

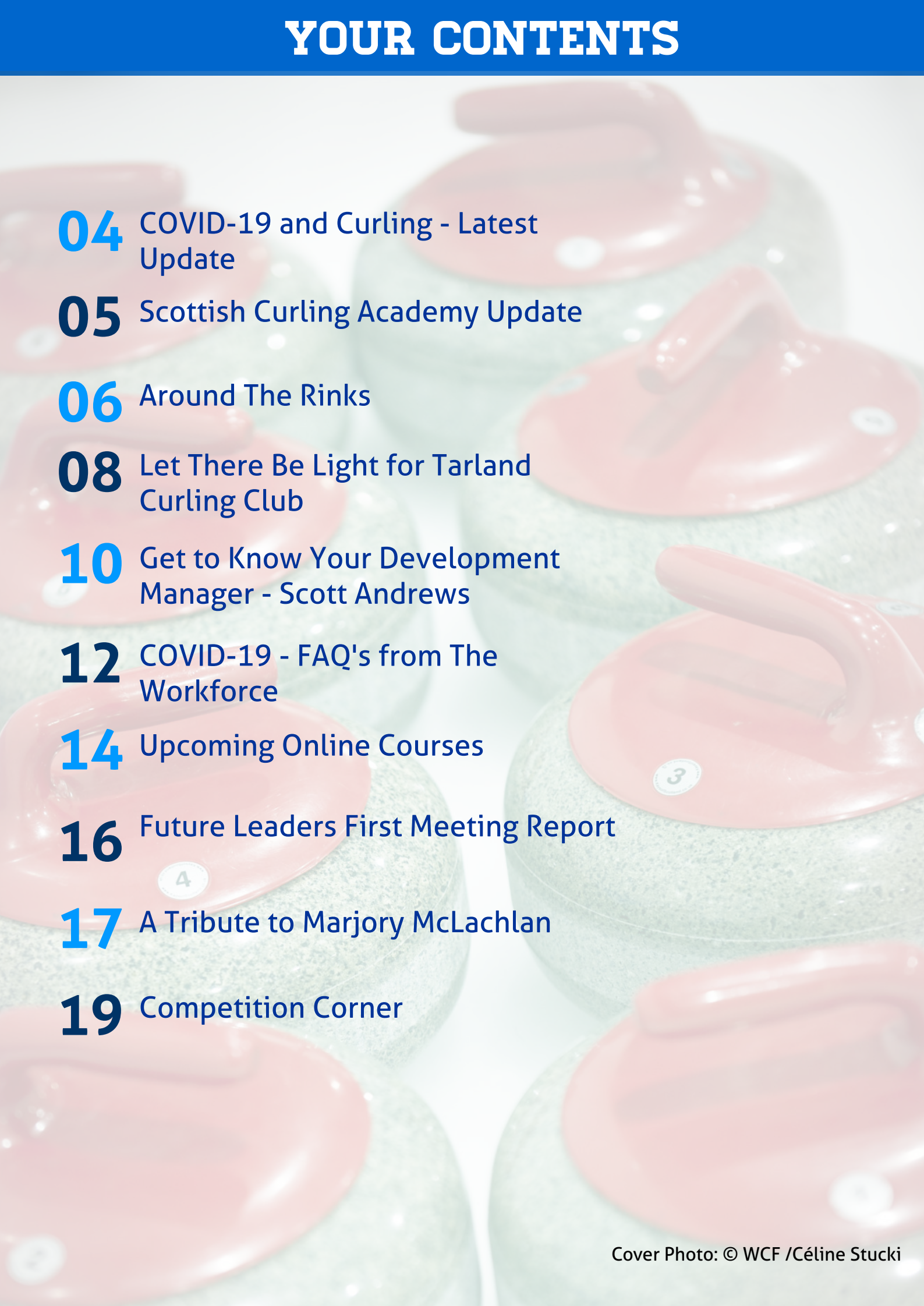
YOUR CURLER

NOVEMBER 2020



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A WORD FROM OUR CEO

The last month brought many changes to our sport, as the country moved into a new way of categorizing COVID-19 restrictions. The Scottish Government's announcement of the new five protection levels for each local authority area was made on Thursday 29th October 2020. As we've come to expect, the detail and impact on sport emerged from sportscotland the following day and we were able to publish our revised Return to Curling guidance on the evening of 30th October. At that point 10 rinks, across the central belt fell under Level 3 restrictions.

