

Your Curler

January 2022



QR Code



NEW YEAR, NEW GOALS

Take a look at the upcoming news and competitions in 2022, including the Beijing Olympics!

Olympics Timetable

With Curling being the sport to sweep the nation in 2022, take a closer look at the games you don't want to miss.

The British Open Curling Championships

Take a look back at the December round-up

Upcoming competitions

Feeling inspired by the Beijing Olympics? Why not take on a challenge of your own this year!

Cover Photo Credit: PPA/Graeme Hart

TABLE OF CONTENTS

P3

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

P4-6

BEIJING WINTER OLYMPICS 2022

Who you need to know

P7-8

OLYMPIC TIMETABLES

Dates and times for your diary

P9-10

CURLING NEWS

What's going on in the world of curling

P11-13

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

Throw your hat in the ring this year and set yourself a challenge!

P14-15

THE BRITISH OPEN CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

A roundup from December

P16

MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS

Discount on a Gin tour you say? Don't mind if we do!

P17

THE PATHWAY TO GOLD IN 2002

A look back at Salt Lake City and a Golden moment in history for Team GB.

P18

CREATE YOUR OWN PATH TO GOLD IN 2022

*10 years later we celebrate the Winter Olympics of 2002 by asking you to recreate **that** shot!*

P19

ROAD TO RECOVERY

Words from Harry Gow on well-being and sport.

P20-21

TRY CURLING

A guide to introducing friends to Curling!

A word from our CEO



We have some great stories and information in this month's issue of Your Curler. I hope you enjoy reading the new edition and are making the most of the fact that ice rinks are open for business, albeit not fully back to normal yet.

The excitement is building across the country as we are all looking forward to the imminent Olympic and then Paralympic Games with great anticipation. We have been working on our programmes for the last two years and are building momentum to promote curling to new people as well as sharing news and information with our existing members and fans of the sport.

Our first priority at the start of the season was to work with ice rinks to assist putting mitigations in place to ensure the environments were safe, and then to encourage curlers to return to playing and get back into the ice rinks. The next priority was to deliver campaigns that would be directed to people not currently involved in curling to have a go and try it out. This included the commercial radio campaign and the National Curling Day celebrations on November 15 in the last quarter of 2021. We are now approaching the Olympic Games and the intensity of promotion is continuing to increase on our own platforms, with British Curling, and in all forms of media in Scotland and abroad. To maximise the impact, we need all our members to like, share, retweet and engage with all aspects of curling, whether online, by helping deliver sessions on ice, or by supporting behind the scenes in clubs and ice rinks. This is our peak opportunity until the next Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2026 – so please do what you can to encourage others to have a go and try curling.

We continue to work on behalf of our members and the whole sport to influence government and, in a coordinated approach with other sports, to remove unnecessary restrictions or barriers. Our aim is for people to be able to return to curling with confidence that all the necessary measures are in place to allow to curl indoors safely. You can visit the covid section on our website [here](#) for the latest information.

This is also the time of year when we are seeking new people to put themselves forward to join our board of directors. If you are interested, please see the information [here](#).

We hope you enjoy this edition of Your Curler and all the excitement that comes with three teams of our members playing on the world stage next month in the Olympic Games. As always, we'd love to hear from you, receive your stories, photos, and news from around the country where local clubs are at the heart of our sport.

Stay safe and enjoy your curling.

Bruce Crawford
Chief Executive Officer
Scottish Curling

Beijing Olympics

The countdown is on! With the Winter Olympics only a couple of weeks away, we take time in this month's issue to have a look at the teams to watch out for and the timetable ahead.

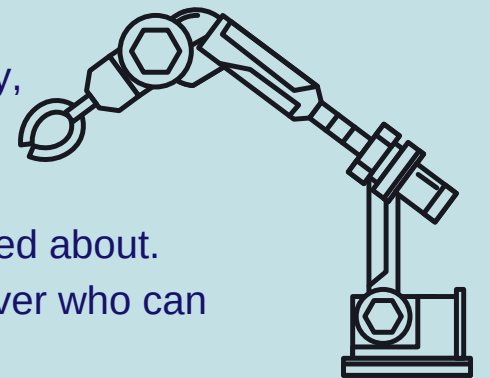
How robots are set to save the Olympics

It's January. Curling events are being postponed all over the place and concerns over covid infections have Olympic athletes in isolation. Things might be looking a bit bleak right now, but mechanical (literally!) measures are in place to ensure the Games go ahead as planned.

