



YOUR CURLER

DECEMBER 2020

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A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Firstly, I hope this edition of Your Curler finds you well, and healthy.

We are delighted to have received the news from the Scottish Government that the campaign we led with the Scottish Ice Rink Association has led to a positive outcome. A £2 million fund to support ice rinks has been agreed to help the financial hardship caused by Covid. With some ice rinks having not received any income since March, this lifeline will help ensure the future of our sport. Scottish Curling has committed to supporting the ice rinks for all ice sports and will continue to do all we can to ensure the ongoing viability of all ice rinks in Scotland. We'd like to extend our thanks to all those who supported the campaign.

It is, of course, that time of year again, and my kids are pestering me to get the Christmas tree up at the weekend, so they can decorate it and presents can start to be gathered underneath. The festive season will still be a special time for families, but we will all have difficult choices to make as we help to keep the nation in good health.

December has brought further great news in the form of the start of Covid vaccinations and the fact that the government's restriction levels have frozen or been lowered across many areas, is welcomed by us all as a move in the right direction. We must not be complacent, but have to keep washing hands, wearing face coverings, avoid crowds and keeping 2 metres apart, as we follow all the government guidance. We are a long way from the finish line but there is light on the horizon and hope for a more normal future to come in 2021.

The Competitions Committee had the task of discussing the next phase of competitions and concluded that our events planned in January and February should be cancelled. This was a really tough decision as it affects many of our members and the ice rinks that were due to host the events. The cancellations include the high profile National Championships that lead on to World Championships. This season the World Curling Federation have cancelled the Mixed, Europeans, Juniors, Wheelchairs and Seniors, leaving only the Women's, Men's, and Mixed Doubles which are Olympic qualifier events and scheduled to take place in covid-secure bubble environments. We are hoping that there will be more curling in the new year as more ice rinks open again to give us the buzz of playing again.

I hope that those of you near an open ice rink manage to curl - please support your local rink if it is open. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous new year.

Best wishes

Bruce Crawford
Chief Executive

RINK CAMPAIGN SECURES FUNDING

After fantastic support shown for our campaign, in partnership with S.I.R.A, for direct Government support for Ice Rinks, we are so pleased to say the Scottish Government have pledged 2 million pounds to support facilities hit by the pandemic. This is such welcome news, and could mean the difference between operating successfully, and being forced to close for good, for some rinks.

Much 'behind the scenes' work has been required to bring about this funding, as you can imagine. As the public facing side of the drive, Olympian Rhona Howie, European Gold Medal winner Bruce Mouat and World Gold medal winner Eve Muirhead all lent their voices to the cause; asking for more support and assistance from the Scottish Government. We are very grateful for their help as Curling Greats.

Mike Ferguson speaks on behalf of SIRA, the Scottish Ice Rinks Association:

"We are delighted our joint campaign with Scottish Curling has had the desired effect with revenue supported funding announced by the Scottish Government. It really could not come at a better time for our members and I sincerely hope we can work with the authorities to help administer the quick release of funds. My thanks to those rinks who helped generate support, provide figures and backed the campaign"

World and European Gold Medal winner, and Olympic Bronze medal winner Eve Muirhead says the news comes as a relief:

"Fantastic news, a wonderful outcome to the campaign. If we wanted the sport of curling to stay alive and keep growing we really needed this financial help. This will be welcomed with opened arms from rinks around Scotland. It's been heartbreaking, and so worrying to see rinks closing, clubs folding etc during the pandemic but it feels now that there's light at the end of the tunnel. In order to grow the sport we need ice rinks; and growing the sport is my main aim. As a full time curler, I'd like to extend my thanks to everyone who supported this campaign"

Our request to Government three weeks ago had 2 strands, and we continue to lobby **sportscotland** for the relaxation of the 'group activity' definition that is preventing traditional curling with 8 people per sheet continuing, beyond level 2.

We have been told this is being actively considered over the coming days and weeks, and will share any updates with members.

The support shown for this campaign, from every corner of the Globe has been phenomenal, and we'd like to extend our thanks to the athletes, staff, venues, club curlers - everyone - who helped.

LADIES PRESIDENT CO-OPTED TO THE SC BOARD

At the meeting of the RCCC Board on Wednesday 9th December 2020, the Board agreed unanimously to co-opt Corrie Lawrence, Ladies Branch President, as a director, until the next RCCC AGM in June 2021.

The Board approved this proposal as it continues to undertake a structural review of the organisation and aims to create an equitable organisation for the future.

Chairman of the Board, Graham Lindsay, welcomed Corrie onto the board:

"Corrie has been an observer at the board meetings since May 2020 and has been a good contributor to a wide variety of subjects that have been discussed. She has a sound understanding of the challenges we face as an organisation and as a sport in such unusual times."

