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FEB 2022

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**SCOTTISH CURLING
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW

**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S
BEIJING OLYMPICS**

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A Word from our CEO

I need a few days to recover from all the excitement of the last week watching the ups and downs of the Olympic Mixed Doubles curling. The Team GB pair of Jen Dodds and Bruce Mouat played some outstanding games and finished the round robin in third place with six wins and just three losses. In their semi-final against Norway, they lost by a single point which put them up against Sweden in the bronze medal match, which saw Sweden come out all guns blazing to claim the medals. Congratulations are rightly due to the new Olympic champions from Italy, who didn't drop a game and silver medallists Norway. Our focus in Beijing will change now, as we cheer on the Team GB men and women, see the schedule [here](#). Once again during the Olympic Games, the media have brought curling back into the public consciousness and we have done our bit to leverage this heightened awareness of curling in Scotland and it has been lovely to hear curling talked about across all the media platforms in the UK. If you haven't been watching it yet, the coverage in the UK can be seen on the BBC and Eurosport/Discovery+, details are in the [link above](#).

Every member can get behind the campaign to promote curling, grow the game and support the ice rinks in Scotland. If you use Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, please follow your local ice rink, club and Scottish Curling and like or share all the great content. Also create your own posts and share your excitement and love of curling with your friends and followers. If you aren't involved in social media, then tell your friends, colleagues and neighbours about curling and help them to get along to a Try Curling session or take them along to see what all the fuss is about.

The Paralympic Games will follow soon after and demonstrate how curling is suitable for a diverse range of people. Our Paralympic Team start their campaign against Norway on 5th March and the Paralympics ends on 12th March. Channel 4 has the UK rights for the Paralympics and is trailblazing with an all star disabled presenting team for Beijing 2022.

The Scottish Men's and Women's Championships are getting closer (21-27 February) and we hope many of our members and new fans of curling will venture out to Dumfries to watch the teams battle it out to become Scottish champions and raise the trophies once more. If you come to Dumfries, there will be great curling to watch in the four draw days and other activities will be on offer in the curling hall, alongside the event arena, so plan ahead and take your curling shoes and brush, in case there is space in one of the bonspiels on offer.

We have had some fun with the recent curling poetry competition launched on Burns Night and challenging teams to recreate the 2002 gold medal "stone of destiny" shot. We all hope that you have enjoyed the winter so far, despite the absence of heavy frosts that would allow outdoor curling. We would be happy to share your stories and pictures in the next Your Curler, send your contributions, ideas or questions to marketing@scottishcurling.org.

Stay safe and enjoy your curling.

Bruce Crawford
Chief Executive Officer
Scottish Curling



OLYMPIC MIXED DOUBLES COMPETITION

WRITTEN BY SANDRINE WYRICH

Despite an excellent display on Olympic ice, Jen Dodds and Bruce Mouat will leave Beijing without mixed doubles silverware. The duo played some beautiful curling, but after six wins in the round robin, they had to surrender first to Norway in the semi-final and Sweden in the game for Bronze. Although both Dodds and Mouat held their own, the Scandinavians brought unbeatable form to the crucial games.

Team GB's mixed doubles campaign started and ended with a match against Sweden. Going into their opening round robin fixture, Dodds and Mouat had trouble reading the ice, but the same applied to Swedish duo Almida de Val and Oskar Eriksson and the momentum swung several times. Team GB looked relatively safe on a three-points advantage after seven ends, but Sweden, with hammer, played an exceptional set up game. The open hit for three was there, but de Val misjudged her throw.

Dodds and Mouat continued with an emphatic victory over defending champions Canada. It took until End 6 for a multi-score and although it was in favour of the Canadians, Team GB threw the better shots. Mouat executed a spectacular double run-back to set up a double take-out for his next throw while Dodds played the hit perfectly to lie two well separated. Homan was forced to a risky shot for no more than two points. Dodds asked the tough questions again in End 8 with a beautifully judged draw to lie two on the button and this time Homan's throw did not come off.

Team GB's first round robin defeat followed against pre-event favourites Switzerland. Jenny Perret and Martin Rios threw some excellent shots, leaving nothing but damage limitation. A miss from Perret with last stone in the second end helped the British case, but it took a beautiful double run from Dodds to reduce the score in End 4. An error-free power play from Team GB levelled the standings before the final end where Switzerland secured the vital point. Olympic novices Australia pushed Dodds and Mouat to an extra end, despite Team GB a comfortable lead after End 4 when an immaculate draw from Dodds feathered off her own stone and tapped it onto the button for three. Tahli Gill and Dean Hewitt responded with a three-points score after a flawless power play and levelled the standings with a steal in End 6. Tight play brought the match to an extra end where Mouat executed a big weight run-back for a multi take-out that left only a British counter in play and decided the game when Gill's hit came up shy.

Team GB followed the tight and tense game up with a comfortable win over Czech Republic. The duo gained a firm hold of the encounter already in End 3 where immaculate accuracy from Mouat and precise line calling from Dodds set the latter up for a curling draw to the button that resulted in a steal of three. Despite some flaws, Team GB held their nerve and Dodds executed a hit and roll nicely to score two in End 7, prompting Zuzana Paulova and Tomas Paul to concede.

Despite a strong display against unbeaten Italy, Team GB fell to their second defeat. Dodds and Mouat outplayed their counterparts Stefania Constantini and Amos Mosaner on draw accuracy but with the Italians more effective on take-outs, the sides largely balanced each other out. The Italian power play in End 7 proved decisive as an excellent draw on top eight from Dodds was answered by an even more excellent hit and stick from Constantini to score three.

Dodds and Mouat had to dig deep once more against hosts China. Fan SuYuan played an exceptional game alongside her solid doubles partner Ling Zhi and built up a three-points lead at the break. Power play became the saving grace for Team GB as Dodds threw a beautiful draw for three and locked the scores. The teams still sat level going into the final end where a double take-out from Mouat decided the game as Fan's subsequent hit rolled too far.

Team GB faced on-form Norwegian duo Kristin Skaslien and Magnus Nedregotten next and although they largely matched the Scandinavians in the early ends, the pendulum swung firmly towards Norway after the break. Trailing by four points going into the final end, Dodds and Mouat gave it a good shot but had nothing to offer against the Norwegians.

Results elsewhere meant Team GB were guaranteed a semi-final spot, taking off the pressure for their fixture against the United States. A flawless display had the British pair in front by four at half time, prompting Vicky Persinger and Chris Plys to trigger their power play. A phenomenal raise triple take-out from Mouat limited the Americans and although they clawed some points back afterwards, they couldn't stop Dodds and Mouat who were playing on 88 and 94 per cent accuracy respectively.

Facing Norway again in the semi-final, Team GB came up short in what was a game of two halves. Although Skaslien and Nedregotten were playing solidly, Dodds and Mouat had the edge and were comfortable, even if the one-point difference at the break did not suggest so. The momentum swung in End 6 where Norway released their power play and Skaslien was served an open draw for three. Team GB still played well but could not answer the invigorated Norwegians.

It was a match for Bronze against Sweden for Dodds and Mouat. In a disastrous start for Team GB, de Val played an inch-perfect hit and roll that scored four in End 2 before exceptional angle play from the Swedes stole three. Dodds and Mouat kept improving what wasn't a poor display anyway, but they could not match the outstanding Eriksson and de Val who completed the game on a perfect 100 per cent accuracy record.





WCF / Stephen Fisher



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WCF / Celine Stucki



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*Eve Muirhead, Vicky Wright, Jennifer
Dodds, Hailey Duff and Mili Smith
Photo Credit: PPA / Greame Hart.*

OLYMPIC WOMEN'S CURLING COMPETITION

WRITTEN BY SANDRINE WYRICH

The women's curling field at the 2022 Winter Olympics is looking stronger than ever before. At least eight of the ten teams competing in Beijing are capable of medalling – making for an incredibly tough tournament for the athletes and an incredibly intriguing one for curling fans around the world.

