

YOUR CURLER

magazine



Issue 07 - March 2019



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Welcome to our new look interactive Your Curler magazine.

This is a busy time of year for Scottish Curling as we reflect on the programmes and events of the season past and yet still active with a few programmes and competitions still running at the tail end of 2018-19, while simultaneously planning for the new season that will be upon us at the end of the summer.

At the end of March, I learned of a curling club whose members were not aware of our recent surveys and had not received YourCurler as their club secretary had not added their email addresses to the Scottish Curling database. These members are missing out on communications from us and we are missing out on their interest and involvement.

So, a project for this summer will be to increase the number of members for whom we have an email address so that we and they might benefit from being more informed and aware. Club secretaries can add email addresses of their members, but each member has their own page on our database and they can use this to access various services. If you know someone who is a member but does not receive our communications over email, please ask them to get in touch by email or phone so we can help get them active.

The tickets are now on sale for the World Men's Curling Championship 2020, the website www.wmcc2020.com contains the essential information about the event, to be held in the iconic Emirates Arena in the East end of Glasgow, 28 March to 5 April 2020. Only the Tournament Passes for the whole event and the weekend passes for the first and last two days were offered for sale at this stage. Once the event schedule is confirmed the individual session tickets will be offered. The actual team line up is only known right at the end of the year, after the Zonal Qualifiers and Worlds Qualification Event have been completed, so we will not know the times of the Scotland games till then.

We are delighted with the partnership that has been formed with Fred Olsen Cruise Lines which includes a curling package in October 2019 on the Baltic Cruise (see the detail in this magazine). If you fancy both curling and sightseeing, this offers a great opportunity for the trip of a lifetime.

We received some excellent feedback through the survey on future structure for Scottish Curling, with 923 responses. We will publish findings on the survey on the website in the coming weeks.

Bruce Crawford
Chief Executive Officer



MOUAT MISS THE MARK

The Scottish Men were left feeling disappointed as their hopes of winning a medal at The Pioneer Hi-Bred World Men's Curling Championship 2019 (WMCC) came to an end when they narrowly lost out to an on form Canadian side in the qualification game.

It was the second time the Team Mouat rink of Bruce Mouat, Grant Hardie, Bobby Lammie and Hammy McMillan have represented Scotland at the WMCC and this year they were joined by alternate, Ross Whyte; coach, Alan Hannah and national coach, David Murdoch.

Team Mouat won the Bronze Medal at last year's WMCC in Las Vegas and had hoped to do better, but after beating Russia in their first game they had a run of bad luck losing three close encounters to Switzerland, Netherlands and USA and started falling away from the top of the standings. The men had been playing well and their good form resulted in three good wins thereafter against Sweden, who were last year's World Champions, Korea and Norway. After defeating Norway, Bruce Mouat said, *"We're getting a few more breaks, we weren't getting much in the first few games. We've got a tough one against Japan tonight, so if we can get a win there then we're definitely back on track."*

Unfortunately, Scotland lost to Japan. They were then in the middle of the standings on 4 wins and 4 losses.

There were 4 games left to play; China, Canada, Germany and Italy. Grit, determination and spectacular shotmaking from the Scots saw them win all four games and qualify for the playoffs in sixth place. Bruce commented, *"We knew what the situation was, and we were backs against the wall a little bit, but that was really good. If it is Canada (in the qualifier), we beat them in the round-robin and I don't see why we can't do it again."*



After the round robin, the first two placed teams went straight through to the semi finals and teams placed 3-6 played qualification games. Scotland played third placed, Canada, in a game which progressed the winner to the semi final and the losing side's World Championship campaign was over.

Bruce Mouat summed it up, *"We've had to fight all week, and that was another fight for us. We didn't come out as strong as we wanted to, we lost a couple of cheap-ish twos in the first three ends and it's pretty tough to come back from that. As always, we seemed to be quite resilient and we were sticking together, and we managed to get back into the game. They don't miss much, and they were playing really good curling. It was just the story of our week, we weren't really setting up right or getting our angles right. I missed a few line-calls for the guys, so we're just a bit disappointed."*

The Gold Medal was won by Sweden with Canada taking Silver, and Switzerland beat Japan to claim Bronze. The whole of Scotland were behind Team Mouat at the WMCC and we hope this experience makes them stronger for future years.

Some other memories were made in Canada of course, as Bruce played his 100th Game for Scotland. *"It feels surreal; I get to have my hundredth game for Scotland at the world men's in Canada! So that's literally one of the best moments for me in my career,"* he said.

Thanks to sponsor, Plansafe Solutions, who won the right to have their logo featured on the Team's shirts, as part of our inaugural Shirt Sponsor Raffle, held last year.

