

YOUR CURLER

Issue 11 - December 2019



LE GRUYÈRE AOP EUROPEAN
CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

2019





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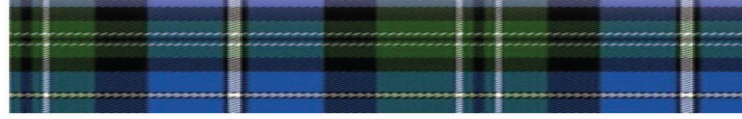
Welcome to our Your Curler

On 21 November 2019 the news of the closure of Braehead Curling Rink at the end of this season came as a real blow to Scotland's curling community. The initial responses of anger and frustration among curlers have subsided as we acknowledge that the facility owners *Intu* are dealing with much bigger issues. We appreciate the offers of support that the management on the ground in Braehead have been able to give to the curling community, particularly the offers of equipment that will no longer be required in Braehead when the doors close to curling.

The nearby ice rinks have been really helpful in trying to find ways to accommodate the displaced curlers for the following season, though there just isn't enough capacity to immediately meet all the demand. Those involved in finding a solution to this challenge and looking to the longer term at the provision of a new curling facility in the Glasgow area have received messages of support from friends across Scotland and around the world. Curling is proving to be one great big family and within a short space of time offers of support have been received and a range of options will need to be considered in the coming weeks and months. Scottish Curling will do all we can to support this process.

The roadshow of open meetings has provided some valuable feedback from members on some of the key challenges that Scottish Curling is facing over the coming months in the lead up to the end of this season. The slides that were used in the presentations can be seen on the website [here](#) and these evolved over the course of the four-week period when the meetings were held. Notes from the meetings are being collated and will also be posted on the same page of the website, for members to see. The Structure Review Group and the board will take time to consider all of the comments and feedback that was given and see how these can practicably be incorporated in the future proposal, options and decisions that we will face.

Bruce Crawford
Chief Executive Officer



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WHAT'S ON: DECEMBER

6th - 8th Dec 2019	Asham Under 21 Slam – Lockerbie Junior Invitation	Lockerbie Ice Rink	Royal Caledonian Curling Club
7th Dec 2019	Asham Under 14 Slam – Perth	Dewars Centre	Royal Caledonian Curling Club
10th - 17th Dec 2019	World Junior-B Championships – Lohja		World Curling Federation
12th - 15th Dec 2019	Ferguson Oliver Wealth Management Scottish Curling Senior Qualifiers – Forfar	Forfar Indoor Sports	Royal Caledonian Curling Club
12th - 15th Dec 2019	Ferguson Oliver Wealth Management Scottish Curling Senior Qualifiers – Ayr	Ayr Ice Rink	Royal Caledonian Curling Club
15th Dec 2019	Skill Awards Challenge	The Peak	Royal Caledonian Curling Club
28th - 29th Dec 2019	Asham Under 17 Slam – Forfar	Forfar Indoor Sports	Royal Caledonian Curling Club

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



AROUND THE RINKS

LOCKERBIE

New Accessible Facilities at Lockerbie Ice Rink Unveiled

Wheelchair curlers from both sides of the border joined members of Lockerbie Wheelchair Curling Club in a competition to celebrate new accessible facilities.

During the summer, upgrades were made throughout the rink thanks to a grant of £41,292.00 from The People's Project.

Electronic opening doors were added, two additional accessible toilets were installed, and a permanent ramp onto the ice was made.

We were honoured to welcome Kate Caithness, President of the World Curling Federation, to officially open the state-of-the-art facilities, and she expressed how important grass roots curling and accessible ice rinks are to the continued development of our sport.

Curlers from Stranraer, Stirling, Newcastle, Preston, and across Dumfries and Galloway enjoyed a day of competitive curling to mark the special occasion and the competition winners were the team from Preston (pictured) who had never curled away from their home rink before!



STRANRAER

The Ladies' dinner kicked off Stranraer Curling Club's 50th celebrations with over 120 women members attending the dinner at North West Castle, Stranraer. This is the first of many events to celebrate the club's 50th year. Kathleen Stevenson the current women's president said the afternoon was a

AROUND THE RINKS

FORTH VALLEY

Kilsyth win the Forth Valley Area Knockout at the Peak, Stirling.

