



YOUR CURLER

October 2021

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A Word From Our CEO

With most ice rinks already open for curling this season, we have very much been enjoying seeing and hearing all about the return to ice. We have featured articles from two open rinks in this first edition of Your Curler: Ayr and Edinburgh. We encourage all rinks to get in touch with their own stories of the new season, which we will be delighted to feature in subsequent issues. We hope the last remaining rinks can open soon, so we can make sure all curlers slide back into action, for 2021/22.

Staff at Scottish Curling are extremely busy already this season, actioning some of the initiatives to promote curling, and attract new people to the sport. Adult Camp, which ran this weekend past, 8-10 October, in Stranraer gave club curlers a chance to socialise and benefit from some top-class coaching. We look forward to seeing the photos and hearing the stories from that event over the next few days. We wrote to all members recently detailing our extensive plans surrounding the refresh of our TryCurling.com brand, a fuller round up can be read in this issue, here, suffice to say it's been a very enjoyable project so far. Scottish Curling are involved in a Parasport Festival on 22 October, in Edinburgh, which we hope will showcase the sport for all abilities. We are also looking forward to our 'This Girl Can Curl' event in Dumfries at the end of the month, led by Academy Manager Sophie Jackson, and detailed in this issue, here. With the inaugural National Curling Day on 15 November and the return to competition, it has been a busy few weeks and we are very grateful for that.

We have recently welcomed two new Independent Directors to the RCCC Board - Susan Nimmo and Fraser Montgomery - and their arrival coincides with the departure of Kevin Troup. Kevin was our first Independent Director, appointed in October 2018, and throughout his 3 years on the board he has played an active role. He established and chaired the Audit Committee and through that has overseen improvements in financial reporting and scrutiny at board level. He has also contributed to the Nominations Committee, the Structure Review Group, and the Governance Group, all of which will ensure high levels of integrity are maintained. Kevin made a real difference to the board and brought robust debate and his objective opinions and financial acumen will be missed. He's left the board in great shape, and we wish him well.

There have been some reports of aches and pains suffered by returning curlers, following such a long period of absence. Please do ensure you do a good warm up before going on the ice and a cool down and stretch afterwards to preserve your joints and muscles. Our Workforce Development Manager, Fiona Harfield produced a short, simple warm up routine which we emailed to members in the summer, it's on our YouTube Channel, here.

Here's wishing you all the best for a safe return to curling, rekindling friendships (and rivalries) over the coming weeks and months,

Best Wishes,
Bruce Crawford CEO
Scottish Curling

TryCurling.com Refresh - Making the Brand Work Better

TRYCURLING.COM

As part of our ongoing work to refresh the TryCurling.com brand, we have just completed a few projects.

Last month we filmed a new safety video, to be emailed out to participants before they attend a session.

This month we spent time at Greenacres Curling Rink gathering images for the campaign. A big thank you to our volunteers, who gave up hours of their time to help us; we are grateful for your support.

We wrote to members recently, about National Curling Day, in partnership with SIRA, on 15 November, and detailed our plans to partner with Bauer Radio for the on-air campaign launching later this month.

