

Your Curler

keeping you connected with Scottish Curling



In this month's issue...

COMPETITIONS

Looking ahead to the Rotary World Curling Championships

CLUBS & RINKS

Glasgow XX score 8-ender

FEATURES

Scotland's 2018 World Senior Curling Championships representatives have been decided



FEATURES

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

This edition of Your Curler is packed with great stories and features from the Scottish Curling community. The Olympic games provided some inspiring coverage of the sport at the highest level, though we need to give some curling lessons to one of the commentators.

We were right behind the TeamGB curlers who made us proud and we share their disappointment that they missed the medals, but they were all great ambassadors for the sport. Clubs around the country have been welcoming new people to curling on the back of the BBC and other media coverage and we hope that many of these new people can be attracted to join their local clubs, take beginner lessons and get active on the ice before the end of the season and brought back after the summer.

The big event we are running in March is the 2018 World Junior Curling Championships in Aberdeen. It runs 3-10 March and tickets may still be available at the door or from the eventbrite page if you search "wjcc2018".

Back in Korea, our Paralympic athletes will be in action 10-17 March. We will be supporting them from afar but willing them on to play their best for ParalympicsGB.

BRUCE CRAWFORD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SECOND PLACE FINISH FOR SCOTLAND AT GB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Scotland's wheelchair curlers were in action at the GB Wheelchair Curling Championships in Hamilton from 4th-6th February. The Scots were up against a strong international and domestic field in what would be the perfect warm up for the forthcoming PyeongChang Winter Paralympic Games.

Scotland progressed through the round robin phase with five wins from five matches, including victories over international sides from Germany and Denmark and Aileen Neilson's rink went into the semi-finals with high hope of taking the GB title. A maximum of ten points, with 23 ends won, meant Scotland topped Group A after Sunday and Monday's action. Group B saw Korea match Scotland with a 100 per cent record, while Sweden also showed their strength to finish second with four wins from five matches.

The Scots progressed to a semi-final meeting against a strong Swedish rink and it turned out to be a close run thing with Scotland emerging the winners by 5-4. With Korea beating the rink skipped by Torino 2006 Paralympic silver medallist Michael McCreadie 6-4 in their semi-final, it set up a clash between the two unbeaten sides in Tuesday's final.

Unfortunately, it was not to be a third British Open title in a row for Aileen with team mates Gregor Ewan, Hugh Nibloe, Robert McPherson and Angie Malone, as the Scots were beaten 6-3 by a strong Korean outfit in an extra end.

Aileen commented;



“The final was an extremely close game with only blank ends and singles being exchanged,”

“Team Scotland had to steal in the extra end and were lying shot until the Korean skip played a great take out through the port to take the victory.”

“The event provided a great opportunity to compete in a high class line up and was a great confidence boost beating the German and Swedish Paralympic teams just before the Games.”

“We have received lots of messages of support from friends and family and it is nice to know that everyone back home will be rooting for us when we are in PyeongChang competing for Great Britain.”

The Scottish rink will now don the colours of ParalympicsGB as they compete in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Paralympic Games from the 9th – 18th March with their confidence boosted after a successful GB Championships.

Ayr's Development Workshop

Ayr's Development officer has been running a number of workshops for our existing members. Over the last few months Scott has run 7 sessions involving how to improve your delivery and how to improve your sweeping.

The workshops were very well attended, and feedback has been positive and everyone has found the benefit of having Scott in the new role of Development Officer.



THE FERGUSON OLIVER WEALTH MANAGEMENT SCOTTISH CURLING SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The Ferguson Oliver Wealth Management Scottish Curling Senior Championship concluded with two fantastic draws in both the men's and women's finals.

MEN'S FINAL: Gray 4 – 8 Muirhead

WOMEN'S FINAL: Kesley 8 – 3 Robertson

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Team Gray (Greenacres):

Robin Gray, Robin Halliday, Douglas Kerr, Eric Richardson

Team Muirhead (Perth):

Gordon Muirhead, Norman Brown, David Hay, Hugh Aitken

It was a dream start for Team Muirhead as they raced to a 4-0 lead after the first end. Team Gray fought back in the second scoring a 1 to stay in the game, however, Team Muirhead responded with a score of two to cement their 6-1 lead. Team Gray dug deep in the fifth, sixth and seventh end scoring pulling the score back to 8-4. Team Muirhead saw out the 8th end with strong play leading to a shaking of hands, securing their place in Sweden.