The 2019 Forth Valley Knockout Final took place on Wednesday 30 October in the Main Arena of the ice rink at the Peak, Stirling between Doune and Kilsyth. Starting on 19th September with sixteen clubs from four Provinces, West Lothian, Stirlingshire, Forth & Endrick and Central Scotland, this is the culmination of three rounds of play to get to the final.

Doune won the toss and Kilsyth took red stones and started the game. It was competitive from the start with stones being taken out and then others drawn around guards at the front of the house. Kilsyth had two stones in the house, one lying shot with a yellow Doune stone sitting in front of it. Doune skip MacLeod with his last stone hit his own stone to move the Kilsyth stone back to score a single as the second Kilsyth stone was narrowly ahead of his played stone.



In the second end Kilsyth kept two scoring stones in the house despite the best efforts of Doune to get into the button and Kilsyth skip Johnston narrowly missed scoring 3 with a final draw. In the third end however, he made up for it by keeping Doune out and getting the 3 to lead 5-1.

Ends four and five were similar stories with Doune always facing several Kilsyth stones in the house and trying to get in to score. The final stones for Doune were drawn agonisingly short and Kilsyth scored a single shot each time to lead 7-1.

In the sixth end another crowded head but this time Doune actually had three stones in the house before Kilsyth started to chip them out. However, the button was open and Doune scored their second shot.

This was repeated in the seventh end but this time the Kilsyth skip Johnston needed a very good draw to beat the Doune stones in the house, but he came up short, so Doune scored a 3. However, the bell had gone so Kilsyth won 7-5 in the end.

Well done to Kilsyth, the team was L. Goodfellow, M. McCulloch, N. Murray and B. Johnston.

By Joe Kincaid

BORDERS

Borders Ice Rink has become one of the CO-OP's local causes for 2020! In what is a fantastic fundraising opportunity, CO-OP members can select BIR as their chosen Local Cause, and a percentage of the money they spend in store will be donated. This scheme runs from January 2020 to December 2020.

Head to the CO-OP website to find out more.

INVERCLYDE

The team at Inverclyde are so proud to say Susie Smith, 19, is the first ever junior curler from the rink, to be selected for this season's Scottish Curling Academy programme. The course begins with a 7 week pre-season period which started in August followed by in-season sessions from late September.

The aim of the academy is to invest support for teams or individuals who are fully committed to a Development Programme with the prospect and ultimate outcome of being able to medal at World level. Inclusion in the programme is seen as an 'investment' in Susie's future potential. Susie will also be supported to play in European Junior Curling Tour events. The support from British Curling in facilitating ice provision is a huge factor in making this programme possible.

Susie started her curling career at the age of 10 when she became a member of her local club, Waterfront Junior Curling Club. When asked about her early years in the sport, Susie said that being a member of an active junior club was a vital part of learning the basics of the sport and the structured pathway through U14 and U17 slam programmes ensured that she could steer an upward curve in her development. She also said that whilst she enjoyed the serious matter of learning the technical aspects of the sport and the direct improvements that brought, she also relished the chance to take part in the more fun related activities organised by the club.

Susie is currently in the second year studying Mechanical Engineering at Strathclyde University. Susie has joined the university curling club and maintains her performance levels with regular games at Braehead Curling Rink. She also skips her own team in junior tournaments around the country at U21 slam levels. Her team members are scattered around other parts of the country: Perth, Forfar and Elgin making it particularly tricky to arrange pre-tournament practice sessions. Her team will be competing in the Scottish Curling Junior Championships in Aberdeen in January 2020.

Despite all the demands on her time, Susie still takes the opportunity to attend regular WJCC sessions and has committed to taking part in the next Level 1 coaching course at her home ice rink.



Susie expressed her gratitude to the development work of WJCC and to the coaching team, past and present who were there for tuition, guidance and support.

Article and photographs by Jim Stables



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~ Brushes Part Two: Pads ~

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Welcome to Part Two of our brushes special

Last issue we talked all thing brushes, concerning the different brands, composition and brush head styles: this week we're moving on to brush pads, Broomgate and just a little bit about sweeping!

“Broomgate” was big news back in 2016 after a surge of innovation in brush pad technology. Using new materials and sweeping styles, sweepers were having a greater influence on the stone after it had been released, causing an uproar from players as many felt this added control was taking away from the importance of shot-making in the game and the spirit of curling. After an investigation by the World Curling Federation (WCF) followed by athlete led research, a new set of rules concerning sweeping and brushes were released for major championships and has now been in effect for a few years.