China unyieldingly continues to run its COVID ZERO policy; layer upon layer upon layer of safety restrictions are stamped out with ruthless authority. Most recently, three positive covid-19 cases meant an entire city of a million people was entirely locked down.

For the athletes it means that an infection at this point would put a premature end to their Olympic dream. For the Games itself, it means a somewhat peculiar bubble of covid safety – hygiene and social distancing protocols, volunteers in hazmat suits, and robots teeming around the venues.

Yes, you read that right; robots will play their part by delivering, disinfecting and, if necessary, disciplining. Picture the following -



A logistics robot performs contactless distribution for all sorts of objects that need to be moved about. Once it has delivered the up to 300 kilograms of goods, it sends a text message to the receiver who can pick it up with a verification code while the robot retires to recharge and get disinfected.

If they ever need support over the final metres, the venues have been equipped with “contactless intelligent distribution cabinets”, featuring intelligent storage and pickup, remote monitoring and information functions.

There's also a pathfinding robot whose purpose is to reduce direct contact between people. Moving about freely and able to automatically recharge itself, these law enforcers are sure to find any athletes or officials that are trying to have too much fun on Olympic soil.

Covid-fighting robots scurry around pre-programmed area, spraying disinfecting chemicals and, perhaps unsurprisingly, robots are also responsible for making coffee at the Olympic venues.

Unless China's ruthless COVID ZERO policy shatters at this crucial point, the Beijing Games are sure to be going ahead. Ideally with all athletes and most certainly with robots in the Olympic village.

Mixed Doubles

The mixed doubles format goes into its second round of Olympic competition in Beijing, having become part of the programme four years ago at PyeongChang. After missing out on qualifying in 2018, Team GB will make its debut in the competition with on-form duo Jen Dodds and Bruce Mouat.

Olympic action is only days away with Team GB taking to the ice for their first game on February 2 – and it's a big one against Sweden! Dodds and Mouat have a tough competition ahead of them, but it's all to play for in Beijing.

Take a look at what who you need to know



Beijing Olympics



THE SCOTS

Childhood friends Jen Dodds and Bruce Mouat will become the first mixed doubles pair to represent Team GB at the Winter Games in Beijing.

Having met for the first time in the early 2000s at their mutual home club of Gogar Park, Edinburgh, it took almost another two decades for Dodds and Mouat to compete together. They hit the ground running when they started their joint mixed doubles career at the 2020 Nationals and straight away took the title.

Since then, the duo went from strength to strength and booked their ticket to the Olympics at the 2021 World Mixed Doubles Championships in Aberdeen. Beating the Norwegian pair of Kristin Skaslien and Magnus Nedregotten, Dodds and Mouat secured gold and put themselves firmly among the medal favourites for the Games.

In their latest international outing at the Gothenburg Mixed Doubles in late December, they finished third by overcoming Switzerland's 2018 Olympic silver medallists Jenny Perrett and Martin Rios, proving they are in great shape heading to Beijing.



Bruce Mouat & Jen Dodds
Photo Credit: WCF / Céline Stucki

THE DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

The Canadian mixed doubles campaign had to overcome a tough route to the Olympics. With the national competition cancelled due to the covid-19 pandemic, the onus to decide who will fly the flag in Beijing was on Curling Canada in conjunction with the Canadian Olympic Committee.

Proceedings were further complicated by Curling Canada's own rule that prohibits athletes from contesting in both the mixed doubles and the four-players competitions. This meant the two top ranked duos in Canada, Peterman/Gallant and Jones/Laing, were rendered ineligible for selection.

The decision eventually fell on Rachel Homan and John Morris - Morris of course having been part of the 2018 gold medal duo and Homan too having Olympic experience. The pair was in fact set to contest together at the 2018 Games had Homan's four-players rink not won the national trials and thereby earned Olympic selection.

Homan and Morris have been doubling up for a few years now and their past successes include a national silver medal in 2017 and most recently a bonspiel victory. They are sure to be going for gold in Beijing.



Rachel Homan & John Morris
Photo Credit: WCF / Céline Stucki / Patrick Fulgencio

Beijing Olympics

THE FAVOURITES

After taking the silver medal in 2018, Jenny Perret and Martin Rios of Switzerland are heading to Beijing to go one better this year.

Known for their rather harsh on-ice communication tone, it is easy to read a certain disharmony into the duo. But the former world champions thrive on their quarrels. When competing, there is a fierce energy between Perret and Rios that made them one of the world's best mixed doubles pairs and gold favourites for Beijing.