Final: 4 – 8

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Team Kesley (Murrayfield):

Susan Kesley, Fran Stretton, Vicky Gumley, Morna Aitken

Team Robertson (Borders):

Wendy Henderson, Margaret Robertson (S), June Swan, Venetia Scott

Team Robertson took an early lead going up 1-0 after the first end. In the second end Team Kesley had one lonely stone and were looking potentially in trouble before Fran Stretton (3rd) played a lovely hit-n-roll. This led to a score of 2 before following up with dominant steals in the third and fourth ends where they also scored duos. Team Robertson managed to create a guddle in the fifth end and take two to stay in contention. Team Kesley responded with Skip Susan playing her final stone to sneak past a guard to score another two to lead 8-3. Team Robertson felt the mountain was too hard to climb and shook hands.

Final: 8 – 3

The World Senior Curling Championships (WSSC) will be held in Oestersund Sweden, between 21-28 April 2018.







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CLUBS & RINKS

GLASGOW XX 8-ENDER

An 8-ender took place at Greenacres last night in the annual 2 rink challenge match between old city rivals Pollok CC and Glasgow XX CC.

The occasion happened in the 7th (and last!) end of what up to then had been a very tight match with XX club leading 8-7 but without last stone.

The final Pollok stone looked set to cut the deficit but brushed one of their own guards just sufficiently to divert it outside the rings.

The bemused Glasgow XX rink were (l to r), Norman Walker, John Henderson (Skip), Iain Smith and Ian Taylor.

Inspired by the happenings in the neighbouring rink, the other match also went to Glasgow XX, allowing them to win back the Anonymous Quaich and take a one match lead in the annual series.

Any further info required, please contact Alan Sloan 07710786719.



2018 OLYMPIC CAMERA OPERATOR

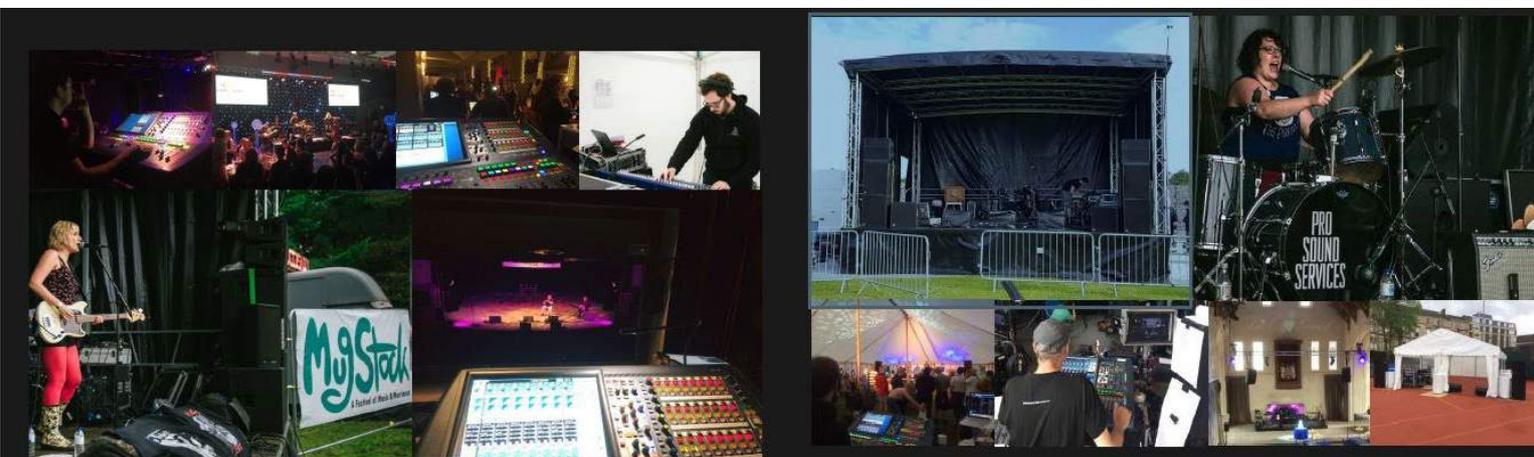
I am a member of the Dunblane Curling club and am proud to have had my son Travis working as a camera operator for the curling at the recent Olympics.

