

# MINUTES



Meeting: Esquimalt Curling Club Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday, March 15, 2026, 12:30 pm

Location: Curling Lounge, Archie Browning Sports Centre

## 1. Call to Order

President, Al Teasdale called the meeting to order at 12:34 pm. Quorum was achieved.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was distributed to all board members and league representatives (to be passed on to their members) by email on March 04, 2026. It was also posted to the club's website and printed copies placed on all tables prior to the start of the 2026 AGM.

Addition: International Curling

**Motion:** Accept the March 15, 2026 Annual General Meeting Agenda with the noted addition.

**Moved/2nd:** Steve Peckford/ Jim Williams

**Results:** Approved without dissention

## 3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the March 16, 2025 Annual General Meeting were distributed to league representatives and club board members via email on March 04, 2026. Printed copies were placed on all tables prior to the start of the 2026 meeting.

**Motion:** Accept the Minutes of March 16, 2025 Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated.

**Moved/2<sup>nd</sup>:** Samantha Sherman/ Pei Mei Chi

**Results:** Approved without dissention

## 4. Reports

### 4.1. President's Report

- Al expressed his thanks to a number of groups and individuals:
  - To the Club executive and all the league reps who attended board meetings throughout the year, for their time and effort to make the club a success.
  - To the volunteers that helped with Learn to Curl, the Rookie league, the Provincial Championships, and hosting school groups that came to try curling.
  - To Doug Muir for our excellent website
  - To Al Sutherland and the ice crew
  - To the Township of Esquimalt
  - To the staff at Archie Browning, including maintenance and bar tenders.
- Highlights of the 2025-26 season include hosting the provincial championships, work towards rock replacement, and the announcement of the Grand Slam event coming to Victoria.
- Provincial Championships
  - Revenue was down (compared to 2024 championship) due to lower attendance, likely due to time of year.
  - Expenses were kept low (e.g. no banquet for athletes, scaled down opening ceremonies, no t-shirts for volunteers)
  - ECC's share of the profits (approximately \$23,00, plus \$1600 from concession) will go into the rock replacement fund.
  - Curl BC likes holding the combined Men's, Women's, U20 championships at ECC would like to return often. Al declined for next season due to the Grand Slam in October.

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- ECC needs to decide how often we want to host
  - \* Leagues will lose curling dates (championships held in January of non-Olympic years)
  - \* Club is not in need of funds (outside of rock replacement)
  - \* Need to be mindful of volunteer fatigue, but plus side is having a pool of trained volunteers and hosting events in Victoria allows them to keep their skills up.
- General consensus among attendees of the AGM was support for hosting future championships, acknowledging that some league play may be affected.
- Rock Replacement
  - A rock replacement committee has been formed to explore options for rock replacement. Members are Al Teasdale, Al Sutherland, Doug Muir, Brad Walsh, and Rachelle Perry.
  - Estimated cost of replacement is \$25,000 per sheet, therefore ECC needs to raise \$75-80,000 for our share (50%) of the cost.
  - The rock replacement fund currently has close to \$50,000 due to money from the 2026 provincial championships, 2024 provincial championships, and the 2025-26 rock replacement levy charged to ECC members.
  - Al T has been in touch with Canada Curling Stone and was informed that if the rocks are ordered before the end of May 2026, there is a slight chance they will arrive before the end of the 2026-27 season.
  - Currently waiting for the municipality to approve next year's budget which includes their share of the rock replacement cost. The budget is expected to be finalized in April.
  - A 30% down payment is required when ordering the stones. There is enough money in ECC's rock replacement fund to cover the down payment.
- Grand Slam of Curling Event
  - 16 Men's and 16 Women's teams will play at Save on Foods Memorial Centre October 13-18, 2026.
  - Al Sutherland, Doug Muir, and Gary Lindsay quietly worked for over a year on getting the event to Victoria.
  - Esquimalt Curling Club will be the volunteer partner and will need to supply at least 100 volunteers.
  - Profits from the 50/50 will go to ECC for the rock replacement fund.
  - Doug is working on a volunteer sign-up page via the ECC website. It will likely go live mid-April.
  - Early bird ticket packages are currently on sale.
- Learn to Curl/Rookie League
  - Partnered with Esquimalt Recreation to run the learn to curl program (Esquimalt provides the ice, advertising, and handles payment. ECC provides equipment and coaches. ECC receives 60% of profits)
  - Ran the rookie league consecutively with learn to curl in the fall, and then merged the two groups in January. The rookie league was mostly players from the 2025 learn to curl program.
  - Trying to decide if we run learn to curl again next season. The concern is that if we continue to offer learn to curl, we need to move more players out of the rookie league to make room. A limiting factor is available time slots to run learn to curl & rookie league (currently Sundays, 1-3pm).
  - Rookie league members have been advised to sign up as spares in other leagues. Al requests that leagues give these players preference as spares.
  - If any leagues are looking for teams, reach out to Al to connect with the rookie league players.

