



YOUR CURLER

magazine

Issue 06 - February 2019



- 04** Clean Sweep For Jackson
- 05** Back To back For Mouat
- 06** Bronze Is The New Whyte
- 08** Silver Lining
- 09** Team GB-bronze
- 10** World Men's 2020
- 12** What's On: March
- 14** Performance Athlete Education
- 16** Around The Rinks
- 20** Inclusive Curling Update
- 22** Student Try Curling
- 24** Scottish Curling Curling
- 26** Competition Corner
- 32** 8-ENDER Alert





Welcome to our new look interactive Your Curler magazine.

We are now in the home straight for season 2018-19 with just a few more weeks of curling for most of us, and what a season we have already seen. The warmest winter temperature recorded in the UK was 21.2 in London on 26 February, saw off the chances of late season curling outdoors, so the focus remains on keeping our indoor rinks in operation and busy introducing new people to the sport.

Hosting the 2019 World Wheelchair Curling Championship in Stirling in March was an honour and it was a pleasure to see our Scottish Team go all the way to the final and come away with silver medals. The standard of play was exceptional, going into the last round robin game, eight teams were bunched in the middle not knowing if they faced playoff spots or for some, relegation. The event was the first in the road to the 2022 Paralympics in Beijing, so with such a good start from Team Scotland, it bodes well for the future.

The championship was built on Scottish Curling's strong partnerships with UK Sport, Event Scotland, Stirling Council, Active Stirling and Allied Mobility. I would like to thank all of the 100 volunteers who gave the athletes a memorable experience in Scotland, ably led by LOC chairman Andy Hemming and also thank staff from all of the organisations for going the extra mile. The team effort was superb, we created a true world class event and the feedback from players and coaches has been full of praise for the event. Anyone who is interested can see the broadcast games on the Scottish Curling Facebook page and the medal games are also available on the BBC website and iplayer.

The working group looking at structure of Scottish Curling has received over 800 responses and this will generate some valuable feedback for the group to incorporate into their next steps. The survey closes on Sunday 17 March, so for anyone who has not yet completed it, please take a few minutes to do so. The working group will produce draft recommendations for discussion and then after some consultation meetings a report will be presented to the board for approval and then to the members to vote on any proposed changes online and at the AGM. I would like to thank every member who has taken the time to complete the survey and look forward to seeing the analysis and proposals that will follow.

I am delighted to learn that Edinburgh Curlers have been successful in raising funds and are proceeding with the refurbishment over the summer. Please let us know other news from around the rinks that we can share with our members.

Bruce Crawford
Chief Executive Officer



CLEAN SWEEP FOR JACKSON

The final today saw a classic battle between youth and experience. Team Jackson played to an excellent standard to power their way through to the top of the round robin with only one loss coming in their opening game. In the final they faced off against one of the most decorated skips in Scottish Curling history. Team Muirhead, were led by seven time champion Eve Muirhead aiming to add her eighth championship to the trophy cabinet.

The draw got off to a slow start with Team Jackson blanking the first end to retain the hammer. The action picked up in the second, however, with Jackson facing a draw to the 4ft for chance to take 1 in second end. While she didn't manage the draw she intended Sophie's shot was able to use the outlying Muirhead stone to roll off and secure her 1. After 5 ends of play the teams headed into the break with Team Jackson leading 5-3.

Entering the eighth end both teams seemed to struggle with weight, Eve Muirhead seemed to recover first and managed a hit and stick to lie 2 but left the double for open for Sophie to capitalise upon. Jackson made the shot but the Muirhead's red stone stayed just within the 8ft preventing Jackson from lying 4. Muirhead's final shot cleared the 4ft leaving Sophie with a draw around the guard for a massive score of 5 giving Team Jackson a sizable 10-5 lead with 2 ends to remaining. Team Muirhead, determined not to give up, continued on with the game when others may have shaken hands and called it a day. Team Jackson seemed to find more confidence, making their shots with ease and focusing more on a tactically defensive game.

A miss by Sophie allowed Eve a hit and stick to lie for 4 and setting up a tense finale. With the biggest shot of her curling career Sophie was able to remove Eve's red stone and lie for 1. This secured Team Jackson a 11-7 victory, their 3rd win over Team Muirhead this week and their first Scottish title.

Team Jackson now head to the LGT World Women's Curling Championship in Denmark (16-24th March). We wish Sophie Sinclair, Milli Smith, Naomi Brown, Sophie Jackson and Coach Tom Brewster the best of luck.



BACK-TO-BACK FOR MOUAT

Team Muirhead are the modern day band of brothers and most recently represented Team GB at the 2018 Winter Olympics. They came through a tough semi-final against Team Paterson and came into today's final battle hardened. They faced current European Champions Team Mouat, who are not only Scotland's first men's team to win a grand slam title but are defending their Scottish Championship title.

Both teams started strong with each keen to dominate the game. After a series of swapped hits Team Mouat blanked the end to retain the hammer. A series of small errors built up for Team Mouat when several attempted doubles jammed. Glen took further advantage with a hit and roll with his first stone to lie at the back of the 4ft behind the guards. Team Mouat looked to prevent a big loss with a well-placed double takeout to cleared two stones from play, however, it wasn't enough and an easy draw for Muirhead sent the teams into the 5th end break level on 2 all.

With the score 4-3 in favour of the defending Champions Team Mouat heading into in the eighth end, Bruce was left with a nose hit to score 2 and extend his team's lead to 6-3. Muirhead fought back in the ninth end and was rewarded with a draw to claim 2, leaving it all to play for in the final end.

The final end got off to a great start as Mouat Lead Hammy McMillan pulled off two tic shots in a row ensuring that with one stone remaining for each skip Team Mouat looked to score 1. Glen Muirhead pulled off a great double takeout to lie 2 before a perfect weight draw by Bruce Mouat gave his team a 7-5 victory and their second Scottish Championship title in as many years.

Team Mouat now head to the Pioneer Hi-Bred World Men's Curling Championship in Canada (30th March - 7th April). We wish Hammy McMillan, Bobby Lammie, Grant Hardie, Bruce Mouat and Coach Alan Hannah the best of luck.

