

YOUR CURLER

Look back at the
Scottish Championships

Jennifer Dodds'
WISH journey

World Wheelchair
Champs are here



THE WORLD IS WATCHING

FEBRUARY 2025

Scottish Curling

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WELCOME FROM THE RCCC PRESIDENT, ALI ASHER



Hello everyone,

February is an intense time in the world of Curling!

It's the last day of the month and so far in Feb we have seen...

Scottish Championships
Scottish Senior Championships
Scottish Schools Championships
Henderson Bishop

A tremendous effort everywhere from all curlers and the SC staff for their efforts to publicise and organise. It's always inspiring to see members news and pictures on social media sounds ask of you all is to please keep doing it.

And that's just the stuff at national level. There have been lots of things going on at club level at rinks throughout the country and my hat goes off to you all for your drive and ambition to keep the sport at the forefront of what is an uncertain time generally.

In March (aka tomorrow!) we begin hosting the World Wheelchair Curling Championships which consist of the 4-person and Mixed Double versions of the game. It's set to be a brilliant 17 days down at Auchenhavrie Ice Rink and the sportscotland National Sports Training Centre at Inverclyde where the athletes will live.

The rink itself has been transformed and I'm excited about the opportunity as ever to see World Class curling here in Scotland.

We've had news of the international teams selected to represent Scotland at World Championships for the remainder of this season.

My best wishes go to Teams Morrison and Mouat for the women's and men's world championships in March. Long journeys are ahead to Korea and Canada (the brilliantly named Moose Jaw is where I'll be) and all teams representing us carry our best wishes for success.

Also starting this weekend is the Rink Championship in Perth which is yet another great event for all curlers to get behind and support. If you have time, get down to Dewars Centre and celebrate some great curling.

So thank you again to everyone. As ever, please do keep sharing the benefits of everything across the curling community and if you fancy watching the World Wheelchairs it is free to attend or you can stream it via Curling Stadium Europe who help bring so much of curling into our living rooms/laptops/tablets/phones.

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate the latest batch of Level 2 coaches who completed their education recently at Dewars Centre a short time ago. We need coaches at every level of the game and my congrats to all the students on the course and their fantastic tutors & staff (Alan Hannah and Fiona Harfield) who delivered it.

Ali Asher
RCCC President

SCOTTISH CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

The Hardie Engineering Scottish Curling Championships 2025 took place from February 2nd to 8th at the Dumfries Ice Bowl, with the best Scotland has to offer fighting for the national crown. This premier event showcased Scotland's top men's and women's curling teams, competing for national titles and the glory of millions throughout the country.

In the men's draw, defending champions Team Ross Whyte commenced their title defense with a commanding 7-2 victory over Team Kyle Waddell. The pivotal moment occurred in the fourth end, where Team Whyte secured a four-ender, establishing a decisive lead. Skip Ross Whyte expressed satisfaction with the team's performance, emphasising the importance of maintaining momentum throughout the tournament.



World number one Team Bruce Mouat also demonstrated their prowess, defeating Team Thomson 9-3 in their opening match. Meanwhile, 2022 World Junior Champion skip James Craik led his team to a 6-3 victory over his brother Ross Craik's rink. A notable highlight was the match between the youthful Team Carson and the experienced Team Bryce, where Team Carson clinched a 9-8 win with a steal in the extra end.

The final saw the only two men's grand slam of curling champions from the season face off, with Team Whyte taking on Team Mouat. The match up between the two in the round robin had been a classic, so there's two meeting again promised greatly.