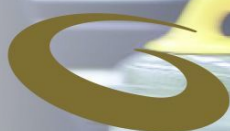
Corrie was appointed as Ladies Branch President in May 2020 and has demonstrated an understanding of the need to help drive the agenda for improving the services provided to curlers across the country and for members, volunteers and staff to work together in rebuilding the sport.

Welcome Corrie, and thank you for your time and energy!

Goldline is proud to partner with Scottish Curling through our sponsorship of Scottish Mixed Doubles Championships.

Our goal is to promote growth and development of the game by supporting the efforts of associations, ice rinks and clubs.

Scottish Curling is poised to deliver exciting changes and Goldline is pleased to be a contributor.



Goldline

The Choice of Champions



'CURL UP' THIS WINTER

We are excited to start our *Curl Up* series this month, featuring webinars and events for you to enjoy from home.

Why not boost your knowledge on a specific area, or sit back and enjoy hearing about some of the great experiences our members have had through their curling careers.

We hope that our members will enjoy the *Curl Up* series, particularly as many are currently unable to curl at their local rink.

To get you in the festive spirit, we will also be hosting a Quiz Night, where you can join forces with friends and family to put your knowledge to the test. Full details of all events can be found [here](#). We ask all participants to register in advance, so we can share a link to the webinar, and any additional information.

We are pleased to offer *Curl Up* as part of your Scottish Curling membership. Those who have paused their membership for the season, or who are not a member at all are welcome to join the sessions for a small fee.



TEAM MOUAT: OUR 2018 EUROPEAN GOLD

**Friday 11 December, 7-8pm
(register by 4pm, 11th Dec)**

Meet the Golden boys! An evening with Team Mouat, Scotland's very own European Championship Gold medallists of 2018.

[Register here.](#)

MIXED DOUBLES

Wednesday 16 December, 7-8pm

Let us whet your appetite for this exciting variation of the game of curling that is doubles!

Spend an hour with the pros in the know who will take you through the rules, top tips, anecdotes, video clips and scenarios of mixed doubles. [Register here.](#)

QUIZ NIGHT: A QUESTION OF CURLING

Monday 21 December, 7pm

Come along and join us for 'A Question of Curling', a fun and informal quiz on all things curling, with some general knowledge thrown in. [Register here.](#)

CURL UP

A SERIES OF WEBINARS FOR YOU TO ENJOY FROM HOME

TEAM MOUAT

OUR 2018 EUROPEAN GOLD

FRI 11 DEC

7 PM

MIXED DOUBLES

WED 16 DEC

7 PM

QUIZ NIGHT

A QUESTION OF CURLING

MON 21 DEC

7 PM

2021 WEBINARS ANNOUNCED SOON



PRESENTED BY SCOTTISH CURLING



MEMBER BENEFITS – HOW YOUR FEES HELP DEVELOP CURLING

We are pleased to be able to share this project with members, highlighting Membership Benefits, and how your money helps us develop curling in Scotland.

The Covid Pandemic has changed the way we are working this year, which makes it doubly important to let you know how your money is spent.

Head of Development for Scottish Curling Nick Rennie is working on this project, alongside members of the Membership Development Committee:

"These are challenging times, where opportunities to meet our members face to face are limited, it is more important than ever that we find other ways to engage with members and let you know what are doing to develop the sport.

Earlier in the season the Membership Development Committee surveyed the Scottish Curling membership, and one key takeaway was you wanted more info about how your subscriptions help us create opportunities for curling.

We have developed the graphic, above and opposite, to highlight the main areas of our work as your Governing Body.

Initially, members will receive this information, in a leaflet, with their membership card. We then plan to go into more detail on each of the key areas in future editions of Your Curler, and across our social media channels in the coming months.

This should give members a really solid understanding of the breadth of our focus within the sport, as well as allowing us to highlight some fantastic examples of best practice."

Our thanks go to all those who are continuing to pay their membership fees, for your support in these difficult times, your money supports our work to grow the sport.

ENABLE ► DEVELOP ► DELIVER ► SUPPORT

Last season your membership helped us to...



Enable people of all ages and abilities to try curling in a safe and supported environment leading to 700 new members



Develop and deliver courses, conferences and training opportunities for over 500 coaches, umpires and volunteers



Deliver over 25 competitions and 10 national championships, allowing over 750 teams the opportunity to compete



Support young people towards their goals through the Scottish Curling Academy and Future Leaders programme

'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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REGIONAL ACADEMY BEGINS AT DUMFRIES

The first of Dumfries' Regional Academy sessions took place recently. It was great to see the Ice Bowl open to their curlers and operating under well run new guidelines. The athletes were able to get used to being back on the ice and doing what they love again with a welcome back session.