Photo Credit: Tom Brydone



BRONZE IS THE NEW WHYTE

The World Junior Curling Championships came to a close in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Canada for Team Scotland on Saturday 23rd February when the Junior Men's team of Ross Whyte, Duncan McFadzean, James Craik, Euan Kyle, Ryan McCormack and coach Greg Drummond defeated Norway to claim the Bronze medal.

The Scottish men went through the round robin unbeaten and therefore ranked in first place, so faced fourth placed Switzerland team in straight semi finals. Scotland found themselves four shots down after the first end when Ross Whyte's attempted runback to score three didn't go as planned. They fought their way back into the game with a hit to score three after the Swiss skip wrecked on a guard. The teams traded ends after that and the game was tied going in to the ninth end. Switzerland made a draw to the four-foot to win in the tenth end 10-9. Canada and Norway played in the other semi final, where Canada came out on top and went on to win the Gold Medal defeating Switzerland 9-4.

The Bronze Medal game was a close encounter, with Scotland always having the controlling edge. They traded one shot each with Norway in the opening two ends before Scotland had a big steal of three in the third end. The teams then traded two's over ends four and five which saw Scotland go into the break 6-3 ahead. Scotland kept control in the second half of the game and with an 8-5 lead going into the tenth end, they ran Norway out of stones.

Following the Bronze medal game, skip Ross Whyte remarked "That wasn't quite the result we wanted this week, but we came back after a struggle last night and we showed what we're about."

Our congratulations goes out to the team for very well earned World Junior Bronze medals.

The Scottish Junior women's campaign came to an end a day earlier, following their last round robin game. Their week started well and looked prosperous after they beat favourites, Canada, 6-5 in their opening game. An unfortunate run of close games ended in defeats thereafter and kept pressure on Team Davie but a place in the later stages became out of reach and they soon found themselves battling relegation to the B Championships. A tenth placed means Scotland was relegated but we will send a representative team to the World Junior B Championship in order to qualify for next year's competition.

In the Women's Gold Medal game Russia beat Canada 8-7 and Switzerland snatched the Bronze Medal from China by stealing two in the tenth end to win 6-4.

Report by Barbara McFarlane

Photo © WCF Rachel MacRae/Richard Gray





SILVER LINING



SILVER MEDALLIST

Team Scotland finished the World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Stirling, in second place, with a silver medal after losing to China in the final.

The Paralympic gold medallists, led by Wang Haitao, beat Aileen Neilson's rink 5-2 in Sunday's Stirling showpiece.

The home side had overcome Slovakia after an extra end in their qualification game and caused an upset by eliminating holders Norway in the last four.

On winning silver, Neilson, said:

"We fought hard and we hoped to be in it until the end. There were a couple of loose shots, I felt – if I had got that two earlier on and a better guard in end seven – it could have been very different. We're delighted to be on the podium on home soil – it's fantastic."
(Quote courtesy of WCF)

Many congratulations to our Wheelchair Curling Team (Skip Aileen Neilson, Hugh Nibloe, David Melrose, Robert McPherson, Gary Logan) and coach Sheila Swan, on their podium finish. Scotland now move into 5th in the World rankings.

Scotland, who took home the silver medals, are skip Aileen Neilson, third Hugh Nibloe, second David Melrose and lead Robert McPherson. Gary Logan is alternate and Sheila Swan is the coach.

All the match reports can be found [here](#)

Photo © WCF Tom Rowland/Richard Gray

TEAM GB-RONZE



KRASNOYARSK 2019
29TH WINTER UNIVERSIADE



Team Whyte enjoyed a successful World University Winter Games as they secured Team GB's a bronze medal.

Having led the full GB squad out at the opening ceremony, Whyte went into the tournament full of confidence and his team's success secured the British team's first podium finish in Russia.

Sports Studies student Whyte skipped the men's team to top position after the round-robin group stage, only losing once before an unlucky defeat to eventual winners Norway in the semi-final, setting up the bronze medal match between GB and Switzerland.

It was a tight affair throughout against the Swiss before the Brits prevailed 10:5, with skip Whyte securing a four with the final stone of the match.

Speaking of their best performance of the tournament, Whyte said: *"We played such a good match in the final game and are so happy to get it over the line and get on that podium. After such a hard week, it feels great to go home with the bronze. We're really glad we came out fighting after a tough loss yesterday to show what we are about."*

In the women's event, Whyte's fellow Stirling scholars, Sophie Jackson and Mili Smith, fell just short of matching his bronze as they were defeated by eventual gold medal winners Sweden, in the semi-finals, before losing out to hosts Russia in the bronze medal match.

The World University Winter Games are a bi-annual, multi-sport event and the second-largest multi-sport winter event globally. Hosted by the International University Sports Federation, they bring together the world's most talented student athletes.

Report by Duncan Fisher



LGT World Men's Curling Championship 2020



LGT WORLD MEN'S
CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP
GLASGOW | SCOTLAND 2020

Emirates Arena, Glasgow, Scotland
28 March – 5 April 2020

Tickets on sale now!
www.wmcc2020.com

Official Title Sponsor



Official Presenting Sponsor



Official WCF Suppliers



Official Event Partners



Scotland and Glasgow are delighted to be hosting the LGT World Men's Curling Championship in 2020. The event will be staged in the city's iconic Emirates Arena, a venue which has played host to many world-class events, from 27 March to 5 April.



Glasgow, Scotland

Glasgow is one of Europe's most vibrant and dynamic cities and has been voted the friendliest city in the world. Scotland's largest city is bursting with character, personality and great experiences. The city offers world-class visitor attractions, diverse neighbourhoods, stunning architecture, an ever-evolving food and drink scene and legendary nightlife.

Glasgow is extremely well served by transport links, including three international airports within 40 miles of the city centre and only an hour's flight from London. The city is also the gateway to some of Scotland's most beautiful scenery.

Scotland has a wealth of attractions to offer visitors. Stunning scenery, outdoor pursuits, heritage, golf, whisky and distilleries – there is something for everyone.

For more information on Glasgow's attractions, accommodation and how best to get there, please visit **www.peoplemakeglasgow.com**.

For more information on Scotland, including travel and accommodation, please visit **www.visitscotland.com**.

Tickets

Tickets are now on sale for the LGT World Men's Curling Championship 2020. To secure your seat at this exciting event, please go to **www.wmcc2020.com** and book your tickets now.