Olympic veteran Eve Muirhead spearheads Team GB's challenge with a fresh-look rink around her that travels to the Games with momentum and motivation. The squad will get their competition off with a bang, facing reigning world champions Switzerland in their first match. Both these teams are in contention for silverware, but there is more to look out for in Beijing ...

WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW!



THE SCOTS



Eve Muirhead is set for a landmark achievement in Beijing; making her fourth Olympic appearance, she joins an exclusive club of only a few female curlers who have collected that many outings at the Games – Nkeiruka Ezekh (RUS), Mirjam Ott (SUI) and Debbie McCormick (USA) while Denmark's Denise Dupont is set for the same record this year.

... And 2022 could be Muirhead's biggest Olympics yet.

After a disappointing campaign at the 2021 world women's championship, Team Muirhead is bouncing back stronger than ever, beating Sweden to the European title and topping the table at the Olympic Qualification Event. With Vicky Wright, historically part of the front pair, settling into playing third, Jen Dodds rock-solid at second, lead Hailey Duff joining the team only this season and Mili Smith as alternate, Team Muirhead is looking reinvigorated.

Muirhead is familiar with both the highs and the lows of the Olympics; the joy of drawing to the four foot to win Bronze in 2014 but also the memory of a missed stone that cost a medal four years later, a shot she admits still haunts her.

But the momentum is in Team Muirhead's favour and retaliation is on the cards heading to Beijing. The squad is in a great place and it's all to play for when they take to the Olympic ice.

THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

Anna Hasselborg and her Swedish rink come to Beijing as both, defending champions and gold favourites.

Team Hasselborg have a unique synergy; they are four strong individuals clicking together perfectly like a jigsaw. Anna Hasselborg, Sara McManus, Agnes Knochenhauer and Sofia Mabergs are like family to each other and have a stronger bond than many other rinks out there. Add Hasselborg's exceptional tactical understanding and you have a winning formula that is very hard to beat.

Living by the proverb that a rolling (curling) stone gathers no moss, the Swedish squad went through even tougher gym sessions than usual during the break in competition enforced by the covid-19 pandemic. Practice games, including friendlies against Team Niklas Edin, kept them on the ice and in competitive shape. Hasselborg says that since giving birth to daughter Mira in June 2020, she is more motivated and inspired than ever before – which should serve as a warning to her opponents. There can be no doubt that Team Hasselborg are ready to defend the gold in Beijing.



Team Sweden
Photo Credit: WCF Celine Stucki

THE FAVOURITES

Switzerland's Team Tirinzoni historically find their best form at the world women's championships, but the rink will be hoping to peak a month earlier this year.

The set-up formed at the start of this Olympic cycle when rival skips Silvana Tirinzoni and Alina Paetz joined forces – Paetz throwing last stones while Tirinzoni skips the team as third – and recruited second Esther Neuenschwander and lead Melanie Barbezat.

The squad hit the ground running by reaching a Grand Slam final at their first competitive outing and only narrowly missed out on the European title a few weeks later – things would only get better from there.

As reigning world champions – Switzerland in fact won the last two editions of the tournament – and, on paper, the most successful rink in recent years, Team Tirinzoni are well among the medal contenders in Beijing.



Team Switzerland
Photo Credit: WCF / Steve Seixeiro



Team Kovaleva
Photo Credit: WCF / Celine Stucki

THE DARKHORSE

Alina Kovaleva turned to playing as a skip in 2018 and soon took charge of representing Russia/the Russian Curling Federation on the international stage. While the European championships have so far proved a frustrating exercise – her rink finished fourth in each of the last three editions of the tournament – Team Kovaleva firmly made their claim as one of the very top teams at the 2021 world women's championship where they took the silver medal.

On her day, Kovaleva is throwing wonder shots for fun and after a few changes to the line-up over the years, the team now stands in good stead with Julia Portunova playing third, Galina Arsenkina second, and Ekaterina Kuzmina throwing first rocks.

Russia have never won an Olympic medal in curling. Although this definitely won't formally change this year – 'Russia' is still banned from all international sport following the reveal of a state-sponsored doping scheme – but flying the flag for the Russian Olympic Committee in Beijing, Team Kovaleva have the ambition and the ability to collect silverware.



Team Japan
Photo Credit: WCF / Tom Rowland

THE FEEL GOOD FACTOR

Whether they win or lose, Team Fujisawa are all smiles all the time. Hardly any rink visibly enjoys their curling as much as the Japanese athletes who conquered the world's curling hearts when they stormed to Olympic bronze in 2018. But Fujisawa Satsuki, Yoshida Chinami, Suzuki Yumi and Yoshida Yurika aren't just fun to watch, they also have the skills to challenge for silverware.

Loco Solare had to take a detour to Beijing, booking their ticket at the Olympic Qualification Event last December. Their outing at the OQE is almost allegorical for Team Fujisawa – They are no strangers to trouble but have mastered the art of keeping themselves in the game and turn the odds around. The 2018 bronze medal match was tight until the very end, and already at the Japanese Olympic playoffs, they hung on to the tournament by a hair's breadth.

But fortune seems to favour Team Fujisawa when it matters. Time and again, the rink stood at a cliff edge and came back stronger. Branded the Smiling Assassins, the Japanese line-up perfected a combination of skill, fortune, and enjoyment that took and continues to take them places in the curling world.

THE LAST HURRAH?

Jennifer Jones was named the greatest Canadian female skip and overall curler in history in a 2019 TSN poll of broadcasters, reporters, and top curlers. She has won everything there is to win and speculations of a retirement after this Olympic cycle are making the rounds. But before possibly hanging up her broom, Jones will fight for glory in her second Olympic appearance.

She skipped Canada to gold without losing a single match at the 2014 Games. Already back then, she was playing with her current vice-skip Kaitlyn Lawes and lead Dawn McEwen. Only second Jocelyn Peterman is set for her debut in Beijing, making for a well-experienced and hard-working rink.

It took a steal in the extra end at the Canadian Olympic Trials final for Team Jones to bag victory over Tracy Fleury, but the squad never looked in doubt – This almost stoic sense of composure could become their greatest weapon in Beijing. Additionally, Peterman and Lawes have adopted a clinical efficiency that keeps the team out of trouble and spares Jones having to make 'hero shots' too often.

Curling Canada is seeking retaliation after the 2018 Games where Team Rachel Homan's campaign ended in the round robin and marked the first-ever Olympics without a medal for the Canadian women's team. Leaning on a staple of the sport could be the answer – Jones is a veteran and a passionate lover of the game. When her rink takes to the ice, you can never quite rule them out.



Jennifer Jones
Photo Credit: © WCF / Jeffrey Au



2022 SCOTTISH CURLING SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2022 Scottish Curling Senior Championships will be taking place from 17th to 20th February at the Lanarkshire Ice Rink in Hamilton. 12 men's teams – six each in Sections A and B respectively – and five women's teams will take to the ice and battle it out for the National Seniors' title.

With no Scottish senior championships in 2021 due to the covid-19 pandemic, this year's edition of the event comes with great anticipation and eagerness to return to competitive curling. In accordance with Scottish Government guidelines, all players are strongly encouraged to do a Lateral Flow Test before playing and spectators are asked to please refrain from attending the event if they display any covid-19 symptoms.

In the men's competition defending champion Keith Prentice (Borders) returns with an unchanged line-up from the team that clinched the trophy in 2020. The squad will compete in the B Section, alongside fellow returnee Philip Wilson (Stranraer). Graeme Connal (Perth), Ken Horton (Edinburgh), Brian Heron (Greenacres) and Robbie Stevenson (Kinross) are new additions to the field.

