

YOUR CURLER

European Championships
Medal Success

Scottish Curling
Junior Championships

Home Nations
Tournament Team

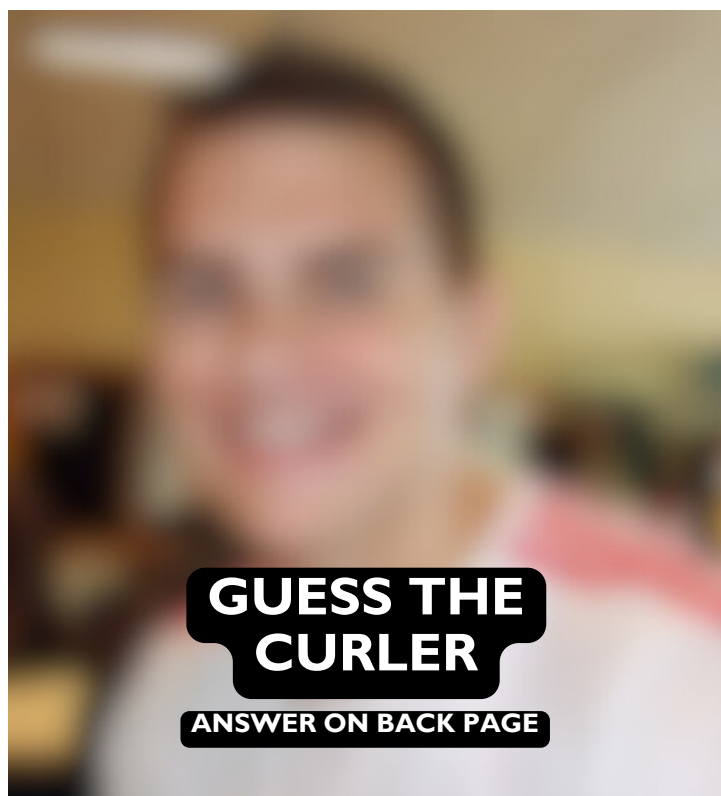


NOVEMBER 2024

CHEESIN'

Scottish Curling

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CURLER**

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WELCOME FROM THE RCCC PRESIDENT, ALISTER ASHER



Dear Members,

It is with great pride and excitement that I welcome you to this edition of Your Curler.

As we delve into the heart of the curling season, there is so much to celebrate and look forward to, with Scotland's curling community demonstrating resilience, skill, and a deep passion for our sport.

Our recent successes on the international stage are a testament to the strength and dedication of our athletes.

At the European Curling Championships, our men's team earned an impressive silver medal, showcasing their determination and world-class talent, while our women's team battled fiercely to claim a well-deserved bronze medal.

These achievements underscore Scotland's place as a powerhouse in the curling world, and we extend our congratulations and gratitude to all the players, coaches, and support teams who made these victories possible.

Closer to home, the Scottish Junior Championships in Aberdeen proved to be an unforgettable highlight of the season.

The level of competition was exceptional, with our young athletes demonstrating not only remarkable skill but also the sportsmanship and camaraderie that make curling so special.

The future of Scottish curling is undoubtedly bright, and we are immensely proud of every participant who graced the ice in Aberdeen.

As the curling season continues, there is still so much to look forward to. From grassroots competitions to high-profile events, our sport brings communities together and inspires us all.

Whether you're a player, supporter, or volunteer, your passion and commitment are what keep curling thriving in Scotland. Let's keep that spirit alive as we move through the season.

Thank you for your dedication to curling, and I wish you all the best both on and off the ice.

Alister Asher
President, Scottish Curling

SCOTTISH JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS A TRIUMPH

The 2024 Scottish Junior Championships was a major success, with hours of brilliant curling the highlight of a brilliant week full of camaraderie, team building and laughter.

After it all, our new champions were sealed, with Teams Carson and Soutar the new Scottish Junior Men's & Women's champions respectively!



We spoke with Scottish Curling CEO, Vincent Bryson, about the success of the event:

"I'm so grateful to everyone from parents, coaches, supporters, friends, family and teammates who enabled all these amazing teams of young men and women to put on such an inspiring event this week."