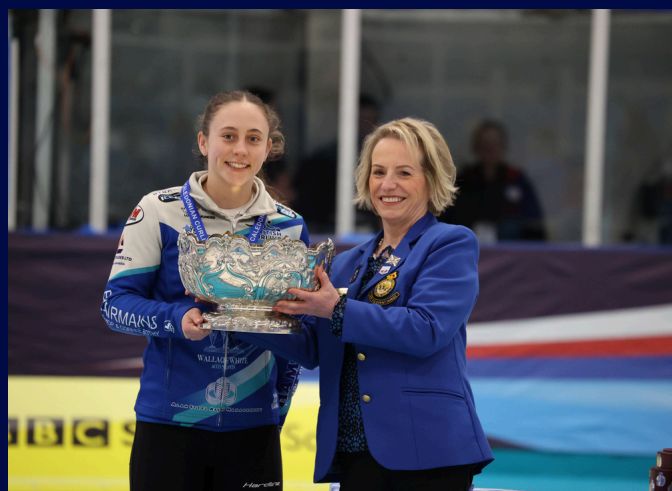
The going was close until Team Whyte scored a triple, followed by a pair of doubles in the seventh, eighth and ninth. It was a 9-3 win for Whyte, and they kept their title.



The women's competition featured intense matchups among Scotland's elite teams. Team Henderson emerged victorious, securing another championship title. They defeated Team Morrison in the final, a match up of the two most recent champions of this event.

The final was largely one way traffic, with a 9-2 win for Team Henderson coming from their fast start. A triple in the seventh followed a four in the sixth, and the match was as good as secured by that point.

The 2025 Championships were notably supported by Hardie Engineering as the principal sponsor. Additional sponsors included Curling Stadium Europe, Owen Farm Services, Woodland House Hotel, J&J Currie Ltd, AMD Contract Services Ltd, MKM, Robinsons, SRUC, Ninefold Distillery, Barbours, Sulwath Brewery, Genesis Occupational Health and Safety, and Signright Dumfries. Their contributions were instrumental in facilitating the event's success.



The Hardie Engineering Scottish Curling Championships 2025 not only highlighted the exceptional talent within Scotland's curling community but also underscored the sport's significance in the region.

We already can't wait to return to Dumfries next year, and a huge shout out must go to the team at Dumfries Ice Bowl who made the event such a success.



WORLD WHEELCHAIR CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS ON THE HORIZON AS AUCHENHARVIE GETS SET TO WELCOME THE WORLD

The world will be watching as Auchenharvie Leisure Centre in Stevenston, North Ayrshire, gears up to host both the prestigious World Wheelchair Curling Championships from March 1st to 8th, followed by the World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Curling Championships from March 10th to 16th, 2025.

These championships are the final opportunity for World Curling Member Associations to earn Paralympic Qualification Points and will confirm the wheelchair curling lineups for the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games.

The mixed doubles event, making its debut at the Winter Paralympics in Milan-Cortina in 2026, adds an extra layer of excitement and innovation to the proceedings.

This landmark event will bring top-tier athletes and a global spotlight to Scotland's beautiful west coast.

Auchenharvie Leisure Centre, featuring a fantastic 56m x 30m ice pad, will be marking a new chapter in its illustrious history by hosting for the first time, an event of this magnitude in the curling world.

All of the wheelchair athletes will be accommodated at the state-of-the-art National Sports Training Centre, Inverclyde in the seaside town of Largs.

With every bedroom en-suite and fully wheelchair accessible, stunning views over the Clyde, fabulous gym and dining facilities and 15 miles from the ice rink, the Championships are all set to be a truly memorable experience for all the athletes.

The World Wheelchair Curling Championships and the World Wheelchair Mixed Doubles Curling Championships represent not only a major sporting event but also an opportunity for North Ayrshire to showcase its community spirit, stunning landscapes, and historical significance to a worldwide audience.

With athletes ready to grace the ice from across the globe, secure your place at the World Wheelchair Curling Championships today.



GLSSERTON WIN COUNTY CUP

Many thanks to Louise Kerr for providing this article.

THE Glasserton CC rink of Graeme Penrose, Tom Bell, Alistair McMillan and Kerrin Forsyth won an enthralling Galloway Cup final against Stoneykirk last Friday afternoon, but it took an extra end to decided the winners.

The Galloway Cup, sponsored by James Gordon Ltd, Whauphill and Castle Douglas, involved 10 rinks from the Galloway Province, the Rhins O' Gallowa' Province and the Stewartry Province. The competition is on the knock-out basis and after the first round games were played the semi-finals saw Penrose's Glasserton rink defeat Robert Lammie 9-1 while the second Glasserton rink, skipped by Jack Wallace, were beaten 9-4 by Norman Brown, Wullie Hurcomb, Alex Fergusson and John Brewer.

