

Your Curler



TEAM GB SWEEP THE NATION WITH PRIDE

A rewind to Team GB's success in the Beijing Olympics **PLUS** A look forward to the upcoming Paralympic timetable.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

P3

[A WORD FROM OUR CEO](#)

P4-7

[THE 2022 WINTER PARALYMPICS](#)

Get to know the team.

P8

[PARALYMPICS TIMETABLE](#)

P9-20

[THE SCOTTISH CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP](#)

A look back over the past week, from volunteer impact, Olympic Medallists, Championship winners, and poet Joe McGurk

P21-24

[OLYMPIC MEDALLISTS](#)

A rewind to celebrate Team Mouat and Team Muirhead as they bring home victory from Beijing.

P25-26

[TARLAND CURLING CLUB](#)

A look at the amazing work over the last year from Tarland Curling Club.

P27-28

[A VISIT FROM THE USA CONSULATE](#)

RCCC President Susan, shows Jack (USA Consulate) the ropes of Curling.

P29

[DISABILITY TRY CURLING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

P30

[THE SCOTTISH CURLING MIXED DOUBLES COMPETITION](#)

P31

[SCOTTISH WHEELCHAIR CURLING ASSOCIATION BRITISH OPEN 2022](#)

P33-34

[SCOTTISH SENIOR COMPETITION](#)

P35

[MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS](#)

P36

[CURLING NEWS](#)

P37

[CURLING RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS PACK!](#)

P39

[INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY](#)

A Word from our CEO

Welcome to this special edition of Your Curler covering the results from the Winter Olympics in Beijing and various activities taking place in the country and looking ahead to the Paralympic Games.

The performances of Olympic teams in Beijing were exceptional, producing the three best results for TeamGB. We all send our congratulations to the teams for such great achievements which have inspired the nation. First up were Jen Dodds and Bruce Mouat in the Mixed Doubles where they came through the round robin but narrowly missed a medal finishing in 4th place. Next up were the men, Team Mouat performed outstandingly throughout the event and were pipped to the post in the final settling for silver. Team Muirhead showed exceptional resilience and quality when it mattered and the high scoring semi-final was a roller coaster and the team dominated in the final, outclassing Japan to secure Gold.

Our Board of Directors has supported the decisions taken by the World Curling Federation to stop hosting events in Russia and to create an emergency rule that would prevent Russia from playing in the World Championships this season. We have no direct accountability with the International Paralympic Committee but sought to influence World Curling and British Curling to apply pressure on the IPC to take decisive action, which they did. We are pleased that the Wheelchair Curling athletes can now focus on the Paralympic Games and our thoughts are with all those affected by this crisis and particularly the people of Ukraine.

The absence of travelling spectators and media at the Olympics resulted in a greater level of interest in the families and fans left back home and it was lovely to hear many people on TV and radio during the Games. Several ice rinks responded well with watch parties at different times, particularly Stranraer, where there was a real buzz in the North West Castle Hotel. We are delighted with all the coverage and hope the heightened interest follows through to record numbers of people in Try Curling then take up beginners courses and join clubs.

The domestic competition scene continues with Seniors, Scottish Championships, Henderson Bishop and Mixed Doubles all following on the back of the Olympics before the greatest show in town returns to Beijing this weekend for the Paralympics. We were delighted to secure double the previous coverage on BBC Sport Scotland for streaming of the Scottish Championships in Dumfries and are looking forward to bringing the weekend action to our members and curling fans by streaming the Scottish Mixed doubles on Recast [HERE](#).

Bruce Crawford
Chief Executive Officer
Scottish Curling

2022 WINTER PARALYMPICS

GET TO KNOW THE TEAMS



Team GB / David Pearce

The Paralympic wheelchair curling competition will be taking place at the Beijing National Aquatics Centre from March 5 to 12. Team GB is sending a five-strong squad, entirely comprised of Scottish athletes, to Games to try continue Scotland's current international curling success. Three of the five Team GB representatives are set to make their Paralympic debut at the Ice Cube in David Melrose and Meggan Dawson-Farrell as well as Gary Smith who came into the squad as a late replacement for the sadly injured Charlotte McKenna.



WCF / Ailna Pavlyuchik 2020

Having joined the British Curling programme in 2018, Melrose went on a meteoric rise and earned selection for the world championship the following year when Scotland took silver on home ice. Originally from Duns, Melrose was introduced to curling at Border Ice Rink in Kelso in 2017 when he was seeking to re-add athletic competition to his life. Having participated in sport all his able-bodied life, playing football and golf, wheelchair curling presented a new way to hone his self-discipline and drive, he says.

Dawson-Farrell has experience competing at major international competitions, albeit off ice. Having previously been a wheelchair racer, she represented Scotland at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The Tullibody athlete made the switch over to curling in 2019, around the time of the world championships in Stirling, when performance coach Sheila Swan invited her to a few sessions. Favouring the team aspect of the winter sport, there was no looking back for Dawson-Farrell who instantly made the teams for the 2020 and 2021 world championships.

Previously a wheelchair basketball player, Smith discovered curling in 2015 when injury forced him to retire from basketball. His major inspiration came from Tom Killin, who was not only Smith's first-ever basketball coach but would also go on to be a Paralympics GB wheelchair curler. When Killin asked him along to give it a try, Smith was immediately hooked and continued to practise the game vigorously. To this day, Smith liaises closely with Killin who continues to be an influence and a figure of support.

The squad is completed by Hugh Nibloe and Gregor Ewan who have both taken to Paralympic ice before.