THE NEWCOMERS

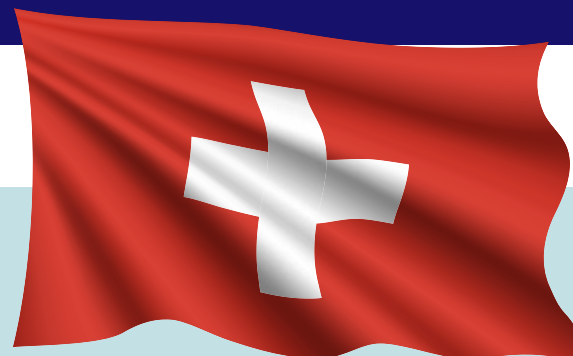
Becoming the first-ever Australian representatives in competitive Olympic curling, Tahli Gill and Dean Hewitt will make history in Beijing regardless of their result.

The duo booked their ticket to the Games at the Olympic Qualification Event in early December where they impressed with seven wins from seven games and played their way into the hearts of curling fans around the world.

Gill and Hewitt got together at the start of the Olympic cycle and put their sole focus on getting to Beijing.

They reached the knock-out stages at the 2019 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championships and braved the struggles of restricted overseas travelling during the covid-19 pandemic that limited opportunities to train and compete.

Their Olympic dream will come true in Beijing and continue a family storyline - Hewitt's father Steve was part of the Australian team that contested at the Albertville Olympics in 1992, back when curling was merely a demonstration sport.



THE DARK HORSE

Having played mixed doubles together since 2013 and with six world championships under their belts, Kristin Skaslien and Magnus Nedregotten are the veterans of the Olympic field.

The Norwegians have been knocking on the door of success over the years but are yet without gold in a major international competition. Skaslien and Nedregotten were retrospectively awarded the bronze medal at the 2018 Games in PyeongChang, having originally lost out to the Olympic Athletes of Russia duo who were later disqualified due to a doping offense.

Partners on the ice and married off it, the pair know each other exceptionally well and, over the years, found the right balance to get the best out of their partnership. Heading to their second joint Olympics, they are looking to win a medal game on the ice.



Dean Hewitt & Tahli Gill
Photo Credit: WCF / Steve Seixiro

Beijing Olympic Winter Games

Mixed Doubles Timetable



MIXED DOUBLES | TEAM GB: JEN DODDS & BRUCE MOUAT

WED 2 FEB 12:05 | GBR V SWE



THU 3 FEB 01:05 | GBR V CAN



THU 3 FEB 12:05 | GBR V SUI



FRI 4 FEB 05:35 | GBR V AUS



SAT 5 FEB 06:05 | GBR V CZE



SAT 5 FEB 12:05 | GBR V ITA



SUN 6 FEB 01:05 | GBR V CHN



SUN 6 FEB 12:05 | GBR V NOR



MON 7 FEB 01:05 | GBR V USA



**MON 7 FEB 12:05
SEMI FINAL**

**TUE 8 FEB 06:05
BRONZE GAME**

**TUE 8 FEB 12:05
GOLD/SILVER GAME**

Beijing Olympic Winter Games

We will feature more Men's and Women's Winter Olympic news in the next issue- for now, here are some dates for your diary!



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	 V 	TUE 15TH FEB 06.05 GBR V JPN	 V 
THU 10TH FEB 06.05 GBR V ITA	 V 	TUE 15TH FEB 12.05 GBR V SWE	 V 
THU 10TH FEB 12.05 GBR V SWE	 V 	WED 16TH FEB 01.05 GBR V CHN	 V 
FRI 11TH FEB 01.05 GBR V USA	 V 	WED 16TH FEB 06.05 GBR V ROC	 V 
FRI 11TH FEB 06.05 GBR V KOR	 V 	THU 17TH FEB 01.05 GBR V CAN	 V 
FRI 11TH FEB 12.05 GBR V NOR	 V 	THU 17TH FEB 06.05 GBR V ROC	 V 
SAT 12TH FEB 12.05 GBR V USA	 V 	THU 17TH FEB 12.05 SEMI FINALS	
SUN 13TH FEB 01.05 GBR V CHN	 V 	FRI 18TH FEB 06.05 BRONZE MEDAL GAME	
SUN 13TH FEB 06.05 GBR V DEN	 V 	FRI 18TH FEB 12.05 SEMI-FINAL	
SUN 13TH FEB 12.05 GBR V DEN	 V 	SAT 19TH FEB 06.05 GOLD MEDAL GAME	
MON 14TH FEB 06.05 GBR V SUI	 V 	SAT 19TH FEB 12.05 BRONZE MEDAL GAME	
MON 14TH FEB 12.05 GBR V CAN	 V 	SUN 20TH FEB 01.05 GOLD MEDAL GAME	



