

YOUR CURLER

Summer 2021



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A Word From Our CEO

I hope this bonus Summer Edition of Your Curler reaches you in good health and you are looking forward to returning to curling in the coming weeks and months.

It seems we have been busier than ever in the lead up to this season, updating the guidance for "Beyond Level Zero" and getting it approved by sportscotland, planning for our competitions, some new initiatives and a fresh drive to attract people to play curling and to join clubs. All our latest guidance and rink opening dates can be found under the Covid tab on our website, [here](#).

Over the summer, the street rink has been put to good use, visiting Craigie's Farm near Edinburgh, which you can read about in this edition. It is scheduled to visit a number of shopping centres and other locations in the coming months as a way of taking the sport to the public, albeit on plastic not on ice but it does create a sense of how to play and can be a lot of fun for all ages and abilities. Details of how to book it, and the support we can offer can be found [here](#).

The board recently approved additional resources for Try Curling marketing; a key component of our post covid recovery plan.

A month-long radio campaign, on the Bauer Network, planned to coincide with National Curling Day on the 15th of November, will help us reach new audiences and generate a buzz and an excitement in the lead up to the Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games. We need to get ice rinks full again; and all our efforts are focused on that.

As part of this considerable investment, a new Try Curling safety video is being produced, to bring a professional look and feel to the start of sessions. Thank you to our helpers, who had a ball at the NCA recently putting together this new resource. You can read more on [page 4](#).

As well as investment and campaigns, our best marketing force will always be our members, all enthusiastic about the joys of curling and the health and social benefits it brings. So, please share your love of curling with your friends, colleagues and neighbours. Take them along to Try Curling and encourage them to have a go. It's with your support and love of the sport that we'll bounce back stronger than ever after this difficult period.

In addition to the above, we've been working to improve the range of discount offers within our member benefits, which can be viewed [here](#). We hope to add more over the coming weeks so please look out for some exciting offers.

We are all looking forward to getting back on ice and hope to see you as the season progresses.

Bruce Crawford
CEO
Scottish Curling



Stars in the Making!

Volunteers were led through a series of on ice 'shots' demonstrating the basic safety rules before trying curling. There was even time for a quick game, the highlight of the session!



TryCurling.com Refresh - Making the Brand Work Better

We recently took to the ice at the National Curling Academy, with some eager volunteers, who kindly gave up their Saturday afternoon to help film our new Try Curling safety video. Led by Coach Hammy McMillan Jr of Team Mouat, the participants were filmed by 'Wee Flee Productions' for this new resource. Our Head of Development Maggie Wilson explains more:

"This video will be sent to all participants before they attend their session. We've invested in the video so we can standardise a session; those taking part will have already been emailed this so they're all ready to go when they arrive at a rink. It means more ice time and more of a chance to experience all the sport has to offer. This is a critical season for us; we know that the pandemic has hit our numbers, we really want to make sure we fill that gap. We've also got the Olympics and Paralympics coming up next year in February and March so we're taking this opportunity to refresh our Try Curling brand, the website, the payment structure, so that people who participate enjoy it and want to take it further."

Members have such a crucial role to play too - if members want to become a coach to support Try Curling sessions please speak to staff at Scottish Curling or your local development group. If you don't want to coach there are many other ways you can get involved. for example, rinks will be looking for people to meet and greet newcomers on the days sessions are running. All members can help hugely simply by telling their friends and family how much they love the sport - and of course where to direct them if they want to give it a go - Trycurling.com

It's been great to see our members who are helping with the safety video back on the ice and enjoying the game - I just can't wait to see the rest of our members back too!"

The video will be finalised in the coming weeks, and launched alongside the new TryCurling.com website, currently under construction.

Stirling Bounce Back to Curling

Stirling Curling Group are holding a 'Bounce Back' week, next week, for curlers to get some early season ice time in. We thank them for the report below...

"Our Curling Rink in Stirling is at The Peak Leisure Centre, operated by Active Stirling on behalf of Stirling Council and is shared with skating and ice hockey.