The first review of the new levels was announced on 10th November with increased restrictions (from L2 to L3) for three local authority areas, Angus, Fife, and Perth & Kinross. The change affects curling activities at four ice rinks in Forfar, Kirkcaldy, Kinross and Perth. Like the central belt facilities, these ice rinks will be required to cease normal curling activity for adults (18+) from Friday 13th November. We feel so strongly for these rinks, their owners, staff and the curlers who were starting to enjoy a return to ice. Unwelcome news, yes, but we understand that safety has to be top priority as we fight against this virus.

The Government's changes may appear to be very subtle, however the impact on ice rinks is to further reduce the ability to operate effectively. For ice rinks that only offer curling and not skating this has made the economic case for staying open unsustainable. We now know that Edinburgh, Lanarkshire, Greenacres and Ayr and most recently Kinross, have all made the very difficult decision to stop curling until the new year and others may follow. We are doing everything we can to support these businesses through these increasingly challenging times. We are lobbying sportscotland and government for financial support, and working with other governing bodies, making the case for sport in Scotland.

We are determined to get the best outcomes possible for each and every facility.

We are all in this together and the curling community fosters great friendships, so please reach out by phone or virtually to your friends and fellow club members who may be feeling isolated, I am sure it will be appreciated. We're also working on some quizzes, and online resources which should be available on the website in the coming weeks; these could perhaps be used by clubs to get together virtually if unable to curl physically.

I hope that you like our STONE reminder for safely returning to the sport. Our staff had some fun testing out different curling words to find which worked best as an acronym. This should be seen to compliment the government's FACTS campaign on staying safe in the current climate.

Lastly, the first frosts of the season normally mark the time of year when the dreams of outdoor curling are rekindled. Unfortunately, the Covid restrictions on mass participation events have ruled out the prospect of a large-scale bonspiel this winter. We will encourage small scale club games if Jack Frost permits; my outdoor stones are ready and waiting.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition of Your Curler and wish you well.

Bruce Crawford, CEO

RETURN TO CURLING UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2020

As we adjust to the new protection level system which came into force at the start of the month in Scotland, we caught up with Mike Ferguson, Chair of the Scottish Ice Rinks Association, SIRA, and owner of Forfar Indoor Sports about how facilities are managing the uncertainty of the current situation.

A matter of days after our original interview, it was announced that Angus (along with Perth and Kinross, and Fife) would be added to Level 3 from November 13th, meaning his own rink in Forfar will be affected:

"We are absolutely gutted, even though we understand completely the reasons behind the tier system we are now in the very difficult position that other rinks also find themselves in; of having put down ice but not generating income. We've decided to keep the ice down, for 2 weeks, maybe 3, and see if we can ride it out so to speak. Speaking with my SIRA hat on it's devastating for the rinks that can't open. Ultimately, we have to ensure the survivability of the sport for the coming seasons, and rink owners are businessmen; we want to do the right thing for our customers, but it has to make financial common sense as well."

The amount of work done behind the scenes both preseason, and currently to make facilities, and the sport, safe for participants is something Mike is keen to highlight:

"The one positive thing that has come out of this situation is the coming together of all these groups and bodies for the good of the sport – SIRA, Scottish Curling, sportscotland to name but a few. The rinks are talking to each other and learning from each other's experience. I sometimes feel like SIRA was a 'Sleeping Giant'; when things were going well everything just ticked along but this situation has mobilised us in a positive way for the future. It proves that when we work in partnership, we can be a really strong voice. There's huge support and determination to keep that momentum going."