WHAT'S ON:



DATE	TITLE	VENUE	EVENT TYPE
15th - 17th Mar 2019	Scottish Curling Pairs Championship	Stranraer Ice Rink	Royal Caledonian Curling Club
16th - 24th Mar 2019	World Women's Championship, Denmark		World Curling Federation
23rd Mar 2019	Scottish Curling Funspiel	Dewars Centre	Royal Caledonian Curling Club
30th Mar - 7th Apr 2019	World Men's Championship, Lethbridge, Canada		World Curling Federation
30th Mar 2019	National Virtual Club Challenge	Braehead Curling	Royal Caledonian Curling Club
31st Mar 2019	Newcomers Trophy	Greenacres Curling Rink	Royal Caledonian Curling Club
5th - 7th Apr 2019	Goldline Scottish Curling Junior Mixed Doubles Championship	Dumfries Ice Bowl	Royal Caledonian Curling Club
12th - 14th Apr 2019	SCT: British Open	The Peak	Scottish Curling Tour
20th - 27th Apr 2019	World Mixed Doubles Championship, Stavanger, Norway		World Curling Federation
20th - 27th Apr 2019	World Senior Championships, Stavanger, Norway		World Curling Federation

Proudly supporting **Scottish Curling** night after night

Holiday Inn Express Perth

www.hiexpressperth.co.uk | +44 (0)1738 636666

Free Wi-Fi | Breakfast Included | Free Parking



AN IHG® HOTEL

**Visit Our
New Web Site**

**RCCC Members
Receive 5% Discount
On-Line**



www.curlingsupplies.com

Scotland's Largest Curling Supply Centre

**Curling Supplies - T/A Corston Sinclair Ltd
36 Glenburn Road, College Milton North
East Kilbride G74 5BA**

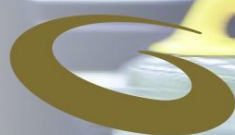
Tel: 01355 238161 Fax: 01355 263682

Email: sales@corstonsinclair.com

**Goldline is proud to partner with
Scottish Curling through our
sponsorship of Scottish Mixed
Doubles Championships.**

**Our goal is to promote growth
and development of the game by
supporting the efforts of
associations, ice rinks and
clubs.**

**Scottish Curling is poised to
deliver exciting changes and
Goldline is pleased to be a
contributor.**



Goldline

The Choice of Champions



Performance Athlete Education Programme

'Providing Quality Education to Aspiring Athletes'



Continuing Education

Company Training Solutions

Community Learning

Who the Course is for?

The course has been designed for talented curlers to enhance your education alongside your training and competition programme.

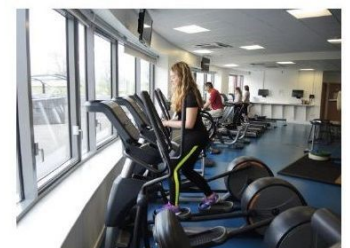
When you need to be in college?

Year 1 of the course runs from Wednesday 28th August 2019 – Thursday 11th June 2020

There is a year 2 option on completion of year 1.

Block	The days you will attend college
Block 1 - August to November	Wednesday & Thursday
Block 2 - November to March	Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Block 3 - March to June	Wednesday & Thursday

- Flexibility to accommodate competition/training
- Access to curling facilities at Dumfries Ice Bowl
- Access to HNC/HND Qualifications upon completion
- Potential Access to EMA/ Bursary
- Course fees fully funded (depending on eligibility)
- Access to Gym Facilities
- Access to I.T Facilities
- Access to Support Services
 - Educational Support Workers
 - Student Advisors





Preparing for Performance

Year 1

- NPA Exercise and Fitness Leadership
 - Circuit Training
 - Cardiovascular Training
 - Fixed & Free Weight Training
 - Exercise to Music
- NPA Achieving Excellence in Sport
 - Codes of Conduct
 - Individual Sports Performance
 - Performance Analysis
- Nutrition, Health & Wellbeing
 - Anatomy & Physiology
 - Sports Psychology
 - Injury, Prevention & Rehabilitation
 - Food preparation for sports performance
- Core Skills
 - Numeracy
 - I.T



Preparing for Employment

Year 2

- NPA Sport Development
- NPA Volunteering Events
- NPA Play in a Sports Environment
- Working in Communities
 - Working with Community Groups
 - Health Promotion
 - Volunteering
 - Safeguarding
 - First Aid

For more information contact:

Kevin Somerville – Curriculum Manager
 e:somervillek@dumgal.ac.uk
 t: 01387 734216

To apply:

Visit www.dumgal.ac.uk

Key Dates

Jan 2019 onwards – Apply online

Spring 2019 onwards – Apply for bursary / EMA funding

Induction Week –w/c 19th August 2019

Course starts – w/c 26th August 2019

AROUND THE RINKS

STRATHSPEY

The Nigel Grant Trophy was first played in December 1996 at Aviemore Ice Rink organised by the Grampian Province and was won by Strathspey Curling Club, skipped by Hamish McLeod. It moved to Inverness Ice Rink and continued to be played there until last year. Strathspey Curling Club won the trophy many times and will now hold the competition annually (weather permitting) at Grantown.

Nigel was a long serving Match Secretary for the Grampian Province along with his commitment to the Strathspey Club and RCCC. With his love for outdoor bonspiels, he helped organise many over the years. He took part in the last Grand Match in 1979 on the Lake of Monteith. It is now very appropriate that the trophy is played outdoors."

Report by Sally Greenlees

Photo by Stewart Grant



DUNDEE

Two teams of curling novices took part in a 'Try Curling' fundraiser for us at Dundee Ice Arena. A team from Lindsays Solicitors and another from our Move More Dundee project honed their skills during the day with fantastic support from Scottish Curling volunteer coaches. The evening match was very close but congratulations to Lindsays Solicitors for taking the trophy and a HUGE thank you to all involved for raising over £1000

Report by David Jones | Development Officer





AYR

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Curling Club were welcomed to Ayr on Sunday 24th February at the start of their Scottish tour. They arrived in the country only on Saturday and had been treated to a Burns Supper at Hamilton that evening. As a result they were maybe a bit disoriented allowing all six Ayr rinks to record victories with Ayr scoring 65 shots to 11 by the Mounties.