We are lucky to have the National Curling Academy next door which is available to clubs when not being used by British or Scottish Curling, but as the ice is prepared for elite curlers, it can be tricky to get the hang of. Stirling Curling Group (SCG) is the development group at Stirling, working alongside the Curling Development Team. It is a club membership organisation with a voluntary Board of Management, representing the clubs that use the Peak Ice Rink in Stirling and is an important link between Active Stirling and the Curlers, Clubs, Provinces and Forth Valley Area.

For the first time, this year, curling ice will be allocated by Active Stirling in partnership with SCG and close liaison with Stirling Area Ladies Branch. This has taken a few years of hard work to improve communications and develop relationships to build trust and cooperation amongst the various stakeholders.

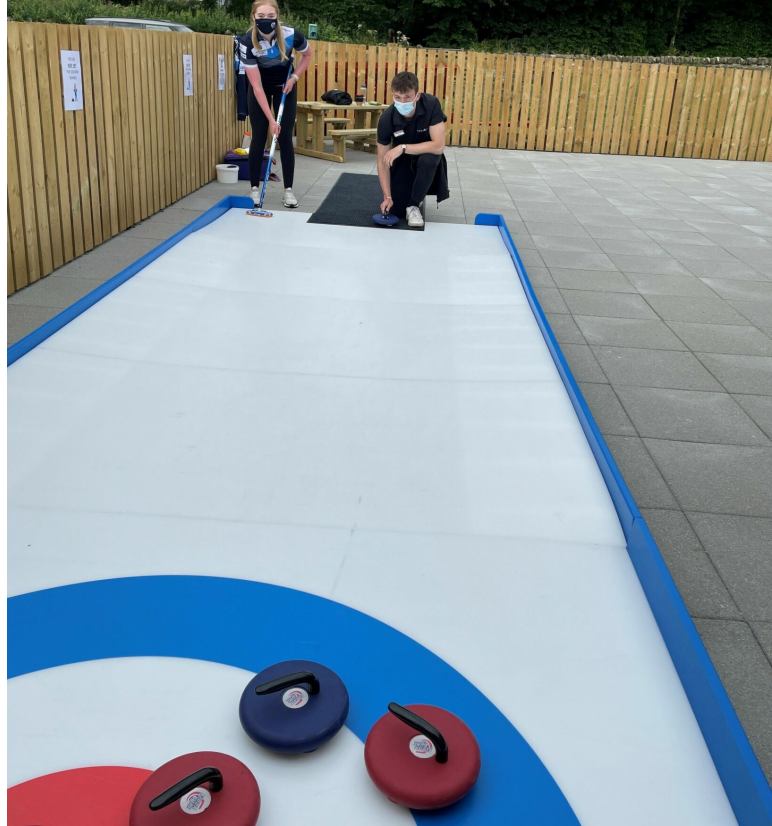
Stirling Area Ladies Branch (SALB) is a local area volunteer committee encouraging curling for women of all abilities, promoting the spirit of curling and friendship and representing local member clubs at the Peak, with the President attending RCCC Ladies Branch meetings and disseminating information back to the clubs.

As well as assisting in ice allocations, both SCG and the SALB organise many events including bonspiels, Pairs, Points, evening leagues, daytime leagues and the British Open. In Stirling, we are always looking for new ideas for competitions and ways to encourage new curlers into the sport as well as retaining the more experienced ones. Clubs are regarded as the backbone of curling in Stirling, but it is recognised that new curlers may look for more flexible participation in the sport. Looking to the future, SCG and SALB want to facilitate a clear pathway for curlers of all ages and abilities to enter, progress, enjoy and stay within the sport.

We are all looking forward to getting back onto the ice later this year. Whilst it is acknowledged that some curlers may have decided to hang up their shoes for good after such a long break, others maybe need time for a little practice and a confidence boost to get going again. With this in mind, SCG and SALB, along with the support of Active Stirling, are organising a Bounce Back week at the end of August.

The week will include coach assisted sessions, practice sessions and fun competitions as well as the SCG opening bonspiel, the "Doune Rosebowl". This is of course assuming that Covid regulations allow near- normal curling to return. In order to make this week widely accessible, all the events (except the Doune Rosebowl, which is a club event) are open to individual curlers to enter, irrespective of their ability, though priority will be givento Stirling Area Curlers.