OLYMPIC CURLING FAN ZONE

@ NORTH WEST CASTLE HOTEL, STRANRAER

8th – 20th February 2022

COME ALONG AND SUPPORT TEAM GB

Gather with friends and fellow curling enthusiasts at North West Castle and support Team GB at the Beijing Olympics! All night bar service for both residents and non-residents. Musical entertainment provided by DJ John Munro, short curling bonspiel, puzzles and games.

RESIDENTIAL PACKAGES

Rates are per person based on 2 people sharing a classic room, all packages include access to the Fan Zone!

FULL PACKAGE – MINIMUM 10 NIGHTS - ONLY £500.00 per person

Stay 10 Nights and get your 11th Night FREE!

5 NIGHT – MINIMUM 5 NIGHTS – ONLY £275.00 per person

2 NIGHT PACKAGE – ONLY £125.00 per person

Add Soup and Sandwich Combo Lunch on to any package for ONLY £5.00 per person per day.

NON – RESIDENT PACKAGES

DINNER PACKAGE - £30 – with all night access to Fan Zone

LUNCH PACKAGE - £10 – Soup & Sandwich Combo with one game access to Fan Zone

BREAKFAST PACKAGE - £10 – Bacon/Sausage Roll, Tea or Coffee with one game access to Fan Zone

DAY PASS – NO FOOD 24HRS - £10.00

To book, please call 01776 704413 or email hotel@northwestcastle.co.uk

Photo Cred: Graeme Hart

CURLING IN THE CREATIVE

Did you know?

In Galashiels you can visit the Great Tapestry of Scotland! Located on the high Street the incredibly fine detailed tapestry showcases a whole history of Scottish culture, including the fantastic curling image (to the left), alongside one depicting shinty.

The brainchild of Alexander McCall Smith and designed by artist Andrew Crummy, the Great Tapestry of Scotland is one of the world's largest community arts projects. Hand-stitched by a team of 1,000 stitchers from across Scotland led by Dorie Wilkie, over 300 miles of wool was used in creating the 160 linen panels.

You can visit the tapestry between Thursday to Monday 09:30-17:00 (check the website before you travel). [Click here to browse the website.](#)

Location: 14-20 High Street, Galashiels, TD1 1SD



Learn more about David Murdoch, The British Curling Olympic Head Coach for the upcoming Winter games, with this 13 minute profile. You can listen on the BBC iPlayer. [Click here.](#)

STONE OF DESTINY

To mark the 20 years since Team GB won at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics we have created a competition called the Stone of Destiny.

The competition is for junior members, however we would love to see everyone give the winning shot a go!

You can find more details on the competition and the shot on page 18.

WORDS WITH EVE MUIRHEAD

Ahead of the upcoming Olympic games, Eve Muirhead discusses with The World Curling Federation her journey to her fourth Olympics and how she got to here. [Read the article here.](#)

SCOTTISH CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP IN DUMFRIES

After last years cancellation we are excited that The 2022 Scottish Curling Championship is fast approaching. With the event kicking off on Monday 21 February, immediately after the Olympic games we are excited to keep the momentum of the Olympics going for another week. For the first time the event will be held in an Arena with Curling taking over the Dumfries Ice Bowl Arena whilst the curling hall will be available for Try Curling sessions. Full details of tickets and broadcast coverage will be launched on our website shortly and we look forward to welcoming you to Dumfries from 21 – 27 February to support the teams battling for the Scottish Championship Title.



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

MEMBERS
DISCOUNT
— UP TO —
**10%
OFF***

EXPLORE THE WORLD THE OLSEN WAY

Scottish Curling members who are existing Fred. Olsen customers can benefit from a tempting discount of up to 10% off, with a 5% Scottish Curling discount in addition to their 5% Oceans Loyalty Club discount.

Scottish Curling members that are new to Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines can save 5%, and that's on top of any current offers.

New 2022-24 Worldwide Cruise Brochure out now. For more information or to book, please call 0800 0355 108, quoting discount code RCCC5

*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.

 **ABTA**
Travel with confidence

Get Involved!

