

YOUR CURLER

Issue 15 - May 2020



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A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Welcome to what is normally the final edition of YourCurler for the season. We usually find this issue is packed with stories of great successes at championships both home and away and our clubs, Areas and Provinces reflect on the end of the season, but not this year. We are however delighted to still have some very exciting and important updates wrapped up in this month's YourCurler.

For the first time in its history, the RCCC will hold virtual AGMs for both the main AGM on Saturday 27 June, but also for the meeting of the Ladies Branch on Tuesday 9 June. There's more information on these here, and we are excited at the prospect of higher attendance due to the fact that members will only be able to attend from home. It is important to me that should you wish to vote, you know how to do so for 2020, so we have included a diagram on page 5 which explains the voting options for this year.

On page 8, quite literally hot off the press, you can read about the board's recent unanimous decision to approve changes to the current policies around the selection of world representative teams. I want you to know that this was debated at length, with all feedback from members considered. We are all excited about this change and although I know it feels like a huge step, we are confident that taking this step with our partners at British Curling, will seek to ensure continuing success on the world stage.

The latest advice from governments is due in the coming days and will start to give indications on the end of the lockdown and inform decisions on how sport will be allowed to resume. We are already in discussions within the sector and directly with government and will share information as soon as we can. In the meantime, we are making preparations for the season to commence as normal but are under no illusion that this may not be the case. I urge our members to stay in touch with each other, talk to other club members and plan for coming back to curling when the new season resumes.

Part of our commitment to our members is ensuring that you all know the value and benefits of being a member of Scottish Curling, so over the coming months our Head of Development Nick Rennie, and his team of Development Managers, Iain, Scott and Maggie, will be reviewing the membership. This will be communicated directly to members, and I would like to encourage all members to take part in this short survey, to share your thoughts and in order to help us shape future benefits of Scottish Curling membership.

You can keep in touch with us over the summer via our social media channels, website and with all the HQ staff via their contact details here. We will be sharing a special summer edition of YourCurler on Friday 10 July, so if you'd like us to share anything with your curling community – be sure to send it in here by Tuesday 30 June.

Until we see you next, stay well and stay safe.
Best wishes,



Bruce Crawford
Chief Executive Officer



RCCC TO HOST VIRTUAL AGM IN 2020

In line with current government guidelines on social distancing and events, we have decided to hold the Royal Caledonian Curling Club's (RCCC) Annual General Meeting (AGM), and the Ladies Branch AGM virtually using Zoom's video webinar platform.

The decisions to hold these AGM's virtually were not taken lightly and were made in consultation with our legal advisors Harper Macleod LLP, the chair of the board, the RCCC's President, Vice President and Ladies Branch President.

The Ladies Branch AGM will take place on Tuesday 9 June 2020, and the RCCC's AGM will be held on Saturday 27 June 2020.

There is provision within the RCCC's Articles for there to be an Extraordinary General Meeting, such a meeting could be held at some point after the restrictions on public gatherings are eased. If there is demand for an EGM to be held as a face to face meeting to consider any specific items, then the board would endorse this at some point after the season has started.

We will inform our members on how they can join these virtual AGM's in due course, however we thought you might appreciate the following information in advance:

LADIES BRANCH AGM – 9 JUNE 2020

Members who wish to participate in the virtual AGM are required to pre-register in order to receive a secure link to join the virtual AGM. More information on how to pre-register will be included with the Notice which will be issued at least twenty-one days before the AGM.

Intimation of business and notices of motions must be given in writing to the President of the Ladies Branch by no later than 8 May 2020. This includes items for consideration under Any Other Competent Business. Follow this link to email Morag Wellman (Ladies President)

RCCC AGM – 27 JUNE 2020

Members who wish to participate in the virtual AGM are required to pre-register in order to receive a secure link to join the virtual AGM. More information on how to pre-register will be included with the Notice which will be issued at least twenty-one days before the AGM.

Members who participate in the virtual AGM will not be able to vote during the video webinar. They **MUST** vote in advance by proxy, online or by post – there is no exception to this. More information on how to do this will be included with the Notice which will be issued at least twenty-one days before the AGM. Below is a diagram showing the ways members can vote.

VOTING OPTIONS FOR THE RCCC AGM IN 2020

	Option 1	Attend the AGM in person and vote.
	Option 2	Appoint a proxy to attend the AGM and vote on your behalf.
	Option 3	Appoint the chair as your proxy and instruct him how to vote by using the online form to indicate your voting choices, in advance of the meeting.
	Option 4	Appoint the chair as your proxy and instruct him how to vote by using the paper form to indicate your voting choices, in advance of the meeting.
	Option 5	Appoint the chair as your proxy and give the chair responsibility for determining how to vote by using the online form , in advance of the meeting.
	Option 6	Appoint the chair as your proxy and give the chair responsibility for determining how to vote by using the paper form , in advance of the meeting.