#NationalCurlingDay #TryCurling #NCD

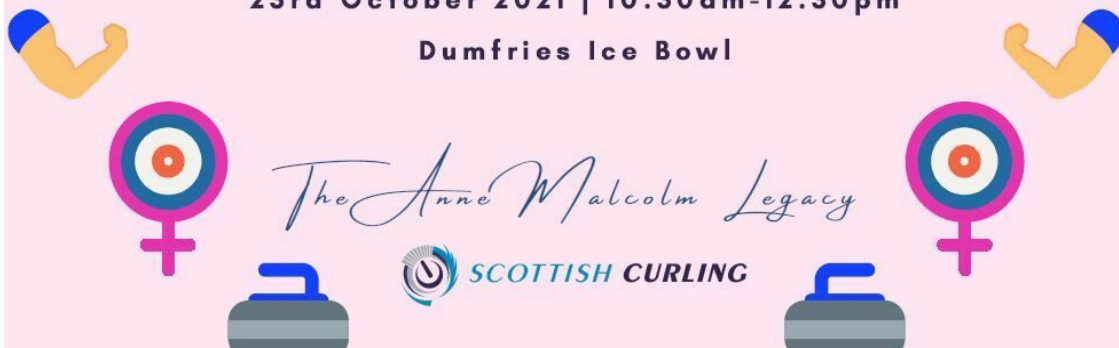


THIS GIRL CAN CURL

Inspiring our next generation of female curlers

23rd October 2021 | 10:30am-12:30pm

Dumfries Ice Bowl



#TGCC

Scottish Curling is delighted to invite all girls and young women, to our new awareness and participation event 'This Girl Can Curl'.

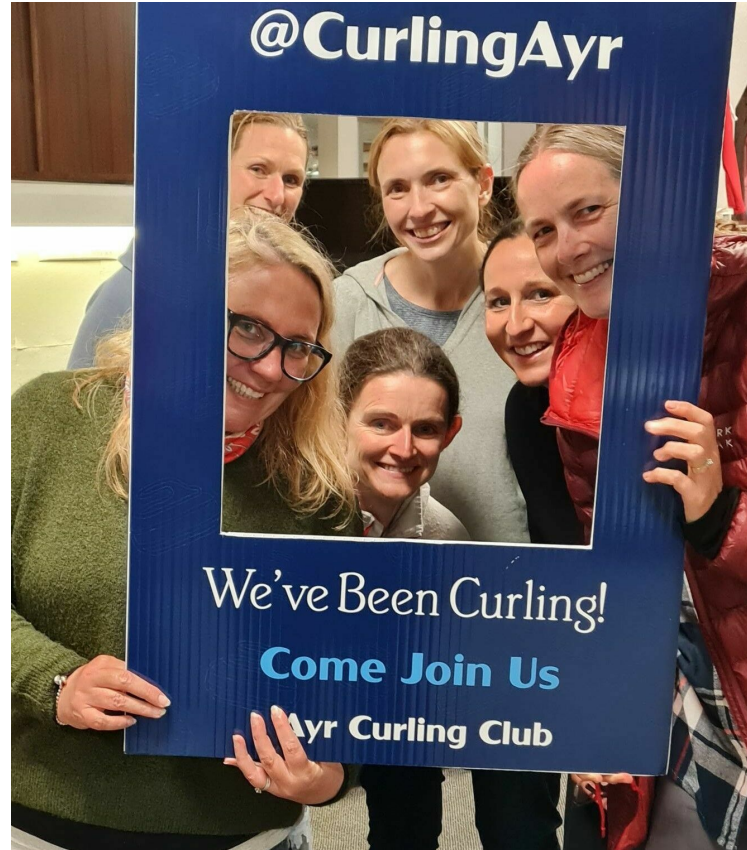
This off-ice event will take place on the 23rd of October 2021, at Dumfries Ice Bowl,

Deatils here.

It's Good To Be Back!

Thanks go to Angela Kyle, Digital Communications and Marketing Officer at Ayr Ice Rink for the article below.

"After 18 months, that at times felt like 18 years, the emotional rollercoaster that Ayr Curling Club and Ayr Ice Rink had been riding was certainly not yet over. There was a huge possibility (mid pandemic) that there would be no ice rink to come back to. Due to the hard work and tenacity of the Board, the ACC Committee and the Development group, we came through the fight on top and more eager than ever to get back to curling. And boy we were not disappointed!"



In the 10 days since we have reopened, we have seen over 107 NEW people enter the ice rink and give curling a try. Amongst these new faces we are delighted to have welcomed back many familiar faces back to the club. We offered practice ice, skill refreshers such as stick delivery and more. We held a coaches refresher with Scott Andrews and Ready Steady Curl course to seek out more Coaching Assistants. Our team powered through, and we are so proud of them.

Following on from our 'Thank You Essential Workers' Campaign earlier in the year, we have so far welcomed over 40 of our local essential workers, to the ice. Tim Hortons kindly provided off-ice treats for the attendees, which was fantastic.