For details, contact secretarystirlingcurlinggroup@gmail.com"



Curling at Craigie's Farm

Our Scottish Curling street rink (purchased as part of the legacy from the cancelled World Men's Curling Championship in 2020) has been well used over the last few weeks. Thank you to Frazer Shaw, former Future Leader and keen curler for the article and pictures. The rink is free to use, for community groups and curling clubs across Scotland. Simply fill out a request on our website [here](#).

"After the year that we have had, it was great to be able to bring Street Curling to Little Farmers @ Craigies Farm, just outside Edinburgh. The street rink was really easily transported with a medium sized van, easily built and offers a realistic opportunity to bring curling to venues around Scotland to promote our sport.

We held an event as an extra activity included in the customer's entry into the indoor adventure play barn. The event was targeted at families, allowing the kids to participate in curling and grasping the opportunity to explain more about the local opportunities for the families to come along and Try Curling on Ice.

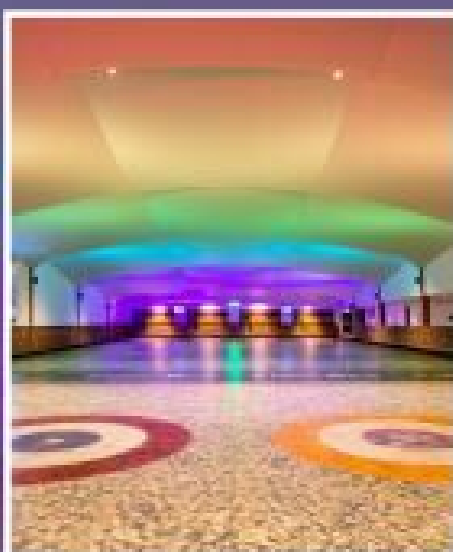
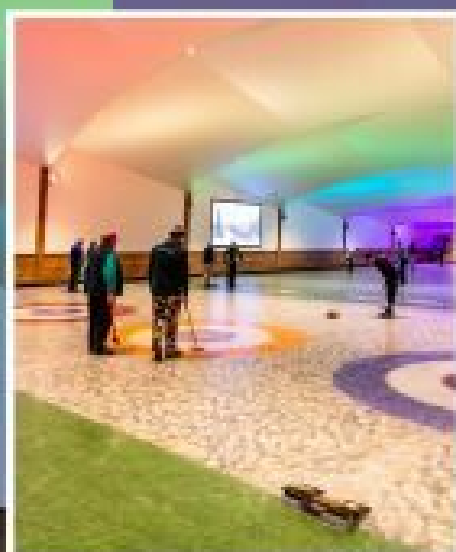
The support from each individual company/organisation (Scottish Curling, Curl Edinburgh and Craigie's Farm) was exceptional.

The area in which the street rink was located at the facility @Craigies Farm was great, it was in an enclosed outdoor area allowing plenty of space to aid with social distancing, this allowed us to control the number of people interacting with the rink and also allowing the opportunity to talk about our sport in the local area. The exclusive competition run by Curl Edinburgh offering each family an opportunity into a prize draw for up to 8 people over 8 to Try Curling at the rink for free was very popular.

If you or anyone in your curling club are thinking of taking the opportunity to get the street rink out in your local area, I would highly recommend it and Scottish Curling will support you through the process and guide you in how to run a successful event on the street rink. "

Make up for lost time...

**Weekend curling packages are
now available!**



The Flower Bowl is set in a great location,
perfect for a summer break with curling.

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Liverpool and the Trough of Bowland all
within less than an hours drive away.

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TO BOOK NOW!**


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Our New Recruits

We are delighted to introduce our newest members of staff, as we head towards the upcoming 2021-22 season.

Catriona Morton joins us as Development Manager for the Central Scotland region, and in the East, Layla Al-Saffar has come on board as our new Dundee Development Officer.

Both individuals are highly experienced in the world of sport, with Catriona spending over 5 years in a sports development role with East Lothian Council, and Sports Management graduate Layla a well-known face on the junior circuit for many years.