Intimation of business and notices of motions or resolutions to be brought by any Local Club must be given in writing to the CEO of Scottish Curling by no later than 16 May 2020. This includes items for consideration under Any Other Competent Business. Follow this link to email Bruce Crawford (CEO)

We appreciate virtual meetings may be new to some and we will do our best to ensure the process to pre-register and participate is made as simple as possible.

We would like to thank our members for their continued support during these strange times and look forward to seeing you “virtually” in the coming weeks.



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BULLETIN BOARD



DISTRICT MEDALS



Scorecards must be submitted to Scottish Curling before **Sun 31 May** to claim District Medals for season 2019/2020

WE'RE HERE

Scottish Curling HQ staff are currently working remotely - you can find our contact details here



INDOOR GRAND MATCH 2020

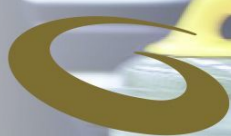


Club entries deadline extended to 31 May - [follow this link to enter your club now!](#)

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



SELECTING WORLD CLASS TEAMS TO REPRESENT SCOTLAND

After careful consideration, the board of Scottish Curling have unanimously authorised a change in policy, which will ensure the teams with the greatest potential to succeed are selected to represent Scotland at the World Curling Championships for Men, Women and Mixed Doubles.

The board has canvassed widely on this subject, in discussions with members at 8 locations in 2019, and has worked in partnership with British Curling who, among other things, are responsible for training and preparation of our top teams. Both the positive and negative outcomes of this potential change were discussed at great length by the board, in reflection of the views of our membership and British Curling's Executive Performance Director and National Coach. The main areas of discussion included:

- Using a single championship to determine a representative can be easily understood
- There are advantages to using performance data, results, and trends from multiple events over a longer period to inform decisions around representatives
- Whether the Scottish Championships should be considered the end goal, or as a step towards qualification for World representation
- Considering how our current structure compares to other sports' selection processes within the scope of Team GB
- Acknowledging potential risk with around £1.7m in annual performance funding that is linked to meeting high-performance targets
- Examining how the Scottish Championships can retain its integrity and still be used in a selection process but also to grow our sport
- The impact that illness or injury can have on any team at the Scottish Championships
- Respecting traditions whilst not being fearful of change
- Recognition that the Board has responsibility for the Competition "C" rules and Specific "S" rules but needs to make decisions on the best interest of the whole sport.

Since 1962, the winners of the Scottish Championships have automatically become Scotland's representatives at the World championships. From season 2020/21, a team's world rankings, past performance against international teams, and the ability of the team to perform at the highest level on the world stage will also be taken into consideration. In addition, if the team that wins the Scottish Championships is not selected for the World championships and is not already supported by the performance programme, British Curling will provide them a fully-funded entry and trip to an international curling competition within a year.



Team Mouat bring home the Gold at the European Championships 2018

Scottish curling teams representing Great Britain have won five sets of medals have won five sets of medals at Olympic and Paralympic games, including one gold, two silver and two bronze. Scottish Curling is determined to help home-grown athletes have the best possible chance of reaching the top of the podium and believes this modernisation of the rules will lead to even greater success.

The Scottish Curling Championships will retain their status and integrity as the pinnacle of the Scottish curling calendar, and will crown Scotland's national champions each year; help inform the selection process that determines which team will represent Scotland; provide a platform to showcase the sport to the nation and inspire future players and champions. Scottish Curling is also determined to review the over-arching development strategy which will wrap-around the Scottish Championships. This will be done by raising its profile locally and nationally, implementing the same strategies which would normally be used to capitalise on the increased profile which happens because of the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

With the opening of entries for next season's competitions in the coming weeks, this announcement has been planned to inform teams of what they can expect before they commit to entering a competition. The board has agreed to update the Rule Book to reflect the changes to rules C.12 and S.1 (b), S.2(b), S.3(i) and S.7(i). The changes only apply to the events that are on the pathway to the Olympics. The winners of the Scottish Curling Senior, Junior or Mixed Championships, will continue to represent Scotland at the respective World Championships.



ADULT CAMP IS BACK FOR

Get your curling season off to a great start and book your place for Adult Camp 2020, taking place Friday 9 – Sunday 11 October.

Bookings are now open for Scottish Curling Adult Camp 2020. The weekend will be a masterclass of the latest and most relevant coaching advice and principles, provided for curlers over 21 looking to improve their existing skills, under the tutelage of Camp Head Coach David Jones, and his crack team of coaches which he assembles every year. It would be hard to find a more supportive and encouraging atmosphere to hone your skills and learn some new ones!

The camp provides the opportunity for curlers of all levels and abilities to get to know new curlers in a fun, sociable and relaxed environment; while improving your game for the coming season.