Final standings after the round robin (W-L)

- 1) Sweden 11-1, 2) Switzerland 9-3, 3) Canada 9-3, 4) Japan 9-3, 5) United States 8-4,
- 6) Scotland 8-4, 7) Italy 7-5, 8) Germany 4-8, 9) Russia 4-8, 10) Netherlands 4-8,
- 11) China 2-10, 12) Norway 2-10, 13) Korea 1-11

By Barbara McFarlane



LGT World Men's Curling Championship 2020



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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

Members of Scottish Curling can benefit from an early bird offer on ticket prices. Simply enter the code 'rccc2020' in the Promo Code box and the discounted price will be automatically applied.

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
30th Mar - 7th Apr 2019	World Men's Championship, Lethbridge, Canada		World Curling Federation
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
6th - 12th May 2019	Curling World Cup – Grand Final		World Curling Federation
24th - 26th May 2019	SCOTTISH CURLING MIXED CHAMPIONSHIP	The Peak	Royal Caledonian Curling Club



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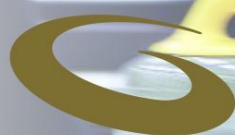
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AROUND THE RINKS

GOUROCK



Two teams of Gourock curlers headed for Greenacres Curling Rink on Friday 1 March to represent their club in the annual Tappit Hen tournament. This event involves two teams from curling clubs throughout the West of Scotland: Ardrossan, Largs, Dunoon, Millport and Gourock.

As winners of the trophy last year, Gourock had the task of organising the event this time and it was very efficiently put together by match secretary, Ian Samuel. Each team would play two games of eight ends with the spoils going to the club with the best combined score. In the morning games Gourock 1 beat Dunoon 2 whilst Gourock 2 were narrowly defeated by Ardrossan 1.

Following a very welcome and warming lunch provided by Greenacres staff, the afternoon games commenced with Gourock 2, still smarting from the morning loss, triumphing over Largs 1 by a significant margin. Meanwhile, Gourock 1 won against Dunoon 1 during which some quality play was noted. Skip, Billy Hawthorne, produced a memorable hit which in one blow turned a 1 stone deficit into a 3 stone advantage.

In the following end, vice-skip, David Burnie, delivered a traditional Canadian-style runback involving a four stone plant. Not to be outdone and playing at second, Morris Lindsay, contributed some stunning and meaningful take-outs. Finishing tied on six points with Ardrossan, the event was decided in Gourock's favour by virtue of it having won more ends. It was an excellent tournament played in a competitive but friendly spirit throughout.

Report by Jim Stables





GREENOCK

Greenock Waterfront Juniors Curling Club have an active membership which is supported by enthusiastic parents. They receive coaching from dedicated coaches each Thursday after school from 4 - 5.15pm during the curling season, which leads towards skills award accreditation.

This season WJCC members competed in several events including the west of Scotland junior curlers challenge organised between the ice rinks of Ayr, Braehead, Greenacres and the Waterfront. The juniors were also involved in U-17 events during the season, while 2 members were selected to play in the U-21 Scottish Championship hosted at Aberdeen ice rink, playing in Team Bryce and Team Haswell.

Fraser Clark, a WJCC member pictured, was successful in receiving an Inverclyde Sport Personality award. A funding award issued by Sport Inverclyde to local athletes who show potential within their sports discipline.

This funding will go towards enhancing curling equipment used, along with assisting with on ice costs and training sessions. Fraser is a member of Team Woolston who play in the Scottish Curling Tour and English Curling Association Championships.

Fraser is also a member of the waterfront curling development group, the group was formed in 2017, from members of local curling clubs and representatives from Inverclyde Leisure, to assist in the promotion of curling within Inverclyde and the Argyll & Bute areas.

The development group are currently working in partnership with Scottish Curling and Sport Inverclyde to ensure the smooth renewal of PVG's, and are currently organising the provision child safeguarding courses for Curling Coaches within the local area. This is with a view to ensuring that a skilled and accredited coaching workforce is in place to deliver our programme of try curling and virtual club sessions in the forthcoming seasons.

Report by John McDermott





The Glasgow Ladies Curling Club recently celebrated their 90th Anniversary.

70 ladies including Honorary members, Past Presidents, playing and non playing members enjoyed a delicious Buffet Lunch at East Renfrewshire Golf Club.

Judy Mackenzie, recently appointed Honorary member of Glasgow Ladies having been a playing member for 50 years, gave an informative and entertaining resume of Glasgow Ladies through the years and proposed a toast to the continued success of the club.

Anne MacDougall, a Past President, brought an enjoyable afternoon to a close with an amusing vote of thanks to the committee for organising the event.

Report by Liz Scott



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TAKING CARE OF YOUR CURLING RINK: THE ISSUE WITH PICK-UPS

Pick-ups. We've all been there. You've just thrown a seemingly perfect shot but your stone picks-up halfway down the sheet, veers off course and ends up exactly where you didn't want it. This is usually followed by mutterings of how the curling gods are against you tonight. Well, it's time to take destiny into your own hands with our information article all about pick-ups and what you can do to avoid them, making the ice rink a fairer place for everyone!