Where do we stand now?

Most of these changes aren't enforced in your average club game but it's still important to know what's happening in the wider world of curling. The two biggest changes out of Broomgate were the banning of hair brushes and the introduction of WCF approved brush pads. It was determined that the directional sweeping while using hair brushes and unsanctioned pads was having too great an effect on the direction of the stone (some were even able to make the stone swing in the opposite direction of the curl). Now, all the approved pads are yellow and made out of specially tested material to ensure they are having a limited effect on the ice. However, as these rules aren't compulsory outside of prominent events, you can still buy an array of different coloured pads for your brush.

What is Directional Sweeping?

Directional sweeping offers another layer of control on the trajectory of the stone, based on which sweeper is closest to the stone and the direction it is curling. It can be used in two ways.

To help the stone curl: If the stone is curling from left to right, the sweeper on the left of the stone should sweep closest (the stone will be rotating away from them). This is especially useful for helping bury light draws behind guards.

To keep the stone straight: Again, if the stone is curling left to right, the person on the right should sweep closest to the stone (the stone will be rotating towards them). This is helpful on over-curling hits or on draws tight to the guard.

The type of pad needed depends on your brush. Most people still curl with brushes that use the traditional screw-on brush head, using synthetic oval brush pads. Each brand offers their version of these pads, but in most cases, they are all fairly similar in structure, using foam surrounded by synthetic woven material. Goldline also offers the Norway pad featuring gentle grooves across the face of the pad which is said to improve your sweeping impact over normal pads. New brush designs from Goldline feature a clip-in and pop-out style pad called the Airway, used in the Air Head showcased in last month's issue. These pads are also much cheaper, at almost half the price of the original Norway and most oval pads. With Hardline brushes, the cover is replaced, instead of the whole pad. The brush head pops off and the plastic attachment and foam of the pad are inserted into a new cover, all done easily by hand. These covers come in a range of colours and many professional teams get them personalised with their logo or country flag.



Goldline Airway pad showing clip-in feature



However, for most curlers the type of brush pad you have is one of the finer details of sweeping; technique and power would be the first things to focus on to improve your sweeping ability, followed by making sure you regularly replace your pad. Dirty and worn pads are more likely to cause pick-ups on the ice and greatly reduce your efficiency as a sweeper.

We hope you are enjoying our articles in Your Curler! Don't forget to follow us on social media to keep up to date on all our events and to see what our partnership teams are up to. Also feel free to email us if there is anything in particular you would like us to talk about in our next article, or if you have any questions about equipment!

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BRITISH OPEN 2020

JOIN US FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY BRITISH OPEN CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Active Stirling, Stirling Curling Group and the Goldline Scottish Tour welcomes any teams from Stirling, the UK and further afield to take part at The Peak, Stirling Friday 27 to Sunday 29 March 2020.

- Excellent prizes, including a top cash prize available
- A fun and competitive weekend of curling in Stirling
- Exciting triple knock out format
- Return of the annual turkey shoot
- Watch the teams play in Village Foods restaurant upstairs at The PEAK.

Apply online here or download application form here and apply by post.
Entry fee of £250 per team, CLOSING DATE FRIDAY 24th JANUARY 2020.
Full payment and application details are available on our website



DUNDEE ICE ARENA TO HOST THEIR FIRST NATIONAL CURLING EVENT

The Scottish Curling National Virtual Club Challenge is to be held at Dundee Ice Arena this March, the first ever national curling event at the venue.

David Jones, Scottish Curling Development Officer said, "This is an exciting opportunity for us to welcome clubs from across the country to Dundee. It's a great chance for the Dundee as a whole but also for our local curling community to get together and deliver a quality event to showcase the facility and friendliness of the people of Dundee."

The competition, which has gone from strength to strength in the last few years, is always a great opportunity for relatively new curlers to meet and compete with their peers from around the rinks. The shorter four-end games make it a close competition until the semi-finals and finals at the end of the challenge.

Entries are now open and can be done via the Scottish Curling website here.

The Virtual Club Network of beginner's clubs offers an excellent entry into the sport for curlers of any age who have finished beginner classes or the Try Curling programme. The virtual club introduces members to the club environment getting the opportunity to play with curlers of a similar experience and ability, try different positions in a team and meet new people all with the support and guidance of qualified coaches.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event – if you would like to discuss sponsorship of this years' National Virtual Club Challenge please contact David Jones.