You will experience workshops on topics such as strategy, tactics, sweeping, delivery and balance; along with a chance to analyse, review and develop your performance, all led by highly experienced Scottish Curling coaches.

This immensely popular early season weekend sees curlers coming back for more year on year and many new friendships are made in the evenings, in the warm and welcoming surrounds of our fantastic host venue, North West Castle Hotel in Stranraer.

To book your place for Adult Camp 2020 please complete the online application form >>>>

A deposit of £100 is required to secure your place.

Due to the popularity of this event and with top coaches involved, allocation is on a strictly first-come, first-served basis.

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11th - 13th October 2019

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2nd Team Prize

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of vouchers

3rd Team Prize

£250
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Winners

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Individual prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in The Crazy Golf Challenge!

Suitable for members of virtual clubs or curlers with
2 years' experience or less.

All teams will play four matches; one on Friday evening
(6pm or 8pm), two on Saturday and one on Sunday
(10am or 12pm). A schenkel league will be in operation.

Entry fee is £400 per team which includes ice fees, 4 tickets
to Saturday night dinner dance (extra tickets available at £30)
and four entries to The Crazy Golf Challenge.

The crazy golf can be played at any time during the
weekend at your leisure.

The Flower Bowl | Garstang Road | Brock | Preston | PR3 0BT

STUDENT CURLING SEASON 2019-20

by Jim Whittle – Scottish Student Curling

Pictures by Rachel MacRae

It's been a funny old season for all of us; with the closure of Braehead and then the early finish to the season with the COVID-19 outbreak. Student curling has not escaped this – the cancelling of the annual Open at Stranraer was a hard blow for all of us, with the bonspiel serving as a highly sociable climax for the student season. In this time of uncertainty, however, it is important to focus on the positives from the season – and, I am happy to say, there are plenty to speak of!

The Scottish Student Curling League was contested by six teams this year, playing in a double round robin format. Teams from Edinburgh, Strathclyde, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Stirling competed over 5 weeks at Perth for the title, with Strathclyde 2 winning on 17 points. Congratulations to Strathclyde on their win, and many thanks to all who took part.

I was lucky enough to be at the vast majority of these sessions (throwing the odd stone for the winning team while I was at it!), and the standard of curling was a real testament to the training that so many of our athletes undertake. More importantly, though, every match was played in the truest spirit of the game, with the social side – which so greatly benefits our sport – being well observed all the way through.



Strathclyde skip, Mark Taylor, at Perth playing for Strathclyde

Sincere thanks have to go to Iain Wallace (2019-20 Scottish Student Curling Vice-Chair) for organising the league, and the all the staff at the Dewar's Centre in Perth for providing quality ice and hospitality at every session.

Elsewhere in competition, Iain Wallace was also working hard to run a new addition to our calendar – the Social Cup. The Social Cup was played for in January at Curl Edinburgh. Teams of players were made up on the day, comprising players from different institutions and of different playing abilities. We'd like to give a big shout-out to Jess from SSS for coming along and giving curling a go that afternoon. Sorry we didn't win, Jess, but coming second by a shot isn't a bad way to kick off your curling career! Once again, we thank Iain and all the staff at Curl Edinburgh for a wonderful afternoon's curling and a great meal afterwards. We are very much looking forward to running this again next season!

The season has also seen closer coordination with Scottish Curling and Scottish Student Sport to push Scottish Student Curling forward. Throughout the season, we have had a series of very productive meetings with representatives from SC, SSS, and ScotStuCurling's committee and members regarding a variety of topics.



Gabby calling the line for Edinburgh during a league game.

Most notably, we have seen a marked effort to move curling towards being a BUCS recognised sport – especially as we enter the next Winter Universiade cycle – and plans to work ever closer with SSS on a 20-22 Partnership Agreement. Talks have also seen progress on the ideas of creating a SSS National Squad programme for curling, and ways to improve recruitment and retention of new curlers at university, as well as ways of getting colleges into the Student Curling scene.

I know that I speak for the ScotStuCurling committee when I say that we are profoundly grateful for all the work put in by the folks from Scottish Curling and Scottish Student Sport – particularly Iain Stewart (Scottish Curling's Development Manager) and Ben Philips (Scottish Student Sport's Head of Competitions, who has now moved to a similar role with BUCS).

All of this work has put Scottish Student Curling in a strong position to move into the next season. We can see this already, with new clubs like UHI-Inverness having put together a team to enter into the Open, and with a team of curlers from English Universities planning on coming up for the second year in a row. Although the annual pilgrimage to Stranraer didn't happen, the interest in our sport remains high, and I am sure that next season, our trip to Stranraer will be bigger and better than ever (No pressure, Andrew!).