"Behind the scenes, the work put in by my colleagues at Scottish Curling alongside the awesome umpiring crew proves as ever these things are nothing but a team effort. Speaking of teams, Tom and the facility crew at Curl Aberdeen keep knocking it out the park - thank you!"

"Also, a massive thank you to David and Maggie from Curling Stadium Europe who put such a fabulous "shop window" online for every single match. Please do support them if you can by getting a pass for their next event or even one to rewatch the last weeks inspirational performances."

CANADIAN WOMEN'S TOUR TO SCOTLAND A HIT

The RCCC Ladies' Branch was delighted to welcome the touring Canadian curlers to Scotland over the last month, with as many as 22 curlers travelling from North America to Scotland for the event.

Made to feel right at home by the snowy Scottish weather, the tourists visited:

- Lanarkshire
- Stranraer
- Falkirk
- Stirling
- Paisley
- Greenacres
- Lockerbie
- Edinburgh
- Dumfries
- Greenock
- Kelso
- Perth
- Kinross
- Inverness

With friendships made for life, the tour culminated with a tour of Glasgow City chambers, followed by a reception and closing banquet at Lanarkshire Ice Rink.

We leave it to tourist Jackie McCannell, who put it best:

"Thank you all so much for the wonderful hospitality during our tour. I have memories and new friends that will last a lifetime. This was a dream trip!"



SCOTLAND TAKE SILVER AND BRONZE AT 2024 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Scotland were once again successful at the European Championships, with both teams medalling at the event in Lohja, Finland.

Team Mouat sealed the silver medal, falling narrowly to Germany in the final, with Team Morrison taking bronze with a fine victory over Italy in the third place match.



The women's team, consisting of skip Sophie Jackson, vice-skip Rebecca Morrison, second Sophie Sinclair, third Jennifer Dodds, and alternate Fay Henderson, overcame a resilient Italian side in a thrilling 6-4 encounter.

The bronze medal match showcased Scotland's tactical precision and teamwork. The Scots gained an early lead, scoring singles in three of the first four ends. Italy responded with steady play, but never seemed likely to be able to claw back Scotland's advantage.

Key shots from Dodds and Morrison in the seventh end extended Scotland's advantage, leaving Italy unable to get back in the match.

Speaking after the match, Scottish Curling CEO Vincent Bryson said: "This bronze medal is a testament to the incredible talent, dedication, and teamwork of our athletes. Rebecca, Jennifer, Sophie, Sophie, and Fay have made Scotland proud on the European stage, and their success inspires the next generation of curlers. Furthermore, this is a fantastic first European medal as a coach for Ross Paterson. This result reflects not just their hard work but also the strength of Scottish curling as a whole."

The men's side, comprising Hammy McMillan (lead), Bobby Lammie (second), Grant Hardie (third), and Bruce Mouat (fourth), the Scottish team came into the final as favourites, having proved in the past they know how to win matches like these.

The match was a thrilling contest, with both teams trading shots of the highest caliber. Germany, led by a tenacious and precise performance, proved a formidable opponent, countering Scotland's offensive strategies with consistent execution and tactical acumen.

Despite Scotland's resilience and Mouat's superb shot-making, they fell just short of reclaiming the European title, marking a bitter end to what had otherwise been a stellar performance at the championships.

For Team Mouat, who were looking for a fourth European championship in a row, the loss will undoubtedly be a learning experience as they set their sights on future competitions, including the upcoming World Curling Championships.

TEAM ANNOUNCED FOR 2024 HOME NATIONS TOURNAMENT IN PRESTON

We are thrilled to announce the team members who will represent Scotland at the 2025 Four Nations competition!

This much-anticipated annual event brings together the governing bodies of the home nations—England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales—for a weekend of camaraderie and competition.

Wales will host the event at The Flower Bowl, Preston, from 24–26 January.