Hailing from Stranraer, Nibloe is looking to continue the trend of curlers from the west coast town shining in Beijing. Since taking up the sport in 2012, when then Stranraer wheelchair coach Brian Park asked if he fancied having a go at curling during a game of dominoes, Nibloe has competed on the world stage several times. Among his career highlights stand world bronze from 2016 and world silver from 2019, as well as a Paralympic appearance at PyeongChang 2018.

After a brief stint away from the ice, Ewen is back with his sights set on Beijing. The Elgin athlete got his first taste of curling in 2007 at Moray Ice Rink and made his international debut two years later. Since then, Ewen has collected a host of major medals: Worlds silver in 2011 and bronze in 2017 stand out alongside a Paralympic bronze medal from Sochi 2014. After missing out on a podium spot in PyeongChang, Ewen is determined to return to the rostrum when he contests his third Paralympic Games in Beijing.

Four of the five athletes, Smith the exception, represented Scotland together at the world championships last October in Beijing. Having lost in the quarter-final stage on that occasion, the squad will be seeking retaliation when they return to the Ice Cube for the Paralympics.

Besides the Team GB curlers, there are more athletes to keep an eye out for in Beijing ...

Mark Ideson (CAN)

Mark Ideson took up wheelchair curling in 2010 after being involved in a helicopter crash. Hardly four years later at the 2014 Sochi Games he won Paralympic gold. The skip has been the face of Canadian wheelchair curling in the past decade, following up the 2014 gold with silver at PyeongChang 2018. He has also been on the squad for Canada's best world championship performances in recent years, helping them to gold in 2013 and overcoming a six-year Worlds medal drought to take silver in 2020. Ideson will be accompanied in Beijing by fellow former Paralympic champions Ina Forrest and Dennis Thiessen – following Curl Canada's disappointing showing at the Olympics, eyes will be fixed on the wheelchair curlers to bail them out.

Wang Haitao (CHN)

China made history at the 2018 PyeongChang Games, not only securing their first gold medal in wheelchair curling but also their first overall at a Winter Paralympics. Having skipped the Chinese team, Wang Haitao was an integral part of this success and is back in 2021 to spearhead the title defence on home ice. Wang has been representing China at Worlds since 2015, coming ever so close to the title twice before it was third time lucky in 2019. Competing against Scotland in the final, Wang threw a perfect take-out in the crucial stages of the match to secure gold and repeated the medal feat against Sweden at the 2021 Worlds.



Polina Rozkova (LAT)

Polina Rozkova has been a key figure in Latvia's rise on the international wheelchair curling scene. Skipping the Latvian rink, she has guided her team to securing promotion from the B-division to the world championships and led the Baltic state to qualify for their first Winter Paralympics at Beijing 2022.

Rozkova is no stranger to adversity, facing challenges such as a lack of ice time to practice in Latvia. Nevertheless, she and her team showed incredible resilience since making their debut on the world stage in 2019 and registered wins against the likes of triple Paralympic champions Canada among others.



Ole Fredrik Syversen (NOR)

Ole Fredrik Syversen is more than just the vice-skip to the Norwegian squad. Considered as the “glue guy”, Syversen is always in place to pick his teammates up in moments of adversity and to fire them up in competition. He kept the spirits high during the nerve-racking final at PyeongChang 2018 to continue to bring the fight to the Chinese team – Norway would eventually lose out on gold, but nevertheless secured the Scandinavian nation’s first Paralympic wheelchair curling medal. Syversen first secured a place on an international podium when winning silver at the 2016 Worlds, a feat he followed up a year later, that time for the gold medal.

Kristina Ulander (SWE)

Kristina “Kicki” Ulander heads to Beijing aiming to get Sweden back on the Paralympic wheelchair curling podium for the first time in 12 years. The Scandinavians took bronze at both the discipline’s debut Games in 2006 and the subsequent 2010 Vancouver Paralympics but had to travel home without silverware since. Ulander herself secured her first major international medal at the 2013 world championship and has recently been in great form to repeat this feat at the 2020 and the 2021 Worlds. Vice-skipping the Swedish rink, Ulander will play a decisive role in the bid to return to the rostrum.

Matthew Thums (USA)

The role as Team USA skip seems to come naturally to Matthew Thums. Making his debut in the position at the 2020 World Wheelchair Curling B Championship, he guided his squad to gold straight away and secured promotion to the Worlds. Skipping once more at the subsequent 2021 world championships, Thums and his team reached the semi-final stage and, despite losing out to eventual champions China, bagged a ticket to Beijing 2022. Thums straightforward approach of ‘Eat. Sleep. Curl. Repeat.’ has proven to work for him and he will be looking to keep the momentum going when making his Paralympic debut in China.

Ole Fredrik Syversen
WCF / Alina Pavlyuchik 2020



Matthew Thums
WCF / Alina Pavlyuchik 2020



Kristina Ulander
WCF / Alina Pavlyuchik 2020



Beijing Paralympic Winter Games



PARALYMPIC TEAM: MEGGAN DAWSON-FARRELL, GREGOR EWAN, HUGH NIBLOE, DAVID MELROSE & GARY SMITH.

