

YOUR CURLER

April 2021



CONTENTS

- 
- 04** Silver For Scotland At The WMCC 2021
- 06** HRH The Duke Of Edinburgh Remembered
- 08** How Your Subs Help Deliver Curling
- 10** Government Funding Paid To Rinks
- 13** WMDCC2021 In Aberdeen

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club mourns the loss of HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh; our Past President (1964-65) and Honorary Member.

When the news was announced on April 9th, our current President Andrew Kerr wrote to Her Majesty The Queen, expressing our heartfelt condolences at her personal loss and the grief of the nation.

Looking back into our archive, Prince Philip was not the first HRH to be President of RCCC. In 1925-26 HRH Prince of Wales, Prince Edward who later became King Edward VIII in 1936 is also listed as a Past President.

Prince Philip was the more active as President and attended the AGM of RCCC in 1964 at Falkirk Ice Rink. His Royal Highness made a speech in front of the 1,600 members who gathered for the event and he presented trophies to some members who remember the occasion to this day.

The 2020-21 curling season has obviously been greatly curtailed by Covid-19 and most curlers have been denied the opportunity to play our great game.

The performance programme based at our National Curling Academy in Stirling has maintained training for our top curling teams throughout the pandemic and has enabled the teams to train and compete in a performance bubble with no adverse effects. The outstanding performances of our team at the 2021 World Men's Curling Championship saw them achieve qualification for Team GB at the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing in 299 days time. Team Scotland (Bruce Mouat, Grant Hardie, Bobby Lammie and Hammy McMillan with alternate Ross Whyte and coach Alan Hannah) reached the final of the competition in a very tight match against Sweden and can be proud of their silver medals. To read a full match report and view the full game, as well as the Semi Final and Qualification game, please visit our website, [here](#).

We now look forward to the Women's Worlds in the Calgary bubble and then the World Mixed Doubles in Aberdeen in May.

Recent weeks have seen the publication of a report by the RCCC Structure Review Group which received some interesting feedback and subsequently we held two webinar meetings online. The webinars generated some great discussion and plenty for the working group to consider. The feedback from the meetings will be analysed and final recommendations made to the board with the prospect of further work to be undertaken over the next year.

Once again, our congratulations to Team Mouat on an outstanding week of play in Calgary, Canada.

Bruce Crawford
CEO
Scottish Curling



Silver Medal For Team Mouat In Calgary

Huge congratulations to Team Mouat, who are now World Silver Medallists, after a close game in Calgary. A decisive 5 in the 9th end for Sweden meant Niklas Edin's team won Gold for the 3rd time in a row, with a 5-10 score line.

In an interview after the game, Scotland's Skip Bruce Mouat said the result was 'hard to take right now' but that the team will look back and be very proud of their achievement.

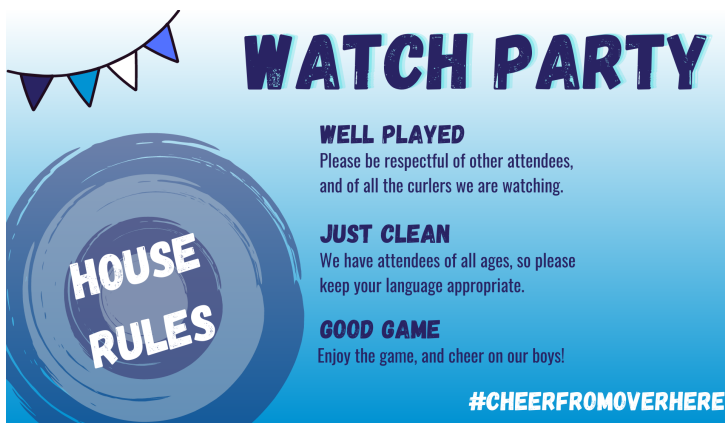
He went on:

"There was a lot of pressure this week for multiple reasons, We put a lot of pressure on ourselves to try and get this far and we played so well to get here and I'm sure it'll feel good in a couple of days that we've beaten our own record of a bronze medal."

Thanks must go to the World Curling Federation and Curling Canada, who were able to resume play after a delay and finish the Championships safely. The hold-up was caused by positive COVID-19 tests from already eliminated athletes on Saturday, and led to all athletes being tested and self-isolating once again, just as the Championship was reaching its climax. A very unusual circumstance, which no doubt added an extra level of pressure.