Having lost out to Prentice in the 2020 final, John Duff (Forfar) will be out for revenge this time. He too heads to Lanarkshire with an unchanged rink and will contest in the A Section. Hugh Neilson (Hamilton) and Willie Paterson (-) too are set up for successive appearances with unchanged formations while Team Hardie (Dumfries) will also return but feature a different line-up skipped by Alex Dickson. Peter Wilson (Stranraer) and Lockhart Steele (Hamilton) bring a change to the contesting teams.

On the women's side, 2020 champion Jackie Lockhart (Aberdeen) returns with an unchanged team. Having traded the Scottish Seniors title between herself and Susan Kesley's Edinburgh side since 2016, the two rinks will once again be the ones to watch in a diminished women's field. Only three other line-ups will take to the ice in unchanged returnees Kate Adams (Stranraer) and Liz Paul (Perth) while Gail Thomson has taken over as skip of the Ayr side formerly headed by Margaret Agnew.

The winning teams will earn a chance to represent Scotland at the World Curling Seniors Championships in Geneva, Switzerland in April this year.

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The Ice Bowl Arena will allow the opportunity for visitors to have a go at curling themselves in the curling hall next to the competition arena as well as giving local schools a chance to watch from the stands and try their hand on ice and on the Floor Curling rink.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

THE 2022 SCOTTISH CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SPECTATOR SPECTACLE

Besides following great competitive action, a number of fantastic opportunities are open to spectators at the Ice Bowl. Visitors will be able to have a go at curling themselves in the curling hall next to the competition arena while local schools will have a chance to watch from the stands and try their hand on ice and on a Floor Curling rink.

To make the most of your visit, curlers are encouraged to take their curling shoes and brushes with them to Dumfries, as there will be opportunities for individuals and club teams to play games in the Curling Club right beside the Arena where the Championships are being played. – contact Graham Sloan at Dumfries Curling for further information and to set up arrangements. Why not come along for a day out with your curling club?

And the event isn't just for existing curling fans of the sport. Those new to curling are also being welcomed and with the chance to watch in the arena and Try Curling in the curling hall, it's the opportunity to introduce a friend to the full curling experience of watching and trying all under one roof! Try Curling sessions can be booked at www.TryCurling.com

Spectators will be able to benefit from local food vendors who will be on site at the Ice Bowl, including the Pizza Wagon and Glen Urr Ice Cream along with other local vendors – and the full schedule to be confirmed!

Scottish Curling are also hosting a members lunch between the Men's and Women's finals which is the perfect opportunity to catch up with your curling friends after so long apart. Tickets can be found [here](#).

Additionally, the Cairndale Hotel, ideally located within walking distance of both the Ice Bowl and Dumfries town centre, offers a discounted rate of £89.50 for spectators attending the event.

Keep your eyes peeled throughout the week for Dumfries and Galloway Schools enjoying the curling action on their doorstep and taking part in the Curling's Cool programme.

'Dumfries Curling will become the first rink in Scotland to be able to host the Scottish championships while still running a full programme of local curling,' says Dumfries Curling Development Officer Graham Sloan. 'Opening up opportunities for new curlers coming into the sport is essential as we try to rebuild after the impact of covid across our curling community.'

'We are excited to welcome lots of new curlers over the doorstep off the back of the Winter Olympics. It will be a hectic couple of weeks coming up, but our team of volunteers is fantastic at rising to the challenge and supporting the initiatives here at the ice bowl.'

Tickets for the championships are selling fast – don't forget to secure your ticket [here](#)

See page see page 40 for the full event preview

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*Bruce Mouat, Grant Hardie, Bobby Lammie,
Hammy McMillan and Ross Whyte
Photo Credit: PPA / Greame Hart.*

OLYMPIC MEN'S CURLING COMPETITION

WRITTEN BY SANDRINE WYRICH

The 2022 Olympics are set to live up to the reputation as sport's grandest stage in the men's curling competition. Besides two or three clear medal favourites, the field is incredibly tight, and the 2022 Games could well see some surprises on the podium – likewise, any mistakes or slackness could hurt badly.

Bruce Mouat and rink will be flying the flag for Team GB in the Beijing National Aquatics Centre, or the 'Ice Cube' as it will be known during the Winter Games. Heading to China on the back of their second European title, Team Mouat are riding on the crest of a wave and have it all to play for. Their Olympic charge starts with a match against Italy, but there's plenty more to keep an eye on ...

THE SCOTS

Team Mouat might be Olympic debutants, but Bruce Mouat, Grant Hardie, Bobby Lammie, Hammy McMillan, and Ross Whyte will nevertheless be ones-to-watch in Beijing.

Since the idea for the line-up was formed by cousins McMillan and Hardie – over a pint or another – and the team first came together on the ice in the 2017-18 season, they swept the curling world off its feet. Several Grand Slam wins – including a historic hattrick, Team Mouat being the only non-Canadian rink to achieve this feat – two European titles, and world Silver and Bronze later, the squad is off to the Games as medal favourites.

What makes them so good is a combination of hard work, skills synergy, a strong team bond, and meticulous study of the game. Team Mouat invest more time than most on collating data on the opposition to form according game plans and relentlessly review their own play. During the enforced covid break, the athletes spent hours and hours analysing their individual throws to achieve consistency and dependability – and all the work is paying off.

There is also a difference in technique that sets them apart; Team Mouat routinely send their stones down the ice sheet with five, six rotations – more than other teams usually would. This tekking allows them to better manipulate the stone when directionally sweeping and get that late finish. Team Mouat are a rink on top of its game and if things come together in Beijing, anything is possible.



Curling Canada / Michael Burns Photo

THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

John Shuster's Olympic journey can only be described as a rollercoaster ride. The American won bronze as part of Peter Fenson's line-up when he first competed under the rings in 2006. However, returning to the Games as skip, both his 2010 and 2014 campaigns ended in the round robin.

Subsequently dropped from the performance programme, Shuster alongside fellow out-of-favour athletes John Landsteiner, Matt Hamilton and Tyler George formed a new team, adequately and with textbook gallows humour named 'The Rejects'. They immediately knew they were onto something special ...

A reinvigorated Team Shuster secured a spot at the 2018 Olympics, but nevertheless went into the competition as underdogs. A 2-4 record start to the round robin had the squad on the edge of elimination, but they bounced back with five consecutive wins – the final one for Gold. Landsteiner still throws first rocks and Hamilton is still at second. Chris Plys has since replaced George at third, but the rink's routine is still intact. They fought back against a team skipped by Korey Dropkin, considered the bright and shining future of USA curling, at the Olympic trials to send Shuster to his fifth career Games.

No one has ever won multiple Olympic gold medals in men's curling and realistically, Team Shuster will again somewhat be underdogs. However, the rink seems to excel when their backs are against the wall and could spring a surprise in Beijing.



Curling Canada / Michael Burns Photo

THE FAVOURITES

Five world titles; seven European crowns; just under the Olympic rings things haven't quite worked out yet for Niklas Edin. The Swede came fourth in Vancouver 2010, won Bronze in 2014 and had to settle for Silver in 2018. The logical next entry would be Gold in Beijing 2022, a feat that he has determination and a very good chance to achieve.

The current Team Edin came together in 2014 when former rival skips Edin and Oskar Eriksson merged in search for a stellar new line-up. With Christoffer Sundgren as lead and Kristian Lindstrom, later replaced by Rasmus Wrana, at second, the coalition proved to be a masterstroke straight away. Hardly any rink has ever maintained such a high level of performance so consistently for so long – one major success can be down to form or mere chance, but a team doesn't become multiple, successive world and European champions by coincidence.

Edin calls the shots with an unparalleled confidence and routinely delivers wonder shots that Al Hackner would be jealous of. And he has a rink behind – or rather ahead – of him that only rarely falls victim to error.

The team's legacy does not solely rest on the Olympic Games and Edin already is one of the greatest skips of all time. However, the Swede has only one thing missing on his vita, and he will be determined to finally get that Gold in Beijing.