Government support for many industries has been called to account, but through strong partnership working, Mike is hoping for the best outcome:

"The point I make is we are not a bingo hall, we can't just turn off the lights and shut the door; maintaining an ice rink is a time consuming, expensive business and without support the struggle will compound. We're finding the reporting route hard, and we're lobbying for a stronger voice when it comes to having the ear of government. Without rinks there's no sport, government need to understand that. What support that is available scratches the surface and even then, rinks are being turned down for it. But, we're not giving up! After the latest announcement I rang contacts in government and we do believe that there's much more 'noise' around the plight of rinks now - that our situation is being given priority which is great to hear. We just need to keep curlers, curling!"

Many thanks to Mike Ferguson, (Picture: The ice at Forfar with a special NHS tribute)

OUR LATEST RETURN TO CURLING GUIDANCE CAN BE FOUND ON THE COVID-19 PAGE AT OUR WEBSITE HERE



S.T.O.N.E TO KEEP CURLERS SAFE

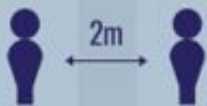


RETURNING TO CURLING - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

Sportsmanship
acknowledged verbally,
no handshakes for now.



Two metre distance
at all times - give
everyone space.



Off the ice?
Wear a face
covering!



Nine - this is the
maximum capacity of
each sheet of ice.



Each stone only has one
sweeper - stand to the side
when it's not your turn.



FULL RETURN TO CURLING GUIDANCE FROM SCOTTISH CURLING CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCOTTISH CURLING WEBSITE

Inspired by the Scottish Government #FACTS infographic, we have developed our own version, specific to curling. We hope all those returning to the ice this season will find it useful, and a good point of reference in these COVID-19 times. We encourage you to print and display this infographic rink side, a PDF can be found on the COVID-19 page of our website here.

AROUND THE RINKS

STRANRAER

Stranraer Curlers Sweep the Board at Wigtownshire Awards

For seventeen years Wigtownshire Sports Council have recognized the best of sporting talent in the area with an evening held every March to celebrate their achievements. At the beginning of March we were told that all our nominations had been shortlisted for their nominated awards. However, a week later we were in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the evening of celebrations was cancelled (as with most events this year).

Stranraer Ice Rink Coaching and Development Committee every year nominate our curlers in the various categories, this year Stranraer Young Curlers were nominated for five of the categories, Hugh Nibloe was nominated for Disabled Sportsman and Stranraer Ice Rink Curling Club was nominated for club of the year.

Time passed and a call from Jim Hayes, Chair of Wigtownshire Sports Council asked if the nominees would travel to the Glen of Luce Hall in September to uplift their award, adhering to social distancing measures.

It was only then that we realized that not only had our curlers been shortlisted, but we made a clean sweep of the seven categories!

Stranraer Young Curler Robyn Munro was awarded the top Junior Female Title for winning her gold medal at the Youth Olympics Winter Festival in Sarajevo and Junior Male was awarded to Niall Ryder for winning the Asham U21 Title at Lockerbie for the second time playing lead with Team Craik.



Senior Female title was awarded to Katie McMillan playing for Scotland and winning the final against Japan keeping the Junior Women's rink in the World Bs.

Blair Haswell was awarded the Senior Male title for winning the Asham U21 Title at Lockerbie playing 2nd with Team Craik.

Stranraer Young Curlers continued their success by being awarded Senior Team of the Year for winning the Junior Divisions Title 2019 in January at Curl Edinburgh.

Continuing our success, the Disabled Sportsman Title was awarded to Hugh Nibloe for his performance at the World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Stirling taking the Silver Medal in front of a home crowd.

John McClelland who was recently appointed as Chairman of the Scottish Wheelchair Association was voted Volunteer of the Year for his dedication to wheelchair curling at the 2019 Wigtownshire Sports Personality Awards, John curlers out of Lockerbie Ice Rink.

It was the final award Club of the Year we waited to hear the result of most eagerly.

Stranraer Ice Rink Curling Club celebrates its 50th year this year. The club was nominated by Stranraer Young Curlers Robyn, Blair and Niall and especially for Mr H C McMillan for his foresight 50 years ago in building an ice rink in his hotel, as had it not been for that we would not be here today winning these awards.