Here is the full list of players representing Scotland

They are:

- Paula Arnott - Haddington
- Ali Asher- Nairn
- Yvonne Birnie - Highland Ladies
- Iain Buchanan - Bellshill
- Annette Clunas - Highland
- Stewart Cobb - Carrington
- Andrea Fox - East Kilbride
- Shelagh Fulton- Lynedoch Ladies
- Ann Gibb - Cawdor
- Ally Henry - DAFS
- Jim Hogg - Ruthwell
- Linda Hoskins - Highland Ladies
- Wendy Hutton - Carrington
- Robert Ireland - Crosshill
- Ann Johnstone - Crocketford
- Craig Lindsay - Forret
- Colin Macnab - Kelso
- Michael McCreadie - Braehead Wheelchair
- John McDermott - Ardgowan
- John McGowan - Cathcart Castle
- Michael McInnes - Nairn
- David McIntyre - Troon Portland
- Lillian McIntyre - Troon Portland
- Fiona McLaren - Highland Ladies
- Bob Mouat - Highland
- Aileen Neilson - Braehead Wheelchair
- Keith Prentice - Ayton Castle
- Stephen Russell - East Kilbride

- Neil Sands - Sorn
- Lesley Skinner - East Kilbride
- Elaine Spain - Kinross Ladies
- Alison Taylor - Lesmahagow Ladies

What's at Stake?

Over the course of the weekend, teams will compete for several prestigious trophies, including:

The Tom Ballantyne Trophy: Scotland men vs. England men (current holders: England).

The Connie Miller Trophy: Scotland ladies vs. England ladies (current holders: Scotland).

The Welsh Stone (Big Bertha): Scotland vs. Wales (current holders: Wales).

The Marshall Millennium Trophy: Scotland vs. Ireland (current holders: Ireland).



MORAY WINS SCOTTISH PROVINCE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT GREENACRES CURLING CLUB

Congratulations to Moray Team Ardclach (Ally Fraser, Neil MacArthur, Dean Clark and Grant Fraser) on winning the Scottish Province Championship 5-4 in a competitive match against defending champions, Dunbartonshire Team Kelvinside Academical (Stuart Taylor, Andy Callander, Jim Whittle and Alasdair Schreiber) at Greenacres Curling rink.



DRUMMOND ROSEBOWL

Many thanks to Louise Kerr for providing this article.

The traditional opening bonspiel at Stranraer Ice Rink, the Drummond Rosebowl, was played last Thursday night to herald the start of the 2024-2025 curling season.

Six rinks played and the winners were the rink of John Agnew, Margaret Agnew, Rebecca O' Sullivan and Kathleen Stevenson.

At the close of play, Stranraer Ice Rink President James Maxwell welcomed the curlers back to the rink for the new season. He then congratulated the winners and presented them with the trophy and vouchers for the North West Castle Hotel. He also encouraged players to support the ice rink competitions throughout the season.



MALCOLM HENRY

Many thanks to Louise Kerr for providing this article.

The Malcolm Henry competition for mixed rinks (if possible) was won last Friday night by a rink from Logan Curling Club, skipped by John Gilmore.

Six rinks took to the ice for the annual challenge and after the games came to their conclusion after eighteen's had been played, the winning team were seven shots up.

Stranraer Ice Rink Vice President Alec Ross then noted that there was an air of sadness to the proceedings as this was the first time the Malcolm Henry Trophy had been played without Malcolm being there. We all felt the loss keenly, Alec commented. Malcolm's grandson, Henry, was there to present the trophy and prizes of hotel vouchers.



WIGTOWNSHIRE RINK CHAMPIONSHIPS

Many thanks to Louise Kerr for providing this article.

Stoneykirk Curling Club skip Ian Kirkpatrick skipped a team from his club to a sixth win in the Wigtownshire Rink Championships, sponsored by Steven Cronnie, family butcher, Newton Stewart and Frasers Butchers, Stranraer, at Stranraer Ice Rink last Friday night.

Seven teams entered the competition this year, with one getting a bye to the semi-final. The semi-finals saw teams from Logan and Stoneykirk go through to the final.

In the final, the Stoneykirk team of Kirkpatrick, Andrew Hannah, Scott McColm and Alex Ferguson got away to a good start and never let their opponents, the Logan rink of David McColm, John Gilmore, Alex Miller and Linda Shaw, back into the contest.