Travis lives and works in Winnipeg, Canada and was chosen by CBC (Canadian Broadcast Corporation) to go to Pyeongchang, South Korea for three weeks of gruelling work, putting in up to 15 hours per day at the curling venue. His experiences there will add to his over 20 years of camera work with many news and sports organisations in Winnipeg and in the rest of Canada.

His next trip, as camera operator, is to Las Vegas in March for the world Curling Championships. I hope these two events are the start of many more curling events for him to experience.

Well done Travis!

PHOTO: TRAVIS OLYMPICS.JPG
PHOTO CONTRIBUTOR: IAN GOLBY



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CONCERTS | FESTIVALS | EVENTS

MARIE CURIE CURLING FUNDRAISER

A fantastic afternoon of curling took place at Lockerbie Ice Rink recently in aid of Marie Curie.

A big thank you to all who took part, donated, gave raffle prizes or just came along to support this very worthwhile cause which raised the magnificent total sum of £1533.

Event organiser, Linda Imrie presented the cheque to Brenda Donaldson from Marie Curie.

PICTURE SHOWS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
LINDA IMRIE, BRENDA DONALDSON AND WILLIAM MUIR



DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE NEXT YOUR CURLER?

Complete our online form by...

MARCH 24TH 2018

Visit the **RCCC** website or click >>



Tweet of the Month...



Team GB @TeamGB · Feb 24

They leave without a medal, but both @Team_Muirhead and @Team_Smith13 captured our hearts over these two weeks.

Thank you all for getting involved and showing such incredible support.

We'll see you again in four years...

#WeAreTheGreat #lovecurling

For more like this, follow @TeamGB

COMPETITIONS & EVENTS



Simply click on the dates for more information.

3rd - 10th Mar 2018

**WORLD JUNIOR CURLING
CHAMPIONSHIPS, SCOTLAND**

Curl Aberdeen

17th - 25th Mar 2018

**FORD WORLD WOMEN'S CURLING
CHAMPIONSHIP 2018**

Canada

9th - 18th Mar 2018

2018 PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

PYEONGCHANG

23rd - 25th Mar 2018

THE RINK CHAMPIONSHIP

Forfar Indoor Sports

13th Mar 2018

THE MORTON TROPHY

Fife Ice Arena

24th Mar 2018

**NATIONAL VIRTUAL CLUB
CHALLENGE**

Braehead Curling

13th Mar 2018

THE MAXWELL TROPHY

Ayr Ice Rink

25th Mar 2018

NEWCOMERS TROPHY

Greenacres Curling Rink

16th - 18th Mar 2018

**SCOTTISH SCHOOLS CURLING
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Braehead Curling

16th - 18th Mar 2018

31st Mar - 8th Apr 2018

**WORLD MEN'S CURLING
CHAMPIONSHIP**

LAS VEGAS

**SCOTTISH CURLING PAIRS
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Stranraer Ice Rink



THE ROTARY WORLD CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

7

The Rotary World Curling Championships is coming to Hamilton Ice Rink, South Lanarkshire from 6th to 13th April 2018.

The Championships are contested every 2 years, returning to Scotland every 4 years, and are being hosted in 2018 by East Kilbride Rotary Club and organised by members of Glasgow and District Rotary Clubs. 12 teams, 3 from Scotland, 1 from England and the remainder from Canada and USA compete in the championship in a round robin tournament with the finals for Rotary World Champions on the 13th April.

During the same week up to 16 Rotarian teams mainly from America and Canada will compete in the Friendship games with most bringing their wives and partners to enjoy the local history and ambience. So all in all we are expecting 112 curlers participating throughout the week.