There was a buffet after the games and much socialising before the tourists headed back to their hotel for some much needed sleep !





NORTH WEST CASTLE

- Stranraer Ice Rink -

CURLING WEEKENDS

2 Nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
2 Buffet Lunches
and a minimum of 3 games of curling!

BOOK NOW FOR THE 2019-20 SEASON!

Berkman Wine	1 - 3 November 2019
Courvoisier	8- 10 November 2019
Black Bottle	10 - 12 January 2020
Grants	24 - 26 January 2020
Glenfiddich	31 January - 2 February 2020
Beefeater	7 - 9 February 2020
Tennent Caledonian	21 - 23 February 2020
Famous Grouse	28 February - 1 March 2020

OPEN COMPETITIONS AVAILABLE, PLEASE CONTACT US FOR DETAILS.

To book your curling weekend, please contact:

t: 01776 704 413 | e: hotel@northwestcastle.co.uk

Rate based on 2 people sharing a classic room.



An amazing collection
that illustrates curling
through the ages



Curling: made in Scotland



Wednesday 20th February
to Sunday 16th June 2019

Within the Scottish Football Museum
at Hampden Park, Glasgow G42 9AZ

Individual entry to the Scottish Football Museum & "Made in Scotland" is normally £8, but reduces to £4 on presentation of your Scottish Curling membership card.
For opening hours and directions go to <https://scottishfootballmuseum.org.uk>



INCLUSIVE CURLING UPDATE

2019 BRITISH OPEN WHEELCHAIR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Between 10th and 12th February 2019 Hamilton (Lanarkshire) Ice Rink hosted the British Open Wheelchair Curling Championship. There were 9 teams including Germany, British Curling, Team England, Northern Ice (Newcastle area) and Scotland.

This is a round robin competition with the usual points, ends scored, points up and points scored deciding the winner. However as there were 9 teams this posed a problem. It was decided that Team Germany would play against all teams, equating to 8 games with the others playing 7 games and 1 team sitting out each session. The 'Golden Draw' was then introduced. This was where with Team Germany playing all eight games, there was a system set up where there were eight teams (excluding Germany) put in an envelope and another set of envelopes with team numbers were put in (again excluding Germany).

At the end of the round robin, Team Ewan (Moray) were at the top with most points. Then kicked in the 'Golden Draw' One competitor picked an envelope with the number 4. Another competitor opened the team envelope marked 4 and it was the game that team Ewan won against Germany so that would not alter the results. If Team Germany had won that game then the result would have been different.

The representative, Harry Brody from the SWCA did make mention that team Ewan's team would be easier to get inscribed onto the Kate Caithness Trophy as last year's it was won by Korea. The results are as follows: 3rd Team Germany, 2nd Team England and Winners:

G. Ewan (skip),
I. Donaldson (vice),
J. Sellar,
G. Keith

Well done for all of those who took part.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE WORLD WHEELCHAIR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP



Athletes, volunteers, support staff and attendees have been enjoying the brilliant atmosphere at The Peak in Stirling this week, as the venue hosts the World Wheelchair Curling Championships 2019.

Teams from across the Globe have travelled to the city to compete against the best of the best, and be crowned World Champions.

As part of the legacy for the event, Scottish Curling staff, volunteers and the local organising committee have welcomed school and community groups and introduced over 200 people to curling, through our New Age Kurling kits, set up in the entrance vestibule; the youngest just 1 year old!

Mrs McNair Head teacher of Bridge of Allan Primary School, brought a group of P6s to cheer on the participants:

"We've seen China dominate their last game, and the children are learning more facts about wheelchair curling. We had the opportunity for ten tickets, which we had to put to a ballot it was so popular. It's brilliant for the children to see curling on an International stage, right on their doorstep."

Beth Anne and Morven, both ten, took up curling after trying it with school, and say it's been a great experience:

"We both started after a taster at school, now we come on Saturdays here, at The Peak. It's so cool to see how wheelchair curlers do it differently as they don't slide out. We're really enjoying our day!"

An International competition is many months in the planning, as Sheila Swan, Team Scotland Head Coach acknowledges:

"I think the Local Organising Committee have done a fantastic job this week, The Peak is a perfect venue for this type of event, there's lots of additional space, and one of the most important thing for us, there are lots of accessible toilets, which is brilliant!"

The ice this week has been top quality, the tech team and officials have excelled and of course a big thank you to the fans! This week the Scottish fans have really got behind us, there has always been support from the stands every game we've played. Having the backing of the home crowd feels like an extra person on the field, it helps us power through and aim for victory every time."

A huge thank you to all the volunteers, support staff, chefs, officials, participants and attendees who have helped make this championship a week to remember.

ON THE ICE WITH STUDENT TRY CURLING



We are excited to launch our new Student Try Curling sessions, which we hope will get many more young people involved in our wonderful sport. We've worked with student clubs, college staff, and Scottish Student Sport, to name but a few to get this fresh initiative off the ground.

Hot on the heels of an impressive Winter World University Games for Team GBR students, pilot events have been taking place this week in Inverness, Dundee, Edinburgh and Stirling.

Inverness College UHI, led by Scottish Curling Future Leader Faye McInnes had 30 attend their session, with fellow Future Leaders Brendon Todd and Layla Al-Saffar running two sessions at Dundee Ice Arena.

Stirling's session organised between Forth Valley College and University of Stirling was held in the NCA with Olympian Kyle Waddell and Olympic medalist Michael Goodfellow leading the coaching. Scottish Curling Future Leader Blair Haswell led on the promotion and marketing of the event.

Newbie Hiro from Japan is studying Engineering at Edinburgh Uni, and reckons he could get good pretty fast:

'I've done a lot of sports in my life but never a winter sport. You can really appreciate that balance is important, which would be useful for me in my main sport, karate. I've felt very welcomed today, it's a great atmosphere!'

Rachel Gray is president of Edinburgh Uni's curling club:

'We have the sports ball every year and we try to do a social event every week, if there's a big curling game on well all go over to someone's house and watch it. A lot of people are nervous about starting something new but we've had so many complete beginners start, in fresher's week, who are now coaches. It's such a good thing to try...'