The final the Stoneykirk quartet had taken a 3-1 lead after four ends after sealing singles in ends three and four. Glasserton got the only deuce of the game in the the fifth end to level the scored at three-all. The sixth end was blanked by Brown and he tried to blank the seventh too, to take last stone advantage into the deciding end but his shot failed to roll out, scoring one and handing the hammer to the Glasserton team

When Penrose went to pay his last shot, he elected to hit the Stoneykirk stone lying shot on the back 12 over the percentage shot draw and make it perfectly, forcing the extra end

The Glasserton team were lying shot as the skips decided on their last shots. Penrose elected to guard two Stoney Kirk stones that could be raised into the house for the win and managed to cover enough to make the raise attempt more tricky. Brown, after a long discussion with third Hurcomb, decided that the intone draw to the four foot was his best chance. The weight looked good but just travelled six inched too fat, giving the Glasserton team memorable win.

At the presentations, Rhins' President PJD Wilson congratulated the winners, the ice staff and the three province secretaries, Robin Shields, Linda Haswell and Louise Kerr for organising the competition. He then asked Jenni Cannon, from the Galloway Province, to present the trophy and North West Castle Hotel vouchers to the winners and hotel vouchers to the runners-up.

A bottle raffle to help towards insuring the the trophy raised £174.



R&A HANNAY HANDICAP WINNERS

Many thanks to Louise Kerr for providing this article.

Stranraer Ice Rink's handicap competition, the the R&A Hannay, was played last week with Nick Morris's Anwoth and Girthon team winning an exciting final 8-7 against Lily McClymont's Logan four.

The trophy and prizes were presented by Stranraer Ice Rink Vice President Alec Ross. Teams who enter are giving either a shot advantage or deficit depending on their skill and experience level.



AREA 8 BONSPIEL

Many thanks to David Cunningham for providing this article.

The annual Area 8 Bonspiel was held in Edinburgh on 31st January with teams representing Peeblesshire (two teams), East Lothian and Midlothian - the three provinces which constitute Area 8.

Each rink played three 4-end games in a round robin format, with the winner having the most shots up. After a tie and a one-shot victory in the first round, there were bigger winning margins in the second and third rounds.

The Midlothian team reached +12 shots, which was enough to earn the Black Bull Trophy. Good spirits were on display throughout, even when the organiser insisted that everyone had to deliver yet another two stones in a separate draw shot challenge! Drinks, dinner and chat followed in the clubrooms.



MIDLOTHIAN PROVINCE BONSPIEL

Many thanks to Ian Keron for providing this article.

On Monday 27 January 2025, Midlothian Province held its annual Bonspiel, a true festival of curling. 32 curling clubs competed in 33 matches from 0930 in the morning until 1030 in the evening.

After all the games were complete, MidCalder Curling Club emerged victorious with a total score of 23 shots up over three games. Penicuik Curling Club was a close second with a score of 19 shots up over three games.

Some of the 12 MidCalder players were then presented with the magnificent Province Bonspiel trophy, along with a bottle of whisky for each player.



SELLAR TROPHY, LADIES INVITATION

Many thanks to Ian Keron for providing this article.

On Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 January 2025, Curl Edinburgh hosted the Sellar Trophy, with 12 women's teams taking part.

After three rounds of competitive games, the teams were ranked and the top two teams played off on the High Road Final. Teams ranked 3 and 4 played off in the Low Road Final.

Team Wyllie were ranked first, but in the High Road final they succumbed to an impressive performance by team Gumley, who won the final and the Sellar Trophy.

Team Barry emerged victorious in the Low Road final.

Edinburgh Curling Club President Ian Keron presented prizes to the finalists.

A big thanks to SXP Designs for its continued sponsorship of this event.



UNDER 12 QUADRANGLE COMPETITION

Many thanks to Derek S. Young for providing this article.

On Sunday 16th February, Kinross hosted the 3rd leg of the annual Under 12's Quadrangle Competition between Stirling, Kinross, Hamilton and Perth.