THE DARKHORSE

The saying goes 'consistency is key', but there is one particular record that Peter de Cruz will be aiming to break in Beijing. The Swiss skip is a regular on the major curling podiums, but he chronically steps onto the rostrum to be handed the bronze medal.

Six third place finishes – four at world and two at European championships respectively – and indeed Bronze at the 2018 Olympics have Team De Cruz firmly among the world's elite but still waiting for that ultimate breakthrough.

The line-up has hardly changed since the PyeongChang Games four years ago: De Cruz – unusual for a skip – plays at second, vice-skip Benoit Schwarz throws last, and Valentin Tanner first stones. Only Sven Michel at third is new to the team and integrated swiftly.

A four-game sweep in a best-of-seven playoff at the Swiss Olympic trials secured an undoubted Olympic berth; still, by de Cruz' admission, Switzerland will arrive in Beijing 'a little incognito'. But the Geneva-based team also comes with some tricks up their sleeves: having used the pandemic to change a few elements in their game, they now have a chance to surprise and destabilise their opponents in the competition's early stages.

Expect Team De Cruz to go all in and take risks from the get-go as they hunt for another medal to add to the collection. 2022 might be the year it finally changes colour ...



Team Edin
Curling Canada / Michael Burns Photo



Team De Cruz
Curling Canada / Michael Burns Photo

THE SEARCH FOR PAST GLORY

Canada should never be ruled out in any curling competition, but particularly the Olympic podium has traditionally been the spiritual home of the Maple Leaf. Since Curling was formally introduced to the Olympic programme at Nagano 1998, no Games passed without a medal for the Canadian men's team.

... until 2018. The world caught up and brought the high-flying Canadians back to the ground. Team Kevin Koe's hunt for gold ended in the semi final against the USA and a defeat to Switzerland in the Bronze medal game meant they left PyeongChang without silverware.

Brad Gushue and his Newfoundland rink of Mark Nichols, Brett Gallant and Geoff Walker are now set to get Canada back on track – and get Gushue back on Olympic ice for the first time since clinching Gold at the 2006 Games.

A return to sport's biggest stage 16 years after debuting demonstrates the dedication Gushue puts into his curling. Nichols too was part of the 2006 squad and brings additional experience while Olympic novice Gallant is considered one of the world's best sweepers and fellow first-timer Walker is renowned for excellent precision.

The competition will be tougher in Beijing than it was all those years ago in Turin and Canada are not the overwhelming Gold favourites anymore. However, Team Gushue are striking an impressive balance between experience and innovation – a return to the podium is certainly on the cards.



Team Koe
WCF / Richard Gray

THE SERIAL CURLER

One Olympic appearance is impressive, but how about six? Norway's Torger Nergård is set to achieve this remarkable feat in Beijing.

Having made his Olympic debut at Salt Lake City 2002 as part of the gold-winning Team Trulsen, Nergård competed at every Games since and bagged another medal when Team Thomas Ulsrud took Silver in Vancouver. He is the only member of the legendary Ulsrud rink, better known as the 'Crazy Pantsmen', that is still actively competing.

Since the 2020-21 season, Nergård has been playing third for Steffen Walstad alongside Markus Høiberg at second and Magnus Vågberg throwing first rocks.

On their day, Team Walstad play beautiful curling, but the biggest issue of the relatively fresh-faced line-up is consistency. In the round robin stage of the 2021 world championship, they build up a promising 7-1 record before collapsing to an eventual 7-6 and seventh place overall. This sent them on to the Olympic qualification event where they went unbeaten to book a ticket to Beijing.

This Olympics will see the first Norwegian men's team not skipped by Ulsrud in a while and consequentially, most likely also one that does not sport wildly coloured gear. One can never be quite sure what to expect when Team Walstad take to the ice, but a piece of sporting history will certainly be made when Nergård contests his sixth Games.



Torger Nergard
WCF / Steve Seixeiro



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Photo Cred: Graeme Hart



Dundee Regional Academy visit

WRITTEN BY SOPHIE JACKSON, ACADEMY MANAGER,



I'm delighted to have been able to visit the Dundee Regional Academy Hub recently, where the coaches, Stuart Biegala, Layla Al-Saffar and Mairi Milne are leading the way in creating a performance pathway for the Dundee Junior Curlers.

Dundee Ice Arena provided us with a new hub this season (2021/22), with regional academy members from Perth, Dundee and Forfar taking advantage of the enthusiastic coaching and leadership that is clear there. The keen to learn athletes first had an hour of video analysis/technical coaching, led by Stuart who looked at their slides using the video from front view and side view. All athletes bought into the considerations pointed out from coaches which was excellent to see.

Then, came the fun part... sweeping drills!!

The session ended with recreating some of the most memorable shots from the Winter Olympic Games. Some great attempts at several tricky angles were made and lots of fun was had by all. Some future Olympians in the making perhaps, watch this space.

"It has been great to work with the Regional Academy at Dundee. Watching them improve throughout the season and always arriving with a positive attitude and want to learn has been amazing to see."

Having the Regional Academy athletes training at Dundee has meant we have been able to look at advancing the equipment we have at the rink, beneficial for all members and a key part in

developing technical ability. It has been a pleasure to work alongside Stuart and Mairi coaching these promising young athletes and I have enjoyed the opportunity to look and learn different coaching drills, tips and ideas which I can share with the rest of the coaches at Dundee.

By training at the rink it has also have a positive impact on our junior club – allowing them to see the natural progression into the performance pathway and giving them the inspiration to aim for this!" Quote from Layla Al-Saffar.



Lockerbie Modernisation

WRITTEN BY RAE LOCKERBIE ICE RINK

Following consultation with the members of Lockerbie Ice Rink (LIR) in 2018 a programme was put in place to modernise the entrance area and make it more welcoming for members, customers and visitors. The entrance has been given a new look and appearance to ensure it is accessible for personnel with different needs. Funding to transform the existing skating pay booth and workshop areas to a reception area with access window was received from the Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group (DECBG), Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) and the ice rink itself which allowed the much needed improvements to be completed. This also further improved the accessibility for all personnel which were in addition to the improvements made in 2019.

A lot of positive feedback has been received in regard to the alterations from users of the facility. Siobham Jarvie, SPR community liaison officer said its brilliant to see the difference this funding has made right across

the region and really exciting to see the monies for LIR have transformed the reception area and supported improvements to make it easier than ever for personnel of all abilities to access the facilities. This is a great example of community benefit in action and I'm sure the works will be appreciated by everyone taking to the ice and using the facility.

A spokesperson for LIR said that the ice rink is very grateful to the funding received from DECBG, SPR and also the support received from local contractors who carried out the work through the difficult times of the Covid pandemic to ensure that the facility opened on time.

Around 1000 different people use the ice rink each winter, for curling and skating. After school curling, mini rockers and try curling sessions are run throughout the season all these are free of charge.



Public skating takes place most weekends and an inclusive quiet time skating session is available on Saturday mornings. There is no cost for under 6 skating other than the hire of skates. There is also provision for private skating parties and a skating club which is run on a Sunday morning. For details of any of the ice rink activities contact the main reception area.

Photos shows representatives of Scottish Power Energy Network, DECBG and Lockerbie Ice Rink Management at plaque handover and customer Danial Cowan at reception area window paying ice fees to employee Andrew Dalgleish.

2022 SCOTTISH CURLING MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to Team Prentice (Gwen Prentice, Marion Craig, Helen Drummond and Rhona Fleming) and Team Stark (Don Stark, Billy Johnstone, David Rutherford and Alan Paterson) on winning the 2022 Scottish Curling Masters Championships.

Umpire Archie Shedden had to measure twice in the last end of the women's final to determine who would prevail between Team Prentice and Team Watt. The yellow stone of Prentice's Borders side was closer to the tee by the finest margin, bagging them the decisive point. In the men's final Team Stark gained the momentum over Team Horton in End 4 and never looked back to secure the win.