Many thanks to British Curling for the full match report which can be read [here](#). For anyone who hasn't yet seen the game, the highlights, the excellent SCO v RCF semi final or the SCO v CAN qualification game, you can do so [here](#).

Image Credit WCF/Jeffrey Au

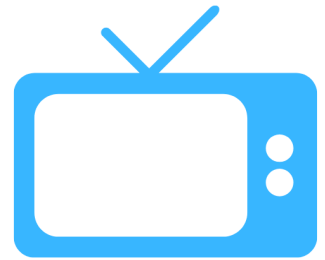
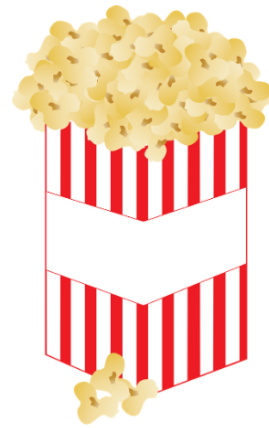


#CurlUp Watch Parties

With members not being able to get together to watch any of the #WMCC games in the traditional sense, we thought offering a platform for viewing online would be a good idea.

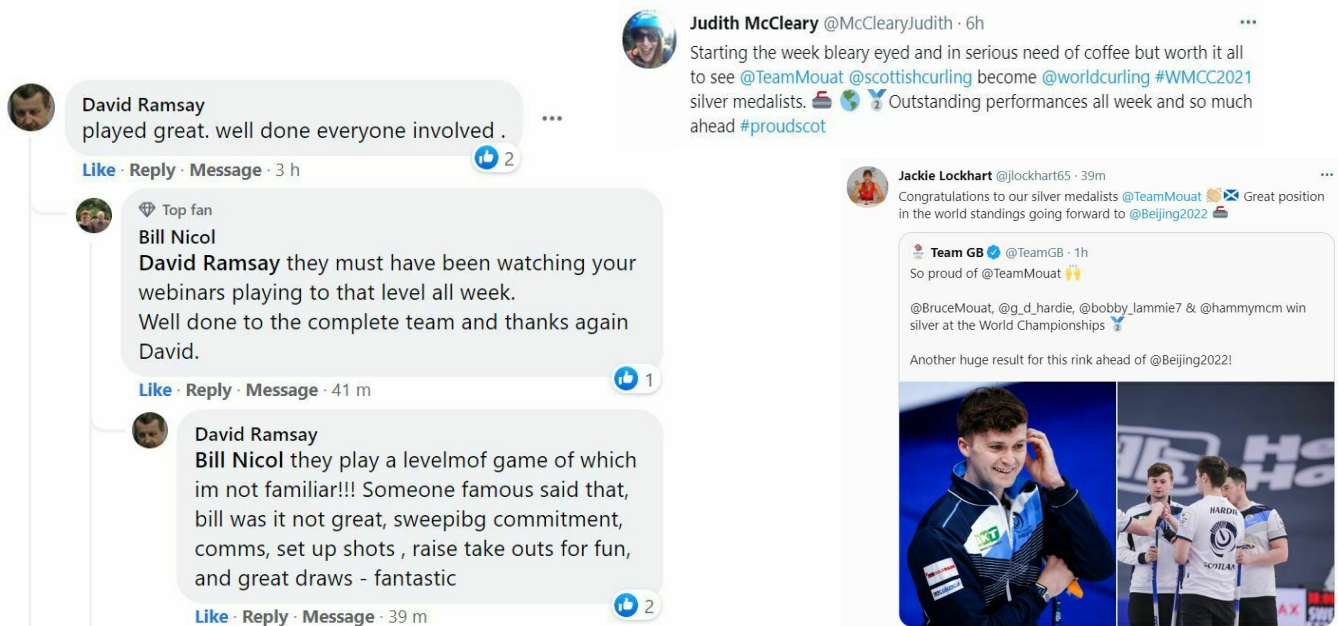
Little did we know just how popular these events would be!

Hundreds of members tuned in, and the feedback has been hugely positive. It is something we will look to continue into the World Women's Championship next month.