INCLUSIVE CURLING UPDATE

Curlability Bonspiel 2020

The third annual Curlability Bonspiel will be held Thursday 27th February 2020 from 12.15 to 5.15 pm at the Peak in Stirling. This is an inclusive Bonspiel, open to everyone, but particularly suited to curlers with a disability or impairment. For example, last year we welcomed wheelchair and stick curlers, those with a learning disability and curlers with a Vision Impairment. The experience varied from just a few sessions to many years. Everyone can be catered for, with teams made on the day. If you are a coach who has run disability sessions at your rink, please encourage your curlers to enter. If you are a curler who finds longer competitions challenging due to disability/impairment or ill health, you would be welcome too.

The format consists of two curling sessions with a break for some great refreshments in the middle, finishing with a prize-giving. There will be a mixture of games and shot maker challenges, with prizes for both.

Volunteers are also required to help with the smooth running of the event, refreshments will be provided! Even if you can only help with one of the sessions, you would be very welcome.

For more information and entry forms or to volunteer, please visit our website.



BSL/Deaf-friendly Curling

This month has seen two events aimed at growing BSL/Deaf-friendly curling in Scotland. The first was another successful try curling session at the NCA in Stirling.

The second event was a training session run by the National Deaf Children's Society on Deaf-friendly activities. We were joined by some staff from the Peak. Everyone joined in enthusiastically as we learnt about how deafness affects people in different ways.

A full report can be found on our website.

GOT A STORY FOR THE NEXT YOUR CURLER?

Submit your story here by Tuesday 31 December to be included!



MEET THE TEAM...

...THE COACH



Relatively new to the curling world, Scottish Curling coach Norman Ainslie took up curling in 2013 to keep himself busy in his retirement. After seeing an advert for an Olympic Try Curling session at his local ice rink in Stirling, he thought he would give it a go. The level of skill, knowledge of shots and adaptability to ice conditions peaked Norman's interest and it wasn't long until he was hooked.

After completing his beginners' course, Norman joined the Virtual Club, and helped his ice rink take home their first win from Scottish Curling's National Virtual Club Challenge. Norman is now a member of three clubs, with whom he has enjoyed successes, and the good-natured rivalry and sportsmanship of the club environment. He is looking forward to traveling to Switzerland in 2020 for the upcoming Men's tour.

When asked why he decided to begin coaching, Norman said, *"I saw first-hand the expertise of the Coaches while I was part of the Virtual Club and thought 'I want to be part of that'. So, I quickly signed up to my Level 1 course before I left the Virtual Club and soon after gained my Level 2. I now coach Virtual Curlers along with juniors and disabled people"*.

"I've had lots of great experiences as a coach, like being asked to help at a Try Curling session with the Olympic Teams in 2018, but nothing beats the feeling of seeing someone you've coached grow in confidence and skill – or even be competing against you!"

Norman is the first in our *Meet the Team* features in Your Curler, where we will showcase the many ways that different Curlers, Coaches, HQ Staff, and Officials have come to be involved with Scottish Curling, and their individual experiences within the wider team.

Name: Norman Ainslie
Years Curling: 6
Years Coaching: 3

SCOTTISH CURLERS HEAD TO TRANSPLANT GAMES

Good luck to Scottish Curling members Linda Owen, Fiona McRae and Sue Swinson who are competing in the Winter Transplant Games, in Canada next year. The trio are training hard, alongside the rest of their team, and hope to retain their gold medal. We caught up with Linda, about the games and what they mean to participants...

Our team is made up of 3 Scottish Curling members. Fiona McRae (Tongland Curling Club), Sue Swinson (Bearsden Ski Curling Club) and myself Linda Owen (Waterbeck Curling Club), all pictured below. We also have Mark Brown and Dino Mauraduis who live in England and only curl occasionally. Between us we've had two heart transplants, 3 Kidney transplants and a pancreas transplant. We are competing for Team GB in the curling competition that is part of the World Winter Transplant Games which will be held in Banff, Canada between 23 and 28 February 2020. At the last games in Switzerland in 2018, there were around 200 people involved in the games from all around the world who had either had a transplant or have been a live donor.

So, you are the title holder; what do you think will be different this year?

We were so pleased to win the gold medal at the last games. Each country can enter up to two teams in the event, and we think that this year will be different because it is in Canada



where there are so many curlers so we may end up facing two Canadian teams so we expect these could be tougher games.