Upcoming Competitions

Under 13s & Under 15s Funspiel, Perth (19th Mar 2022)

CLOSING DATE 7th Feb 2022

The Scottish Curling Funspiel is a one day event open to junior members from the same junior curling club. There are two categories: Under 13 and Under 15.

- Teams can be male, female or mixed.
- All team members must be less than 13 and 15 years of age by the end of the 30th day of June 2021.
- All team members must be members of Scottish Curling.

Entry Fee: £60.00 per team, per competition

Junior Mixed Doubles, Dumfries (25th–27th Mar 2022)

CLOSING DATE 31st Jan 2022

- Teams must be mixed (1 male and 1 female)
- All teams members must be members of a Scottish Curling
- All team members must be less than 21 years of age by the end of the 30th day in June 2021

Entry Fee: £120.00 per team

Newcomers Trophy, Greenacres (27th Mar 2022)

CLOSING DATE 11th Feb 2022

Open to Junior curlers aged 16 or under and targeted at those in their first or second season of curling (please note that Season 2020-21 would not be counted).

Entry is on an individual basis and teams will be compiled on the day of the event.

- All team members must be members of Scottish Curling
- All team members must be 16 years and under of age by the end of the 30th June 2021

Entry Fee: £20.00 per entrant

Curlability Bonspiel, Stirling (24th Mar 2022)

CLOSING DATE 25TH Feb 2022

The Curlability Bonspiel 2022 is open to all curlers, especially those with a disability/impairment or infirmity. It is a fun but also competitive day of curling.

We welcome:

- Those with a Vision impairment
- Those with Autistic Spectrum conditions
- Any others who would like to join us
- Those who are Deaf/hard of hearing or have hearing loss
- Those with a learning disability
- Stick curlers /Wheelchair users

Entry to the competition is on an individual basis and teams will be informed on the day of the event.

Entry Fee: £12.00 per entrant for Scottish Curling Members

£18.00 per entrant for non-members

Get Involved!

Upcoming Competitions

Mixed Championship, Edinburgh (31st Mar–3rd Apr 2022)

CLOSING DATE 15th Feb 2022

- Teams must be mixed (2 males and 2 females playing in alternate positions)
- All teams members must be members of a Scottish Curling
- The Scottish Curling Mixed Championship is for any two eligible males and females competing for the title and the right to represent Scotland in the 2022 World Mixed Curling Championship

Entry Fee: £220.00 per team

Over 50s – Senior Mixed Championship, Borders (25th–27th Mar 2022)

CLOSING DATE 11th Feb 2022

- Teams must be mixed (2 males and 2 females playing alternate positions)
- All team members must be members of Scottish Curling
- All team members must be over 50 years of age by the end of the 30th day of June 2021

Entry Fee: £220.00 per team

**WE ARE NOW
ACCEPTING
NOMINATIONS
FOR THE
POSITION OF
VICE PRESIDENT**

For more details click [here](#). The closing date for nominations is 14 February 2022.



The British Open Curling Championships 2021

Friday 3rd December 2021, saw the return of the British Open Curling Championships after what felt like an eternity due to the pandemic. The British Open was brought back into the curling calendar in 2018 and held as an end of season event on the Scottish Curling Tour. With a busy competition calendar already set for 2021-2022, we moved the event to December and began to organise what we believe to be one of the best curling tournaments in Scotland. This year's British Open was sponsored by Robertsons Group and Johnston & Robertson consultants.



Stirling saw 18 teams arrive to compete at The Peak, Stirling's Sports Village from the 3rd-5th December. Teams from England, Ireland, and Scotland, aging from 18-60+ were all here to compete for the crown. We had a strong field including ex Olympics athletes, World Senior Champions, World Junior Champions, Scottish and English junior and senior teams; all competing against local clubs from Stirlingshire.

The triple knock-out format got underway with all the teams aiming firstly to qualify for the High Road quarter final on Sunday and a chance to win the historic British Open trophy. It was Team Mark Watt and Team Ajax, skipped by 2018 Olympian Kyle Smith, who qualified first out of the A road. Three more teams qualified from the B-Road, recording only 1 loss, they were teams skipped by Duncan MacFadzean, Luke Carson and Cameron Bryce. Qualifying from the C-Road, on two losses, were teams skipped by Craig Waddell, Robbie Stevenson and John Duff. Teams knocked out of the main event come Saturday evening moved on to compete in either the Middle Road or Low Road finals on Sunday.