We stepped up our online presence this year, setting up an online booking system which made a massive difference and meant we could be smarter with our advertising. We spent very little money, and found the £20 we put into online advertising was so successful we could hardly keep up with the bookings!

We have some new ideas in the pipeline, some of which are a result of our members survey earlier in the year. We plan to work hard to support our coaching team as they are the key to our success going forward. With all eyes on the Olympics and Paralympics we are bound to find some new tricks up our sleeves to end the season with a bang!

The Team at Ayr have been amazing the whole way through this journey, and our grateful thanks go to all staff and volunteers."

We would love to feature more stories of re-opening success, in the next edition of Your Curler. Articles can be submitted, [here](#).

We look forward to sharing the fantastic news of busy rinks and happy curlers with all Scottish Curling Members...

Bruce Mouat: The Guest of Honour In Edinburgh

Our grateful thanks go to Andy Macpherson, Event Officer, Curl Edinburgh for the words and pictures below.

"Curl Edinburgh hosted a star-studded opening bonspiel on Saturday 25th September celebrating a long-awaited reopening.

The Right Honorable Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, Frank Ross, welcomed everyone remarking how good it was to see curling resume.

He introduced special guest, Bruce Mouat, who alongside fellow Edinburgh member, Jennifer Dodds, won the 2021 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship. Unfortunately Jennifer couldn't attend, but Bruce thanked members for their support and the good wishes they received.

Participants then took to the ice and played four ends of jubilant yet fierce competition. To see the rink full of smiles while echoing to the sound of stones, shouts, and laughter was wonderful. Bruce judged the curling and awarded fun prizes for best draw, takeout, guard, strike, and tap-up.

After the bonspiel a delicious meal was provided by Paul Thomson's Parsley & Thyme Catering team. This was followed by a real treat – an entertaining Question & Answer session with Bruce, hosted by Edinburgh Curling Club's Past President, John Hogarth.

To conclude the evening, Norman Watt, Chair of Murrayfield Curling Ltd, made a presentation to former Rink Manager, Scott Henderson, thanking him for all his hard work and wishing him well in his retirement.





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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Member's Discounts - From Cruises to Cakes

We have been busy negotiating some exciting exclusive member discounts for you with up to 20% discount on offer.



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*Grab some sun with a tailor made
or package holiday*

BarrheadTravel



*Visiting the theatre, some
retail therapy, special
event or just catching up
don't rush home*



*Night away or
special event*

Relax



Days out



Leave the car



A little treat



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

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

ABTA
Travel with confidence



Parasport Festival

Scottish Curling in partnership with Parasport and Lothian Wheelchair Curling Club are thrilled to be running a free Para Try Curling event on the afternoon of Friday 22nd October at Curl Edinburgh.

The event is part of the "Get Active with" series which Parasport is running in partnership with Toyota.

The series is teaming up with five Parasport clubs nationwide to deliver in person sport taster experiences, with the ultimate aim of connecting disabled people with local ways to get active and highlighting further opportunities via Parasport.

As members will know 'Try Curling' is the introductory curling programme that runs within ice rinks across Scotland. During the event we will be running specially adapted para Try Curling sessions to allow people of all ability levels to experience curling. The event is open to people with all disabilities who are in secondary school or older.

During the day we will also have special appearances and visits from some of Scotland and Great Britain's top para Curlers including Aileen Neilson.

Aileen was the first woman to skip a wheelchair curling team in either the Paralympic Games (2010) or World Championships (2011) and has successfully won 4 World and Paralympic medals including Bronze from the 2014 Sochi Paralympic Games.

More info can be found [here](#).

Hew Chalmers Retires From Board Of The World Curling Federation

In September 2021, Hew Chalmers (Stoneykirk Curling Club) completed his second term as a director on the board of the World Curling Federation. He was appointed to that position at the WCF Congress in Reno, Nevada in 2014, six months after the Sochi Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For this retired Galloway farmer, curling has been a passion and a major part of his life for most of the last 50 years. Hew has been involved in the sport at various levels in Scotland and beyond, including being a player, coach, team manager, administrator, director on the boards of: Stranraer Ice Rink, British Curling, British Olympic Association, European and World Curling Federations.