How important is the event to you, as someone who has received a lifesaving transplant?

The moto of the games is 'powered by the gift of life' which I think sums up our thoughts well. I think for all of us in the team this is an opportunity to show that transplants can change lives and it's an massive opportunity to promote organ donation. There are 25 of us in Team GB this year who are all here due to the generosity of someone else.

What should people do if they are interested in taking part?

The games are open to anyone who has had a transplanted organ or a bone marrow transplant from someone else. More information about the games can be found [here](#). If traveling abroad to curl is not your thing, we try to get together at least once in the season in Scotland for some games and have formed a transplant sport curling club and can be found on facebook. In 2018, 44 people in Scotland died because not enough organs were available for transplant. The law is changing in Scotland soon, meaning that a new opt out system will be in place from Autumn 2020. This means that if you have not confirmed whether you want to be a donor – for example by recording a decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register - it will be assumed that you are willing to donate your organs/tissue when you die and your authorisation for donation may be deemed to have been given. It's very important to have the conversation with your family so they know what your wishes are.

More info can be found [here](#)

Pictured below, Team GB next to their winning scoreline at the 2018 games.





**Scottish Curling Members
Presale**

Fri 6 Dec: 10am

General Onsale

Fri 13 Dec: 10am

SCOTTISH **CURLING** *CHAMPIONSHIPS*

Finals Day 2020

Saturday 15 February
Dewars Centre, Perth



THE ANNE MALCOLM LEGACY CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Scottish Curling Trust have set up The Anne Malcolm Legacy, in memory of Anne who died in 2019. Anne was a well-known curler who was on the RCCC board for six years, during which time she sat on many of the standing committees. She was President of the Ladies Branch 2005-2006 and tour captain of the tour to Canada in 2005. Anne worked behind the scenes in curling becoming an umpire and umpired at all the major national and international championships.

She was active in this right up to her death and has contributed much to curling. This legacy will be a fitting tribute to her memory.



The aim of the Anne Malcolm Legacy is to support the development of women's curling in Scotland. It is to support any activity related to curling in any capacity e.g. playing, coaching umpiring and for different purposes e.g. course fees, equipment, development activities.

Applications are invited from any individual junior women or women curler, junior women or women's teams, clubs or centres in Scotland. All applicants must be members of Scottish Curling.

Applications are welcome between Jan 2020 and Dec 2020. Full terms and conditions and application form can be found on the Scottish Curling website.



8-ENDER ALERT!



Many congratulations to the four teams who have achieved the elusive 8-ender in their games since the beginning of the 2019-2020 season - excellent curling!

FORRET

(Kinross Curling – 22 Sep 2019)

Craig Lindsay
Peter Lang (Jnr)
David Laird
Graham Lindsay

EDINBURGH LADIES

(Murrayfield Curling – 23 Sep 2019)

Lorna Scott
Christine Smellie
Kate Abbot
Lindsey Wilson

CORSTORPHINE LADIES

(Murrayfield Curling – 23 Oct 2019)

Ruth Addinall
Kath Murray
Tricia Hastie
Marjorie Beaumont

ABERDEEN

(Curl Aberdeen – 5 Nov 2019)

Richard Morrison
Nick Marshall
Moirra Morrison
Carol Ross



Inaugural Summer Bonspiel

10th, 11th & 12th July 2020
Open to anyone.

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COMPETITION CORNER

OUR SLAMS AND REGIONAL COMPETITIONS ARE NOW IN FULL SWING AT SCOTTISH CURLING, AS WE HEAD TOWARDS CHRISTMAS

Our junior competition calendar has been extremely busy over the last 4 weeks. November has brought no less than 3 Asham under 17 Slams.

Firstly, on the weekend of the 26th and 27th of October, our young curlers met at Hamilton.

20 teams from all over Scotland were drawn randomly over five sections for three round robin games each on Saturday 27 October to qualify for the knockout sections on Sunday.

There were some very close games and a lot of good curling on display during the initial stages. At the end of the day the top of each section went to the High Road and the second in the group went to the Low Road. Due to stiff competition in their sections Teams Craik and Chalmers found themselves in the quarter final of the High Road early on Sunday morning.