Many thanks to chief umpire Stew Sutherland for the report below.

Going into the final day of the championships, the stage was set for a mouth-watering men's semi-final encounter between Greenacres' John Sharp, comprised of Gus Storrie, Ross Barr and John McCall versus the redoubtable Ken Horton rink of Mike Dick, Trevor Dodds and Robin Copland. The other semi-final had the ubiquitous Keith Prentice rink comprising Lockhart Steele, Robin Aitken and Tommy Fleming up against Don Stark, Billy Johnstone, David Rutherford and Alan Paterson.

As expected at this stage of the competition, both games were tight affairs with low scores and the odd blank end. However, Don Stark's Perthshire boys managed to keep their noses in front despite tough pressure from the opposition to eventually win 6 – 3. In the other tie the teams couldn't be separated after 8 ends, tied at 6 – 6 (deja vu, did we mention John Sharp's propensity for peeling games?). However, an exquisitely judged last stone draw by skip Ken Horton proved to be the decider.

Meanwhile, the ladies' semi-finals served us up with the prospect of Gwen Prentice versus Maggie Barry, and Barbara Watt against Kay Gibb. Again, closely contested games ... but a 3 followed by a 2 in the 4th and 5th ends by the Prentice Borders team saw off their rivals 9 – 4. In the other semi-final it was peels after 3 ends but an amazing 4 in the 4th end by Babs Watts' ladies was more than enough to clinch the game 9 – 6. Job done!

And so on to the final ...

It has to be said from the outset that most of us who have followed the domestic game over the years found it no surprise to have Ken Horton's very experienced team in the final. But their opposition – Don Stark's lads from Perthshire – had proven to be worthy contenders having progressed undefeated throughout the competition and taking a few notable scalps on the way. So we knew we were in for a great contest – we were not disappointed. An exchange of singles and a blanked 3rd end emphasised how close this tie was going to be. However, a cleverly-worked 4th end by Don saw them score a 3, followed by an equally gutsy 2 in the 5th, leaving them 6 – 1 up ... game on!



2022 SCOTTISH CURLING MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ken Horton has demonstrated time and time again that he can claw back a game, even from a seemingly impossible position, and it was no surprise that a 2 in End 6 looked to have got his team back in contention. But Stark's Perthshire contingent showed they could hold their nerve and a steal of a single in the 7th left them very much in the driving seat. Indeed, they controlled the final end impeccably, eventually running Ken out of stones for a 7 – 3 victory.

In the Ladies Final the vastly experienced Team Prentice were up against Murrayfield's Barbara Watt. Now, Barbara has been on the ladies circuit for a long time, won numerous competitions, and is always regarded as a highly accomplished participant no matter what the competition. However, for a variety of reasons her team – while all very experienced and competent curlers in their own right – had not really played together at this level before! And finding yourself 4 – 1 behind going into the 4th end against a team as strong as Gwen Prentice's Border reivers would surely rank as a great test of nerves and temperament.

But one of the greatest factors in this wonderful sport of ours is teamwork and determination – Barbara's girls certainly demonstrated they were not going to go quietly with a 2 at the 4th and a steal of 1 at the 5th to level the game. An exchange of singles in the next two ends saw the teams go into the final end tied 5 – 5.

So Gwen had the hammer and indeed her final stone looked to have won it, stopping just a fraction closer to the button than Barbara's ... or was it? Closer examination showed that this indeed was going to need a measure to determine the winner. Game Umpire Archie Shedden stepped on to the ice to total silence as everyone – players and spectators – held their collective breaths. The suspense was heightened as the umpire checked then double-checked the stones – it was the yellow stone of Team Prentice by millimetres!

A final that was enthralling to watch, entertaining, and exhibiting high levels of skill by all the players. And who was the winner ...? Well of course, curling is always the winner!





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Poetry Celebration

To celebrate Burns night on Tuesday, 25th January, we invited you to put pen to paper to celebrate the excitement of Beijing 2022 and to share your Olympic memories and what the games mean to you as a spectator! Take a look through some entries on the next few pages!

All The Best

By Charles Watson

All the best to GB Curling team as they head out to Beijing
To compete at the Winter Olympics and the glory that may bring
They're playing the mixed doubles, also women and men's team too
Here's hoping they all perform well, with support back home from me and you

The mixed doubles team is Jennifer Dodds with Bruce Mouat by her side
They are currently World Champions but winning the Olympics won't be an easy ride
The women's team is Eve Muirhead, Vicky Wright, Jennifer Dodds, Hailey Duff and Milli Smith
It would be fantastic if they have a gold medal to come home with

Finally, the men's team with Bruce Mouat, Grant Hardie, Bobby Lammie, Hammy McMillan and Ross Whyte
A bunch of very talented curlers who will entertain and fight
So go on GB Curling Teams go out into the crowd
Play your best, give your all, and make us really proud!

THE
ROYAL
CALEDONIAN
CURLING
CLUB



CALL
FOR
BOARD
DIRECTORS!

We are seeking nominations from experienced, skilled and enthusiastic members to fill the roles of two elected Directors on the Board. For more details click [here](#). The closing date for nominations is 14 February 2022.

To the Ice

By John Seaton

There's nothing quite like it, nothing so nice,
as that feeling you get when you're out on the ice

Being with pals, – all shapes and ages,
makes you really aware – of how nice this game is.

there's nothing just quite like the ice!

Your turn on the hack, – the adrenalin rush,
your hand on the stone, – your eyes on the brush

A very deep breath, – a last clench of the teeth,
and forward you glide – with a sense of relief

this feeling is just so damn nice!

The stone leaves your hand, – you're sure it's on line,
your judgement of weight – is apparently fine

you remembered to twist, – its rotating okay
the way that it's tuning – it is the right way?

it looks like your shot will suffice.

The sweepers start work, – the weight now seems light.
They're working real hard, – with all of their might

they're trying their best – to keep the stone going
despite their hard work, – its steadily slowing

it's hard not to blame the bad ice!

With a last final burst – a real sweeping flurry
the skip jumps up, shouting – “hurry, boys, hurry”

The stone comes to rest – its out to the side
Were you off the brush? – or was the brush wide?

It looks like you got the wrong ice!

To the Ice

You may lose the match, the score doesn't matter

You're out with your pals, you've had a great natter

it's great to be back on the ice

So carry on curling, enjoy the banter

relax and feel good, pass round the decanter

and join in a toast "To The Ice"

"To The Ice" By John Seaton

500 Hunner Years

By Ronnie O'Byrne

It's ta'en a while tae grow the game
Frae Dunblane's pond tae Beijing's flame
500 hunner years o' digging stanes
On Ailsa Craig
An' now the world's Olympians
Are on 'ower' stage

Frae Nordic spots the teams arrive
Frae Asia's lands and Uncle Sam
By Canada and ither lands
They've come tae play
So Hurry Hard! and Grab a Gold!
An' seize the day

The Roarin' Game

By Jim Whittle

Whit game, sae honest, couth, hertie, an auld,
Sae warme'en oot in the dark winter's cauld,
Sae friendly in maugre o fierce competition,
Wid matche'en close tae oor ain roarin tradition?

I ken nae either sport nor spiel,
Wi players on thon highest stage as weel
O the Olympic games, as wid
Thir very best performers aw in spirits guid,
Blythely cheer on thir sonsie foes
As they dae thir ain guid stanes and throws!

An we, thon appreciative audience, gledly watch
Oor ain lads and lassies (as well as aw them oither airts)
Hopin for the next "big shot" –
A fortissimo o a triple take-out or ice-cauld button draw
Tae rise us aw up aff oor seats
In thund'rous applause.

Back an forth fir ten ends; the curlers cry, an soop, an reel.
Fir twa hoors or mair, o the ootside world we care not,
Glued tae oor screens, sik emotions we're aw gart tae feel!
Frae devastation o pick-ups
Tae thon wry smile
O a jammy wick in fir the shot!