Support On Social Media ❤️

The messages of support and congratulations on social media after the Silver Medal win have been a joy to read. Perhaps members might relate to David 'Rambo' Ramsay and Top FaceBooker Bill Nicol's exchange below, illustrating just how much support and admiration there is for Team Mouat's achievement. Thank you for engaging with us and adding to the fun!





HRH The Duke of Edinburgh 1921-2021

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club stands with the nation, in expressing our sadness at the passing of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

President, Andrew Kerr:

'We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.'

His Royal Highness is fondly remembered as an Honorary Member and Past President (1964-65) of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, and our thoughts are with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, our Patron, and the wider Royal Family at this sad time.

On behalf of the organisation and its members, I have sent a message of condolence to Buckingham Palace."

His Royal Highness served as President from 1964 – 65, attending Falkirk Ice Rink at the beginning of the season to accept the position. Pictured is a young Bill Horton being presented with the TB Murray Trophy, on that day, for young curlers 25 years or younger.

Our thoughts are with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth our Royal Patron, and the whole Royal family at this time.

A great Sportsman, Father, Grandfather and Consort who will be greatly missed.

Curl Up: The Way Forward

The latest two #CurlUp sessions have seen an Ice Making specific seminar, followed by our Umpires taking to the 'screen'.

To top off the last month's action we have had Coach David Ramsay delivering his second session on tactics; this time without hammer.

We had no idea, back in November, how popular these webinars would be.

We have designed them around our members, adapting to feedback and trying to deliver content that engages and inspires, as well as being good fun.

Thousands of members have supported the #CurlUp Programme and we're grateful for that.

We held our WMCC2021 Watch Parties under the #CurlUp banner, which proved successful, and aim to do the same for the World Women's Curling Championship, starting on April 30th.

There is also an idea to perhaps stage something from the Calgary Bubble in the next week, or so, although final details are yet to be set in stone.

Please watch out for signups for this on our social media channels; **if** we can make it happen.

Members should note, a session focusing on the ever popular 'Daily Curling Puzzle' on Facebook, pencilled in for April 14th, has now been postponed till early next season; simply because we were really struggling to fit it in! All sign ups have been informed, and we are already looking forward to that when it comes.

We can confirm that #CurlUp is very much here to stay, and we look to hold Return To Curling specific seminars in early pre-season.

#ClubsInCrisis - New Funding Available

Many sports clubs that do great work in their local communities have struggled as a result of the impact caused by covid-19.

We have learned of a new fund that has opened today (12 April 2021) that aims to provide grants of £2021 to support clubs that can improve social outcomes through sport.

If your curling club does this kind of work in your community, please consider making an application.

All the details can be found [here](#).

How Your Subscriptions Help Deliver Curling

All members will have, by now, received their membership card and letter through the post.

This year we have included a flyer, detailing the good work your subscription supports. We have been highlighting each category of 'Enable, Develop, Deliver and Support' over the last few weeks, giving more insight into how your money is spent.

This month we have our last category; **Deliver**.

Our Competitions Manager, Jayne Stirling explains further:

Over the course of a season, Scottish Curling typically holds up to 40 competitions, catering to members at all ages and stages of their curling career.

New to curling?

Well for our newest members, the Virtual Club Challenge (soon to be the Gateway Club Challenge!) and the Newcomers are an excellent opportunity to break into the competition scene.

Competitors can travel to a new ice rink, see some new faces, and get a flavour of the welcoming curling community that they have joined.

Just there for the cuppa and chat after the game?

Of course we all enjoy a game of curling, but there is nothing better than a good natter with your team mates and opposition afterwards. If this is your style, then make sure your club is signed up for the District Medal - you'll be paired with another club and play a one off game to determine the winner. You could visit a new rink, meet some new friends, and there is a 50% chance of taking home a medal for your club. What's not to like?!

Got a competitive edge?

Let's face it, we all like to win... If you're a keen curler looking for some highly competitive games and the chance to get your hands on some silverware, then there are a number of competitions that can offer you just that. Local qualifiers take place for the Rink Championship and Henderson Bishop Trophy (just to name a couple!), and if you bring your best game then you could find yourself at the finals weekend enjoying some on ice battles and a vibrant social aspect too.

Eyes on the prize?