We are living in uncertain times; we don't know when we'll be back on the ice, Strathclyde and Glasgow are also uncertain of where they'll be playing next year, and we appear to be in a membership dip across the sport. However, the hard work of our student clubs, their committees and members, our partners in Scottish Curling and SSS, and all of our supporters will continue to ensure a bright future for student curling and the sport in general. As I enter into the next season as the Chair of Scottish Student Curling, I am confident that we can see another season of success and progress. I'd like to give a final thanks to Iain Wallace and, our outgoing Chair, Sarah Dagen for all the work they have put into this season, it's been a pleasure working with you. To all of our members, partners, and supporters; stay safe and we'll see each other on the ice again soon!

2019-20 Scottish Student League Winners

Strathclyde 2

2020 Social Cup Winners

I. Wallace, O. McLaughlin, J. Sheffer, Y. Liu

2019-20 Scottish Student Curling Committee

Chair – S. Dagen (Aberdeen)

Vice-Chair (League) – I. Wallace (SRUC)

Vice-Chair (Open) – J. Whittle (Strathclyde)

2020-21 Scottish Student Curling Committee

Chair – J. Whittle (Strathclyde)

Vice-Chair (League) – R. MacRae (Edinburgh)

Vice-Chair (Open) – A. Gilmore (Glasgow)

USEFUL ADVICE FOR RINKS AND CLUBS

We have decided to include this article from last month's YourCurler, to make sure those who need these tips and advice are aware of them. We've updated a couple of the "Keeping in Touch" points from last time.

Due to the government restrictions to reduce the impact of the Coronavirus, we have gathered a few tips for clubs to consider. We appreciate that many of these are only relevant to facility owners and operators, we thought it worth sharing them all here. Other advice and support is available locally via local authorities, so please use this as a starting point to consider what might be suitable for your club.

- > Keep engaging with members, via your usual methods but not in person, which may be emails, website and social media, maybe encourage them to take part in a "group selfie" like Penicuik Curling Club, or a fitness challenge on social media
- > Try using Whatsapp, Zoom, Skype or other platforms to have meetings or catch ups on a regular basis
- > Share how your club is keeping in touch with others, you never know who might find it useful
- > Share important information and updates with your fellow Scottish Curling members - especially those who are not online
- > Plan for return to normal, even though we don't know when that might happen. We should all be planning to resume at the start of the new season.
- > Review contracts that can be reduced or suspended such as waste collection, TV and internet, rent of property, lease of equipment.
- > Review cashflow, to make sure standing orders and direct debits can be paid.
- > Ensure perishable products are consumed within date, by distributing to people who can use or purchase them
- > Check out the Third Sector Resilience Fund, which is a £20m fund for community groups, voluntary organisations and charities
- > See this link to Charities Aid Foundation, who made grants available but paused the scheme however hope to reopen it in future
- > Sportscotland have published guidance for facility owners and operators that can be seen here
- > See the Job Retention Scheme to furlough employees who are on the payroll but unable to attend the premises.
- > The Scottish Government have confirmed that all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses will not need to pay non-domestic rates in 2020-21. This should allow the vast majority of sports clubs with facilities to budget for a £0 non-domestic rates bill for 2020-21.
- > Follow the NHS and government advice and continue to stay at home as much as possible



Penicuik Curling Club April 2020

PENICUIK CURLING CLUB CELEBRATING THE CLUB

The cancellation of the Annual Dinner and Prize-giving at the end of April did not stop Penicuik Curling Club from recognising the event. On the evening of 24 April, all members were invited to raise a glass and toast the Club, whilst remembering old friends lost during the season, and to send in a selfie of the event. More than thirty photos were then compiled into one large photo which clearly demonstrates that the spirit of curling fellowship can still be achieved even during social distancing measures. This was a huge amount of fun and a welcome boost to morale after the early closure of the season.

By Jean Noble

COMPETITION CORNER

ENTRY FORMS 2020/21

The first entry forms for Season 2020-21 will be available on the Scottish Curling website in the coming days. Available first will be events that have a closing date of Tuesday 30 June 2020, with other events following shortly afterwards.

Understandably, some members may be reluctant to commit to participating in our competitions, particularly ones which are due to take place in the earlier stages of the season. Scottish Curling would like to encourage members to enter competitions as normal, with the knowledge that competitions will only go ahead if it is safe and within government guidelines for them to do so. If any of our 2020-21 competitions are unable to go ahead, all participants will receive a full refund.

Access entry forms here



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SCOTTISH **CURLING** AWARDS 2020

TEAM **ICE DIAMOND** YOUNG CURLER **GRASSROOTS COACH**

Keep your eyes peeled - the shortlist for the annual Scottish Curling Awards will be announced on our website and social media w/c Monday 11 May 2020!

The categories are:
Team of the Year
Ice Diamond Award
Young Curler of the Year
Grassroots Coach of the Year

You will be able to vote for your winners online, through the Scottish Curling's membership database at rcccmembers.org



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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