Ice Rink manager Gail Munro was there supporting her curlers and was asked to step forward from all the other clubs nominated and ask to lift the Club of the Year 2019 Trophy on behalf Stranraer Ice Rink Curling Club.

Many thanks to Jim Ryder for the article and photographs



LET THERE BE LIGHT

Tarland Curling Club in rural Aberdeenshire, a few miles from Aboyne, began in 1886 and is still going strong 133 years later. Although we do play indoors our primary focus is traditional outdoor curling and to this end we maintain a large outdoor pond of over an acre, not only for our own needs but ever-hopeful for conditions to host bonspiels of up to 120 players! This relies on much work by a host of volunteers - the essential ice, of course! - and our floodlights. The latter have sadly reached the end of their lives and need to be replaced along with the wiring. This is not a cheap 'quick-fix' and proved beyond the scope of our limited funds. The gloomy prospect was illuminated by a sense of hope provided by Scottish Curling. 'Apply to the Lottery for an "Awards for All" grant', was SC's suggestion.

We did. We were warned that priority was being given to COVID-19 related projects but not exclusively so it was worth a try, and to allow 3-4 months for a decision. And this week it came: SUCCESS! We were told our application had passed the stringent criteria for community involvement and benefit and that we were being awarded £6,000.

Steven Yule commented: 'As Club president I would like to express how grateful we are as a club to receive the lottery funding in these unprecedented times. The future of outdoor sports is more important than ever right now with indoor activities being limited or suspended due to COVID-19. Fingers crossed for an ICE cold winter!'

Tarland Curling Club would also like to thank Scottish Curling, particularly Bruce Crawford who provided initial support and then Iain Stewart who guided us through the application with humour, encouragement and much sound advice.

Thanks go to Alastair Scott for article and pictures



'COVID SECURE'

Curling Hall

Our spacious 3 sheet curling hall is back open with additional measures in place to keep you safe.

Sweep into action and let the fun begin again!



Open daily from 10am, last session 6pm.

Due to the 'rule of 6' games can be played in teams of 3.

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GET TO KNOW YOUR DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

SCOTT ANDREWS

With the start of the season being so different this year, our new(ish!) Development Manager for South and West Scotland, Scott Andrews suggested a little light relief.

Turns out Scott is a well-travelled coffee lover with a soft spot for Disney – who knew?!

Thanks to the rest of the Scottish Curling team for posing the questions...

YOU ARE KNOWN TO LIKE A BLACK COFFEE, WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BRAND?

I currently have a Nespresso Vertuo machine and my go to pod would be a Intenso 230ml. If I were to go instant coffee then it would be Carte L'or.

TELL US, OUTSIDE OF CURLING, WHAT IS YOUR SPORTING HIGHLIGHT?

Growing up I played a number of sports but my old team would tell you I always claimed my Football U15 Ayrshire Cup for Prestwick Academy.

BEST PIECE OF ADVICE A COACH GAVE YOU?

It is a team game, don't try and make the shot perfect yourself.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG SCOTTISH CURLER?

Make sure you have purpose to your practice and don't just throw stones. Try and take something away from every practice – good or bad.

FAVOURITE PLACE TRAVELLED TO FOR CURLING?

I have been lucky enough to have travelled to so many wonderful places with Curling. Either Japan or west coast Canada.

WHAT TECHNIQUES HAVE YOU DEVELOPED TO PREPARE FOR BIG OR IMPORTANT GAMES?

Have a routine that you stick to regardless of whether it is the first game or a final. Play relaxed and do not let the occasion take away from your focus on the game.



YOU APPEAR TO HAVE KEPT PRETTY FREE FROM INJURY DURING YOUR CURLING CAREER, WHAT DO YOU PUT THAT DOWN TO?

I looked after my body by going to the gym and stretching before and after games. I did have a pretty bad injury near the end of my career when I tore my pectoral muscle. I had a strict rehab which allowed me to get back to the ice sooner than expected.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MINIMUM LEVEL OF FITNESS ANYONE NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO PLAY AS A COMPETENT CURLER?