To find out more info or to support this programme email Development Manager Iain M Stewart on iain@scottishcurling.org

The leading manufacturer
of wheelchair accessible
vehicles for the UK and Ireland.



www.alliedmobility.com



WANT TO BE PART OF THE NEXT YOUR CURLER?

COMPLETE THE FORM HERE BEFORE THE 25TH MARCH TO BE INCLUDED



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines



Cruise from Scotland

Scottish Curling have teamed up with award-winning Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines to give you a very tempting 10% membership discount* on your first sailing with them – and that's on top of any current offers. Existing Fred. Olsen customers can save 5%, in addition to their 5% Loyalty Club discount.



To book using your discount code **RCCC10** call the Scottish Curling booking hotline **0800 0355 108** or visit www.fredolsencruises.com

Bringing the world closer

*All bookings are subject to Fred. Olsen's (FOCL) standard terms & conditions, available on our website & on request. All prices quoted under the Scottish Curling members discount offer are exclusive to qualifying members & their travelling companions only, members must quote their discount code at time of booking. Membership discounts cannot be applied retrospectively. Bookings must be made via the booking hotline number 0800 0355 108. Proof of membership will be required at the time of booking. Offers cannot be extended to any unrelated third party, are subject to availability & may be withdrawn or amended at any time without prior notice. From time to time FOCL may run special offers which cannot be combined with this discount, including selected group travel deals. All guests booked under this scheme are requested to refrain from disclosing the fare paid whilst on board. Offer is for first-time cruisers with Fred. Olsen only. Fred. Olsen Oceans members are entitled to a 5% Scottish Curling discount subject to the same terms & conditions, to be applied after the standard Oceans discount, where applicable. In this instance, Oceans Terms & Conditions apply. This offer expires on 31st December 2019. E&OE.

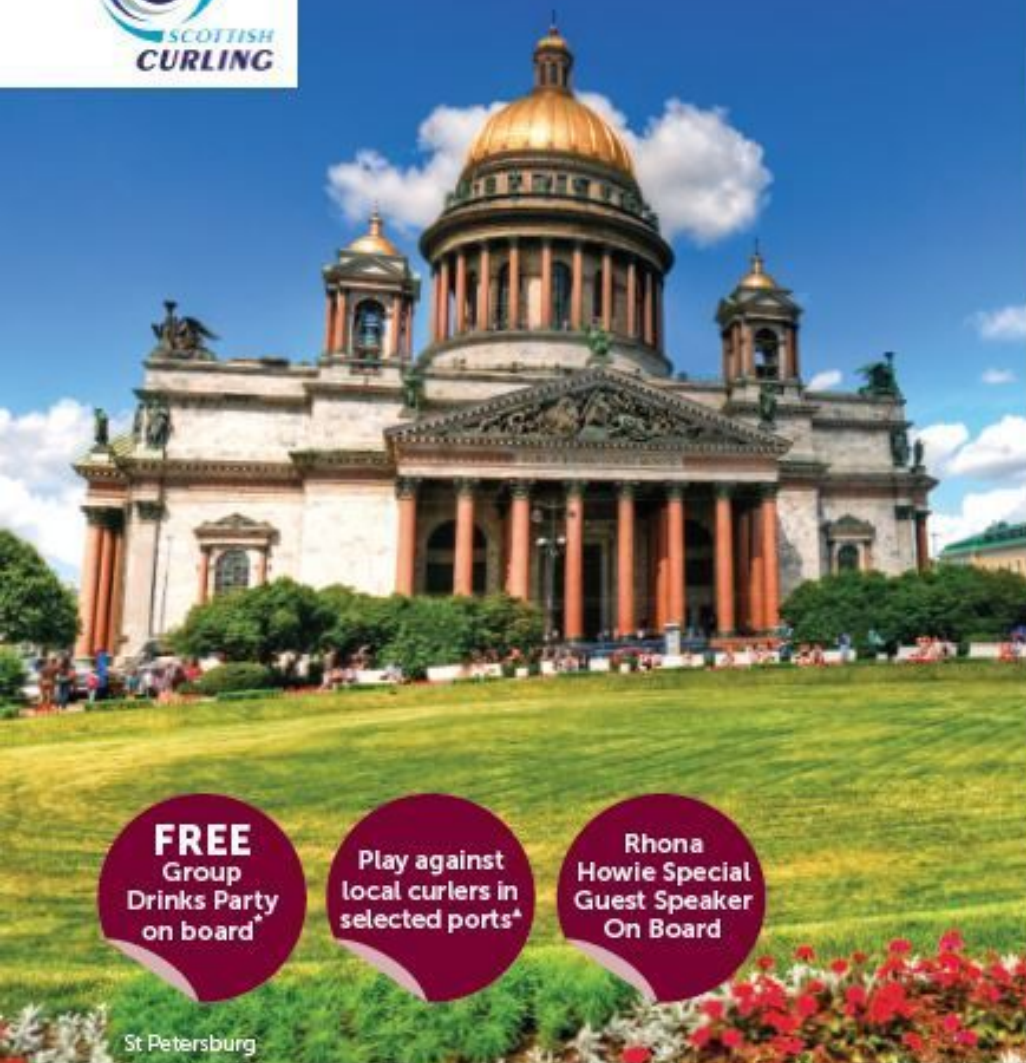
Uncrowded Baltic

with the Scottish Curling Group

6th October 2019 • 12 nights • Sails from Newcastle • *Balmoral* • L1926

From only **£1,349** per person


**Fred. Olsen
Cruise Lines**



FREE
Group
Drinks Party
on board*

Play against
local curlers in
selected ports*

Rhona
Howie Special
Guest Speaker
On Board

St Petersburg

Enjoy immersive exploration all the way on this captivating Baltic voyage, without the tourist hordes of peak season. From the medieval charm of Estonia's capital, Tallinn, to the awe-inspiring palaces and castles of St Petersburg and Copenhagen, this journey to five countries aboard *Balmoral* will be especially sweet at a time of year when fewer sightseers are around.

After a relaxing day at sea you'll be ready for the thrill of Copenhagen's royal palaces and castles, which are made easier to reach by *Balmoral*'s central berth. The iconic Little Mermaid statue, the attractive Nyhavn waterfront district and Tivoli Gardens are sure to impress too.