If you've got your sights set on a prestigious national title, then we have competitions to support you in achieving that goal. For our younger members, there is the Asham Slam series where you can pit your team against fierce opposition at under 14, 17 and 21 age groups. Whether it's the Women's, Pairs, Schools or Junior Mixed Doubles title that you're after, get your dream team together and bring your A-game!

The above gives a flavour of some of the competitions that Scottish Curling delivers, but you can find out the details of our full offering in the Competition Brochure, [linked here](#).



Achievements

3 x Olympian (1 B)
8 x World Championship (1 G, 1 S, 1 B)
12 x European Championship (2 G, 5 S, 2 B)
6 x Grand Slam Victories
4 x Junior World Champs (4 G)

Social Media Following

Twitter – 64k
Instagram – 28k
Facebook – 22k (Also has her own account)

Team Muirhead Following

Twitter – 28k
Instagram – 9.5k

Providing high performance expertise
to sport and athletes in Scotland



Scottish Curling Academy Update

On the 1st of March the Academy enjoyed the opportunity to hear from Performance Lifestyle Advisors Paula Jarvie and Brown Ferguson via a virtual workshop.

The athletes received advice on appropriate Social Media use in terms of personal, athlete and team pages.

The Q&A with guest speaker Eve Muirhead went down a treat with athletes and coaches alike as we gained plenty of knowledge from Eve's wealth of experience in a high performance sporting world.

This resource for the Academy is second to none and will continue to be used for years to come.

With thanks to Brown, Paula and Eve for their time on the evening. Find some great feedback from the session below;

"I thought the input from Eve was great from a young athlete's perspective. Definitely taken away points from her."

Part 2 of Rachel Hannen's Stress Management Workshop was a great follow up to Part 1 from back in February. Rachel asked the athletes to reflect on their own use of imagery and pre-shot routine. It was excellent for the teams to have the ability to have these conversations with each other, even whilst we are not on ice, in order to best prepare themselves for their return to curling next season. The tips that Rachel provided the athletes with will be sure to stand us all in good stead to assist us with managing and reducing our symptoms of stress and pressure during a curling game.

Next workshop up for the Academy is "Programme Transition" where we will discuss planning for a high performance curling career whilst balancing the expectations with other commitments.

With thanks to Academy Manager, Sophie Jackson, for this update.

Government Funding Allocated To Scotland's Rinks

We are delighted to say that since publication of the last Your Curler, of the £2m of Scottish Government funding, promised to help support independent rinks across the country, £1.75m has now been allocated.

This marks the culmination of a successful 'Save our Rinks' campaign by Scottish Curling and the Scottish Ice Rink Association, which saw coverage in national press and radio outlets.

The Minister for Sport made the decision to support the independent ice rinks on 10 December 2020, in order to mitigate the unique hardship being experienced by these very energy intensive type of sports facilities.

The funding was primarily to help those who had invested significant time and money, only to be forced to suspend and then stop activity all together as restrictions tightened.

Bruce Crawford, CEO of Scottish Curling:

"We are delighted that the Scottish Government investment has been allocated and will help to sustain ice rinks into the future. We are focussed now on the job of getting people back into the ice rinks at the start of the next season, after what for most will have been an 18-month break."

He added:

"The coming season is critical for our sport, as it sees the Olympic and Paralympic Games in February and March, putting the spotlight on curling and helping to attract new people to our great game which originated in Scotland in the 1500's."

People will be able to visit www.TryCurling.com to find out how and where to get started, to watch, learn and play the sport."

Mike Ferguson, chairman of the Scottish Ice Rink Association, campaigned hard to ensure the support was granted:

"During what has been a testing and stressful time for many, ice rinks have had to contend with their own unique set of problems with the vast majority missing out on an entire season of ice sports. The funding package agreed by Scottish Government, and administered by SportScotland for independent ice rinks, will prove an invaluable lifeline and help many rinks survive the summer months and be in a position to re-open when allowed to do so."

I would like to personally thank all those involved in the process and wish everyone well as we move forward and emerge from these COVID dominated times."

We would also like to take this opportunity to give our sincere thanks to all those who supported the campaign, from the Olympians and World Champion Athletes who gave their time freely, to all those who tweeted or shared content on social media.

Every single bit helped, and we are grateful for your collective effort.

'COVID SECURE'

Curling Hall

We can't wait to welcome you back to our spacious 3 sheet curling hall when it is safe to do so, and curl all summer long!