First, let's start off with a general definition of a pick-up: *"When a rock's running surface travels over a foreign particle such as a hair, causing the rock to deviate from its expected path"*. (Provided by our reliable friends at Wikipedia)

But how does this debris end up on the ice in the first place? Bits of fabric from your clothes, worn grippers losing rubber, and old brush heads could all be at fault. Here we have a picture of a brush head in desperate need of replacing: you can see the dirt building up, just ready to fall off as you're sweeping and ruin the next person's shot.

Now to give you an idea of just how much dirt can accumulate on a sheet, here is a picture of a block of ice scrapings, a by-product of rink maintenance: it's almost black with dirt!



So, what can you do about it? Replacing worn brush heads is a good place to start. This necessary part of curling is often forgotten, especially by recreational curlers. However, if you're participating in regular leagues, you should gift yourself to a new brush head at least once every season (and maybe see an improvement in your sweeping tool!).

The same goes for old grippers; you don't want to be the person leaving behind bits of rubber because your gripper is falling apart. Another, cheaper, way is to just develop good habits and remain vigilant.

There's a reason many of the top teams will have a sweeper lightly brush the sliding path out from the hack before every throw. Pick up any dirt you find on the ice and dispose of it in a bin (rather than just sweeping it to the side). Clean the stone if you can safely overturn it. It all adds up.

Hopefully this article has provided you with some top tips to remove the problem of pick-ups from your life. Stay tuned as we bring you more curling equipment advice in the next issue of Your Curler!



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Beefeater	7 - 9 February 2020
Tennent Caledonian	21 - 23 February 2020
Famous Grouse	28 February - 1 March 2020

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For opening hours and directions go to <https://scottishfootballmuseum.org.uk>



SCOTTISH CURLERS IN LINE FOR WATERMANS SPORTS AMBASSADOR AWARD

Legal firm Watermans Solicitors have launched a campaign to find their next Sports Ambassador, with a call to sports fans to help them identify unsung sporting heroes – we are delighted to say Scottish Curling coach Campbell Ross, and Team Mouat member Bobby Lammie have both been nominated.

The campaign seeks everyone from rising stars to those who work tirelessly to allow others to enjoy participating in sport. One lucky winner will become a Watermans Sports Ambassador and receive sponsorship and support from the firm.

An all-star judging panel, including triple-Olympian and Commonwealth Games swimming star Hannah Miley and Terry McCormack, renowned boxing coach, will meet with a long-list of selected nominees to create a final shortlist, who will compete to win the sporting public's support in a final part of the campaign.

Watermans have a long-standing commitment to helping develop the next generation of Scottish

sporting talent through its Sports Ambassador Programme.

Scott Whyte, Managing Director of Watermans said:

"We are excited to launch this search for our next Sports Ambassador. It has been fantastic to support our previous ambassadors as they've flown the flag for Scotland, from Hannah Miley in Olympic and Commonwealth swimming pools, to Lewis Benson in the boxing ring, Glasgow City FC on the pitch at home and abroad, and Finlay Retson and John MacCrone on the rally circuit.

We are committed to helping develop and support some of the best up and coming talent in Scottish sport and in our new search I hope athletes, coaches and fans will help us by taking part in the campaign and making nominations."

For more details please visit the site, [here](#).

Best of luck to Campbell and Bobbie, who would both be worthy winners!

SCOTTISH CURLING AWARDS 2019

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2019 SCOTTISH CURLING AWARDS

Nominations are being sought for the 2019 Scottish Curling Awards in 4 categories:-

**Young Curler of the Year
Grassroots Coach of the Year
Team of the Year
Ice Diamond Award**

The Scottish Curling Awards are held annually to acknowledge and celebrate the success and achievements of Scottish curlers over the last year. The awards will be presented during the proceedings of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club's Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 15th June 2019 at Dewars Centre, Perth.

Making a nomination:

- Nominations must be made using the official online form
- Nomination forms must be fully completed
- Only members of Scottish Curling are eligible to make a nomination
- Only members of Scottish Curling can be nominated for an award
- Members cannot nominate themselves for an award
- Nominations must be received by 10am on Tuesday, 30 April 2019

[Click to make your nomination](#)

Nominations close on Tuesday, 30 April 2019 at 10am

Voting will open through the Scottish Curling GoMembership system on Tuesday 7 May 2019.

Note: Scottish Curling reserves the right to change, amend, modify, suspend, continue or terminate all or any part of the Scottish Curling Awards process at any time without notice.