Afterwards, the presentation of prizes was conducted by the Rhins o' Galloway Province President PJD Wilson. He congratulated the winners and commiserated with the runners-up and asked the secretary of the Rhins Province Linda Haswell to present handsome cup to the winners and the John Agnew Salver to the runners-up.

Both rinks were given gift vouchers for Reids.

Results:

First round - G Munro, Castle Kennedy 5 Ian Kirkpatrick, Stoneykirk 6; John Agnew, Leswalt 6 Graeme Penrose, Glasserton 4; David McColm, Logan 7 Kier Thomson, Portpatrick 4

Semi-finals - Ian Kirkpatrick 10 John Agnew 4; David McColm 8 Callum Adams, Kirkcowan 1

Final - Ian Kirkpatrick 12 David McColm 1.





SCOTTISH CURLING PRESIDENTIAL DINNER DANCE

Friday, 7th February 2025 | 7 PM

Woodlands House Hotel, Dumfries

£40 per person

Enjoy a 3-Course Dinner and dance to Perfect Vibes
Disco the night before the Scottish Championship
Finals at the Ice Bowl in Dumfries.

Proceeds from dinner and raffle to
Scottish Autism

£35 per person for competing athletes & officiating
volunteers

Payment [details to be provided directly to you] by 29/01/25
Names to Jill – pebble@ashers.co.uk by 03/01/25



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STRANRAER REMEMBERS THE FALLEN AT THEIR 8TH NATIONAL BONSPIEL EVENT ON THE 11TH

Many thanks to Jim Ryder for providing this article.

On the 11th of the month, 16 Octogenarian's took to the ice for their 8th National Bonspiel and stood silent at the 11th Hour on the 11th day to pay their respects to the sailors, soldiers and airmen who lost their lives fighting for their country in both World Wars and continuing conflicts.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL SENIORS CURLING

Many thanks to Ian Keron for providing this article.

A fantastic weekend of curling at Curl Edinburgh from 15 to 17 November 2024, at the Edinburgh International Seniors event.

Over the first two days 16 men's teams and 8 women's teams competed to qualify for the semi finals.

Team Duff lost out to team Connal and team Hare lost out to team Cormack in the men's semi finals, both games going to an extra end.

In the women's events, team Lockhart and team Kennedy both won.

In the finals, it was the women's turn to go to an extra end, with team Lockhart making the key final shot to retain the women's title.

In the men's final it was all over after 5 ends, with team Connal winning.

Thanks to all the competitors, the organisers and the curling rink team. Great playing conditions and competitive fun & sociable curling.





INCLUSIVE TRY CURLING SESSIONS

With Curling being one of the most inclusive sports available, now is your chance to come and try for yourself. Booking is essential, spaces for these sessions are limited.

Dundee

Tuesday 17th December 2024 @ Dundee Ice Arena

Session time 6 - 8pm

Wheelchair Curling specific session

Aviemore

Friday 3rd January 2025 @ Aviemore Ice Rink

Session time 12.30 - 2pm

Inclusive session - open to ALL disabilities

Greenock

Thursday 9th January 2025 @ Waterfront Leisure Complex

Session time 1 - 3pm

Inclusive session - open to ALL disabilities

Kinross

Monday 13th January 2025 @ Kinross Curling Club

Session time 12.15pm - 2.15pm

Visual Impairment specific session

PLEASE NOTE - BOOKINGS CLOSE 2 DAYS BEFORE EVENT

BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW AT
TRYCURLING.COM



Contact: Rhiannon Butterfield
rhiannon@scottishcurling.org
07756 555028

TRYCURLING.COM

FORTH VALLEY AREA KNOCK OUT HELD AT THE PEAK

Many thanks to Ian Keron for providing this report.

After three rounds of competition, Oatridge CC and Bucaneers CC reached the final on 23 October.

The final was a close affair. The first end was blanked, then Oatridge stole a one at ends two and three to go two up. After swapping twos, the score was 4-2 to Oatridge after five ends.

