubs in the region.
- c. Clinics – Bowling Green is hosting a Level 1 instructor clinic in mid-January. Columbus is offering a Level 2 instructor clinic at some point after that, date to be announced. There’s a junior clinic for the region that is in the works hopefully for the first week in August, with Curl Troy and Mike Graves from Midland, working on this junior curling camp idea. It might be coupled with a bonspiel at the Chiller in Springfield, Ohio so that parents can bring their kids and curl at the same time.
- d. New Clubs

Petoskey Curling Club has submitted an application for GLCA membership and a motion was made that its application be approved contingent upon receipt of a list of its members and receiving timely payment of dues on or before January 31, 2017. That motion was passed.

Notre Dame Club – Executive Committee received notice from a representative of Notre Dame asking about membership at the GLCA since they are hosting the Arena Nationals in April. Notre Dame was provided information from our bylaws regarding the process for getting admitted to the GLCA and the USCA. Once we receive that information the Executive Committee may call a special meeting in order to hold a vote over admitting Notre Dame as a potential new club.

7. Championship/Rules

- a. Club host rotation was passed out and distributed prior to the meeting. Discussion held regarding whether to use a general rotation among the dedicated facilities or limiting 3-sheet clubs to only mixed and 4-sheet clubs to men’s and women’s championships. Consensus was that we should adopt an open rotation where all clubs have an opportunity to hold GLCA championships. Motion was made to adopt the graph showing similar general rotation going forward. Motion was passed. Discussion of regional U18 events and potential conflict with USCA’s scheduling of U18 events between Christmas and New Years. The GLCA had already scheduled its U18 event during that timeframe the 27th and 29th of December, but had discovered that none of

our junior teams were planning on playing in the conflicting event. The decision was made not to change our event.

- b. Discussion held regarding GLCA position on possible rule change to allow stick delivery. No consensus was reached. Concerns were raised regarding public accommodation issues as well as whether slide delivery was a fundamental part of the game. Our GLCA president was given discretion at the upcoming USCA members meeting to vote as he sees fit should the matter come to a vote.
- c. Sweeping – Discussion held regarding the new sweeping regulations at the World Curling Federation level and at USCA events. These new sweeping regulations can be located at the USCA website. Discussion held regarding whether or not the new broom heads and fabric are required for regional play downs for GLCA championships, especially those leading to world events such as the Mixed Championship. Rules Committee will look into this. Clubs though will have discretion as to what they want to implement, if anything, for purposes of their local club level curlers.

8. New Business

- a. Members Assembly

GLCA has received no indication from any clubs within its region that clubs are taking their own votes to the USCA members meeting so Ben Levy, President of the GLCA, will be casting votes to the extent necessary on behalf of the region and its membership.

- 9. Next meeting scheduled to occur on May 6, 2017. Another option discussed is to hold the meeting the weekend before during the last weekend of Arena Nationals, which are to be held at South Bend, Indiana at Notre Dame, in an effort to increase ties with Notre Dame and work with them on joining and integrating with the GLCA and the USCA. Others indicated an interest in having the meeting the following weekend on May 6th at Bowling Green at their new dedicated facility where their ice should still be in. A vote was taken regarding these two options and it was tied 6 to 6 of those still participating in the meeting. Ben Levy identified Bowling Green as the site of the next meeting.