Vibrant and pleasingly less crowded Helsinki is next. A full day in Finland's capital gives plenty of time to explore its UNESCO-listed sea fortress, the stunning Neoclassical architecture of Senate Square, and the many intriguing galleries, museums and shops. An

Rhona Howie MBE Guest Speaker

Rhona Howie is offering special Guest Talks on her 'Olympic Journey' followed by a Q&A session. Rhona will also be hosting the Curling matches in the ports of call and the Scottish Curling Drinks Party On Board.



Rhona grew up in Dunlop Ayrshire and now lives in Ayr. Rhona took up Curling at the age of 17 and played competitively for 22 years representing Scotland and Great Britain on many occasions.

Rhona Howie's most recognised sporting achievement is as skip of the Great Britain team that claimed the gold medal at the Winter Olympics 2002 in Salt Lake City. Their team's triumph over Switzerland also meant they became Great Britain's first gold medalists at the Winter Olympics since Torvill and Dean in 1984. She received an MBE in recognition of her services to curling later that year.

Rhona and her team's story captured the interest of the nation and they arrived home to a hero's welcome. The stone that clinched the victory – dubbed the stone of destiny – is now housed in the Scottish Sports Hall of Fame exhibition in the National Museum of Scotland.

She also enjoyed success by skipping the Scotland's ladies team at both the European and World Championships. After retiring from competition in 2006, Rhona became Head Coach for British Curling and coached teams to success at European Youth Olympic Gold, World Junior Gold, European Championship Gold, World Championship Gold and Olympic Bronze Medal and also carried the Olympic torch in Glasgow in 2012.

Rhona is currently a curling commentator for the World Curling Federation and the BBC.



Copenhagen

overnight stay in St Petersburg takes pride of place on this itinerary. This stylish city is awash with Russian iconography, including the magnificent Peterhof Palace, the Hermitage and Fabergé museums, and the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood.

The next morning brings Estonia's enchanting capital, Tallinn. This fairytale city is famous for its UNESCO-listed Old Town and wealth of stunning architecture, much of which can be found on Toompea Hill. It's all easier to explore without the high-season crowds around. Easy-going Oslo is the final port. Norway's capital has artistic and aesthetic interest around every corner, including the Vigeland Sculpture Park and the spectacular Opera House.



Tallinn



Scottish Curling Member Fares:

Room type	Price from
Interior Twin	£1,349pp
Ocean View Twin	£1,619pp
Superior Ocean View Twin	£1,939pp
Balcony	£2,789pp
Suite	£2,929pp
Single Interior Room	£2,159

Prices include a 10% group discount*

All included in your cruise price:

Comfortable en-suite accommodation • Breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, five-course à la carte dinner, late night buffet and self-service tea & coffee • Varied daytime activities • Lectures and talks • Swimming pools, Jacuzzis and gym • Choice of live evening entertainment • 2 formal nights • Overnight stay in St Petersburg

For bookings, and enquiries, please contact our Friendly Reservations Team on **01473 742 424**, quoting **GRP0279** and cruise code **L1926**

Fares are per person, based on twin occupancy of the lead-in twin cabin, subject to availability. Offers may be amended or withdrawn at any time without prior notice, are subject to availability & cannot be applied retrospectively. All bookings are subject to Fred. Olsen's standard terms & conditions, available on our website & on request. Some ports may be at anchor. Immediate days are at sea. FOCL reserve the right to amend itineraries for operational reasons. *The Free group drinks party on board includes house wines, sherry, soft drinks & cold canapés, subject to minimum numbers. To be hosted by the group leader. **Curling games against local curlers is being arranged in selected ports of call, additional charges will apply for transport to and from the ice rinks, to be confirmed. ***The Scottish Curling Guest Speaker will be confirmed as soon as possible. *Please note the 10% Group discount is not combinable with any other offers or discounts including the Scottish Curling Affinity discount codes. EBOE. Travel with confidence





COMPETITION CORNER

It has been another busy and
successful month in the world of
Scottish Curling

THE MAXWELL TROPHY



Teams from Stranraer, Borders, Dumfries & Lanarkshire met at the Lanarkshire Ice Rink to contest the 2019 Semi-Finals & Finals. The Teams had qualified from their respective sections against some very tough opposition, so a very competitive semi-final was anticipated.

However, it quickly emerged that Stranraer had found their mojo against Borders, comfortably winning all three games. In the other half of semi-final Lanarkshire heavily defeated two of their three Dumfries opponents, though drew the other fixture.

This saw both teams through to the final and a much cannier, cat and mouse game initially by both protagonists, with single scores and blank ends prevailing. The Lanarkshire team skipped by Lockhart Steele against Stranraer's Fraser Hare seemed to have shut the door when they scored a 5 in the 5th end making it 6 – 1 and seemingly all over. However, Fraser's team dug in and got a 3 back in the 6th, subsequently to no avail as Lockhart got a further 3 in reply in the 7th. Not to be outdone, Fraser scored a 2 in the 8th but it was too little, too late.

Elsewhere, Hugh Neilsen's Lanarkshire team seemed to have grabbed the initiative when they scored a 3 in their 6th end to go 4 – 2 up against Norman Brown's Stranraer team. However, a single & a 2 in the remaining ends by the latter saw the game finished tied at 5 – 5. So the competition came down to the game between Stranraer's Phil Wilson & Lanarkshire's Willie Baird.

A very strategic and shrewd game from the outset with blanked ends and singles leaving it too close to call going into the final end. But looking at the big picture: due to the format of the competition, if Phil scored more than 3 at the last end, Stranraer would win equal on points with Lanarkshire, but ahead on shots up. A score of 3 by Stranraer would tie with their opponents on shots up, but their greater number of ends would ensure victory for them! Guards were laid, guards were removed, Phil was looking good for a victory with enough stones in the house and useful guards, but some clever stone re-positioning by Willie's 3rd, Gary MacFarlane, left Willie with a very skilled angular double takeout. With his last stone Philip was able to draw for a 2, but it was not enough & Lanarkshire claimed the trophy by a single shot!!



SCOTTISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

For the second year in a row the Scottish Schools Final was contested between St Joseph's College from Dumfries and Kelso High School. The Borders rink, skipped by Angus Bryce, were able to avenge their loss of last year and deny St Joseph's a year repeat by a score of 7-2 in the final. 23 teams gathered in Ayr to contest 4 groups ahead of quarter finals at the conclusion of the weekend. Curlers enjoyed the hospitality of Ayr while taking pride in representing their schools in what was some competitors first competition of this kind.