INCLUSIVE CURLING UPDATE

2019 BRITISH OPEN WHEELCHAIR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP



Between 10th and 12 the 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

Learn to curl programme

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£4

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Disability curling at The PEAK

Our disability inclusion curling sessions at The PEAK are tailored to support those living with a disability. Our sessions are a great introduction to the sport of curling consisting of 1 hour of coaching with a qualified Active Stirling or Scottish Curling qualified instructor. Get involved in this great sport, meet new friends and have fun on the ice. Carers are welcome to attend for free and would be encouraged to take part on the ice.

SESSION KEY

Visual impairment **VI** Disability inclusion **DI**

DATE	TIME	AGE	VENUE	SESSION
Mon 22 Apr 2019	3.15pm-4.15pm	8yrs+	The PEAK	VI
Mon 22 Apr 2019	4.30pm-5.30pm	8yrs+	The PEAK	DI
Mon 6 May 2019	3.15pm-4.15pm	8yrs+	The PEAK	VI
Mon 6 May 2019	4.30pm-5.30pm	8yrs+	The PEAK	DI
Mon 20 May 2019	3.15pm-4.15pm	8yrs+	The PEAK	VI
Mon 20 May 2019	4.30pm-5.30pm	8yrs+	The PEAK	DI
Mon 17 Jun 2019	3.15pm-4.15pm	8yrs+	The PEAK	VI
Mon 17 Jun 2019	4.30pm-5.30pm	8yrs+	The PEAK	DI
Mon 24 Jun 2019	3.15pm-4.15pm	8yrs+	The PEAK	VI
Mon 24 Jun 2019	4.30pm-5.30pm	8yrs+	The PEAK	DI



STIRLING WHEELCHAIR CURLING CLUB

For all wheelchair users. The club meet every Wednesday at The PEAK. Each session is taken by Scottish Curling qualified coaches. All curling equipment is provided. For more information on Stirling Wheelchair Curling Club please contact Jacky McLaren at jackymclaren@talktalk.net.

To book or enquire please contact our Bookings team on **01786 273555** or **bookings@activestirling.org.uk**



VISUAL IMPAIRMENT CURLING

Visual impairment curling will be continuing over the summer at the Peak.

Come along and join others with any level of sight loss, keep up your skills over the break.

16 people gathered together in Stirling for a recent VI get-together. Coaches and trainee coaches were able to share tips and curlers met others with a sight loss. More events such as this will be planned for next season, don't feel you are alone if your sight is fading. Hopefully we will have more competition opportunities if the numbers grow.

Training and advice is available to clubs and coaches who wish to involve Vision impaired people in their sessions.

For more information on taking part or offering vision impaired curling sessions please [click here](#).

To find out how you can host sessions at your rink please contact Helen Kallow at helen@scottishcurling.org

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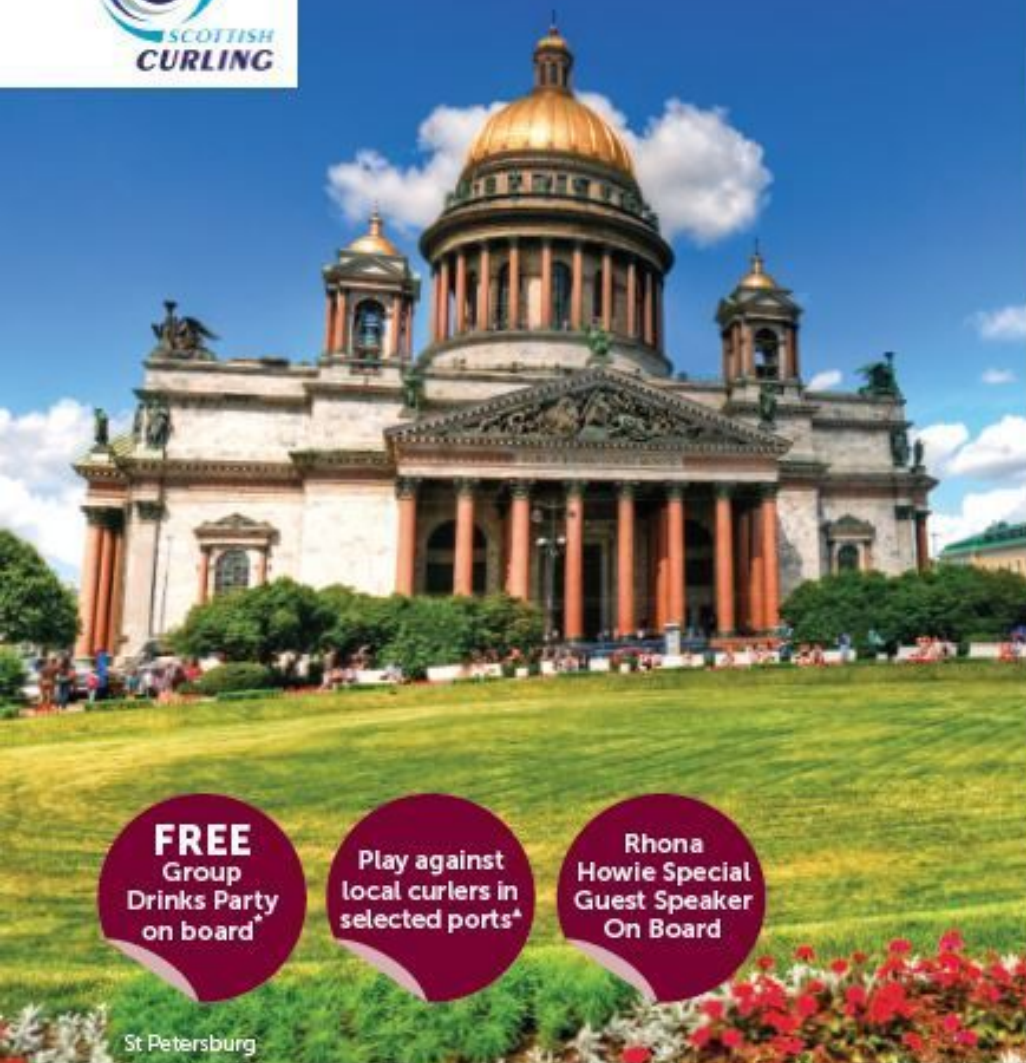
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St Petersburg