I think curling is a sport that can be played by anyone at any level of fitness.

WHAT IS THE MOST NERVOUS YOU'VE EVER BEEN FOR A CURLING GAME?

The tie break game of the Olympics in 2014.

FAVOURITE MOMENT AS A COACH?

I really enjoy when the person you are coaching succeeds in the task.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE STEPPED BACK FROM CURLING, HOW DO YOU STAY FIT?

I have converted my garage into a home gym. This has allowed me to continue the strength work I did as an athlete. I have also started to play football since stepping back from curling.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST NON-CURLING ACHIEVEMENT?

Running with the Olympic Torch.

DO YOU PLAY ANY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS?

I used to play the drums in the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra. I also played the violin and can play a bit of Piano.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE CRISP FLAVOUR?

Sweet Chilli Sensations

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE DISNEY SONG?

"You're Welcome" from *Moana*.

MIXED DOUBLES OR 4 PERSON?

Both!

JAM OR CREAM FIRST?

Neither - butter and jam all the way as I don't like cream!

COVID-19 FAQs

AS ASKED BY OUR WORKFORCE

At the Coaching and Development Conference, and the Umpire Refresher Event held earlier this season, both workforces were asked to form 'break out groups' and discuss areas of interest to them.

This year, the subject of COVID-19 – the protocols, measures and guidance – was unsurprisingly very high up the agenda.

We have put together a summary of the most asked questions below, in the hope that members also find this information useful.

These FAQs have already been emailed to our workforce, and a fuller version [can be found on our website here](#).

DO OFFICIALS AND COACHES NEED TO WEAR MASKS?

Scottish Government Guidance states that in indoor places and where physical distancing is difficult and where there is a risk of contact within 2-metres with people who are not members of your household, you are expected to wear a face covering.

Sports facility operators should ensure participants and visitors wear face coverings, if indoors, before and after activity or when in non-playing areas of the facility. For example: reception, locker rooms and storage areas. This is a mandatory requirement except where an exemption applies, or where there is a 'reasonable excuse' not to wear a face covering. For example, if you have a health condition or you are disabled, including hidden disabilities such as autism, dementia or a learning disability.

SOME COACHES WERE CONCERNED THAT 8 WAS TOO BIG A GROUP FOR COACHING...

Others pointed out that this would be a maximum size of group, and no expectation that group had to be 8, coaches could work with smaller groups, and this is what we would say too. 8 is just a maximum per sheet. Clubs can operate in their normal way provided there are no more than 9 (including coach) on a sheet.

COVID-19 FAQs

AS ASKED BY OUR WORKFORCE

WHAT ARE THE RULES GOVERNING SWEEPING?

ANSWER:

- Only one sweeper per stone, but it is okay for the other person to follow providing they keep a 2 metre distance
- No household sweeping
- To directional sweep, you will need to swing around
- No swapping or switching of sweepers is allowed
- There is no requirement to alternate sweepers
- In Scottish Curling competitions during Season 2020/21, protocols and sanctions will be in place for any teams intentionally not adhering to additional COVID related rules (e.g. self-distancing). Rules will be clearly stated in the Team Information Sheet (TIS) and the TMD (Team Meeting Document) and all teams are expected to comply.

TIME CLOCK OPERATORS

WHAT IS THE SITUATION RE TIMING BENCHES, POSITION OF BENCHES, SIZE OF BENCHES, DISTANCE APART, USE OF PERSPEX SCREENS?