Plans are underway to broadcast all games on each rink in real time giving interested parties the opportunity to watch the event as it progresses during the week.



A FULL PROGRAMME AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEB SITE >>



Curling Week in Kandersteg, Bernese Oberland, Switzerland from the 23rd of March until the 2nd of April 2018



A	23.03. – 25.03	Waldhotel Doldenhorn Cup
B	26.03. – 27.03	Senior's Cup (M:60, F:55) or Pairs Cup
C	28.03.	Day off
D	29.03. – 30.03.	Skins Games
E	31.03. – 02.04.	Easter Cup



Accommodation packages

10 nights (23.03. – 02.04.2018)

Room category	Double occupancy	Single occupancy surcharge
Standard	CHF 1895 GBP 1460	CHF 200 GBP 154
First class	CHF 2395 GBP 1845	CHF 300 GBP 231

Price per person including all cup's entry fees from A to E, room, access to wellness area, breakfast, dinners or banquettes during the cups, whisky seminar and pool party.

The prices in GBP are reference prices using the exchange rate from October 21st 2017. Price to be paid in CHF.

About the hotel:

The Waldhotel Doldenhorn is a ★★★★★ hotel in Kandersteg. For more information please visit:

www.doldenhorn-ruedihus.ch

Reservation: info@doldenhorn.ch

or +41 33 675 81 81



7 nights (26.03. – 02.04.2018)

Room category	Double occupancy	Single occupancy surcharge
Standard	CHF 1390 GBP 1070	CHF 140 GBP 108
First class	CHF 1740 GBP 1340	CHF 210 GBP 162

Price per person including all cup's entry fees from B to E, room, access to wellness area, breakfast, dinners or banquettes during the cups, whisky seminar and pool party.

The prices in GBP are reference prices using the exchange rate from October 21st 2017. Price to be paid in CHF.

SWCA FRIENDSHIP TROPHY COMPETITION

Once again the Annual Battle of the Friendship Trophy was contested between members of the North Clubs and their fellow curlers from the South Clubs. Ten players from each team took part playing in 2 Pairs games and 2 Triples games with 6 stones.

Two sessions of play took place allowing as many of the players as possible to play their opposition. This competition is aimed at relatively new curlers and supplemented by some experienced curlers to guide them.

One pair from the North, Debbie McKenna and Maria Duncan scored a 6 ender quite an achievement for this duo. I won't embarrass their opponents by naming them other than to say they came from the South.

Despite this the South retained the Trophy for the second consecutive year.

The Trophy a beautiful Cut Glass Plate was donated by Ann McGarva who was a great supporter of Wheelchair Curling and who sadly passed away last year. It was hoped that her son Neil would be present to present the Trophy this year, unfortunately he was ill and could not do the honours. In his place Judy McKenzie very kindly stood in for Neil.

The day was nicely rounded off by a meal where all the curlers were encouraged to socialise in the true sense of the Friendship Spirit.

ARTICLE: ROSEMARY LENTON



NORTH WEST CASTLE

- Stranraer Ice Rink -

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CURLING WEEKENDS

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Tennent Caledonian	19 - 21 October 2018
Berkmann Wines	2 - 4 November 2018
Courvoisier	9 - 11 November 2018
Black Bottle	11 - 13 January 2019
Grants Whisky	25 - 27 January 2019
Glenfiddich	1 - 3 February 2019
Beefeater Gin	8 - 10 February 2019
Tennent Caledonian	22- 24 February 2019
Teachers	1 - 3 March 2019

OPEN COMPETITIONS AVAILABLE, PLEASE CONTACT US FOR DETAILS.

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CURLABILITY COMPETITION

9

On Tuesday 27th February, 12 curlers from across Scotland, and even as far as Canada, came together at the Peak, Stirling for the first inclusive curling competition for many years. Unfortunately, the weather warnings meant that several were unable to come, but we are hopeful to get another date for them.

We had curlers from the VICKS (Vision Impaired Curlers Scotland), Scottish Disability Golf and Curling Club, Dundee Dragons Wheelchair Curling Club, East Kilbride Ice Rink and Stirling Ice Rink. Curlers were placed into teams of three to maximise amount of curling. Everyone was able to step up to challenge, with some even managing to skip for the first time.