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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
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COMPETITION CORNER

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

THE SCOTTISH CURLING FUNSPIEL



This month the Dewars Centre, Perth hosted the Scottish Curling Funspiel, a one-day event for some of the newest curlers competing at an event for the first time. Seven Under 13's teams and five Under 15's teams from across Scotland took part. The fast and swinging ice conditions made for some great games in the round robin stage as teams played their four end games.

Ultimately it was the Forfar 1 team and Perth Juniors who progressed to the Under 13 Final. The team from Forfar got off to a fantastic start with a great score of two in the first end which was backed up by a couple of steals in the second and third. Although they had a great few games in the round robin stages, the youngsters from Perth struggled to get going in the final but they had control in the last end and managed to put a point on the board. Final score, 4-1 to Forfar. The Under 15 final was the same match up as once again Perth Juniors faced Forfar Young Curlers. Perth got off to a fantastic start with a strong score of four in the first end. Undeterred by this the team from Forfar hit straight back with a four themselves and then achieved a great steal of 3 in the third end to take control. Perth, with the hammer in the last end tried to set up a big score to win the game but Forfar managed to hold them to just a single point. A final score line of 7-5 gave Forfar a great win and a double header.

The hotshots title, which involved a draw and strike challenge for the teams not qualified for the final came down to the wire. After Forfar 2 and Forfar 3 were left tied at 26 points with one team left to come things were tight. East Kilbride U13s took advantage of the double points on offer for their last shots and made a perfect nose hit to score 36 points and win. A great day was had by all, and in her prizegiving remarks ASC rep Christine Cheape thanked the support parents, guardians and ice staff and catering team and Dewars who made sure the day ran smoothly. The finals scores can be found [here](#).

Report By Athlin Phillips



THE NEWCOMERS TROPHY

Mothering Sunday, in the final throes of the Scottish Curling calendar, saw one of the most special and important events of the year take place, the Newcomers Trophy. Some 'well kent' names adorn the Edinburgh Crystal vase's plinth, including current Scotland men's World Championship skip, Bruce Mouat in 2008 and Olympic Gold medal skip Rhona Martin in 1992. Players enter as individuals at the Newcomers and so long as they are under 16 are eligible to enter. From the north players came from Moray and to the south west, Dumfries to enter this years competition in the idyllic setting of Greenacres in Renfrewshire. It was a Dumfries skip'd team that won in 2017/18 and the field was wide open for 2018/19 as teams only get to know each other over a co-operative learning style 'ice breaker' activity upon arrival and registration being complete.

Despite players losing an hours sleep with British Summer Time coming into effect, there was a buzz around the rink as teams jockey'd for early position in the 3 end format, which saw all teams play four games in the round robin. David Murray of Ayr impressing early on with early back to back wins with his team including East Kilbride, Greenacres and Dumfries curlers. This spurred on others, with Caragh Hamilton of East Kilbride's rink, which included Greenacres and Murrayfield young curlers, coming out of the blocks impressively.

The victory went to a team by Perth skip Cameron Munro, Third Jason McPhillips (Dumfries), Second Holly Clemie (Kinross) and Karson Finlay (Ayr) who saw off the challenge of Ayr skip David Murray and his teammates. The 3rd place play off was won by Greenacres native Callum Grant and who defeated the 'Team 4' outfit who had Johnathan Buchanan at the helm.