SAT 5TH MARCH 06.35 / GBR V NOR



SAT 5TH MARCH 11.35 / GBR V USA



MON 7TH MARCH 01.35 / GBR V SUI



MON 7TH MARCH 11.35 / GBR V SVK



TUE 8TH MARCH 01.35 / GBR V EST



TUE 8TH MARCH 11.35 / GBR V SWE



WED 9TH MARCH 06.35 / GBR V CAN



WED 9TH MARCH 11.35 / GBR V KOR



THU 10TH MARCH 01.35 / GBR V CHN



THU 10TH MARCH 06.35 / GBR V LAT



**FRI 11TH MARCH 06:35
SEMI FINALS**

**FRI 11TH MARCH 11:35
BRONZE MEDAL GAME**

**SAT 12TH MARCH 06:35
GOLD MEDAL GAME**

THE 2022 SCOTTISH CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SPECTATOR SPECTACLE

This year The Scottish Curling Championship took to a new venue in the form of Dumfries Ice Bowl. In March 2021 a Scottish Championships Working Group was formed with the aim of reviewing the Scottish Championships. This is an ongoing project but the 2022 Scottish Curling Championships gave the first opportunity to deliver some of the measures needed to enhance the championship including:

- **increasing the profile of the championships to existing curlers and the public**
- **increasing streamed, broadcast and media coverage**
- **enhancing the athlete experience**
- **improving the spectator experience**
- **ongoing legacy**

Reflecting on the championships, Head of Development Maggie Wilson said 'As with so much of what drives curling forward, the volunteers were key to the success of the Scottish Curling Championships in Dumfries. From the very first meetings of the Scottish Curling Championship Working Group to their constant support throughout the week Dumfries Curling volunteers were on hand to support in all sorts of ways. From assisting the ice makers, to arranging the live streaming and welcoming around 450 Dumfries and Galloway School Children to experience the event and get a go of curling. The event would not have been possible without the time put in by the local volunteers.

'This championship allowed more people than ever to view our national championship, across YouTube live streaming, BBC coverage and an increased capacity in the stands from any previous championships. This allowed us to showcase our sport to people across Scotland and beyond and allow us to capitalise on the increased exposure in the days following the Olympics. BBC Scotland broadcast their live sports news from the stand and the championship made the ITV evening news to name but a few features of the championship. It was fantastic to see our National Championship featured in this way.

'Graham Sloan and Frazer Shaw delivered excellent ice conditions and I congratulate them on playing such a critical role in delivering this championship. Thanks must go to Dumfries Ice Bowl and Dumfries and Galloway Council who offered help and support throughout the week to overcome any challenges and welcomed the wider Scottish Curling community to their facility with open arms.'



Our outstanding team of volunteers, Dumfries 2022.

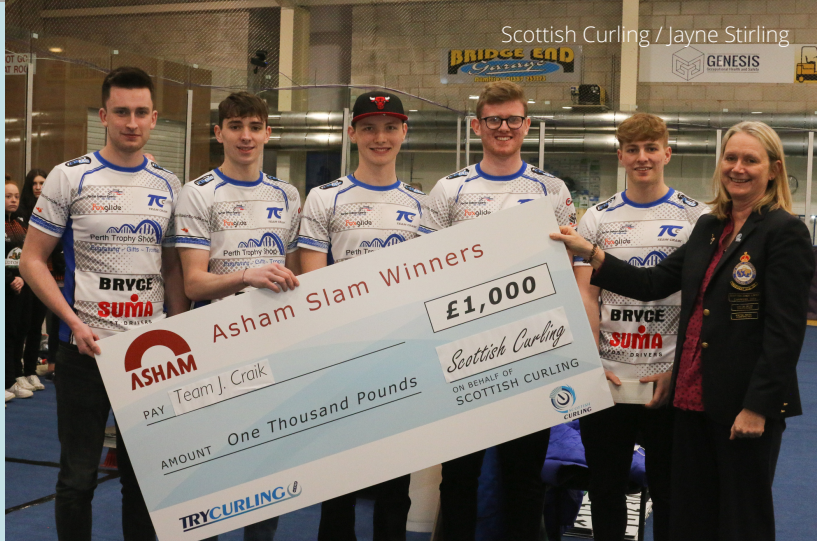
Ice Technician and former Scottish Curling Future Leader, Frazer Shaw, joined the ice making team for the week. 'After a long and successful week at the Scottish Curling Championships, it's great to reflect on an incredible experience with an exceptional group of people within Dumfries Curling, Scottish Curling and Dumfries Ice Bowl. I was lucky enough to be part of the most prestigious event on the Scottish Curling calendar, it was a great feeling!! My role at the event was assisting in creating the ice conditions for the participants. This role has its challenges in any arena at any event.... but having a great team of local Volunteers from Dumfries Curling made the job so much easier, their work ethic and loyalty to their rink is remarkable.'



Graham Sloan and Frazer Shaw. Dumfries 2022.

'This sport is all about teamwork, creating opportunities and developing personally and collectively, Dumfries Curling shine a bright light into the future of our sport and it's was great to work in such a warm and welcoming Curling Community.'

The Scottish Curling Championships return to Dumfries in 2023.





We'd like to thank Joe McGurk for attending The Scottish Curling Championships and reciting his outstanding poem, written to honour Team Muirhead in their victorious Gold Medal win. Joe had said it was a 'pleasure to be involved' in The Scottish Championship event.

A little bit about Joe:

Joe is a poet originally from Stranraer, and now resident to Dumfries. When Joe was young he was a keen and talented athlete, at the tender age of 9 Joe was involved in a car accident which left him with a Traumatic Brain Injury.

This incident sparked Joes writing journey which soon developed with him being heavily influenced by Eminem and rhyme. Since moving to Dumfries Joe have released 2 self-published books the second of which was "100 poems 100 days of Lockdown, Covid 19, 2020", and from this raised £1000 by the sales and donated to The Astley Ainslie Rehabilitation Unit.

Back in his Stranraer days, Joe played disabled curling which seen him play in the Nation Championships in Stirling. During the Olympics Joe was very taken by the curling, and so had written this poem for the girls after their exceptional achievement in Beijing.



Above is a clip of Joe reciting his poem, we have also inserted the written poem in the next page due to the camera being blocked in some areas and missing the first few lines when reciting.

The Golden Olympics

By Joe McGurk

We went severe

The stones are startin'

No in twenty year

Since Rhona Martin

With the scene

See the highs

An Olympic Dream

Realized

Start to shout

How to go with

Hearts in mouths

As the house approaches

It's still a myth?