Both come on board at the start of a crucial season, and we're delighted to have them. A full article was published earlier this month; you can read it [here](#).



JOIN US AT

ADULT CAMP

@North West Castle Hotel, Stranraer
Friday 8th - Sunday 10th October, 2021



Join us at Adult Camp

The Scottish Curling Adult Camp is for all curlers over 21, who want to improve their skills in a sociable and welcoming environment. We are delighted to get the green light to run it again this year, and would love as many of you to join us as possible.

Bookings are open till the end of August, and you can sign up [here](#).



Represent Scotland at the 2022 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.

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2021 - you can sign up [here](#).

183rd AGM Round-Up

The 183rd Annual General Meeting of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, was held online using Zoom's video webinar platform on Saturday 26 June 2021 at 2pm.

A full report, detailing all the voting outcomes was published contemporaneously on our website. If you'd like to read it again, it can be found [here](#).

Order Your RCCC Annual

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club Annual is the comprehensive guide to Scotland's National Governing Body for Curling. Published annually since 1838, this eagerly anticipated handbook is packed with informative content and photography making it a valuable resource to members, curlers and collectors throughout the world.

For further details and to re-order your copy, [click here](#)

Skill Awards, SAVE THOSE DATES And Much More!

It's been a busy summer planning ahead for the start of the Scottish Curling coaching season!

Finishing touches are being made to the Skill Awards programme, the re-design of which has been ongoing for a long 2 years. Huge thanks to the steering group and to all the coaches who have contributed and patiently waited.

The Scottish Curling Skill Awards Programme has been designed to improve curlers' skills through a series of awards. As well as aiming to develop playing skills, the programme will also focus on the development of the curler beyond the athlete.

The awards will reflect modern day curling, rules and terminology and will be completely user friendly. Each level asks the curler to demonstrate knowledge and skills through written and practical assessments and will be much easier to achieve.

The Skill Awards will be broken down into 4 levels: FUNdamentals, Discovery, Advanced and Excellence. The focus for each level in order is participation, improvement, detail and ownership (of development).

A training workshop has been designed for coaches and assessors to attend and upskill themselves with the programme and will run over 4 weeks in September:

Monday 6 September 2021 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Thursday 16 September 2021 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Tuesday 21 September 2021 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Wednesday 29 September 2021 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Constantly delivering Try Curling sessions and trying to keep them exciting, creative, fresh and fun can be a challenge throughout the season. A brand new Try Curling workshop has been designed to support our coaches in this area, and to tie in with the overall brand refresh. Dates for the first workshops:

Tuesday 05 October 2021 6.30pm – 8pm

Tuesday 02 November 2021 6.30pm – 8pm

SAVE THOSE DATES!

The Coaching and Development Conference will be held online this year on Saturday 18 September 2021 1.30pm – 4.30pm.

The Umpire Refresher Event will be on Saturday 11 September 2021 TBC.

Dates for everything mentioned are live on the website and you can register now here.





Scottish Curling @scottishcurling · Aug 20

DELIGHTED to announce entry forms for our flagship championship competitions are LIVE!

There are some updates and prizes which we hope competitors will appreciate. 😊

READ MORE: bit.ly/3gji7iB

(📷@dumfriesicebowl Arena, set up for comp in 2014)

#LoveCurling #PrizePot



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Flagship Competitions - Entries Live!

We are pleased to launch the entry forms for our Women's, Men's and Mixed Doubles Championships for Season 2021-22.

There are some key updates and prizes which we hope competitors will appreciate.

These significant changes have been made following the recommendations of the Selection Working Group, and taken forward to this stage by the Scottish Championships Working Group. A huge thanks to all involved so far!

The overarching intention is to encourage entries and participation across all three disciplines; our Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles Champs.

Read more and enter here.

Future Leader's Deadline Extended

Are you thinking of applying to be a Scottish Curling Future Leader?

If you're motivated, love your sport and looking for some 1st class personal development then we'd LOVE to hear from you, by SEPT 1st



Our postal address is now Cairnie House, Ingliston Showground (East Gate) Newbridge EH28 8NB T 01313333003