Scottish Curling Ladies branch President of 2018/2019, Professor Margaret Nicol of Currie & Balerno Curling Club thanked the parents and players for travelling to Greenacres as well as thanks being bestowed on the hard work of the Greenacres staff for preparing excellent ice conditions and providing warm hospitality. Margaret also thanked the hard work put in by the line scorer Jimmy Lochridge for keeping the live website scores current for family and friends to follow back at home as well as special thanks to Rachel Dakers, a Scottish Curling Future Leader who has been mentored through the season by Scottish Curling Competitions Co-ordinator Eoin McCrossan, who played a key part in the organising of the Newcomers, and this was another event that Rachel helped to be a success.

National Development Manager Iain Stewart said of the event "The Newcomers is obviously a very important day in the calendar and offers young curlers the opportunity to make friendships with youngsters from other rinks, a great part of the sport. We hope they all go into their summer sporting endeavours enthused to return in the autumn and will bring along friends to have a try of curling in the new season."

Report by Iain Stewart

DUMFRIES INTERNATIONAL MIXED DOUBLES

The international pairing of Norway's Maia Ramsfjell and Scottish Curling member Duncan McFadzean were victorious last weekend at the World Curling Tour Mixed Doubles event in Dumfries.

After a competitive pool stage involving 18 teams from around Europe, Duncan and Maia were joined in the playoffs by three Scottish sides. The first quarter final involved the junior team of James Craik and Fay Henderson taking on 2017 Scottish Mixed Doubles Champions Jayne Stirling and Fraser Kingan.



This game was a clear demonstration as to how no lead is safe in this format as the more experience duo were able to overcome a 5-0 deficit after 4 ends to win 8-5. Vicky Wright and Craig Waddell also qualified for the quarter finals but their competition ended there as they lost out to the English champions and British Curling funded athletes, Ben and Anna Fowler.

Stirling and Kingan's good form continued in the semi-finals as a big score of 5 saw them over the line against two-time world champions Zsolt Kiss and Dorottya Palancsa from Hungary 8-5. Unfortunately the duo could not repeat their title win of last year and were edged out in the final end against the Norwegian and Scottish duo.



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NATIONAL VIRTUAL CLUB CHALLENGE



A bright and sunny Saturday morning saw 18 Virtual Club teams from all over Scotland assemble at Braehead to take part in this exciting annual event. The event is a great opportunity for comparative newcomers to the sport to meet and compete with their peers from other rinks. The well-established format of round-robin four-end games resulted in section winners & runners-up progressing into High Road & Low Road semi-finals & finals.

With only four ends per game there's not many chances for putting some distance between you and your opponents – barring a disaster – and therefore the initial section games mostly all proved pretty close. In fact, in all three sections it all came down to the last round of games for the winners and runners up to emerge. It took some very close scrutiny of the overall rankings before the victors emerged.

Low Road Final:

In the Low Road Final between Ayr 1 & Borders 2, a score of 5 in the first end by Borders looked to have put the game to bed. But a plucky fightback by the Ayr team left them only one shot behind going into the last end. Alas, their hopes were dashed as a solid score of 2 by Borders closed the game 7 – 4 in their favour.

High Road Final:

The High Road Final was always going to be a tough game, and so it proved with singles & doubles being swopped throughout the match, resulting in a tie 3 – 3 after 4 ends. So, an extra end was required which, if blanked, would have required the Final to be settled by a single draw shot challenge! It was not to be though: Lockerbie had the "hammer" in the extra end and put it to good use securing a single & the Championship title. A fantastic end to a fantastic day, and congratulations not only to the Winners, but also to all teams taking part in a contest which not only demonstrated the considerable skills and talents of these relatively new curlers, but also reassured all of us watching as to the strength of our grassroots curling after all!

Report by Stewart Sutherland

THE SCOTTISH CURLING PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP



Euan and Stewart Kyle made it two titles in a row as they successfully defended their title in an all-Stranraer Scottish Curling Pairs final. Twenty teams from across the country began the weekend as Stranraer once again successfully played host to this competition for any two curlers. Shortened six end games with plenty of sweeping meant a packed weekend of great curling and socialising for all who took part. Stranraer 1 and Dumfries 1 edged ahead of the pack in their group with three wins coming from their four group games. They were joined in the quarter finals by the undefeated defending champions under the moniker of Stranraer 2 and the Father-Son combo from Perth, Callum and Kenny Kinnear. They narrowly edged out Forfar 1 on ends after they both finished their group on 5 points. Border 1 and Dumfries 2 were clear in group C and a tight final section saw the team from Lockerbie edge ahead of last year's runners up from Murrayfield with Stirling missing out on qualification by a single end. All three teams had finished on 3 wins in their group.

The Kyle Brothers kept rolling in the semi-final and once again their effective use of hammer proved the difference. After conceding 2 to Dumfries 2 in the first end, they responded immediately to level the scores. After forcing their opponents to a single point in the 4th end, a big score of 3 put them in the driving seat and able to finish off a 5-3 win. Stranraer 1 were able to make it a local final with stealing taking their forefront against Border 1. They stole three points in two ends to take a 4-1 lead after 4 ends, by restricting their opponents to a single point in the penultimate end, they could control the final end and seal their place in the final with a 5-2 win. Stranraer 1 started the final with hammer, but it didn't turn out to be their friend as they failed to take advantage of the last stone in the first half.