Academy Athlete, Jack Strawhorn, says safety was a top consideration:

"The session was really good and well thought out to ease us back into curling. The Covid protocols at the Ice Bowl are well planned with one-way systems, meaning we have minimal health risks whilst playing or training."

The Academy has been taking advantage of our new virtual world and opportunities through workshops, seminars and meetings. We have already had our first Coaches Workshop which went down a treat. We heard from British Curling's David Aitken on the Delivery Framework and also enjoyed an interactive Tactics session. This coming month we have a Tactics Workshop, an Anti-Doping Workshop and a Strength and Conditioning and Psychology Seminar to look forward to.

Many thanks to those that have helped to put together and run our past and upcoming workshops.

Article by Sophie Jackson, Academy Manager

LIVE STREAMING OF BRITISH CURLING COMPETITION AT NCA

British Curling's Olympic programme athletes will compete in a mixed doubles event for the first time this season as part of the latest tournament being staged at the National Curling Academy in Stirling.

Following on from last month's successful trial at the November Classic, matches in the British Curling NCA Mixed Doubles December Tankard competition (Mon Dec 14 – Wed Dec 16), will again be live streamed throughout the week.

It will be run in conjunction with the December Superspiel (Thurs Dec 17 – Sun Dec 20) which will be the third in a series of men's and women's competitions being staged among the leading domestic players under Covid 19 protocols, designed to minimise risk to players and coaches. There will, however, be an added twist to add to the mix at the Superspiel, with the men's teams playing against the women's teams in the round-robin stages.

Regular updates on the event's broadcast schedule will be available from British Curling's Facebook and Twitter channels. Live streamed games from the event throughout the week can be watched here.

GET TO KNOW YOUR DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



In the 'hot-seat' this month is Maggie Wilson, Development Manager for Central Scotland, and skip for Team Wilson.

Tell us about how you started curling...

I started curling in P6 as part of the Curling's Cool schools programme at Greenacres. It was 2002 and we were lucky enough to meet Rhona with her Gold Medal just after she returned from the Olympics and I thought it was so cool!

Best piece of advice given to you by a coach?

Control the controllables – I try to apply that to everything in life, not just curling, and it helps keep me calm. I can say it's a phrase I've used a few times this year when things haven't been going quite the way I'd expected!

What would you cook at your dream dinner party?

What ever was on a deal on Deliveroo?! Just kidding!

Starter – Haggis Bon Bons

Main – Chicken in a peppercorn sauce, broccoli (don't @ me) and dauphinoise potatoes.

Pudding – Sticky Toffee Pudding

Who is the most well-known sporting person you've met?

I was lucky enough to go to BBC Sports Personality of the Year last year in Aberdeen so saw so many great sports icons milling about before and after the ceremony, but the highlight was seeing Eliud Kipchoge on stage! I couldn't believe the fastest marathon runner on the planet was in Aberdeen!

If you could invite any 4 people to dinner, who would they be?

I've pondered this one for a wee while but I don't think I'd pick any celebrities. It's been a tough year and we've all spend so much time away from our nearest and dearest and I'd love to have a normal Christmas dinner with the 4 people I usually spend that day with.

What other sports do you follow?

I'd never expected to say this, but as it was one of the first things to restart this year, I've got REALLY into Formula 1 this year! There's been some thrilling races and I'd love to go to one in the future.

Your proudest moment outwith curling?

Graduating with my masters. I studied part time while working full time and curling as well so it was a bit of a slog and I was so chuffed when I finally graduated!

What football team do you support?

Aberdeen, of course! I'm not an indigenous Aberdonian but after more than a decade living in the city it is hard not to support them! I remember the parade down Union Street after they won the League Cup in 2014 and it just showed how much the club means to the whole city.

What has it been like starting a new job in lockdown?

I have to be honest, it was quite bizarre! I finished my old job on the Friday and started my new job the following week – same desk, different email address and laptop!

Life in Sports Development is very different but I love the team. We've got so many people with different experiences but we all love curling and it's great to work with people who share your passion! It was strange to not be able to get to the ice rinks and I managed one face to face meeting before the restrictions tightened again but once we're able to get out and about and more members are able to be on the ice curling it will be something we won't take for granted and I look forward to seeing everyone.



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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.



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT, ANDREW KERR

Who would ever have thought that 2020 would turn out the way it has? Back in the Spring when we were in lock down, I thought, and I'm sure many were of the same opinion, that we would be through the pandemic by the Autumn. Alas, that was not to be.

As far as being President of Scottish Curling is concerned, I had very much been looking forward to getting around the rinks and meeting my brother and sister curlers. Circumstances surrounding the global Covid Pandemic have not allowed for that, unfortunately.