ANSWER:

- Face coverings to be worn at all times
- Cleaning of all timing equipment before and after use, e.g. keyboard, mouse, laptop
- Access to timing area by Chief Timer (CT)/Deputy Chief Timer (DCT) and timers for that session only
- Use of timers' own notebook/pad and pen to make notes
- Timing area to be sanitized before and after use
- Where there is a need for a time correction, the timer must allow social distancing for Chief Timer/Deputy Chief Timer to access the laptop - hands must be sanitised before and after performing the task
- Perspex dividers may be used where 2m distance isn't possible

UPCOMING ONLINE COURSES

Sport Psychology Education for Scottish Curling Coaches

Workshop 3: *Effective Communication*
Thu 12 Nov | 6-7.30pm

Workshop 4: *Feedback*
Wed 2 Dec | 6-7.30pm

Key Principles of the Delivery

Tue 10 Nov | 6.30-8.30pm

Child Wellbeing and Protection in Sport

Mon 7 Dec | 6-9pm

Rules Upskilling

Wed 25 Nov | 6.30-8.30pm



SCOTTISH CURLING ACADEMY UPDATE

For the 2020/21 season the Academy has been restructured to include both the "National" and "Regional" Academy. The National Academy will operate in a similar way to the Academy in previous years, with training taking place at the National Curling Academy in Stirling. The Regional Academy training will operate from local rinks, this is to ensure accessibility to the programme for all up and coming athletes across the country, so that we can reach and support the future stars of curling. Regional Academy athletes will also be invited to attend training camps at the National Curling Academy in Stirling throughout the season. The Regional Academy will reach out to local coaches, to utilise their expertise within the programme and to further upskill and develop their knowledge.

The Academy has been working hard with the local rinks over the last couple of months to put provision in place at each of the athlete's home rinks for the Regional Academy. This has been a challenge for some of the rinks due to the current COVID-19 restrictions. However, all nine recognised rinks are now on board with the programme. The Academy programme would like to offer it's thanks to these local rinks for assisting us in the running of the Regional Academy, without you the programme and support of the players would not be possible. The Regional Academy rinks for the current season are; Ayr Curling Club, Curl Aberdeen, Curl Edinburgh, Dumfries Curling, Forfar Indoor Sports, Greenacres Curling, Inverness Ice Centre, Moray Leisure Centre and The Peak/National Curling Academy.

The first Regional Academy session took place in Forfar on 20 October with seven athletes and our Academy Manager, Sophie Jackson. The session was a great success with all athletes understanding and picking up the new Scottish Curling guidelines well. Alex Mackintosh said *"I felt the session was very productive while allowing us all to get used to the new rules. They were easy and clear to follow and I felt safe throughout the evening. Forfar Indoor Sport did a great job keeping us safe and allowing us to still have a great time on the ice."*

With thanks to Forfar Indoor Sports for hosting us and we look forward to the first sessions in the other Regional Academy rinks, as we try to adhere to the Protection Levels now in place.



FUTURE LEADERS INSPIRED BY BASKETBALL PRO

On Thursday the 1st of October I had the joy of meeting up virtually with the current Future Leaders and the new group that have decided to join us on this exciting adventure of developing curling in Scotland.

The first half of the session was made up of a question; what is the future leaders initiative? What should we all be aiming for and the SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time focused) goals we were going to set for the next year. During this part of the session I was able to talk to some other future leaders about my project I am currently doing for my honours project. Scottish Curling Workforce Manager Fiona Harfield sent out an email to all of the coaches and I am pleased to be able to report back that as of the 26th of October I have one hundred and five responses so I would just like to say thank you to all of the coaches who have been able to give me five minutes of their time and fill my survey out. Your responses are invaluable.

The second hour of our evening we were joined by a guest speaker, Kieron Achara who spoke about his journey to playing basketball for Scotland. Kieron was an inspiring speaker who made each of us think about our own journeys. I hope Kieron knows how thankful we all were for his words of wisdom.

The whole session was amazing to be a part of it's sad not to be able to meet face to face but sessions like these really demonstrate how far we've all come since March

We'd like to thank Holly Davis for volunteering to write this report for YourCurler.

A TRIBUTE TO MARJORY MCLACHLAN CVO



Marjory McLachlan, picture taken from the 89/90 RCCC Annual

The curling world was saddened to hear of the passing of Marjory McLachlan CVO.

She devoted a huge part of her life to the sport of curling and will be principally remembered in her roles as RCCC Ladies Branch President, RCCC Representative to the World Curling Federation and Captain of the US/Scot Tour 1991.