Climbing teams

With Mili Smith

Behind the scenes

Showed that when odds

Stay as shown

Jenn Dodds

Just play that stone

Look on the stars

Fair enough

Took a corner guard

Hailey Duff

Hold in when you're waiting

Spot is sublime

A Golden Generation

One shot at a time

Yes it has shown

The sport can be cruel

Destiny's stone

Hands me the fuel

With delight

Sentiment too

Vicky Wright

2022

Believe sure said

Get a grip

Eve Muirhead

Yeah was the skip

Had a shot with it girls

In with it, bowled in

On top of the World

The Olympic's was Gold

100 Poems in 100 Days of Lockdown Covid-19 2020



by Joe McGurk



Joe and his partner, Patricia.

REFLECTIONS OF MY WORDS



Painting by Joe McGurk

A compilation of poetry by
Joe McGurk



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



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Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling/Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



Scottish Curling / Jayne Stirling



SCOTTISH CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

Team Morrison swiftly took the advantage with a four-points score in End 3. Team Henderson gradually chipped away on their disadvantage in a tense and low-scoring game, but Team Morrison managed to hold their opposition at bay. Well-considered stone placement in the 10th end from the Aberdeen side left Fay Henderson with a difficult shot to score and when the skip's throw did not come off, Team Morrison stole two for an 8-4 win.

Coming off the ice, skip Rebecca Morrison felt 'amazing! For a minute it felt like it was gone, but we stuck in there and played some great shots in the last end, so I'm absolutely chuffed.

'[After the four points] we were very aware that the game was still up for grabs for either team – Fay's team, they're great players and they've beaten us twice this week, so we know that they can take big ends off us, so we were very aware that the game hadn't been won in the third end and there was still a long, long way to go.'



Speaking about the immaculate freeze she threw with her last stone Rebecca says that 'before the stone was played I was super nervous and after the stone was played I was super nervous. But when I played it I just seemed to dial in and it was fine – afterwards I was shaking!

'That's the most calm I've ever felt in a final like that. Having teammates around you that have the experience really helps – [previous Scottish champions Sophie Jackson and Sophie Sinclair] definitely helped with my nerves today. We've had three weeks since our last competition, so we have just been focusing on our team sessions, throwing stones the same as each other and things like that and really tuned into the small details for the preparation for this championship. I think from the shot making and the results you can really see that the fine tuning has worked so well.'

Read the recap of the Women's Competition [HERE](#)



SCOTTISH CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

Nothing could separate Team Paterson and Team Whyte for the best part of a tight game as the sides traded single scores. Team Paterson finally got the first multi-score on the board in End 7 and followed it up with another deuce after forcing the one off Team Whyte. Heading into the final end with a two-points gap, both rinks were still within contention.

The decision came down to the last two stones as Ross Paterson did the double take-out to lie two, one on the button and one behind guard on the eight foot. Ross Whyte had one stone biting the 12 foot but needed the double take-out and lie to take the game to an extra end. Although he managed to move the two yellows, he also took out his counter and only secured the one point and the game finished on 6-5.

Skip Ross Paterson was feeling 'great' after the final: 'We've had a really good week, so this game just finished everything off on a positive note. We've played really consistently and the boys have been fantastic, so I couldn't be happier and I'm really proud of what we achieved. I think because we performed so well all week we knew that we just had to replicate as much as we can.



We didn't have to change anything, we just had to concentrate on ourselves and concentrate on making the simple shots well and we did that.

'Team Whyte are a fantastic team, a team that we've probably struggled a bit against over the last wee while and it's nice to get a win over them, especially in a final. Ross [Whyte] had a bit of a mistake with his first [stone in the last end], so that gave me a chance. Still, in that last end we said to ourselves, even if they are going to make a shot for two and we're going to play the extra end, that's fine. Our game plan was to keep it as tight as we can and, thankfully, he didn't make his last shot and we didn't have to play the extra end. 'We had a pretty intense training period, we had a really big focus on this event. We train at the national curling academy, we've been up there for double shifts four times a week just to make sure we are getting in the hours as a team; working on communication, working on the simple shots and this [Scottish title] is just an end result of the work we have put in – we've done a lot of really hard work and it's nice to come away with the win this week.

'I'm a little bit calmer this time than I was [when winning the 2016 championships]; when I played with Tom [Brewster] in 2016 I played second and it was just a lot of emotions and just getting it over the line. With this team in the last few years, we unfortunately got knocked out in the semi-final stages, so this week we just knew it was all about consistency, trying to play as well as we can and we got into a mindset where we managed to do that.'

**Read the recap of
the Men's
Competition [HERE](#)**





OLYMPIC MEN'S CURLING COMPETITION

Team Mouat became the first Team GB representatives to secure a medal in Beijing, crowning an exceptional performance throughout the week with magnificent silver. Making their curling look easy, the team of Olympic debutants Bruce Mouat, Grant Hardie, Bobby Lammie, Hammy McMillan, and Ross Whyte comfortably claimed a spot in the play-offs, losing only one game in the round robin against defending champions USA. It seems almost predestined that they would get their revenge in the semi-final, facing John Shuster's American rink once more. Team Mouat challenged with precise stone placement, but Shuster's men were well up to the task and both sides played some exceptional shots to keep the game tight. The rollercoaster game culminated in a brave call from the US skip who, sitting on a one-point deficit, sacrificed a steal of one to keep hammer for the 10th end. The chance for the needed two was there, but Shuster's final throw was slightly off and Team Mouat stole two to go through to the final. Up against Sweden's Team Edin, the final was always going to be a tough challenge. The Swedes were in the driving seat early on, but Team Mouat never allowed the gap to get too big and gradually started to match their opponents. Blanking End 9 to go into the tenth one point down but with hammer, great throws from Hardie and Mouat were kept in check by Niklas Edin who forced the one and an extra end. No major flaws from either side meant Sweden played their last stone advantage and claimed gold by a single point, Edin completing his Olympic medal collection and cementing his reputation as the greatest curler of all times. Besides a magnificent silver medal, Team Mouat have a great display on sport's biggest stage to showcase and have proven that they are firmly among the best rinks in the world.