We were now into the business end of the weekend with the Sunday match-ups set. The four teams who qualified from the quarter finals made an exciting semi-final line up. Team Whyte (MacFadzean), Team Watt, Team Lammie (Waddell) and Team Ajax were all through to the semi-finals of the high road. Team Gow vs Team Brand; and Team Sugden were up against Scottish Senior Team Duff in the two semi-finals of the middle road. While Team Prentice and Team Farnell faced off in the first semi-final of the low load and Team Munro (the youngest team in the competition) and Team Murphy were up against each other in the second.

With all six semi-finals on the ice, it was great to see such a spectacular display of curling. When the results were in, the finals were set as follows: In the High Road were Team Whyte vs Team Ajax; the middle road saw Team Gow vs Team Sugden; and the low road saw Team Prentice take on Team Munro.

In the Low Road, the "oldies" Team Prentice (who is a World Senior Champion) defeated last year's Scottish Junior Champions Team Munro to win the JB Stewart Trophy, 7-3, which has always been presented to the Low Road winners.



Team Munro (Low Road Runners up)



Team Prentice (Low Road winners)

The Middle Road was contested by Team Gow, a mainly junior team from Perth skipped by Paul Davis vs the English junior team, Team Sugden. This was closely contested battle with Team Sugden coming out on top and taking home the Middle Road trophy with a final score of 7-5



Team Gow (Middle Road Runners up)



Team Sugden (Middle Road winners)

The main event was the British Open Championship Final (High Road). Previous World Junior Champions Team Whyte took on Kyle Smith (Team Ajax), a 2018 Olympian. The game saw some top shots, notably Kyle taking a triple take-out get his team out of a sticky situation. However it wasn't enough for the Kyle Smith team as Team Whyte took the 2021 British open, sponsored by Robertson Group. The rink of Duncan McFadzean, Duncan Menzies, Euan Kyle, James Craik and 5th player George McFadzean won the final, 6-3.



Team Whyte (High Road winners)



Team Ajax (High Road Runners up)

This event cannot be run without the generosity of our sponsors Robertson Group and Johnston and Robertson consultants, many thanks to them for supporting this prestigious event. Thanks also to the committee behind the scenes and the ice technicians who worked hard to make the best possible conditions for the players. We all look forward to 2022 when we will make this event even bigger and better yet again. See you all at the British Open Curling Championship 2022.

Thank you to Hammy McMillan for the article above (Curling Development Officer @ Active Stirling and member of Team Mouat).

Membership Benefits and Discounts

As a member of Scottish Curling you have access to a range of benefits and offers.

New offers are below - a full list of offers can be found on our website here
or scan the QR code below



INTERSTATE
HOTELS | RESORTS

Explore Interstate Hotels and Resorts' amazing hotels across the UK and Europe, and enjoy a discounted stay with prices starting from £39 per room per night.



Holiday Inn
Express

Discount accommodation available at selected hotels in: Glasgow / Edinburgh / Perth and Dunfermline.

STIRLING DISTILLERY

Book your Distillery Tour at Stirling's first legal distillery! Opened in 2019 and home of Stirling Gin. Be welcomed with a bespoke cocktail, taken through the history of the brand, followed by some of Stirling City's most fascinating stories, make the perfect G&T and take away some samples.

We'd like to say a big thank you to all the businesses that have come onboard, we appreciate their generosity.

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.

The path to Gold in 2002

With excitement and anticipation at an all time high looking towards the Olympics, let's take a quick lookback on just how the British Women's Olympic Curling Team took home gold in the unforgettable 2002 Winter Olympics.

The route that the 2002 British Women's Olympic Curling Team took to reach the podium was not straightforward.

Back in 2002 the British women's Olympic curling team were Rhona Martin (now Howie), Debbie Knox, Fiona MacDonald, Janice Rankin and Margaret Morton. Their first game was against Norway and the British team started the campaign with a 10-6 win. Sweden beat the Brits in the second game and that was followed by a 9-1 win over Japan that raised the spirits in the camp. The fourth was against Russia and the victory came with an 8-5 result. The fifth game was against Canada who dominated from the start and beat the Brits 9-4. A strong performance against the Swiss resulted in a 7-4 win. Then Britain beat Denmark before losing 6-5 after an extra end to USA. Another loss followed to Germany which left the team on five wins and four losses at the end of the round robin stage, alongside Sweden and Germany in joint fourth place.