High Road Winners 2019 - Team Craik

Craik took an early lead with a 2 in the first end. In a very close game, all other ends went with hammer but for single scores sending Craik to the semifinal to meet Team Carson from Dumfries. Another very low scoring tactical game took place after Craik stole a 1 in the first end. Carson made a 2 in the fifth end and Craik could only make a 1 with hammer forcing an extra end and then stealing a 1. Final Score 3-2.

In the other semifinal, Mitchell (Greenacres) beat Team Smith from Aberdeen.

The final was dominated by Team Craik who started with a steal and won the first four ends. They shook hands at 5-1.

In the Low Road, Team Mackenzie from Glasgow Young Curlers met a rink from Stirling Young Curlers skipped by Ellen Banks in the quarter final on Sunday morning. Mackenzie took a 1 against the hammer but Stirling came back in the next two ends to take a 2 and a 4. Although the Glasgow team did not give up, the final score of 9-4 put Stirling in the semifinal against Team Strawhorn from Dumfries.

Team Strawhorn were this years Low Road Winners.

In the other Low Road semifinal there was a very low scoring tight game between Team Munro from Stranraer and Team Farries from Dumfries. After six ends the teams were equal on 2 shots. In the extra end, Munro could not capitalise on having the hammer and a blank end meant Farries went to the final.

In the final Strawhorn stole in the first but Farries came back with a 2. Strawhorn took control and won with a final score of 6-2.



Asham Under 17 events also took place at Lockerbie and Greenacres. Full reports were published contemporaneously on the website, and can be read by clicking the links.

Full reports are also on the website for the Under 14 Slam which took place at Aberdeen and the Under 21 Slam which took place at Inverness

Well done to all the participants over the last month!



Aberdeen Under 14 Slam, High Road Winners Forfar Young Curlers, Mixed Team, pictured left.

Below, Team Henderson the woman's winners of the Asham U21 Slam in



The weekend of the 26th and 27th of October saw the WJCC B Qualifiers take place. Team Davie just managed to hold off the efforts of Team Farmer to control each game, taking the all-important three wins. Read a full report [here](#)

November also saw the EJCT take place at Braehead. For a full report, click [here](#).

THE PROVINCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Ayrshire were crowned Scottish Province Champs on November 10th having gone through their section with four wins and a draw before seeing off Rhins o'Gallowa' in the quarters and Angus in the semi final. In the final they came up against last year's champions, the Keir Club representing Central Province whom they had beaten in the round robin.

With four international curlers in their rink in Lee and Judith McCleary, Lisa Davie and Stuart Brand, Keir fought all the way but it was Stewarton Heather which prevailed with a score of 5-3.



David Mundell with Alan Smith, Alex Wilson and Ayrshire Province Vice President Dougie Reid were presented with the trophy by Brian McArtney, RCCC President.

Well done to the Stewarton boys bringing the trophy back to Ayrshire for only the second time.

This report kindly supplied by Andrew Kerr.

NATIONAL MASTERS QUALIFIERS

Twenty-five teams from all over Scotland gathered at Greenacres Curling Rink during the 5th to the 7th of November, to decide who will play in the National Masters Final in February 2020, at the same venue. Predictably the event attracts many of the great names in Scottish Curling, but also introduces some of our contemporary players who have reached that 'Golden Age.'



The format is simple: the top two teams from each section go through, however the competition also allows for the top two third place teams to qualify.

Initial round results were pretty much as expected, though not without one or two raised eyebrows: there are no easy games or opponents in this event.

As the competition progresses into the later stages it becomes clear that this is going to be a close contest in every aspect.

For sure, some of the more experienced teams were carving out steady results, but wait a moment? Weren't these newer & apparently less experienced teams aware of the protocol? Team Derek Young upsetting some wiser & higher ranked opponents?

Let's take two examples of how tight this Competition can be for identifying whether you can qualify or not.

In their final game against Greenacres' Graeme Adam, Barton Henderson's Aberdeen team shakes hands after 7 ends at 7 – 3 down thinking their tournament is over. However, if they play on and take an extra end, they could qualify depending on other game results.

Meanwhile John Sharp's Greenacres team of Gus Storrie, Jack Steven & Ross Barr have figured out that even at 10 – 5 down going into the last end, they only need to win the last end to go through!

Of course, presented with a dead draw to the eight foot for the shot, John, as we have come to expect, executes it beautifully.