Read the recap of the Men's Competition [HERE](#)



Curl Edinburgh / Andy Macpherson



IMAGES FROM EDINBURGH
AND STRANRAER OLYMPIC
WATCH PARTIES 2022.



Curling Zone / Stranraer

Curling Zone / Stranraer



Curl Edinburgh / Andy Macpherson



Curl Edinburgh / Andy Macpherson



Curling Zone / Stranraer



Curling Zone / Stranraer

A photograph of five female curlers from Team GB celebrating their gold medal victory. They are wearing blue and white Team GB tracksuits and holding gold medals. The Olympic rings are visible in the background. The text "Team GB / David Pearce" is overlaid in the bottom left corner of the image.

Team GB / David Pearce

OLYMPIC WOMEN'S CURLING COMPETITION

Team Muirhead went through all the feels in Beijing; from the lows of qualification for the play-offs looking doubtful, to the ultimate highs of claiming Olympic gold. Veteran skip Eve Muirhead led her rink of Olympic debutants Vicky Wright, Jen Dodds, Hailey Duff, and Mili Smith with determination and confidence, but the team needed help from the opposition in the crucial stages. Sitting on four wins and four losses with one round robin match to go, the future was uncertain and not solely in Team Muirhead's hands anymore. The Scottish girls did their part with a comprehensive win over the ROC but their fortunes depended on the result on another sheet – in a replay of the 2018 gold medal game, Sweden edged out Korea and booked themselves – and Team Muirhead – a spot in the semi-finals. Anna Hasselborg's Swedish rink proved an expectedly tough challenge and had the upper hand for a large part of the marathon encounter. Team Muirhead took the lead for the first time in End 9 when the skip ran a Swedish counter back to tap her own stone inwards and score four, but Hasselborg responded by hitting for three and took proceedings to an extra end. A thriller semi-final ended with Hasselborg's final draw coming up shy and Team Muirhead taking the vital point to secure themselves a medal. Facing Japan in the game for gold, the Scots instantly had the edge of Fujisawa Satsuki's rink. Muirhead took the sting out of the match in End 7 with a run-back to remove the only Japanese counter in play, stick the shooter, and score four. From there, they were in cruise control and secured a sensational gold medal, some 20 years after Rhona Howie and team achieved the same feat at Salt Lake City.

**Read the recap of the Women's Competition
HERE**

WCF / Stephen Fisher



WCF / Stephen Fisher



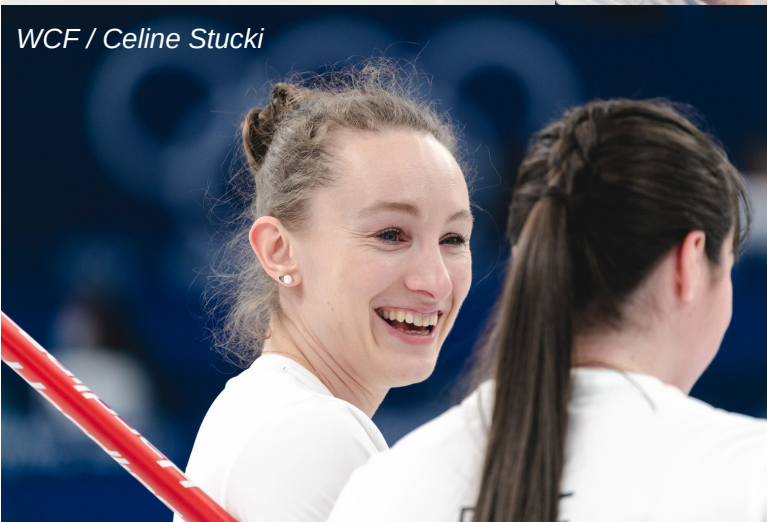
WCF / Stephen Fisher

WCF / Stephen Fisher



WCF / Stephen Fisher

WCF / Celine Stucki



WCF / Stephen Fisher

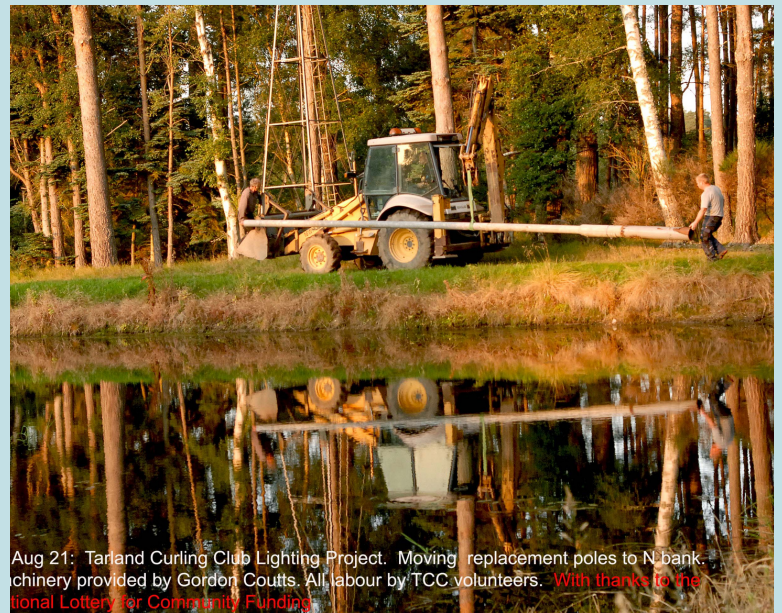
TARLAND CURLING CLUB

BY ALASTAIR SCOTT.

