

Motion received from a Member Club (2020 AGM)

Item 5: Motion 1	Statement from the RCCC Board
<p>Member Club: New Abbey Curling Club</p> <p>Motion: To overturn the Board decision to use selection to determine teams to represent Scotland at World Championships, and for future decisions on this matter to be reserved for General Meetings.</p> <p>Supporting Statement:</p> <p><i>Insufficient Member Consultation</i> Members were given the opportunity to discuss and share their opinions on this matter during the Scottish Curling Roadshows held on weekday evenings during November and December 2019. Members from one ice rink needed to make a round trip of over 200 miles from their local rink to the closest meeting, with members from four other rinks facing a journey of over 100 miles for meetings starting as early as 6pm. Based on this, it was inappropriate for the Roadshows to be used as the sole method of member consultation.</p> <p><i>Insufficient Transparency Around Decision Making Process</i> At the time of the announcement of the Board's decision (8th May 2020), the most recent Board Meeting minutes that were published were from the meeting held on 15th June 2019. This left members in</p>	<p>For almost two years, the Board of Directors analysed the strengths and weaknesses of implementing a selection policy, consulted and discussed the policy proposal with the Head Coach and Performance Director of British Curling, debated the matter with members, and after careful consideration decided to proceed with selection for the remainder of this Olympic cycle.</p> <p>RCCC members were consulted in face to face meetings at the eight roadshows held across Scotland in late 2019 and in the November 2019 issue of YourCurler; circulated to 8,000 members; a timeline for the board's decision on selection was laid out. Members are always encouraged to speak to their club, Province, and Area representatives as well as getting in touch with Head Office directly.</p> <p>Investment in curling from public bodies including UK Sport and Sportscotland currently stands at £1.7m per year, which funds programmes including Academy, Performance Foundation, Podium Potential and Podium. It pays for training activity in the National Curling Academy, sport science, analytics, physical conditioning, specialist sports medicine, and helps teams travel to enter competitions against international rivals. All of this is specifically funded for the purpose of increasing the chances of Great Britain representing and medalling at Winter Olympic and Paralympic games.</p> <p>Our funding partners agree with the assertion that reliance on one event could present a significant risk to qualification for the World Championships and thereby the Olympic Games, the results of which determine future investment. A reduction in the funding will negatively impact the future chances of players lower down the pathway.</p> <p>The trickledown benefit to clubs and ice rinks on the back of the Olympic Games is substantial where we all see increased levels of interest in curling, the greatest</p>

the dark about the discussions on the topic and the rationale behind this extremely significant decision.

Devaluation of National Championship

With the low likelihood of a non-funded team being selected as Scotland's representatives, the motivation for such teams to enter the National Championships is significantly decreased. In addition to potentially lower entry numbers, there would also be a detrimental impact on the spectator appeal of the affected events.

Scottish Curling has cited that the change in policy would ensure that the teams with the greatest potential to succeed are selected, but what better way to demonstrate the ability to succeed than by rising to the top of a highly competitive field at our National Championships.

number of new people trying curling and the profile of the sport peaks when Team GB curlers are in action, and we all want to see them do well!

Scottish Curling have secured agreement from British Curling that all funded teams will be required to play in the Scottish Championships and will additionally help us promote the event. They have also agreed that should a non-performance programme team win the Scottish Champion title and not be selected for the World Championships, British Curling will provide a funded trip to an international competition within the following year, increasing the profile and international standing of the team, who would also be in an excellent position to apply for British Curling support.

The selection policy can be seen [here](#) and the original announcement can be seen [here](#). The minutes of board meetings can be seen [here](#).

In conclusion, Scotland has developed a rich seam of talented curlers with medal winning potential who have benefitted from the effective partnership with British Curling through the performance programme support. The board recommends that members support the decision taken by the Board in the best interests of Curling in Scotland, and vote against the motion proposed by New Abbey Curling Club.