The games were hotly contested, with a measure even being called for, ably deployed by Coach Dottie Burt, also a qualified Umpire fresh (!) from officiating at the Senior Championships. A round robin was played with 3 games of four ends each and curlers enjoyed a quick bite of cake and some tea upstairs in the café before finishing with a Points challenge. The curlers were delighted to be joined by the reigning Scottish Champions, Team Mouat, who even threw some stones, attempting to 'Draw through a Port'.

The team were then able to present the prizes to the teams. Each participant received a Scottish Curling keyring and trophies were supplied by Black Noir.

The Points Competition proved challenging but 3 curlers came 2nd equal – Liz Roden, Alan Mills and Graham Seivewright. The winner was Bob Drysdale. Fourth place went to Team 1, with Graham, Alan R and Liz C. Third placed team was Team 2 with Nancy, Liz and Alan M. Second place went to Team 4, with Bob, Jillian and Adrian. The winners were Team 3, which was Donna, Margaret and Wilson.

Quote from Dottie

“Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, learnt a lot and made new friends. The 'icing on the cake' was the boys coming to present the prizes.”

A huge thank you goes to all who helped out, including Rachel, Rachel, Jacky, Judy, Bill, Alan and Dave, and especially Dottie. I think those who helped with sweeping stones certainly had an incredible workout!

Thanks also to Team Mouat and coach Alan for coming down from their practice in Perth ahead of the playoff. The time they spent chatting and having their pictures taken with curlers was much appreciated.

NEW ICE SURFACE ADDS SHINE TO OLYMPIC SPORT IN THE CAPITAL

Curling in Edinburgh will receive a boost when a £1.1 million refurbishment programme gets underway at the Capital's only Curling Rink at Murrayfield.

Murrayfield Curling Ltd is to replace the rink's concrete cooling floor, which has reached the end of its lifespan, with a modern more energy efficient and environmentally friendly surface.

More than 1600 curlers from eight-year-olds to octogenarians play curling for around 70 clubs at the rink, which is situated in the shadow of the national rugby stadium in west Edinburgh.

The environmentally-friendly solution will dramatically cut the amount of water required to be frozen to produce a surface for curling, from an estimated 125,000 litres down to less than 25,000 litres, and energy consumption is expected to be cut by up to 20% per year.

Along with existing reserves, Edinburgh Curling Club members have donated more than £400,000 to support the refurbishment, while SportScotland have awarded a £200,000 grant and the World Curling Federation have agreed to provide a \$100,000 interest free loan.

Norman Watt, chairman of Murrayfield Curling Ltd, said the improvement work would greatly enhance the curling experience for thousands of club members. He said:

“The current playing surface has served the curling community well but a more modern surface is long overdue. This refurbishment programme will ensure existing and new curlers will be able to enjoy our sport by playing on one of the best ice surfaces in the country.

It is through the commitment and generosity of members of Edinburgh Curling Club and the valued support of SportScotland and the World Curling Federation that we are able to undertake such an ambitious project.

It will not only make curling in Edinburgh a far more pleasurable experience but the energy efficiencies we are introducing will reduce our annual overheads.”

SportScotland chief executive, Stewart Harris, said:

“We are delighted to be investing in the curling rink at Murrayfield. The new surface will support the curling community around Edinburgh and beyond for years to come.

Curling is in a great place at the moment in Scotland and Scottish Curling continues to do great work to encourage more people to take up the sport.”



BACK LEFT TO RIGHT: STEVEN ANDERSON, SPORTSCOTLAND, COLIN BAXTER, PRESIDENT EDINBURGH CURLING CLUB, PAUL STEVENSON, DIRECTOR MURRAYFIELD CURLING LTD AND NORMAN WATT CHAIRMAN MURRAYFIELD CURLING LTD. CURLERS: JENNIFER DODDS, SCOTTISH LADIES CHAMPION AND BRUCE MOUAT, SCOTTISH MENS CHAMPION.