Tarland Curling Club is 136 years old (est. 1886) and is one of Scotland's standard bearers of traditional outdoor curling. Club members dedicate many hours of voluntary labour each year to maintain a pond much bigger than for our own needs, comprising over an acre or enough for fourteen 'sheets' or playing surfaces. This would enable a bonspiel - in effect a curling bonanza! - to take place with over a hundred players from clubs all over the region. Yet for any curling to take place over the dark winters we depend on our floodlights. Over the years these had deteriorated; some didn't work, poles had rusted and the electrical wiring needed replacing. An outside contractor quoted £24,000 for the work...far out of reach of our modest bank balance.

We approached the National Lottery for the maximum £10,000 Community Funding grant available. Scottish Curling supported our bid and gave valuable advice on how to frame our request as the wording is crucial. We waited several months. No news. Then came a phonecall from the Lottery to our lead contact, Steven Yule, at 7pm one summer evening. The caller appeared to be about to break bad news to us, that we'd been unsuccessful. But at the time Steven happened to be working in a digger at the curling pond along with two other TCC members also operating heavy machinery to dredge the pond. We think it was that moment that convinced the Lottery we were a committed and hard-working community. In November 2020 we were informed we'd been successful!

BUT, and it was a big but, because of the many applications from Covid-related projects which were being prioritised, all grants were reduced to £6000. We had thought we could reduce the total cost of the project by £12,000 or so by using voluntary labour and the loan of some machinery, yet now we had to look for even more cost-saving measures. It required a big re-think and a more creative approach. We had a year in which to complete our project and, of course, this was a year hamstrung by lockdowns and restrictions on gatherings.



Aug 21: Tarland Curling Club Lighting Project. Moving replacement poles to N bank. Machinery provided by Gordon Coult. All labour by TCC volunteers. With thanks to the National Lottery for Community Funding.

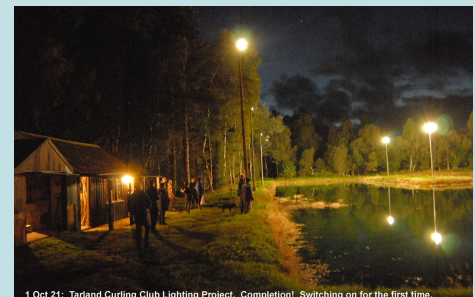
TARLAND CURLING CLUB

ALASTAIR SCOTT.

Yet we did it! Work began on 9 August 2021 and the ten new 200w LED floods atop tall street lampposts were switched on early in October. Our members put in 301 hours of voluntary labour, others gave freely of skills and expertise, vital components were begged (no borrowing or stealing, we're glad to say!) or donated. This was an incredible achievement and a testament to the hard work and determination of our community and supporters from much further afield.

We'd like to thank everyone involved, particularly all who volunteered and our many generous donors. Chief amongst these were Malcolm Allan Housebuilders, Nicols of Skene, Serica Energy and Brian Marshall Electrical. TCC members Ed Anderson donated cable and Gordon Coutts lent us diggers and other vital machinery whenever we needed them. And huge thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund. We hope our story inspires other groups to take heart and reach out for the help they need.

TCC welcomes everyone to join our club. Contact Alastair Scott (email: frog@alastair-scott.com) for more information. We can't guarantee ice, but when it comes we can guarantee a magnificent floodlit venue for what's long been called the Roarin' Game. Hope to see you on the ice.



AMERICA VS SCOTLAND

A VISIT FROM THE USA CONSULATE

Ahead of the highly anticipated men's curling match at the Winter Olympics between defending gold medalists Team USA and the world's current number one ranked side Team Mouat, representing Team GB at the Games, America's most senior diplomat in Scotland took to the ice to play some ends with the president of Scottish Curling to celebrate the game's Scottish roots, Stateside growth, the friendship and budding rivalry between the two top teams.

United States Consul General Jack Hillmeyer met with Scottish Curling President – and former Scottish curling international – Susan Kesley at Curl Edinburgh to discuss the shared love of the sport by players on both sides of the Atlantic. Susan and Jack took a deep dive into the game's rules, equipment, and techniques before taking to the ice themselves to experience curling firsthand.

The U.S. men's team skipped by John Shuster shocked the curling world by winning a surprise gold medal at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, America's first ever gold in the sport. The victory helped drive a significant increase in curling participation in the United States, with around 200 curling clubs and 25,000 players now across the country.



Scottish Curling is finding high levels of interest in its campaign at www.trycurling.com with new fans coming to the sport after being inspired by our teams at this Olympic Games. An inherently Scottish game – the Scots invented curling in the early 16th century – the curling infrastructure in Scotland is well-developed and Scottish athletes are an established part of the world stage, be it as Team GB at the Olympics and Paralympics or as Team Scotland at other international competitions. The rink skipped by Edinburgh's Bruce Mouat is currently the world's top-ranked team and represents Great Britain at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

Commenting after the event, Jack said:

"Americans have a deep and abiding affection for Scotland, and we share close economic, cultural and, of course, sporting connections. Although curling has enjoyed a strong profile in the United States of America following Team USA's Olympic success in 2018, I am still a newcomer to the sport myself and therefore greatly appreciated learning the ropes from Susan and hearing her perspective on the sport's history and growth. My message to both sides for their Olympic encounter is: 'may the best team win!'"