See you there!

THE
Flower Bowl

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

Paused Membership And The RCCC AGM

When we offered members the option to pause their subscriptions this season, we did so in the firm belief it was the only right and proper thing to do, given the lack of curling on the horizon for so many.

At the time, we were clear in all our communications, on the impact this would have.

The most significant of those impacts is that those who have paused will not be eligible to vote at our RCCC AGM in June (as per our articles and memorandums only those who have paid a full subscription can cast a vote.)

It has since come to our attention, that some paused members are perhaps not fully aware of this fact.

It follows, therefore, that if you know you have paused your membership, then you must contact us to pay your full subscription - should you wish to retain your vote at our AGM in June. This stands at £20 for a full, adult member and £7 for a junior member. (please note, only junior members 18+ can vote).

You can do so by emailing us at office@scottishcurling.org or giving us a call on 0131 333 3003 by May 19th 2021.

We will also be writing separately to all paused members, letting them know the information above and the procedure for unpausing, should they wish to vote.

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

BOLETTE **BOREALIS**

MEMBERS DISCOUNT
UP TO
10% OFF*

We're very excited about all the features you can enjoy on board the newest members of our fleet: More balcony cabins and suites, an all-weather swimming pool with a retractable roof and a wide choice of restaurants, lounges and bars – all designed with original artwork and premium décor. You'll also find a classic two-tiered theatre so everyone will have a great view of the evening shows. Scottish Curling members can benefit from a tempting discount of up to 10% off our new ships. Existing Fred. Olsen customers save up to 10%, with a 5% Scottish Curling discount in addition to their 5% Oceans Loyalty Club discount. Customers that are new to Fred. Olsen can save 5%, and that's on top of any current offers.

For more information or to book, call 0800 0355 108, quoting '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 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.

ABTA
Travel with confidence

Dodds And Mouat To Represent In Aberdeen

After missing out on the chance to represent his country at a World Championships on home ice when the men's event was cancelled last year, Bruce Mouat will belatedly get that opportunity as he and Jennifer Dodds form Team Scotland at this year's World Mixed Doubles Championships which are now to take place at Curl Aberdeen from May 17-23.

Mouat and his team, had been due to compete at the WMCC2020 event in Glasgow when it fell victim to lockdown last year.

Dodds, who will be contesting her first World Mixed Doubles Championships, is also making up for lost time, since she had been in Canada with Team Muirhead for the World Women's Championships when they were cancelled on the eve of that event a year ago and they are now set to return there for this year's rearranged World Championships.

She should have made her World Mixed Doubles Championships debut with Mouat a year ago, but all of curling's major events that followed the 2020 World Wheelchair Championships were cancelled as a result of the Covid pandemic.

"Bruce has been to World Mixed Doubles Championships before, but this will be my first and I am so excited about that and also so pleased to have someone as experienced as Bruce with me, so I am really looking forward to competing with him on the world stage,"

Read a full report here, with thanks to British Curling

Picture by Graeme Hart.

Copyright Perthshire Picture Agency





Virtual Webinars On Structure Review

A huge thank you to the near 100 members who attended our Structural Review Webinars.

As many of you will be aware a dedicated group has been tasked, by the board, with examining the structure of the organisation, after concerns were raised about diversity.

The group have had numerous meetings, surveyed members, and held eight roadshows in 2019.

We held these online events ahead of the 2021 AGM, in a bid to give a platform to members' voices.

The meetings, held on the 7th and 11th of April generated some excellent discussion and the Working Group are collating feedback.

Selection Passed By The Board

At the recent RCCC Board meeting, all of the recommendations provided by the Selection Working Group were approved.

This means that in the next Olympic cycle teams for the Women's, Men's and Mixed Doubles will be decided using a selection process.

This decision followed an in-depth period of engagement with our members, and we would like to take this opportunity to again thank all those who took the time to join the conversation around this important topic.

To read the detailed recommendation paper in full, please [click here](#)



Members should note our new address is now:

Cairnie House,
Ingliston Showground,
Newbridge,
EH28 8NB

The phone number remains the same: 0131 333 3003

Email: office@scottishcurling.org

All staff continue to work from home, as per government guidelines.

Pictured below: Our new, fresh office building.

We hope to welcome members as soon as it is safe.