A strong stealing performance from Stranraer 2 put them 5-0 up after three ends and well on their way to defending their title. A crucial force in the fourth end was followed by a single point and ultimately the title for Euan and Stewart who claimed the 2019 Scottish Curling Pairs Championship winning in the final 6-1.

GOLDLINE SCOTTISH CURLING JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP



On Sunday 7th April, Fay Henderson and Angus Bryce were crowned the Goldline Scottish Curling Junior Mixed Doubles Champions at Dumfries Ice Bowl after a fantastic final win by a score of 6-3 in which single scores dominated the day

Defending champions Duncan McFadzean and Leanne McKenzie sailed through their group with a 4-0 record, although Duncan did rely on a handy sub in the form of his Winter Universiade teammate, Luke Carson. In the quarter finals they handily saw off the Stranraer-based team of Stewart Kyle and Katie McMillan in 6 ends. Stewart's brother Euan had better fortunes after an undefeated round robin and with new partner Mili Smith came up against Ryan McCormack and Kirsty Barr. The good form continued as Smith and Kyle won 8-2 also in 6 ends. Lucy Blair and Mark Taylor stole 3 ends in a row in a commanding 10-2 win over Ben Cormack and Layla Al-Saffar.

The Henderson/Bryce duo hit the ground running in their semi-final against Team Blair and their superior use of hammer was the difference. In a short 5 end game, scores of 2, 3 and 4 with hammer combined with successful forces resulted in early handshakes with the score at 9-2 after 5 ends and Henderson and Bryce were through to the final. Three of last year's finalists took to the ice in the early semi-final between Smith/Kyle and McFadzean/McKenzie. The first end proved to be defining as Smith/Kyle scored three points to buoy their quest for the final. The rest of the game only saw single scores and things were finely poised at the conclusion of the game. With no lead being safe in mixed doubles, McFadzean/McKenzie looked to score 3 in the 8th end and take the game into an extra end. Some excellent play from their opposition restricted them to a single score and ended their title defence.

The final was a high quality game that had a tense and level start. The scores were tied at 2-2 after three ends and after Fay Henderson came up slightly short on a freeze attempt in the fourth end, Euan and Mili attempted a double takeout for a potential four points. This didn't quite come off and gave up a steal of one to their opponents. From here, Fay and Angus never looked back and stole the next three ends as their opponents were forced to take more and more risk in their attempts to get back into the game. The score heading into the final end was 6-2 but Smith/Kyle had the hammer and thus a chance. The strong upweight ability of Angus Bryce removed a number of their opposition stones and left Fay needing to make a simple nose hit to win which was duly made.

You can review all of the scores from the events [here](#) and can relive the games that were livestreamed on the Dumfries Curling YouTube page [here](#).

THE SCOTTISH CURLING AREA CHAMPIONSHIP



The rearranged Area Championship final took place on the Monday, 25th March 2019 at 9:00pm on Rink A in the National Curling Academy. Blairdrummond won the toss and so Kilsyth played the final off with yellow stones. The first end was played in a safety first mode and after clearing stones, Blairdrummond scored a single. In the second end, there was a similar strategy and Blairdrummond finished with two stones together on the right side of the house, just clinging on. Skip Murray chose to hit them but didn't hit at the right angle only removing one while his stone left the house, leaving Blairdrummond with another single.

Coming back down, the play changed to a much more aggressive game with guards and shots being drawn through ports to try and claim the shot. Eventually Kilsyth had 3 counters and no amount of take outs could get Blairdrummond onto the button, So a simple draw for skip Murray to add another shot to score a 4 and lead 4 v 2.

The tactics continued into the fourth end with some very accurate drawing on display. Kilsyth eventually managed to get round the Blairdrummond counter and lie three shots. Blairdrummond skip Brisbane couldn't quite beat all the Kilsyth stones despite the best efforts of both sweepers. So this was a steal of 2 for Kilsyth. Kilsyth Skip Murray draws another stone into the house to lie 3 shots.

The play was now well established with drawing and knocking stones around the house. The Blairdrummond third didn't manage to get into the house to clear Kilsyth stones and it looked like another big steal was about to happen but skip Brisbane had a bit of luck with his last stone, which appeared to be drifting past the house when it suddenly cut in and took a Kilsyth counter out to cut the loss to a single.

The sixth end saw Blairdrummond struggle to keep a single stone in the house and skip Brisbane with his last stone went for a takeout which unfortunately was a bit wide and took his own stone out, leaving Kilsyth with a steal of 3 and a score of 10 v 2. Hands were shaken at that point between skips Brisbane and Murray.