This time last year very few had heard of Zoom. Now there's hardly a week goes by without at least one Zoom meeting. A great deal of thanks is due to the Scottish Curling staff who have coped admirably with all the disruption and in particular, Jayne Stirling in her new role as Competitions Manager. They all deserve our thanks for working in very difficult circumstances.

It's not been the year any of us would have wished for and I just hope that our curling family has managed to avoid the worst of this dreadful pandemic.

I would like to take this opportunity, if I may to urge members who's rinks are open, to please get along and support them. If your rink is not open, which will be the majority then please remember their costs do not fall to zero just because they've melted the ice. They still have insurance, rates and all the other building costs to meet and some staff costs (even if the staff are furloughed through to March) They will need your support going forward. No business can survive without money coming in.

Before the very welcome news of 2 million in Government funding, announced just yesterday we at Ayr Ice Rink had gone out to members and clubs, asking for financial support. The tremendous support we've received, coupled with the promise of more Government funding makes our future much brighter.

I would like to wish you good curling for the rest of the season, perhaps some of you will be able to curl outdoors over the coming weeks? A fantastic opportunity to dust off the outdoor stones!

I hope you have a good Christmas and I wish you well for whatever 2021 brings.

Andrew Kerr
RCCC President and
Director,
Ayrshire Curlers Ltd

REMEMBERING LESLIE INGRAM BROWN



It is with great sadness that we advise members that Past President Leslie Ingram-Brown was laid to rest, last Friday, after passing away on the 21st of November.

Leslie's death has garnered many emotional reactions across our social media channels, with his deep love of curling and enthusiasm for the sport the overarching memory.

Leslie started curling at the age of 14 with Hutchesons' Boys' Grammar School and, at that time, lived close to both the school and Crossmyloof Ice Rink where he spent much of his time.

Following a couple of years with Lynn Curling Club he joined Carmunnock & Rutherglen (C&R) where he was a member for 54 years. He was a long-time servant of C&R (President in 1982/3 and 2019/20 and Club Secretary for many years) as well as Glasgow Province where he served as both Secretary and Treasurer. He was an enthusiastic member and servant of Glasgow Young Curlers Club right from its creation in the late 1960s.

He regularly won curling competitions throughout Scotland and is listed as the individual with most competition wins on the Glasgow Province website.

Leslie was secretary of Glasgow Province for eight years and joined the RCCC Council in 1985 and served as RCCC President in 1995/6 and became an Honorary Life Member of C&R in 1998. He donated the trophy for the Glynhill Ladies at Braehead amongst the many things he did to support curling at all levels.

Umpiring many times at national and international level, was another string to his bow.

In 2016 Leslie became a Charity Trustee of the Scottish Curling Trust and shared his passion for collecting curling items with like minded folk. His collection of curling pin badges, stones, historical medals and general curling memorabilia is unmatched as was his generosity at the barbeques he loved to host in his garden. He even allowed holes to be cut in his lovely lawn so he could host the C&R putting competition during the summer months.

Leslie will be sorely missed by the curling community throughout the world.

His family have kindly allowed us to share the link to the live stream of Leslie's funeral service with members.

It can be found here. The password is Rizo6839 the username is 961686

COMPETITIONS AFFECTED BY COVID-19

As announced last week, we are deeply disappointed to share the news that we have taken the difficult decision to cancel all Scottish Curling competitions scheduled for January and February 2021.

It goes without saying that this is not a position we have arrived at lightly, and not the news we were hoping to give members at this stage.

However, with the ongoing uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 restrictions, including those affecting travel and accommodation, we have been left with very little choice.

The cancellation of many of our Championship events, as well as a number of well loved competitions will be felt far and wide, and we share in the emotions this news brings, but our overarching priority has got to be the safety of competitors, staff, volunteers, our members and their families.

Please understand we are doing everything in our power to make sure curlers are safe, and feel comfortable with a return to ice, at their local rinks, when that time comes. Facilities across Scotland need the support of their local curlers in these difficult times, and we'd encourage members to do all they can to help.

In the absence of the usual competitive offering, we will be supporting as many facilities to open, to stay open, and to encourage as busy a club curling schedule as restrictions allow.

Our Competitions Committee will reconvene on January 14th, to consider the opportunity to run some competitions, from March onward, if restrictions permit. When restrictions lift, we will consider any opportunities to run competitions for our members.

Members should note, that with the cancellation of our Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles Championships there is an impact to the published selection criteria, for teams that will represent Scotland at the respective World Championships.

The selection policies were published in June, listing a number of selection criteria including results of the 2021 Scottish Curling Championships and Year to Date World Ranking.

With the cancellation of the Scottish Curling Championships in all three disciplines, and the ongoing pause in the World Ranking system, the Selection Policies require updating, and updated versions will be published later this month.

The status of all competitions can be found [on the COVID-19 page on our website](#).



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