Section A saw the all-Gallacher team representing Sanquhar Academy finish in top place after an unbeaten run. They finished one point ahead of Kelso High School who were returning hoping to go one step further than their second place finish last year. The Kinross playoff winners, Beath High School, topped section B and were also undefeated. They just edged out a team from Forfar Academy skipped by Adam MacDiarmid. The remaining two sections were dominated by teams from the South as Stranraer 1 won all 5 games in their group and Dalbeattie High School joined them in the quarter finals. Lockerbie Academy were the fourth group winner, defeating all the teams in the group and were joined by last year's winners from St. Joseph's College, Dumfries who were edged into second after losing to Lockerbie Academy 6-4.

Sunday morning saw the beginning of the playoff stages with some tight and exciting games coming down to the final stones. Kelso High hit their stride in the playoff stages and comfortably beat Beath High School by 11-3. A strong succession of steals was capped off by a score of 5 in the 7th end and early handshakes followed. Forfar Academy also had a big score in the seventh end as they saw through their quarter final against Sanquhar Academy after a 4 in the seventh end. Lockerbie were pushed all the way by Dalbeattie but two successive steals in the middle of the game meant they took a 2 point lead into the final end. Dalbeattie could only score 1 and fell 5-4. St. Joseph's were pushed all the way in their quarter final and rallied from 4-0 down after three ends to trail by 5-4 in the last end. They successfully stole both the 8th and 9th ends to secure their semi-final place after an extra end.

After some nerve-wracking battles, the semi-finals were more one-sided as firstly St Joseph's saw off Forfar 6-1 after taking a 4-0 lead after three ends. The final repeat was secured as Kelso High School stole their way to the final against Lockerbie Academy. After exchanging single points, the Borders team stole 7 points in four ends to complete a 9-1 victory. The final saw a tense start and scores were tied at 1-1 after three ends. An aggressive end followed and came off in spades for Kelso as they scored a game-winning 5 in the 4th end to shoot to a 6-1 lead. St. Joseph's couldn't make use of the hammer in the second half of the game and early handshakes were offered after 6 ends with the score at 7-2. Kelso had secured the title and Angus Bryce emulated his brother's achievement of 6 years previous."

THE MORTON TROPHY



The four regional winners gather at the Fife Ice Arena in Kirkcaldy to contest the finals of the Morton Trophy. The semi-finals saw South v West and North v East as Ayr took on Braehead and Forfar played Borders in the semi-finals. The Borders started strongly in two of their games and one game was practically out of reach by the final end with an 8-1 lead. A succession of steals sealed this victory 8-4. The Borders started as strongly in the second game jumping to a 5-0 lead. Forfar pegged them back but gave up steals in the 6th and 7th ends before succumbing ultimately to a 9-4 defeat. The final game was the tightest of the lot and came right down to the final end. A back and forth game saw the Borders lead almost all the way before a crucial steal in the 7th end tied the scores at 5-5. The Borders held their nerve, scoring a single point to head through to the final with three wins.

The other semi-final saw things come down to the final game. Ayr took control of one game against Braehead leading by 11 shots after 4 ends and ultimately won that game 14-3. A strong stealing performance by Braehead in the second game saw them steal 5 points in three ends to take a 7-1 lead after 6 ends. A big four in the 7th end kept Ayr alive in the game but Braehead kept cool and completed an 8-5 win. The third game saw momentum swing back and forward as Ayr's initial 4-0 lead was pegged back by Braehead and the scores were level after five ends. Ayr came strong at the end however and stealing the 7th and 8th ends completed an 8-4 win and saw them return to the final.

The first game of the final was a tight one where stealing ruled the day. The Borders raced into a 4-0 lead but Ayr regrouped and responded in style by scoring in 4 successive ends and leading by 6-4 coming into the final end. Their quest for three points came up short and a single score gave Ayr their first win by 6-5. The other two games of the final saw Ayr control from the start with early 5-0 leads. The used hammer well and restricted their opponents to finish those games 11-2 and 9-3 respectively. That meant a clean sweep in the final and Ayr claimed the Morton Trophy once more.



WANT TO BE PART OF THE NEXT YOUR CURLER?

COMPLETE THE FORM HERE BEFORE THE 25TH MARCH TO BE INCLUDED

RINK CHAMPIONSHIP

Airleywight completed a hat trick of Rink Championship titles this week as they saw off a spirited comeback from Braehead's representatives Kelvinside Academical. Forfar Indoor Sports once again played host to one of the highlights of the Scottish Curling calendar that sees teams qualify from their ice rinks in knockout competition onto the finals weekend. There were over 100 teams that entered this year who were whittled down to the 22 who competed on the national stage and enjoyed a weekend of good quality curling and excellent hospitality.

Initially competing in 4 sections, there were some highly competitive games on Friday and Saturday as the teams fought to reach the quarter finals with the top two in each section qualifying. Two wins separated top from bottom in section A as Ayr 1 and Braehead came out ahead of the rest of the pack. Section B was slightly more straightforward as Curl Aberdeen 2 won all their games to secure top spot, Lanarkshire grabbed the second spot finishing off the round robin stage with a convincing win over the Waterfront 2 team. Section C was perhaps the tightest of them all. Inverness 2 topped the group with 4 wins out of 5. A tense 4-4 draw between Curl Aberdeen 1 and Ayr 2 meant it was a battle to get as many ends as possible to secure the second place. Ayr 2 won 23 ends to Aberdeen's 18 and so proceeded to the next stage. The final two qualifiers were separated on ends also as Murrayfield 1 and Perth 1 won three games each with Murrayfield edging their opponents on ends.

The knockout stages began on Sunday morning with a convincing win for Ayr 2 over Murrayfield 1. A big steal of 4 in the third end gave an unassailable 7-1 lead and early handshakes soon followed. Lanarkshire equally saw their game over the line after a big steal and a 5-1 lead at half time. They ran their Ayr-based opponents out of stones in the final end. The remaining quarter finals came down the last ends. Braehead stole the final end to seal a 5-3 win over Curl Aberdeen 2 and Perth 1 limited their Inverness opponents to a single point in another 5-3 win.