On the day the competition was a tight affair, with Hamilton just pipping Kinross to the win. With both teams tied on ends, and playing each other, it came down to the last stone.

Callum Craig, the Kinross Skip, went for a hit and roll to take a one and victory, but although he played it well and hit the stone, he just failed to roll the extra couple of inches required to out count the other Hamilton stone, and Hamilton stole a one, and were overall winners by 1 end.

The Hamilton teams was Skip – Peter Muirhead, 3rd Heidi Addison, 2nd – Matthew Gray, and Lead Bethan Muirhead. Congratulations to Hamilton, and commiserations to Kinross. Stirling were Team Draw shot winners, and Athol Brown of Kinross was individual draw shot winner.

The final leg will be at Stirling on 16th March, and all to play for between Hamilton and Kinross, with Hamilton holding a one end lead on 12 ends to Kinross's 11 ends.





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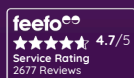
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SCOTTISH COACHING CERTIFICATE – LEVEL 2 COACHING COURSE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED

Many thanks to Fiona Harfield for providing this article.

Last season marked the successful introduction of the new SCC – Level 1 course for Scottish Curling coaches. Now, in its second season and progressing strongly, it has been joined by the next stage in the coaching pathway—the SCC – Level 2 course.

Launched in January, this course was piloted with four dedicated coaches from across Scotland, spanning from Elgin to Stranraer. Designed to provide a well-rounded learning experience, the course structure included two online sessions and two in-person sessions held in Perth. However, due to Storm Aowyn, the first in-person session had to be swiftly adapted and delivered online—proving that where there's a will, there's a way!

With the course now successfully completed, these coaches are returning to their home rinks to apply their learning in real-world coaching sessions. They will continue to receive guidance and support from mentors Alan Hannah, Philip Ross, Faye McInnes, and Workforce Development Manager, Fiona Harfield.

If you're looking to advance in your coaching journey, we'd love to hear from you! For more information about the SCC – Level 2 course, please contact fiona@scottishcurling.org. The next Level 2 course will take place next season, with dates to be confirmed. Stay tuned!



MY WISH JOURNEY - JENNIFER DODDS

Many thanks to Jennifer Dodds for providing this article.

In summer 2023 I was asked to join the Woman in sport high performance pathway (WISH). The course is designed to support and develop female coaches for the highest level. Over several Olympic cycles, woman's participation as athletes has increased to 50/50 gender split, while on the other hand female coaches have not had the same increase, where the PyeongChang Olympics only 9% of coaches were woman. I felt honoured to be selected for the fourth cohort of this course.

August 2023, 34 coaches from across the world met at the University of Hertfordshire, for a weeklong residential week. As a new coach, I was nervous for the coming week as I thought I would be surrounded by experienced coaches. I was made to feel at ease as everyone was so welcoming and realising, we were at different stages of the coaching journey. It was great listening to the other coaches' experiences from the different sports and how different federations worked. This week gave us time to develop, learn and explore our leadership and coaching skills. This week provided me with skills and techniques to give positive constructive feedback, which I have found challenging in the past.

Throughout the 21 months some of the key learning highlights for me were the mentorship, leadership styles, building confidence, being curious, creating a performance environment and invest time into your personal development. I found Jane's knowledge as a leadership mentor a significant and valuable part of my development on the course. I could bring different coaching situations, talk them through and she would challenge my approach and presented different perspectives. She also helped me transfer my athlete knowledge and skills I've learnt, to use and present this knowledge as a coach.

The last assignment we had to complete was a reflective piece. This provided me time to look back and realise how much I've learnt and grown on this course.

It has validated and recognised skills I already had from my athlete background, while advancing my methodology in leadership and gaining the skills to apply it.

From this course, I'm more self-assured and confident within the coaching environment.





**GUESS THE
CURLER**

**IT'S
NIKLAS EDIN!**

**Thanks to Scottish Curling President,
Alister Asher, for sharing these
brilliant pictures from Yester Curling Club, who managed to
have some outdoor curling in Wengen, Switzerland this
month!**