## 4.2. Treasurer's Report

- This season, the Esquimalt Curling Club had 700 members in 17 leagues and utilized 112 sheets of ice.
- Financial statements and the proposed 2026-27 Operating Budget were distributed to those in attendance prior to the start of the AGM.
- The club is in good financial shape. Surplus is due to expense control.

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- Shout out to Len Hanishuk for his exceptional work on sponsorship. Over \$11,000 in sponsorship money was raised this season.
- A financial review was conducted by club members and CPAs Pam Knysh, Mark Johnson, and Matt Broughtan. Based on that review, the financial statements are recommended for approval.

**Motion:** [Approve Esquimalt Curling Club's financial statements for the 2025-26 fiscal year.](#)

**Moved/2<sup>nd</sup>:** Jim Williams/ Brian Morin

**Results:** Approved without dissention

## 5. Budget 2023-24

- Estimating 690 curlers.
- ECC fee to remain the same (\$10), but the Curl BC/Curling Canada fees are increasing to \$29.
- The rock replacement fee has been tabled to see if it is still needed.
- Sponsorship amount is conservative, but Len already has sponsors lined up, so we may receive more sponsorship revenue than budgeted.

**Motion:** [Accept the budget for the 2026-2027 season as presented](#)

**Moved/2<sup>nd</sup>:** Mavis Pillar / Steve Peckford

**Results:** Approved without dissention

## 6. New Business

### 6.1. International Curling

- Brian Morin described opportunities to participate in international events outside of the club (Stranthcona Cup, CanAm Cup)
- The selection process for the men's team for a 1-month tour in Scotland in 2028 is underway.
- Anyone wishing more information can contact Brian.
- Brian presented the club with a Banner for the close of the 2024 CanAm Cup tour (which Canada won).

### 6.2. Curl BC Reporting

- The process for compiling the club's membership report for Curl BC is time-consuming and labour intensive. Currently, a spreadsheet is sent to each of the leagues, then the club's treasurer must reconcile them all once they are completed and returned.
- The club does not have a list of members' emails to send out notifications (e.g. facility closures). Current method is to send a notice to the league reps with the expectation that it will be forwarded on to their league members, but this often means delays or non-delivery of important notices.
- The club's website is set up to be able to collect all the information for the Curl BC report and members contact information via the registration page. Note that it does not collect payments.
- Al would like all leagues to use the website for registration and envisions it being mandatory in the future. Doug can do a tutorial for leagues unfamiliar with how to use the registration page.

### 6.3. 65 Year Anniversary

- 2026 marks the 65th anniversary of Archie Browning Sports Centre and the Esquimalt Curling Club.
- Al proposed holding a club bonspiel instead of an open house on the first weekend ice is available in September.
- Will keep the cost low and promote it as an interleague mixer.
- Need feedback on format.
- If there is enough interest, will run the bonspiel. Ice is booked for Fri/Sat/Sun.
- Brian Morin volunteered to help organize.