“I’m no sure about that” we mutter, “I’d be callin’ fair a
different game”.

Ne’er wis a shot missed frae the comfort o hame.
Usually sat in the bar, or right by the rink-side,
Atween us an oor curlers, noo hale continents wide.
But as they play oot in Beijing,
Oor herts’ll be wi them,
Cheer in them on thro oor TVs an screens,
Hopin they ken jist hoo much it aw means,
Tae a faimly o curlers gled tae be enjoyin the show.

An whiles we cheer on oor friends the world-wide
We ken that we’re assuredly on the winnin side!
Oor braw GB curlers hae the game’s cadgiest crowd
Willin them on tae bring hame the gowd.

But come the end o the tenth, countin up stanes in the hoose
Ane team maun win, the ither maun lose.
Ane team dejectit, the ither victorious,
But we, in the bar or at hame, sit happy and glorious.

Thro aw the heidy hichts and sorry laws
Frae crafty shots, tae iffycaws,
Ilk an ilka curler the hale ward ower kens
That efter the game thirs still fower guid friends
Wha will, as we dae at oor ain nearby rinks,
Say, “weel done”, “a guid game weel played”,
Then stack the brooms, get the drinks,
An hope someb’dy else has got the ice fees aw paid!

Tam's Last Stane

By Ali Cuthbertson

A big thank you to Jim Whittle who made us aware of a poem written by the late Ali Cuthbertson. Ali sadly passed away many years ago but with the permission from the late Alastair Cuthbertson's family we can share his words in the edition of YourCurler.

Each winter, aince at least, wis held
a curling match at Loch Dunkeld;
and every year old miller Tam
would challenge Dougie Cunningham

For sixty years without a break,
the yin the ither tried to take.
The score at thirty all now stood,
and it was clearly understood
that hail or rain or come what may,
this was their final match today.

Weel wrapped against the winter's cauld,
Dougie and Tam, both bent and auld,
and much against their wives' advice,
gathered their teams and took to the ice.

Ah, gentle dames it 'gars me greet
to think how many counsels sweet,
how many lengthened sage advices
the curler from his wife despises.

But to our tale.....

Dougie took ane shot at the first,
but after slaking doon his thirst,
Tam chapped him oot to tak the second
by twa shots... gey near three, they reckoned.
The next six ends all sooped and reeled,
and at the ninth the game was peeled
at seven all but ane end still,
Tam gaed his team another gill
to gie them just that extra bit
of courage, and to keep them fit.
While Dougie, sober to the last,
with creaking knees and puffing blast,
said 'Damn ye Tam, I'll drop doon deid
afore I will this game concede,
and even tho' the first stane's mine,
I'll summon up the powers divine
to see me through'.

His lead stane, like a moose
weel swept, came sneaking in the hoose
while Tam's went through.
With six stanes played by either side,
Dougie had made it all but sure
with four stanes lying,
and guard set up to stop Tam trying
a crafty draw or yet a flyer.
And to mak' siccer, his first he placed afore the rest
and Tam, apparently distressed,
took oot and drank his last week drop.
Dooncast his een, his brow did mop.

Baith craft and cunning he did hide
his first stane came, but it was wide
and short, outside the rest
and Dougie chortling in his breast,
laid his last stane behind, but in
where nane could reach.
It seems Tam's sin o' drink had
cost him match and game;
but don't forget, 'twas Tam's Last Stane.

And in the crampit he was ready,
his old frame bent, his eye was steady,
as doon the ice his stane did glide.
We all thought it was fast and wide
but no... it wicked in off his first,
to Dougie's leading stane it burst,
and struck it true and sent it flying.
'Ah Tam, ah Tam, yer last stane's lying!'

Now, wha this tale o' truth shall read
each man, and mother's son tak heed,
whene'er to drink ye are inclined,
or curling stane's run in yer mind,
think you may buy yer joys ower dear
for as Tam heard that rousing cheer,
his spirits rose up in his heid
and, contented like, auld Tam dropped deid.

They buried him behind his hame,
and on his grave laid 'Tam's Last Stane'.

Curling News

Covid Update

Scottish Curling is pleased to note the Scottish Government's continued easing of the restrictions that were introduced to suppress the spread of covid, as case numbers and hospital admissions fall, day by day. Playing curling is safer now with improved interventions in place in ice rinks and we urge members to continue the good behaviours that have become normal. The Government asks us to get vaccinated, washing hands, wear masks when required and do lateral flow tests before meeting others to protect ourselves and them. Many of us have visited ice rinks recently and it is great to catch up with old friends and rivals, share stories over a drink and play the game we all love.

Ladies Branch President

RCCC Ladies Branch are looking for a Junior Vice President for 2022-2023, if interested you would join the team of keen Curlers who include the President, Vice President and the Ladies Standing Committee.

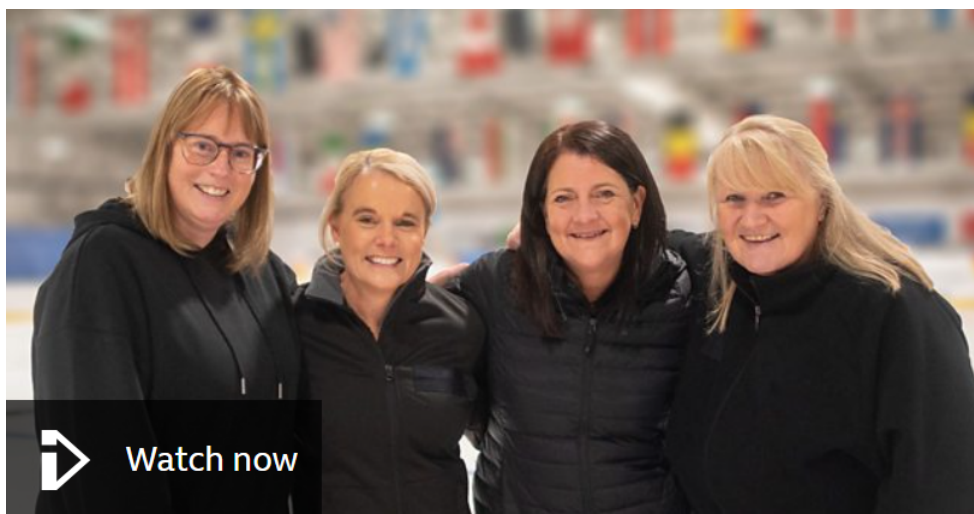
You would serve 1 year as JVP, 1 year as VP & then 1 year as President.

There are no formal qualifications but you should have a keen interest in the fostering and encouraging of Women's Curling. You can find further information [here](#) and if interested or know of anyone who might be, please get in touch with President Lillian J Carnegie [here](#)

Follow our socials for the latest update on all things curling!



The Last Stone



 Watch now

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of a sporting battle against the odds when a team of 'ordinary yet extraordinary' women made sporting history and captivated the UK with curling.

[Show more](#)

02 February 2022

11 months left to watch

 58 minutes

Watch 'The Last Stone' on BBC iPlayer and relive the memories from 20 years ago by four incredible women in Salt Lake City.

Click [here](#) to watch.

Bank of Scotland Curling Championship

THANK YOU TO TOM JARVIS, EVENT
ORGANISER FOR THIS ARTICLE

The annual Bank of Scotland Curling Championship has bowed out in fine style. A popular fixture in the calendar, the event started more than four decades ago and was held for the final time over three days in November. Teams from Edinburgh, Fife, Glasgow, Highland and Perth were represented at the curtain-closer at Dewars Centre in Perth. Local team Perth – skipped by George Delgaty, with Stuart Smith, Bill Duncan and Jill Walker emerged victorious after defeating Edinburgh 8-2 in the final.