Susan added:

"It was lovely to meet Jack and have some time on the ice with him. With Scotland being the traditional home of curling and the USA being one of the fastest growing curling nations, it is apt that we got together to celebrate the relations between our two nations over the upcoming game at the home rink of the Scottish Skip, Bruce Mouat. My message to both teams before the game is 'Play well, good luck and good curling'. I'm looking forward to cheering you on and another sleepless night."

**Watch Susan show
Jack the ropes in
this short reel...**



TRYCURLING.COM



DISABILITY TRY CURLING OPPORTUNITIES

SCOTTISH CURLING DISABILITY TRY CURLING FESTIVALS

Scottish Curling are excited to be running two Disability Try Curling Festivals in March 2022. During the festivals we will be running specially adapted Try Curling sessions to allow people of all ability levels to experience curling. The events are open to people with all disabilities who are in secondary school or older.

Stranraer Ice Rink

Thursday 17th March 11am – 4pm (60 minute sessions)

North West Castle Hotel, Portrodie, Stranraer, Wigtownshire, DG9 8EH

Inverness Ice Rink

Tuesday 29th March 12 – 4pm (60 minute sessions)

Inverness Ice Rink, Bught Park, Inverness, IV3 5SR

Sessions are free and available to be booked via

<https://www.scottishcurling.org/disability-try-curling-festivals/>

Scottish Disability Sport Parasport Festival

Scottish Curling are pleased to be working with Scottish Disability Sport to provide curling opportunities to the communities in central Scotland at the Scottish Disability Sport Parasport Festival on Wednesday 30th March at The Peak, Stirling. This event is for young people in P1-S6 and will take place from 10am to 3pm.

Further information can be found on the Scottish Disability Sport website. **[Click here](#)**
Registration closes on 16th March.



The Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles Championship

3RD-6TH MARCH 2022 / DEWARS CENTRE PERTH



Free entry

WEEKEND GAMES WILL BE SHOWN ON THE
RECAST PLATFORM

The Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles Championship at Dewars Centre, Perth started this week and the competition has been as fierce as ever! We are excited to see many of last week's Scottish Championship players again as well as welcoming our Olympians back on Scottish ice.

Perth's Dewars Centre offer FREE entry to event, if you are nearby - why not view the games live in action!

For more info and to keep up with the event click [HERE](#)

The weekend games for this event will also be shown on Recast. New users of Recast can follow Scottish Curling [HERE](#).

TEAM HOGG WIN SCOTTISH WHEELCHAIR CURLING ASSOCIATION BRITISH OPEN 2022

Congratulations to David Hogg, Martin Sutherland, Owen Streeter and Carlyne McCluskey who won the 2022 Scottish Wheelchair Curling Association British Open which was held at the Peak, Stirling from Monday 28th February to Wednesday 2nd March.

Many thanks to David Hogg for providing the below report.

Players from as far a field as Buckinghamshire to Elgin competed in an eight team round robin format with the final standings going right to the last session. Team Hogg won their final game to go through the tournament unbeaten and claim the title. Team Pimblett were runners-up with Team Gault finishing in 3rd place.

Our thanks go to the ice staff, umpire Harry Brodie and all the catering staff as well as our fantastic army of volunteers.

Everyone at the SWCA wish Team GB good luck and good curling at the Winter Paralympics which start this weekend.

Our final tournament of the season is the SWCA Scottish Championships at the Ice Bowl, Dumfries from 20th to 22nd March. Anyone interested in finding out more about club wheelchair curling in Scotland please see our website [HERE](#).



THE Flower Bowl

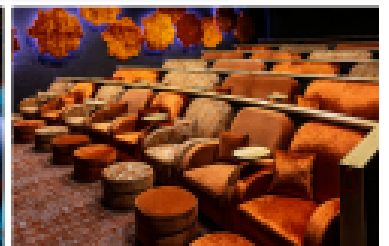
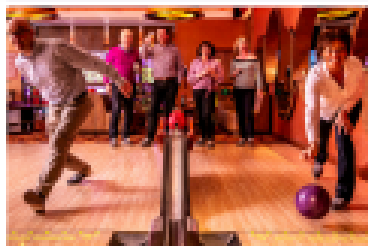
Curling Tours

Combine a curling tour
with a holiday in Lancashire!

With the seaside on our door step, the Lake District only a stone's throw away, and Manchester within easy reach, Preston is a great base for exploring the North West.



Make the most of your curling visit to us here at The Flower Bowl and enjoy a round of crazy golf or a game of bowling too! Refuel in one of our delicious eateries and then sit back and relax at our premium cinema whilst enjoying the latest releases.



Please email enquiries@theflowerbowl.uk to book now!

GARSTANG ROAD | PRESTON | LANCASHIRE | PR3 0BT | WWW.THEFLOWERBOWL.UK

BACK TO BACK TITLES FOR TEAMS JACKIE LOCKHART AND KEITH PRENTICE

Congratulations to Team Jackie Lockhart and Team Keith Prentice who defended their Scottish Senior titles at Lanarkshire Ice Rink from February 17-20 2022. On the women's side Team Lockhart prevailed over Team Susan Kesley with a commanding 6-1 display while Team Prentice secured a 7-1 result over Team Philip Wilson to retake the men's title.

Having already booked their ticket to the final in the round robin, Team Lockhart had a quiet Sunday morning as they waited to find out who their opposition would be. The semi-final swung in Team Paul's favour early on with a deuce in the first end, but Team Kesley levelled with two singles and took the lead with a three in End 5. From there, they managed their advantage and brought home a 7-3 win that earned them the second spot in the final. Team Lockhart scored one in the first end to get the final underway, but three blanks meant it wasn't until End 5 that more points went on the board. Team Lockhart managed to steal two and remained in firm control when Team Kesley could only respond with a score of one. The Aberdeen side firmly killed the game with a three in End 7 that settled the scoreline on 6-1 and prompted Team Kesley to concede without playing the last end.



