

## **Note of SIRA virtual Group Meeting Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 11.00am Via ZOOM**

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Mike Ferguson, Chairman, welcomed SIRA members, guests and Governing Body representatives.

34 joined in the meeting, namely: Tom Pendreigh, Tom Brewster, Richard Harding, Richard Stirling, Gail Munro, Graham Baxter, Bob Tait, Jim Barton, Cameron Clark, Lockhart Steel, Sharon Law, Maggie Wilson, Lucy Tile, Simon Lang, Graham McEvoy, Iain Stewart, David Thomson, Jayne Stirling, John Laird, Neil Craik, Kenneth Murray, Simon Briggs, Scott Henderson, Michael Green, David Thomson, Bruce Crawford, Steven Kerr, Brenda McIntyre, Liz Neil, Richard Smith, Billy Hanafin, Keith Petrie.

Apologies from Shaun IRMA, Chairman

### **SURVEY RESULTS**

18/22 Rinks responded. Refer to presentation

Need for Covid-19 training identified as a possible SIRA action

- When training, ensure that both trainer and trainee sign to evidence that the training has occurred.
- Note was made that Coaching will need to be locally led as many of those involved could be classified as vulnerable and this may impact on the ability to provide pre-COVID-19 levels.

### **WORK TO DATE:**

Tom Pendreigh reported that out of adversity springs opportunity and in this instance, it has been the chance to work more closely with the Ice Rink Managers Association (IRMA) who have been very open to sharing and very welcoming.

TP went on to say that with the strength in sharing it was agreed that there was no point in duplicating the already advanced work that IRMA had already achieved within their working groups and that input from SIRA had been welcomed.

SIRA members are able to access the resources on the IRM website: -

<https://www.icerinkmanagers.org.uk/>

and are encouraged to register if they haven't already done so. These documents are open, fluid and feedback is welcomed.

With England potentially being able to open-up before the devolved countries there may be an opportunity for Scottish Ice Technicians to become involved with Rinks south of the border who's staff perhaps don't have the skills to set-up from scratch. Please contact Mike or Tom if you know of anyone interested.

MF thanked Scott Henderson who had already been able to offer technical advice. MF also apologised to all those who had volunteered and explained that it had become clear that we were behind the game and was grateful to TP for his input and work with IRMA.

## **GOVERNING BODIES:**

Bruce Crawford, Scottish Curling, explained that Curling is not likely to be allowed until Phase 3 of the Scottish Government's plans which is unlikely to be before August although he hopes to be able to negotiate a way forward for the High Performance athletes to return discretely before this.

BC referred to the 'Return to Curling Guide' which Scottish Curling shared with Ice Rinks in draft form which should be ready to share with the membership at the end of this week. The main purpose of this document is to instil confidence in the membership that they will be able to SAFELY return to the Curling.

Concern was raised that the document could be interpreted as a command rather than guidance and Bruce was asked to ensure that the membership were aware that it was a working moveable document that would change as the government guidelines adjusted, e.g. reference to 'facemasks' should change to 'face coverings' and it should stress that it should follow the government guidelines. Also, the reference to 2 meters should perhaps only refer to recommended distancing as the actual recommended distance may well change in line with other countries.

It was noted that every rink is different, and many decisions will require to be site specific.

Billy shared with the meeting that they had discovered a spray disinfectant that could potentially be used to reduce labour. Dettol 'All in One, other brands available!

David Thomson summarised the position for British Ice Skating

- Guidelines for return to skating have been produced and have been independently verified.
- Indications are that each skater requires 25m<sup>2</sup>, therefore Patch would allow 30 persons to use the rink and Learn to Skate approximately 60.
- Phase 2 would see Professionals only return and Phase 3 more general skating and this is unlikely to happen before 9<sup>th</sup> July.
- Skating Clubs are very keen to explore the possibility of having one ice rink open in each area to act as a HUB and would welcome dialogue with rinks to establish if this would be financially viable for all involved. David indicated that BIS have a hardship fund which may help.
- Extra costs to consider may include extra marshalling and cleaning

## **OPEN FORUM:**

MF opened discussions with his thoughts on potentially reducing the number of rinks at Forfar from 7 to 5 and explained that he considered that it may be beneficial at the start of the season but with the hope that restrictions would relax that it would negatively impact on the latter half of the season as once your markings are down it is difficult to change them.

In-ice markings were discussed and again it was felt that it was too early to make decisions on this as the distancing guidelines may change. Too many markings in the ice may also confuse!

Other considerations and discussions

- One-way systems in buildings

- Use of Lifeguard Chairs for easier directions
- Stewarding - Possibly appoint a dedicated steward.
- First Aid Requirements

Funding was also discussed and some rinks had been successful with Small Business Support grants, Rates related grants, Sports Club relief grants and also Loans which come initially interest free followed by very competitive rates which might help restructure finances in the longer term. Please refer to earlier emails for links to relevant help.

**SIRA AGM:**

It was again agreed to postpone the AGM to a date nearer the start of the new season and to continue with monthly Zoom calls throughout the summer.

Michael Green extended a vote of thanks to Mike and Tom for all their work to date and Mike again thanked everyone for their attendance, support and input.