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## 7. Elections

- Torben Wilson (ECC Past President), conducted the elections.
- The position of Vice President has become vacant. Brad Walsh has agreed to stand as VP for 1 year, and move to President the following year. Al Teasdale has agreed to stay on as President for one more year.
- There were no other nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. All incumbents (other than VP) agree to stay on in current positions.
- 2026-2027 Executive:
  - President – Al Teasdale (no challenges, approved by acclamation)
  - Vice President- Brad Walsh (no challenges, approved by acclamation)
  - Secretary – Karen Hoban (no challenges, approved by acclamation)
  - Treasurer- Pam Knysh (no challenges, approved by acclamation)
- Directors:
  - Len Hanishuk – Advertising and Sponsorship
  - Steve Peckford – Curl BC representative

## 8. Questions and Answers

- In Memorial:
  - The passings of long-time club member, Roy Johnson and of long-time coach, official, and curler, Kathy MacKenzie were acknowledged.
- The Wheelchair League thanked the board and club for their support, specifically for the monetary contribution for their trip to Nationals in Quebec at the end of April.

## 9. Curler of the Year

- The Pat Kennedy Memorial Curler of the Year Award was presented to Yvonne Leach and Jamie Miller for their contributions to the Esquimalt Curling Club (write-up attached).
- Jamie was also named by Curl BC as the recipient of the 2025/26 PCMCA Scholarship, presented by the Pacific Coast Masters Curling Association and Al presented him with a cheque on behalf of the PCMCA.

## 10. Adjournment

Motion: [To adjourn meeting.](#)

Moved/2nd: Jim Williams/Steve Peckford

Results: Approved without dissent

Meeting adjourned at 1:26 pm.

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## Attachment 1 – Curler of the Year

This year the board has decided to do something a little bit unusual. For the fifth time ever, the nomination committee has selected two recipients as both embody the spirit of curling and are tireless volunteers and advocates for the club and for curling in general.

The first recipient has, through years of dedication and commitment, been one of the reasons this club has become what it is. The other shows us that we have a bright future if we continue to follow that example.

### **Yvonne Leach**

Our first recipient has been a driving force behind club activities for decades. She spent 6 years as a director of the club, was vice president and then president of the Ladies Afternoon League from 2004 to 2009, served as president of the Senior Mixed League from 2017 to 2022, and is still actively involved in volunteering with both leagues as Spares Coordinator for the Senior Mixed League and serving on the team-forming committee with the Ladies' Afternoon League. She continues to volunteer for league banquets and other tasks, as well as with other club activities such as open houses.

In 2005 and again in 2012, she acted as Secretary for the Ladies Valentine Bonspiels and Nifty Fifty Bonspiels involving teams from across BC and hosted by Esquimalt Curling Club.

And that's just a quick summary of what she's done for our club.

While she did receive this award some 22 years ago, her relentless dedication and commitment over the years since make her more than worthy of this recognition again.

### **Jamie Miller**

The other recipient is one of the club's younger members, having joined the junior league in 2019. In recent years he has been very active in helping out with the running of the junior league, mentoring newer players and being willing and able to step up and take over on-ice duties after Rachelle suffered an injury which prevented her from going on the ice for an extended period.

He took the Club Coaching course in the 2024-2025 season and immediately started helping out with the Learn to Curl program and the rookie league in the seasons since. He has also been learning the art of ice making, was one of the principal volunteers on the ice crew for this year's provincial championships, and works to prep the ice for the Monday Men's League and the Sunday Funday League (of which he is also a member). He spares in multiple leagues, even if it means playing back-to-back games while also prepping the ice after having spent the afternoon coaching Learn to Curl.

For the 2025-2026 season, I am honoured to present the Curler of the Year award to Yvonne Leach and Jamie Miller.