Both spots in the men's final were still up for grabs going into the final day of the competition. Team Philip Wilson looked comfortable in their semi-final game against Team Peter Wilson, taking twos in contrast to their opponents single, and went through with a commanding 8-1 win. In a much tighter game, Team Neilson and Team Prentice sat level after six ends of play. Team Neilson took the advantage with a steal of one, but a subsequent one for Team Prentice took proceedings to an extra end. The Border rink just had the edge to steal a single point and reach the final with a 7-6 win.

Keen to avoid another nerve-wracking showdown, Team Prentice started the final with a two-points steal and when Team Philip Wilson could only respond with a one, there was no stopping the title defenders. Team Prentice took points in the next three ends, scoring and stealing, and after their Stranraer opponents blanked the sixth end, the game drew to a close early with the final score reading 7-1.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Don't forget - as a valued member you have access to **EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS**.

Receive a range of discounts and offers within retail, travel, hospitality and more.

Check out the full list of the latest on offer [here](#).

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Curling News



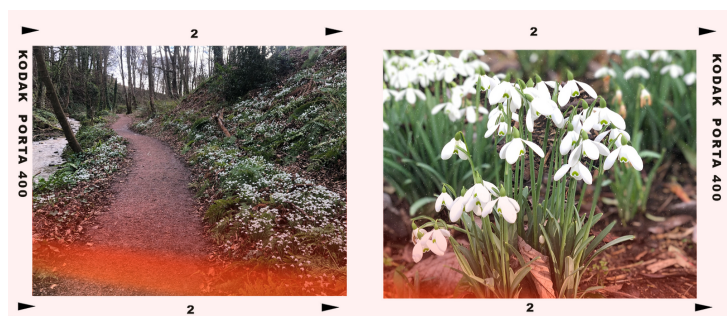
CAMBO GROUNDS

Members looking for a pleasant outing in Fife might want to visit the grounds of Cambo where there is an extensive display of snowdrops in bloom.

The grounds are a horticultural delight and the varieties of snowdrops are fascinating, and there's a nice cafe too.

The estate also has a cute little Curling Hut which still has the shelving for stones to be stored. The hut is located beside a former curling rink, now sadly converted to a tennis court.

[FOR MORE INFO CLICK HERE](#)



"If you watched even a few minutes of #Beijing2022 you'll know who Bruce Mouat is. Here, he talks about everything from the Games, to his coming out story, & being inspired by Tom Daley to be his authentic self in sport.

Listen to the LGBT Sport Podcast on BBC Sounds"

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

GREEN LIGHT FOR THE PH20 PROJECT PERTH

Perth and Kinross Council met on 23 February 2022 and approved £90m investment in the redevelopment of the Glover Street site in Perth, currently occupied by the Dewars Centre ice rink and neighbouring swimming pools. The project has been a decade in the making and will be worth the wait when it opens in 2027/28. Scottish Curling has supported the proposals from the start and been involved in the consultation process. The new building will be designed to meet the highest Passivhaus energy efficiency standards, with heat exchange between the pool and the ice rink, insulation and use of renewables making it the most carbon neutral ice rink in the country.

Commenting on the announcement Scottish Curling CEO ,Bruce Crawford said: **"This is a huge boost to the curling community in Perth and the surrounding area, as well as being good news for the whole country, given the significance Perth has played in the development and performance ends of the sport for generations of curlers."**

COULD YOU INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF CURLERS?

CURLING RESOURCE PACK FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

RESOURCE INCLUDES



-  Floor curling session plans
-  Games and activities
-  Curling themed classroom activities



Inspire the next generation of curlers!

All primary schools in Scotland are invited to register for a resource pack!
The pack contains a number of curling activities for both the classroom and PE hall,
with an exciting and educational introduction to the sport for primary pupils!

For more information take a look [HERE](#)

Call for coaches and helpers!

The development team are now looking for coaches and on ice helpers to assist with the Scottish Curling Disability Try Curling Festivals on 17th and 29th March. If you are interested in coming along to help, please get in touch with Catriona Morton via catriona@scottishcurling.org Expenses will be paid for your travel to the rinks.



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

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*All bookings are subject to Fred. Olsen's (FOCL) standard terms & conditions, available on our website & on request. All prices quoted under the Scottish Curling members discount offer are exclusive to qualifying members & their travelling companions only, members must quote their discount code at time of booking. Membership discounts cannot be applied retrospectively. Bookings must be made via the booking hotline number 0800 0355 108. Proof of membership will be required at the time of booking. Offers cannot be extended to any unrelated third party, are subject to availability and may be withdrawn or amended at any time without prior notice. From time to time FOCL may run special offers which cannot be combined with this discount, including selected group travel deals. Fred. Olsen Oceans members are entitled to a 5% Scottish Curling discount. Subject to the same terms & conditions, to be applied after the standard Oceans discount, where applicable. In this instance, Oceans terms & conditions apply. New to Fred. Olsen guests can also save 5% through their Scottish Curling membership, subject to the same terms & conditions. Flights are excluded from any discounts. Offer ends 31/12/2022. E&OE.





International Women's Day

This years International Women's Day we celebrate **#BreakTheBias**. We encourage anyone who would like to be involved in our campaign to take a photo of yourself either holding one of the below messages, or simply posing with this years sign, which you can see [here](#).

If you'd like your image to be featured, please send this in by Monday the 7th by emailing Marketing@scottishcurling.org



**I will help
forge a gender
equal world**

#BreakTheBias



**We will celebrate
women's
achievements**

#BreakTheBias



#BreakTheBias