The qualifying teams are: Adam, Boswell, Clydesdale, Henderson, Horton, Linton, Macfarlane, Nelson, Prentice, Sharp, D Stark, P Wilson

This competition was an example of competitive curling carried out in a spirit of fair play a good humour.

Thank you, and well done to all participants, and to Stewart Sutherland for the thorough report





SILVER FOR SCOTS IN

Scotland's Team Muirhead narrowly missed out on gold in the final of the Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships in Helsingborg, after a brilliant final stone from reigning Olympic champion skip Anna Hasselborg secured a 5-4 victory for Sweden.

That perfectly executed promotion take out completed a double for the host nation with Swedish compatriots Team Edin having won the men's title earlier in the day, as Hasselborg defended the title she had won last year.

The Scots had gone into the final end leading for the first time in the match after the second of two high quality draws by Muirhead had forced a rare mistake from Hasselborg at the ninth end to allow them to steal a shot and claim a 4-3 advantage.

The Swede demonstrated all her quality with that last, highly pressurised delivery, ending what had been a superb campaign by the Scottish quartet of Muirhead, Lauren Gray, Jen Dodds and Vicky Wright, as their skip acknowledged afterwards.

"It was tough to take, but give Anna all her dues, what a fantastic shot to win the championships," said the two-time European and former world champion.

"We put up a good fight. It was a very good game, so it's disappointing, but we got a silver medal at Vicky's first championships. It's difficult, but what can you do."

"We knew it was going to come down to the last shot of the last end and it came down to a couple of inches, but that's curling."

At what was her 12th appearance at the European Championships, Muirhead had made her 300th international appearance earlier in the week and it was the fifth time she had reached the final at this event.

However, after what has been a challenging period since she underwent hip surgery last year, there was consolation to be taken from having demonstrated the capacity to compete at the highest level once again.

"I've got a lot of silvers at Europeans and unfortunately that's added another one to the collection, but we've got a lot we can take from this week," said Muirhead.

"What a great week we've had. For me, with the team being so behind me, it's been a tough couple of years, but those girls have been fantastic. They've been supporting me every single day and we can take a lot from this."

"We showed that we can still win, we can still hit the podium. Right now, it's Team Hasselborg's moment. They played a fantastic shot to win the championship and well done to them."

As she revelled in that moment in front of her home supporters, Hasselborg meanwhile similarly paid tribute to Muirhead's team.

"What a game. Eve and her girls played so well. We have so much respect for this team and it was a great game."



BRONZE FOR TEAM PATERSON IN HELSINGBORG

Team Paterson ended their Le Gruyère AOP European Curling Championships campaign on a high when they defeated Denmark 7-2 to secure a medal for Scotland in the third place play-off.

Skip Ross Paterson and team-mates Kyle Waddell, Duncan Menzies and Michael Goodfellow twice had to come back from falling behind in the bronze medal decider, going into the midway break 2-1 down before taking control immediately after the resumption.

A three at the sixth end turned the match their way and after a blanked seventh, they stole another three at the eighth when Danish skip Mikkel Krause failed with his attempt to hit and roll his way out of trouble with his final stone.

Paterson admitted that there was still some residual disappointment at having missed out on the gold medal match, following their defeat in the semi-finals to host nation Sweden's six time European champions Team Edin, but he was satisfied with the way his men responded to that setback.

"Our objective was to come here and win, but over the course of the week we came up against some very good opposition and when you lose a semi-final all you can do is pick yourselves up and aim to get that medal," he said.

"It was important for us. It was our first medal as a team and my first as skip and it was a nice way to finish the week."

In their first senior competition representing Scotland together, valuable lessons were learned.

"Edin is obviously a great champion and he is peaking at the right time this week, but as a new team we have shown that we can compete against the best in the world," Paterson reckoned.

"Our goals are set high for the future and we prepared as best we could and in the vast majority of games we prepared very well, but at times we got punished for small mistakes. We were a bit unlucky at times, but we got lucky to qualify for the play-offs and we're happy with where we're at and what we've achieved."





He was particularly pleased for Duncan Menzies, the youngest member of his rink, but believes all of them can take confidence from this performance moving forward.

"For Duncan it was his first men's international championship and to get a medal at the first time of asking is more than I and many others have done, so for him to achieve that, I'm proud of him," said Paterson.

"Overall I'm very proud of what the team has achieved this week. We're happy to get a medal at our first championships together, but we see this very much as a stepping stone onto bigger and better things."



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