The weekend was particularly special for Bill Duncan (Perth) and Bill Ford (Edinburgh), who had both played in the very first Championship in 1977. Bill D has now tasted success in this event on 19 occasions and this most recent victory was particularly special for him. “We wanted to win the last one and now we have the trophy here in Perth”, smiled Bill. Over the years, the Championship maintained its competitive edge but it also created memories and friendships across the country to last a lifetime.





175 YEARS OF ST ANDREWS CURLING CLUB

THANK YOU TO JACKIE MCQUEEN, FOR THIS ARTICLE.

St Andrews Curling Club which was instituted in 1846 is celebrating the milestone 175th Anniversary with a recent Anniversary Bonspiel, an Anniversary dinner to be held this February and a forthcoming exhibition at the St Andrews Heritage Museum, North Street, St Andrews. The Club also took this opportunity to redesign a new club jacket featuring the 175th Anniversary logo and ordered commemorative badges to mark this historic occasion.

The 175th Anniversary Bonspiel took place at Perth Ice Rink. Sixteen teams took part, with four teams from St Andrews C.C and invited teams from Cambo, Newport, Hercules Men, East of Fife Province, Forret, Balcaskie, Hercules Ladies, Largo, Leuchars, Markinch and two teams from Strathkinness. President Larry Perras welcomed everyone and gave a short speech on the history of the club. The curlers were all presented with a commemorative brochure and anniversary badge. The ice was excellent and a very enjoyable and friendly afternoon's curling was had by all followed by a buffet and prizegiving. Congratulations to Largo, the winners and Strathkinness, runners up.

The forthcoming exhibition at the St Andrews Heritage Museum will look back at the club's 175 year history with many interesting artifacts on display and also a PowerPoint presentation. Initially the club had around 35 founding members and included a certain Tom Morris. Our club founders, John Whyte Melville, of Mount Melville in the chair and supported by the committee Major Playfair, Mr. Purvis, Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Cheape, Mr. Reid, and Mr. Tullis of Balrymonth would have played their matches on a pond two miles south of St. Andrews exposed to the elements of weather in Northeast Fife. Pre-war membership grew to 121 and today we have just 30 members. The exhibition shall run from 5th – 27th February 2022 and is open Wednesday to Sunday 12pm – 4pm.





MERCH SHOP OPEN

Our e-shop is now open to pick up your Scottish Curling Merchandise!

From cosy beanies, hoodies and shirts, to branded masks to help keep you safe on and off the ice this season – Orders can now be placed through our partners at VSN online store from now until February 28.

Please note that ALL order details will go to the supplier on the 28th, not before this date. From here, an order can take up to six to eight weeks to arrive.

The shop is generally open for shorter periods, however we wanted to offer the opportunity to purchase merchandise throughout the Olympics.

All order details will be sent on the same day to allow the supplier to sustainably deal with the volume of demand and supply.



VICE PRESIDENT

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE POSITION OF RCCC VICE PRESIDENT

For more details click [here](#).

The closing date for nominations
is 14 February 2022.



Forth Valley Area Bonspiel win for Uphall.

THANK YOU TO JOE KINCAID, FOR THIS ARTICLE.



The four Provinces played the Area Bonspiel on the 12th January with 24 teams competing over two sessions at 5:30pm and 8:30pm in the main ice arena at the Peak in Stirling.

Session 1 Balforn got off to a flier, then got overtaken by Bonnybridge only to win the last two ends to win 6 v 4. Abercorn were always in control against Dunblane after a 4 in the second end to win 10 v 4. Buccaneers gave Grangemouth a hard time winning 5 out of 7 ends to win 7 v 2. Blair Drummond got off to a flier and didn't look back to win 7 v 4 against Buchlyvie. Kilsyth played a very measured game to stifle Buchan winning 14 v 3, the biggest score of the session. Keir didn't have their big guns out and struggled to live with Livingstone. losing 5 v 11. This left West Lothian and Forth and Endrick Provinces both with 4 points and everything to play for in the second session. Session 2 Falkirk never let Airthrey into it running out 11 v 2 winners.

Right next door, a similar story with Uphall, Kippen just managed to score a single to avoid the nil points, losing 1 v 8. Strathendrick always seemed to be crowding Borestone out with several yellow stones in the house every end, winning 10 v 4. Doune v Livingston proved to be a real contest, with winning shots measured in millimeters, draws through narrow ports and really hard sweeping to get shots over the line It went to the final stone for Doune to clinch it 6 v 5.

Next sheet Sauchie & Bannockburn skip was having an off night and after giving away a 4 never recovered to lose 4 v 7. Drymen were meanwhile racking up a big score against Bridge of Allan winning the first three ends eventually finishing 15 v 4 winners and the best score of the second session. With West Lothian and Forth & Endrick both having won another 2 games each meant they were still level on 8 points.

The organisers had to resort to counting ends won to decide the winner overall and it turned out to be West Lothian with 25 ends against 22 for Forth & Endrick. The best club score for West Lothian was Uphall with their 8 v 1 win and so they win the trophy!



MENS GAMES | WOMENS GAMES

MEN'S TEAM: BRUCE MOUAT, GRANT HARDIE, BOBBY LAMMIE, HAMMY MCMILLAN & ROSS WHYTE

WOMEN'S TEAM: EVE MUIRHEAD, VICKY WRIGHT, JEN DODDS, HAILEY DUFF AND MILI SMITH

THU 10TH FEB 01.05
GBR V SUI



THU 10TH FEB 06.05
GBR V ITA



THU 10TH FEB 12.05
GBR V SWE



FRI 11TH FEB 01.05
GBR V USA



FRI 11TH FEB 06.05
GBR V KOR



FRI 11TH FEB 12.05
GBR V NOR



SAT 12TH FEB 12.05
GBR V USA



SUN 13TH FEB 01.05
GBR V CHN



SUN 13TH FEB 06.05
GBR V DEN



SUN 13TH FEB 12.05
GBR V DEN



MON 14TH FEB 06.05
GBR V SUI



MON 14TH FEB 12.05
GBR V CAN



TUE 15TH FEB 06.05
GBR V JPN



TUE 15TH FEB 12.05
GBR V SWE



WED 16TH FEB 01.05
GBR V CHN



WED 16TH FEB 06.05
GBR V ROC



THU 17TH FEB 01.05
GBR V CAN



THU 17TH FEB 06.05
GBR V ROC



THU 17TH FEB 12.05
SEMI FINALS

FRI 18TH FEB 06.05
BRONZE MEDAL GAME

FRI 18TH FEB 12.05
SEMI-FINAL

SAT 19TH FEB 06.05
GOLD MEDAL GAME

SAT 19TH FEB 12.05
BRONZE MEDAL GAME

SUN 20TH FEB 01.05
GOLD MEDAL GAME

Beijing Paralympic Winter Games



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

SAT 5TH MARCH 06.35 / GBR V NOR



SAT 5TH MARCH 11.35 / GBR V ITA



SUN 6TH MARCH 06.35 / GBR V RPC



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 01.35 / GBR V KOR



THU 10TH MARCH 01.35 / GBR V CHN



THU 10TH MARCH 06.35 / GBR V LAT



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

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

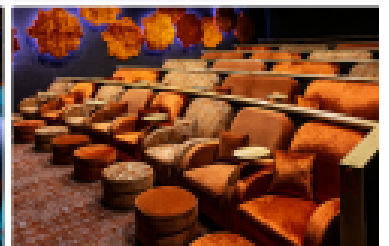
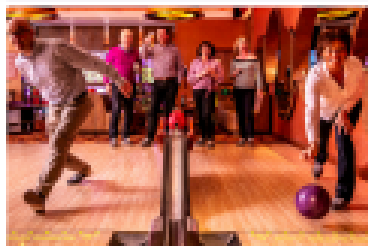
Curling Tours

Combine a curling tour
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THE 2022 SCOTTISH CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

WRITTEN BY SANDRINE WYRICH

The 2022 Scottish Curling Men and Women's Championships will be taking place from 21st to 27th February at the Dumfries Ice Bowl which is making its debut as host of the event. Six men's teams and six women's teams will take to the ice and battle it out for the National titles. Alongside the competitive action, spectators will have unparalleled opportunities to try their hand at the sport in the curling hall next to the competition arena.