Report by Joseph Kincaid



OATRIDGE & WEST LOTHIAN WIN BONSPIEL

Six teams from each of the four Provinces in the Forth Valley area played for the Bonspiel Trophy on the 30th January in the main ice rink at the Peak over two full sessions, 6 rinks each.

In the first session Falkirk got off to a flying start with a 7 in the first end. Lying 4 shots skip Michael Daly thought he could manage a 6 if he played the right shot but managed to get the 7 on the final count. Bathgate came back at them with a 4 in the second, but Falkirk kept pegging single shots over 4 of the remaining 5 ends to keep control and win 11 v 6 at the finish. Doune were worthy winners against Buchlyvie at 11 v 5, with three ends of 3 shots each and winning 5 ends in total. They let Buchlyvie make it look better for them by losing a 4 at the final end. There were lots of close games, both Balfron and Buccaneers won their games with the final stone in the last end to keep Forth & Endrick looking good but crucially, Abercorn managed to scrape a draw against Airthrey Castle despite winning fewer ends. This extra point would help ensure West Lothian had one more point than Forth & Endrick at the end of the night.

In the second session Strathendrick racked up a big score against Kilsyth Ladies finishing 16 v 2. Skip Kim McLaren kept the pressure on all the time. Also an 18 shot game was Bridge of Allan against Kilsyth with the former edging it at 10 v 8 with 3 ends won to 4 for Kilsyth. 16 shots scored in 5 ends for both clubs. Oatridge started off by losing a 3 at the first end to Falkirk Ladies but came back with a 6 at the second and then kept it tight to finish 11 v 4. The lowest scoring game was Uphall and Kippen, finishing 6 v 3 in favour of Uphall. They won 5 ends out of 7. Drymen had a convincing win over Dunblane and in the last game to finish Linlithgow won a challenging match against Blairdrummond 8 v 4 to put West Lothian Province over the finishing line as winners of the Bonspiel with 9 points overall.

With West Lothian winners, Oatridge had their best score on the night with 11 v 4 and so are the trophy winners again this season. The Keron brothers are certainly playing well. Well done the winners and thanks to everyone for taking part and making the event a success. Special mention and thanks to Grangemouth for stepping in for Stirlingshire Province when Campsie Glen pulled out at short notice.

Report by Joseph Kincaid



2019 U17 MIXED DOUBLES

Congratulations to Niall Ryder and Inca Maguire for winning the U17 Mixed Doubles competition.

They will fly out to Sweden next month to compete in the Nordic Junior Curling Tour through the support of the Matt Murdoch Curling Foundation.

For more information about the great work done by the Matt Murdoch Curling Foundation please [click here](#).

Runners up Struan Carson and Beth Rowley will also fly out with them to compete in the Nordic Junior Curling Tour through the support of Scottish Curling. Good luck to both teams in Sweden



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2019 WORLD MIXED CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Are you feeling inspired by Team Mouat's time in Canada?

Do you want to represent Scotland on the world stage?

Last week Curl Aberdeen were announced as the host of the 2019 World Mixed Curling Championships, enter the Scottish Curling Mixed Championships (24th-26th May) now to take the first step to representing Scotland at a home World Championship!

Entry forms can be found [here](#)



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FUTURE LEADERS FOCUS

As the current season draws to a close, two of our young Scottish Curling Future Leaders are keen to tell us about the highlights of their involvement with the programme so far. Rachel Dakers and Frazer Shaw both curl out of Murrayfield and volunteered at the recent World Wheelchair Curling Championship at The Peak in Stirling.

Rachel applied for our Future Leaders programme hoping to find out more about how curling events are organised and run, as she explains:

"We had a visit to the venue before the competition started, and to see how it was transformed from normal curling, if you like, to an International showpiece event was fascinating. That was quite amazing. I wanted to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes, and being so closely involved in the WWhCC2019 gave me that insight. Being a Future leader has been such a great experience, all the soft skills I've learnt like leadership, communication, and team work will stand me in such good stead for the future."

The 21 year old says she's also grown in confidence, through being more closely involved with the sport she loves:

"The under 17 pairs competition used to run every year at Murrayfield. This year I felt ready to freshen up that offering by running a Mixed Championship. I was ready for the responsibility and it was a great success"

Frazer works at Murrayfield Curling Rink, as an ice technician. He was able to take those skills and use them at the WWhCC, where he was assistant ice maker:

"The ice set up is slightly differently for wheelchair curling as there is no sweeping, we set the stones up differently too so it was a big learning curve. We are really pushed by Scottish Curling and the Future Leaders programme to get involved as much as possible – you get out what you put in!"

The next intake of Future Leaders will have a fantastic opportunity on their doorstep, as the World Men's Curling Championship comes to Glasgow in 2020. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels where details of how to apply will be posted this summer.



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