In 2002 the rules were that ties were settled with extra games, so Britain faced Sweden who had already beaten us in the second game of the week on the same sheet. A strong performance led to a British victory in the first tie breaker and the team marched on to face Germany, feeling more confident. In the second tiebreaker, they were convincing victors, winning 9-5 for a place in the semi final against the mighty Canadians. The Canadians had had a day off while the Brits had played the two tiebreak games and the semi final was close but the British women won 6-5, earning a place in the final against Switzerland and a guaranteed medal.

The final was played at 2pm local time or 9pm back in the UK where six million viewers stayed up past midnight to see the outcome, as it all came down the last stone in the final end.

The final Swiss stone was closest to the button so the British team had to tap it gently and roll our stone onto the button, which is exactly what the team did. It was a phenomenal achievement as the British team had played 13 games, two more than the other teams, so could have been suffering from exhaustion but there was no sign of that from the players.

The rules of curling have changed since the Olympic Gold was won in 2002 by the British Women's Team. The competition still comprises ten teams but since 2017 the rules have used head to head results and then draw shot measures, if required, to determine team ranking for teams on the same win/loss record. One could say that the tiebreaker system enabled our team to get into the medal games and the absence of it is mourned by some. What we now rely on instead, is the use of the two draw shots thrown after warm ups before each game throughout the competition. The two worst draw shots for each team are not used and the average is calculated from the rest. Some people believe that the draw shot is the fairest system as it is played across all sheets and stones and by using the average removes any bias that otherwise might exist. It also allows the event organisers and broadcasters to plan the games in advance and the schedule to be clear. The players all know what to expect and they all have to throw a minimum number of draw shots so the whole team is involved in the end result. The path to the podium is definitely clearer.



Photo Credit: SNS

Rhona Martin (now Howie) (right) poses with her Olympic curling gold medal with (l to r) Debbie Knox, Margaret Morton, Fiona MacDonald and Janice Watt on arriving in Glasgow from Salt Lake City.



Photo Credit: Gary M. Prior / Getty Images

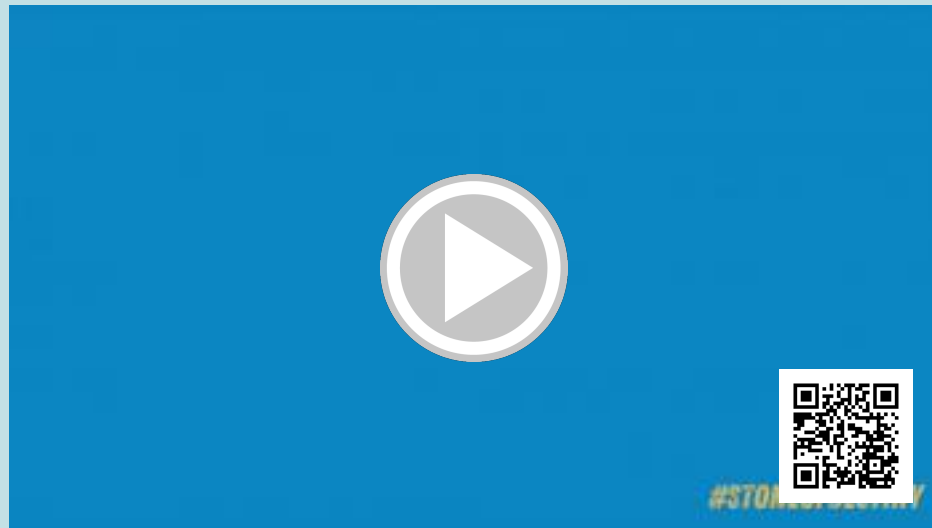
Rhona Martin (now Howie) in Salt Lake City in 2002.

Create your own path to Gold in 2022

Throw back-four weight, hit less than half the stone on top four, and roll the shooter onto the button. This shot earned Rhona Martin (now Howie) and her rink Olympic glory at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

20 years down the line, we are inviting YOU to recreate the 'Stone of Destiny' gold-winning throw. Get your team together, get practising, and film your rendition of the Stone of Destiny as well as your reactions for some anniversary and pre-Olympic fun. And if you're a junior club team, you're also within a shot of each winning a Scottish Curling goodie bag!

Post your video on social media, tag @scottishcurling and make sure to use #StoneofDestiny by January 31. You can upload on Facebook, Instagram, or why not duet us on TikTok? More information is available in this video:



We are looking forward to your videos, good luck and good curling!
You can click the icons to the right to take you directly to our accounts...



Take your Curling to another level!