Marjory was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk in November 2005 a position she held until February 2017 and was further honoured by being awarded the CVO by the Queen in December 2016.

She will be fondly remembered by everyone who knew her, particularly for her quick wit and sense of fun.

I was privileged to be a member of the 1991 Tour and I know I speak on behalf of my fellow tourists when I say how much we enjoyed her 'off the cuff' speeches and remarks during the formal dinners and how proud we were to have Marjory as our Captain.

She will be sorely missed by everyone and our sincere condolences are extended to the family at this time.

With thanks to Kate Caithness CBE, Hon President LSC WCF President, for this tribute to Marjory.



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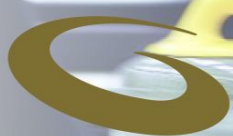
*All bookings are subject to Fred. Olsen's (FOCL) standard terms & conditions, available on our website & on request. All prices quoted under the Scottish Curling discount offers are exclusive to qualifying members & their travelling companions only, readers must quote their discount code at time of booking. Membership discounts cannot be applied retrospectively. Bookings must be made via 0800 0355 108. Proof of Scottish Curling 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. All guests booked under this scheme are requested to refrain from disclosing the fare paid whilst on board. 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. Guests that are new to Fred. Olsen can save 5% through their Scottish Curling membership, subject to the same terms & conditions. Flights are excluded from any discounts. Offer ends 31/12/2020. E&OE.



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clubs.**

**Scottish Curling is poised to
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COMPETITION CORNER

AS WE CONTINUE TO NAVIGATE THIS UNUSUAL SEASON, OUR COMPETITION MANAGER JAYNE STIRLING HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE AND OTHER STAFF TO ASSESS WHEN WE CAN SAFELY BEGIN TO HOLD SCOTTISH CURLING COMPETITIONS.

Although we are keen to see our members back competing on the ice, circumstances have dictated that we won't offer as many competitions as usual this season.

Some events are scheduled to go ahead with an amended format, and unfortunately some have had to be cancelled completely for this season.

No cancellation has been taken lightly, but the safety of our members and all involved with competitions has been our top priority in any decisions that have been made.

Full details of the status of each competition can be found on [this page](#), but at present the first competition scheduled to go ahead is the Scottish Curling Junior Championships, due to be held in Aberdeen from 12-17 January following its postponement from early December.

The Competitions Committee will reconvene in early December to review the remaining competitions from mid-January onwards, with the hope of offering a slightly busier second half of the season.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our members and competitors, and indeed everyone involved with competitions for their continued patience throughout this time.

Job: Data Entry Administrator

The Scottish Curling Trust is a charitable organisation that was set up to encourage and actively promote public participation in curling; to preserve, conserve, interpret and display the arts, heritage and culture of the sport of curling; and to make provision for disabled people and those who are impaired or have special needs to introduce them to and assist them in their enjoyment of curling.

The Trust holds a large collection of curling items and is in the process of digitizing the collection by uploading images and descriptions on a digital platform, so the collection can be viewed online, see [here](#).

The Trust are now seeking an individual to help with the task of inputting descriptions and images into the database. Candidates must have an interest in applying digital technology to archival practice.

Tasks

To enter a collection of curling items onto an online digital platform.
To archive a collection of blog posts to cloud.

Key skills

Excellent IT skills, including: use of databases, spreadsheets and digital photography

Attention to detail and accuracy

Ability to work independently, follow procedures and maintain records

Ability to manage workload and meet deadlines

Responsible to

Trustees of the SCT

Contract

Three months initially, start date by agreement. Self employed at minimum wage.

Location

Working from home with minimum supervision, occasional travel required (when permitted) to attend meetings or training in Stirling or Edinburgh.

To apply: Send a CV to Bruce Crawford CEO bruce@scottishcurling.org



SCOTTISH **CURLING**

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club

Trading as **Scottish Curling**

Ochil House, Springkerse, Stirling, FK7 7XE

Tel: 0131 333 3003

Email: office@scottishcurling.org

www.scottishcurling.org



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