Having missed out on its scheduled hosting debut last year due to the covid-19 pandemic, the Dumfries Ice Bowl is set to finally welcome Scotland's national curling championships this February. The venue is far from being a stranger to world class competitions. Having staged the 2014 World Mixed Doubles as well as Seniors Curling Championships and being a regular on the International Ice Hockey Federation calendar, the venue promises to give the distinct feel of an environment similar to that of international curling championships.

The local organising team are thrilled to host the competition: 'Coming off the back of the Olympics we aim to create an event for curlers and non-curlers alike to attend and enjoy. We have a few ideas in the pipeline to create a rousing atmosphere in the arena for the athletes and spectators,' Dumfries Curling say.

MEN'S COMPETITION

Team Whyte head to Dumfries as the highest ranked rink in the competition, currently sitting world number 9 after a successful first season on the Grand Slam Circuit where they qualified at the likes of the Boost National and GOSC Masters. Skip Ross Whyte hails from Dumfries and will travel to his home rink straight from his alternate duty at the Beijing Winter Olympics. Team coach Greg Drummond is set to fill in for at least the first few days of competition to allow his skip to regroup after the Games. Team Whyte currently receive British Curling Podium Potential funding but are yet to reach the play-off stage at a Scottish Championship.

While they'll be trying everything to change that record this year, their biggest opposition could come from the field's veterans Team Paterson. The line-up is by far the most experienced with skip Ross Paterson having represented Scotland/GB 11 times, six of those with medal success. His rink too are familiar with the world stage with 10 appearances for Kyle Waddell (eight medals), and eight for Duncan Menzies (five medals) while Craig Waddell played alternate at the 2019 European Championships where Scotland won bronze. Team Paterson are currently ranked 25th in the world, but have struggled this season, not qualifying at either of their two grand slam events.

Looking to cause an upset and prevent a bookies favourite young hot guns Team Whyte versus veteran Team Paterson final are Team Craik. The rink heads to Dumfries with the kudos of being reigning Scottish Junior Champions and current World Junior Bronze Medallists. Their participation was abetted as a by-product of the postponement of the 2022 World Juniors, relaxing Team Craik's late March/early April and allowing the squad to focus on a national title assault.

Former Team Craik third Mark Watt will also be competing at the Ice Bowl with his newly formed rink. He brings the experience of three Scottish Juniors appearances and the aim to put his fresh line-up in a positive position. Having lost out to Team Craik at the last Scottish Juniors, Team Strawhorn will be out for revenge. A current National Academy Team, they are set for their Scottish Championships debut in Dumfries.

Another National Academy Team will be present in Team Bryce, now a five-person rink with Callum Kinnear and Luke Carson helping the team out after David Baird had to step back this season due to work commitments. Team Bryce have collected experience on the European Tour this season, competing in Latvia, Estonia, Czech Republic, Switzerland, and are a fixture on the national stage with Cameron Bryce a former Scottish Junior Champion and the team's best result at the Scottish Championship a third-place finish in 2018.

WOMEN'S COMPETITION

There are a lot of unknowns on the women's side with shuffling of teams due to injuries, illness, retirements and so forth. Fay Henderson's foursome has been stable this season and hence come to Henderson's Dumfries home rink in a relatively comfortable position. Despite being relatively newly formed line-up, the reigning Scottish Junior Champions are displaying formidable performances on the European Junior Circuit this season, winning in Prague and St Gallen.

Team Henderson will be taking the fight to British Curling Podium Potential squad and bookies favourites Team Morrison. The rink set-up is a fresh one, Rebecca Morrison, Gina Aitken, and Sophie Sinclair having previously played together in the BC nine-women squad of the 2020-21 season and Sophie Jackson coming in at lead last December. Nevertheless, they were semi-finalists at the recent Bernese International Ladies Cup and come to the Ice Bowl with plenty of kudos: Jackson and Sinclair are Scottish Champions from 2019, Morrison finished runner-up at the 2020 event, and Aitken took the national mixed doubles title no less than five times.

Team Farmer too have final-aspirations when the newly formed rink, comprised of long-time curling partners Beth Farmer and Kristin Bousie teaming up with 2019 Scottish Junior Champion Emma Barr and 2020 Junior triumphators Robyn Munro and Laura Watt, takes to the ice. Farmer is a former World Junior B Champion, finished third at the previous Scottish Championships and recently skipped her team to win the Consolation Cup at the Bernese Ladies International.

Yet another new-look line-up in British Curling Performance Foundation Team McDonald will contest at the Ice Bowl. Skip Amy McDonald was part of the Team Morrison rink that triumphed at the 2018 Scottish Juniors while third Eilidh Yeats finished runner-up at the last edition of the national championship.

Team Blair, a hot outsider rink at the most recent Scottish Juniors that eventually finished second, brought in former national runner-up Jennifer Marshall for an experienced and wise head at second. Three of the four players in the team skipped by Lucy Blair are currently supported by the National and Regional Academy.

Finally, Jenni Cannon is making her comeback to the ice this year after some time away from the sport, having been selected onto the Regional Academy Programme. Team Cannon are a line-up of five promising curling returnees who are back to see what they can do.



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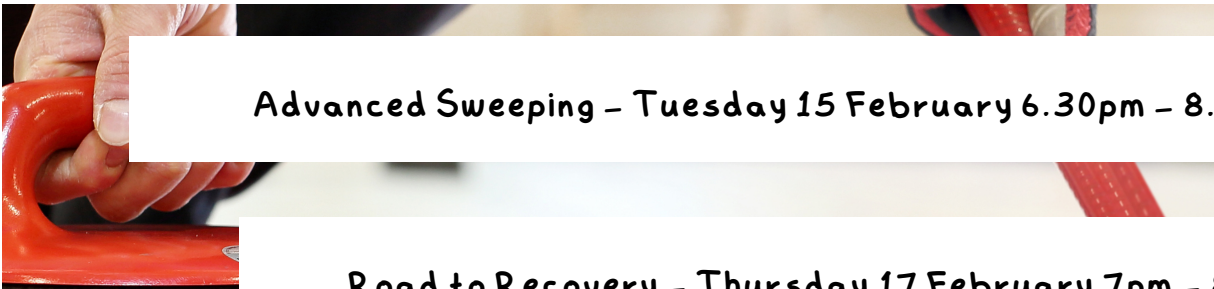
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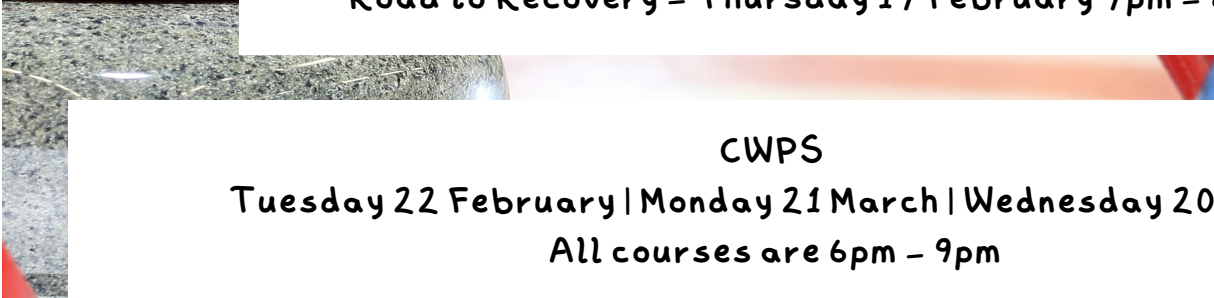
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