Level 1 Coaching Qualification

Would you like to take your curling to another level and delve into the rewarding world of coaching? Would you like to be ready to welcome newcomers into curling after the Winter Olympics and Paralympics? If yes, then Scottish Curling is delivering a Level 1 coaching qualification on Sunday 23 January 2022. The course will be online so no need to travel anywhere! Click [here](#) to register for the course. Don't delay!

Stick Delivery – seated and standing

Available to all qualified coaches, the Stick Delivery course is a must especially with the impending Winter Paralympics less than 2 months away. Don't risk being left behind when it comes to coaching stick delivery. Stick delivery is one reason why so many curlers are still curling and supports the longevity and inclusivity of our game.

Aileen Neilson and Judith McCleary will deliver this online workshop on Monday 24 January from 6.20pm – 8.30pm. Attendance will go towards revalidation. Click [here](#) to register.

Road to Recovery – Come and join us!

A healthy mind is so important, especially right now during unprecedented times. One of our very own Regional Academy athletes and Scottish Curling Future Leader Harry Gow, is particularly interested in our wellbeing, and it turns out has quite a bit to say on the matter! Most of all it is a subject very close to his heart and one he wishes to share with you all.

Introducing Harry Gow and his goals. In his words:



“ I am currently at Perth College Uhi studying Sport Coaching and Development from there I am looking to progress on Sport Psychology. I started curling at the age of 9 and worked my way through u14 & u17 slams and I’m now playing u21 slams with Team Tonkita and also have experience playing WCT events at the Perth Masters in 2018. In the 2021/22 season I was accepted into the Scottish Curling regional academy program. “Now the chance to progress”

I set myself 3 goals for now and I will explain how these work and change at the workshop. My goals are to be the best I can be, one day at a time, to win a Scottish junior title and to improve and maintain my fitness.

For me I don’t want to change anyone. I want to inspire others to be better. I want to promote a positive mindset for everyone. Push people out with their comfort zone and challenge themselves every day. I want to give people the chance to come with an open mind to see if they can Improve, turning their bad habits into good habits. I want to Include lots of discussion in small groups and fun tasks for everyone to get involved. I just want to ask: “Do you want to Improve? ”

HARRY GOW (19)

Harry would like to invite you to join him on the evening of Thursday 17th February and share in his passion for feeling strong and positive about yourself. The evening will be online with junior clubs and their coaches encouraged to come along. **Click here to register for the event!**

Get your friends involved!

'I'd love to give Curling a go!'

Over the Olympic and Paralympic period, many of our friends and colleagues will watch curling for the first time. So for next time you hear someone say 'I'd love to try curling' here's a quick guide for ways that your friends and family can get involved in the sport.

TRYCURLING.COM

This is the one stop shop for those looking to Try Curling. You can search for sessions local to you and sign up for these one hour tasters sessions which are a fun and informal introduction to the sport. At these session, members of the public get the opportunity to try the sport and coaches signpost attendees to beginners' courses and how to join a club. For an idea of what to expect at a Try Curling session, check out this short video



Junior Clubs

Children are welcome to try curling with their family at Try Curling sessions but we have a network of Junior Clubs aimed at 8 to 21 year olds. You can find details of your local Junior club here and email the club secretary for ways to get involved. Junior clubs are a fantastic first step into the sport and we have a variety of competitions to suit all levels. Its definitely something to encourage your own or friends and families children to get involved in.

Schools

We have recently launched our Olympic Themed Schools pack aimed at Primary schools. If your school has not already registered they can sign up here to receive a copy. The pack contains classroom activities and session plans for using Floor Curling Kits. We also have opportunities for schools to attend ice rinks to take part in the Curling's Cool Programme. If you're a parent or teacher interested in getting your school on to the ice you can get more information from your local ice rink, development group or contact your local member of the Scottish Curling Development Team by clicking [here](#).



THE
Flower Bowl

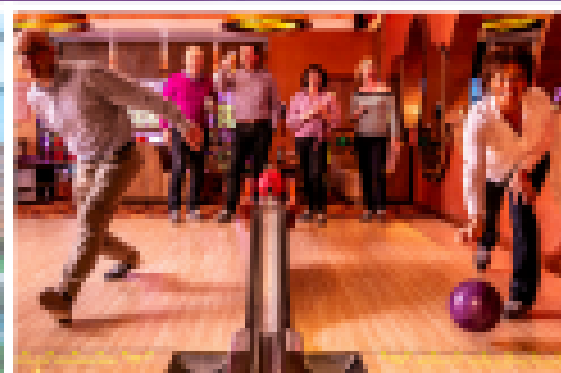
Curling Tours

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!

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