He competed as a player and had success in various domestic championships in Scotland. During a period of 15 years as a coach he worked with successful national teams, the highlights being three consecutive gold medals at European Championships (1994-96) and attended four Olympic Games in roles including the British Curling Team Manager in Salt Lake City 2002, Team Coordinator in Turin 2006 and Vancouver 2010.

World Champion and Olympic silver medallist David Murdoch describes Hew as having "an exceptional wealth of knowledge about performance curling and Olympic sport" and regards Hew's input as being "instrumental in Scottish and British success over many years".

Kate Caithness reflected with fondness on Hew's time on the WCF Board and said: "I would like to thank Hew for his dedicated contribution to the Federation highlighting his work, in particular with the Development Assistance Programme where many new and exciting initiatives have been added to the programme. Of course this is only part of his work as a Board Member and we have been so grateful for all his good council throughout his time in office. We are delighted that he accepted the position as Chair of the Nominations Commission and so we will not be losing him altogether.

In preparation for the role at the WCF board, Hew spent seven years as a Scottish International Representative to the World Curling Federation, contributing through his vast experience and was on the board of the European Curling Federation. Hew was a significant contributor in the WCF Competition and Rules Commission, over the period that saw, among other things, the introduction of Mixed Doubles as an Olympic discipline and the new regulation of brush pads for sweeping. He played a lead role in the programme of support for the development of the WCF's Member Associations. His last appointment from the WCF board was to chair the newly formed Nominations Committee in 2020 and he will continue to serve on that committee, tasked with scrutinising candidates for election to the WCF board.

Hew is still active in the local curling community in Stranraer and is always happy to share his views and advice, drawn from a lifetime serving the sport he loves.

We wish him a happy retirement from organising and looking after the sport of curling.

ASHAM Under 21 Slam - Greenacres

The following article is an abridged version of a piece that was published on our website, after the event. The full article can be read [here](#).

The excitement and anticipation were palpable, as young curlers started to arrive at the Neilston venue on Friday night, and the event didn't disappoint.

In the women's draw the semi final was contested between Team Mitchell of Greenacres and Team Munro of Stranraer.

This was a family affair with Skip Amy Mitchell facing her sister Robin who plays third for Team Munro. Although this was Team Mitchell's first event at U21 level they showed no signs of inexperience winning 7-5 and progressing to the Final where Team Henderson of Dumfries awaited.

Team Henderson, who had a strong start to the game and with a final score of 7-1 were crowned Greenacres Asham U21 Champions!

Congratulations to Holly Wilkie-Milne, Lisa Davie, Katie McMillan and Skip, Fay Henderson.

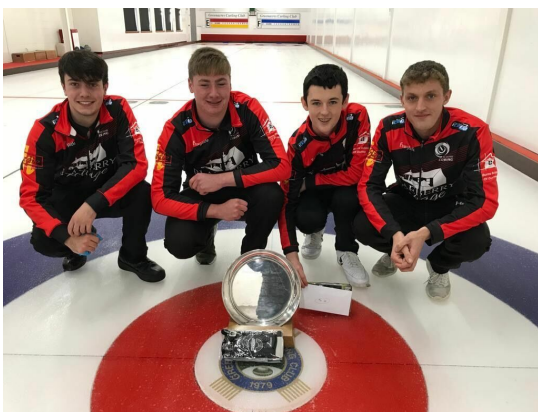
In the men's semi final Team Strawhorn of Dumfries defeated Team Cameron of Moray whilst Team Carson of Dumfries came out on top after a close game against Team Tonkita of Border Ice Rink.

It was an all Dumfries men's final with Team Strawhorn facing Team Carson. Another family affair with Team Carson's Orrin and Logan taking on their brother Struan of Team Strawhorn, it was a tight game. In the 8th end, Team Strawhorn were down by 1 with hammer. As Jack Strawhorn came to play his last stone he was sitting the one shot needed for the extra end but executed the shot of the tournament with a take out through a port to get the 2 needed to claim the title of Greenacres Asham U21 Champions.