Oatridge then stole another one at end six, and then ran Bucaneers out of stones in the seventh and final end. A great result for Oatridge CC, celebrating its 40th anniversary this season. The trophy was presented to the winning team by Bruce Mouat.



UNDER 12S QUADRANGLE TROPHY

Many thanks to Derek Young for providing this report.

Sunday 24th November, saw the first round at Perth of the under 12's Quadrangle Trophy for the Young Curlers of Stirling, Perth, Kinross, and Hamilton. This competition was started, and is organised by, Stirling Young Curlers, and dates back to 2008, and has been played every year since, with the exception of season 20/21 due to covid. It was introduced to give youngsters who were not experienced enough to play in national under 14 slams, a chance to have competition against other clubs. It consists of three, two end game round robins, followed by a draw shot challenge, at each of the 4 venues. Prizes are awarded to the winners at each venue, and the Trophy goes to the best team over the 4 venues.

It is always a closely fought event, and the 1st round at Perth this year was no exception. Kinross – skipped by Atholl Brown, 3rd Freya Nicol, 2nd Gregor Goodie, lead Myley McCleary, and alternate Lola Murchie – tied with Hamilton on 4 ends each, but Kinross just edged it on Hamilton on shots up. Stirling with 3 ends were 3rd. With Kinross and Hamilton playing each other in the final game, it came down to the wire, as Hamilton could have won it with the final stone. With 3 teams so close, it is all to play for at the rest of the venues later in the season. Next game is at Hamilton on Saturday 7th December.



The draw shot team event was won by Stirling, and the individual draw shot winner was Evie Duggie from Stirling.

REFORM CURLING CLUB IN POLAND

The Reform Curling Club, based at Greenacres, has had a tradition for many years of organising tours around European Curling destinations.

In the past they have visited Andorra, Prague, Jonkopping, Tallin, Budapest & many other destinations, however, the pandemic & lockdown meant that the last tour was 2019.

Reform member Stew Sutherland has had connections for a number of years with Poland & the Polish Curling Federation, both coaching & playing, so when a new Tour venue was being examined, Poland seemed a logical choice.

Although not regarded as major contenders in curling, the sport has been steadily expanding in Poland, & a dedicated curling rink was built recently in Lodz, central Poland, about 75 miles south of Warsaw.



It's a modern & well-equipped 4 – sheeter with great amenities including its own cafeteria, located not far from the town centre.

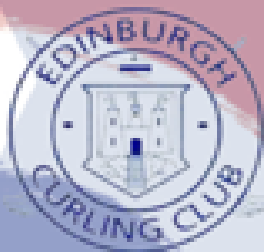
Altogether 16 Reform curlers plus partners went on the trip which not only included some very competitive games against strong Polish teams, but, as with all Reform Tours, also an opportunity to sightsee & socialise with our hosts.

Accommodation was in the very modern, comfortable & well-located Puro Hotel within the Lodz Manufaktura area, a recently modernized area which had previously housed the textile & fabric-making factories.

The adjoining area offered great shops, bars & restaurants accommodating all tastes & styles & leaving the tourists plenty of options to spend their downtime, including sightseeing by bike!

Although the Tour only lasted some 6 days, the general impression was very favourable: not only is Poland a very modern & stylish westernized country, the Polish people were extremely welcoming, the food was amazing, & the curling.....well, less said about some of the results the better!

As always, many new friendships formed & hopefully renewed in the future!



The Cousin Trophy

1st & 2nd of March 2025

@CurlEdinburgh

An exciting fun new weekend bonspiel.

All teams will be guaranteed 4 games over the two days.

The bonspiel will be using a modified schenkel format.

Entry Fee is £400.00 per team, which includes a meal (for 4) on the Saturday evening.

Teams must comprise of two males and two females.

If the fourth player is male, third position must be female and vice versa.

To enter your team, please contact the organisers at:

info@curledinburgh.com

A deposit of £100.00 is required to secure your position in the event.



**GUESS THE
CURLER**

**OUR VERY OWN
SCOTT ANDREWS!**