The semi-finals were contrasting contests. In the first, Airleywight booked their place in the final after 5 ends and a convincing 8-1 win over East Kilbride & Haremyres. The pressure gradually grew with some early steals and an excellent end from Airleywight with plenty of counters in the four foot saw a game-ending steal of 4 in the fifth end. Kelvinside Academical and Stewarton Heather exchanged ones in the first 5 ends in a tense second semi-final. A crucial score of three in the 6th end gave Kelvinside Academical control of the game and they held their nerve to score the single point required to complete a 6-5 win.

Perth started the final strongly and took a 4-0 lead after 3 ends. With their backs against the wall, the Braehead side went all out for repeated steals to keep their hopes alive. A missed sweeping call on a double in the 5th end turned the momentum, and missed precise draws in the 6th and 7th brought things level after 7. The final end saw a typical exchange of guards and peels with both sides needing a single point to seal the title. Braehead final draw attempt was heavy, meaning that a final shot from the Perth side wasn't required. Airleywight had won 5-4, earning their club's 6th Rink Championship title and the third in as many years."

THE HENDERSON BISHOP TROPHY



One of the biggest competitions in Scotland came to its climax this week as The Henderson Bishop Trophy finals were played at Stranraer Ice Rink. The 20 finalists had battled their way through local qualifiers to reach this point and were justly proud of representing their local ladies centre from around the country. Always an excellent combination of competitive play and social fun, this competition didn't disappoint with a competitive group stage and some close games determining the semi-finalists.

The group winners: Forfar, Murrayfield 2, Ayr 2 and Lanarkshire 1 qualified to compete for The Henderson Bishop whilst the runners up: Braehead, Stranraer, Borders and Dumfries had their second chance with the Cherrystone. The Borders bounced back from losing an early 4 against Dumfries and scored two of their own to seal a 12-4 semi-final victory and they were joined by the hosts who stole the way through in a tight battle against Braehead. A crucial steal in the 8th end sent the game to an extra where Stranraer were able to steal again and be final-bound. The high road saw two tight semi-finals. The first, between Lanarkshire and Murrayfield saw a late surge by senior champion Susan Kesley and steals in the 6th and 7th ends meant Murrayfield got through 8-6. They were joined by defending champions, Ayr who saw off a spirited Forfar side. The game swung in the second half when Ayr took control with 3 points in the 5th end.

Both finals were high quality affairs that saw momentum swing back and forth and any comeback seemed possible. Stranraer claimed the Cherrystone with a magnificent 3 in the final end to pip the Borders to the post 6-5 and it was Murrayfield who were victorious in the high road claiming the Henderson Bishop Trophy against Ayr. A steal of 2 in the 4th end give Ayr the advantage but a big score of 4 immediately after swung the game to Murrayfield. Winning skip Susan Kesley was delighted at claiming her first Henderson Bishop title at skip: "It means so much to have won it as skip, I've had plenty of silver medals so it feels great to come through some really tight games. We were 3 up in both our semi and final but I never felt comfortable, especially given the quality of our opposition."

The true spirit of The Henderson Bishop comes to life off the ice where each host ice rink can showcase their local talents and Susan reflected on a typically warm welcome at Stranraer: *"They were such lovely hosts, there were so many great evening events with a fashion show, a really funny ABBA tribute band and the classic disco. We were very well looked after."* Susan and two of her teammates now look forward to the 2019 World Senior Championship in Norway.

To review all of the scores from the event including the draw and team lists [click here](#).



FERGUSON OLIVER
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Family owned & managed business
Established 1989

Planning & protecting personal, family and business futures.



With more than 30 years behind us we pride ourselves on our ability to advise clients in a relaxed yet informed manner.

- Independent Advice
- Wealth Management
- Savings & Investments
- Corporate Services
- Protection
- Pensions

📞 01356 625285

🌐 www.fowm.co

✉ hello@fowm.co



26 Clerk Street, Brechin DD9 6AY

Ferguson Oliver Wealth Management is a trading name of Ferguson Oliver Limited.
Ferguson Oliver Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



8-ENDER ALERT



We are proud to announce that Between The Sheets, Beechnuts and Ayr (pictured above) have all achieved the astonishing feat of achieving an 8 ender. Congratulations to everyone involved:

Greenacres - Between The Sheets CC

Walter Brown, Walter Miller, Gillian Wright & Audrey Mason

Intu Braehead - Beechnuts

Clive Thomson, Jim Inglis, Judith Thomson & Joan Inglis

Ayr - Various Clubs

Tom Hunter, Sheila Millar, Liz Bark & Janet Hepburn



WANT TO BE PART OF THE NEXT YOUR CURLER?

COMPLETE THE FORM HERE BEFORE THE 25TH MARCH TO BE INCLUDED

SUMMER ICE AVAILABLE AT THE NATIONAL CURLING ACADEMY

Don't want
to stop curling?
Why not try out
The National
Curling Academy
this summer!

25% off for all
customers and clubs
who wish to keep up
their curling skills
during the summer.

Practice
Ice available
for **£5 per
person per
hour**

Book now on **01786 273555** or
bookings@activestirling.org.uk

*please note that this discount cannot be used in conjunction with Clubsport Stirling Chartered/Affiliated Club discount.
Please note summer ice is only available from April - June. British Curling have exclusive use July and August.



Are you enjoying the new look Your Curler? Is there anything you feel is missing?

We would love to hear your thoughts on the new Your Curler and how we can improve the content we feature.

If you could spare a few minutes to leave us your feedback using the form adjacent we would appreciate it greatly.

Also, feel free to use the stars to rate this current issue (1 star - Poor, 5 stars - Great)

To receive your issue as soon as it published log on to the Scottish Curling Member Database and add your email address to your profile.

Alternatively, you can use the subscribe button below and we'll keep you up-to-date with all things Scottish curling.

If you enjoy the revamped Your Curler can we kindly ask that you share it with your friends and family, and encourage them to sign up for future issues.



**WE WANT
YOUR
FEEDBACK**



SCOTTISH **CURLING**

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club

Trading as **Scottish Curling**

Ochil House, Springkerse, Stirling, FK7 7XE

Tel: 0131 333 3003

Email: office@scottishcurling.org

www.scottishcurling.org