Congratulations to the full team pictured left, of Kaleb Johnson, Skip Jack Strawhorn, Struan Carson and Hamish Gallacher.

Team Tonkita defeated Team Cameron in the 3rd place play off.

Well done to all the young curlers, for a successful and enjoyable return to ice.



ASHAM Under 14 Slam - Forfar

Young curlers from around Scotland descended on Forfar Indoor Sports for the first Asham u14 slam event of the season, on Saturday October 2nd. The standard of play at this event was high and the smiles were big. It was fantastic to see everyone back on the ice.

There were 8 teams from across the country competing for prizes kindly provided by Slam Series sponsor Asham and points on the overall leader board.

After some very stiff competition, the overall winners were Team Rutherford, pictured above with their bags, and made up of L-R Cameron Lindsay, Holly Clemie, Clare Cassells and Finlay Rutherford.

Scottish Curling would like to thank Mike Ferguson and his team at Forfar Indoor Sports for running a great event, Asham Curling Supplies for their continued support of the Slam Series and the Scottish Curling Umpires Graham Lindsay, Jill Donald and Peter McDiarmid who helped our young curlers have a great experience on the day.

The Under 14 series is a great introduction to competitive curling and a wonderful way to meet other curlers from different junior clubs. Games are 4 ends and the event is a single day. We still have a few spaces at the upcoming U14 events – if you're interested in entering a team you can enquire by contacting rachel@scottishcurling.org

A full version of this article was published on our website at the time, and can be read [here](#).

Lillian Carnegie Co-opted to The Board of RCCC

At the board meeting on 29 September, the directors agreed to co-opt Lillian Carnegie (Forfar Ladies CC) to join the board till the AGM in 2022.

Lillian will support the board by increasing communication and engagement with members, consulting on how we can improve structures in order to attract new members and retain existing ones.

Graham Lindsay, chair of the board said

"We are delighted to welcome Lillian onto the board and look forward to working with her to develop the organisation and capitalise on the legacy of the forthcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games this season while the spotlight is on curling."



Represent Scotland At The Four Nations

Scottish Curling is seeking curlers to represent Scotland in the Four Nations competition from 29-30 January 2022.

Scotland is the host nation, and the competition will be held at Ayr Ice Rink, Tam's Brig, 9 Limekiln Road, Ayr KA8 8DG.

The Four Nations is an enjoyable and social weekend tournament between the governing bodies of each of the home nations (England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales). It has evolved over the years with the first recorded games taking place in 1893 between England and Scotland. Wales became involved in 1984 and Ireland in 1996. The tournament is hosted in turn by each of the four nations towards the end of January.

The Four Nations is open to individual curlers, to play in men's, women's and mixed teams. Applicants must all be paid up members of Scottish Curling.

Interested parties can find out more, [here](#).

2023 SCOTTISH MEN'S
TOUR TO CANADA

**APPLICATIONS
INVITED!**

2023 Scottish Men's Tour To Canada

The RCCC is looking for 60 male curlers to make the journey to Canada, for a 3 week trip, to compete for the prestigious Strathcona Cup.

For more details, interested parties should visit our webiste, here.

Interested?

For more information scan the QR code below or visit www.scottishcurling.org



The Royal Caledonian Curling Club is looking for 60 male curlers to tour Canada for approximately 3 weeks in January 2023 to compete in the prestigious Strathcona Cup.

All paid up members are eligible to apply for a place on the tour.

Please note only those who have not been on tour to Canada or USA can apply.



Rob Niven Selected as WCF Rep - And The Hunt For A Successor

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the World Curling Federation, Scottish Curling member Rob Niven (Delvine Curling Club) was elected onto the board of the WCF.

The position was hotly contested with five candidates from Denmark, Brazil, Czech Republic, France and Scotland.

We wish Rob success in his new role, a position we are sure he'll excel in. More details can be found on our website here, but, in brief, Rob's success means Scottish Curling must fill a role of a female Scottish Curling Rep.

The WCF rules surrounding gender balance mean this role must be fulfilled by a women. More info here.