

YOUR CURLER

Women's Worlds
Delivers Qualification

World Wheelchairs
A Huge Success

Domestic Season
Comes to a Close

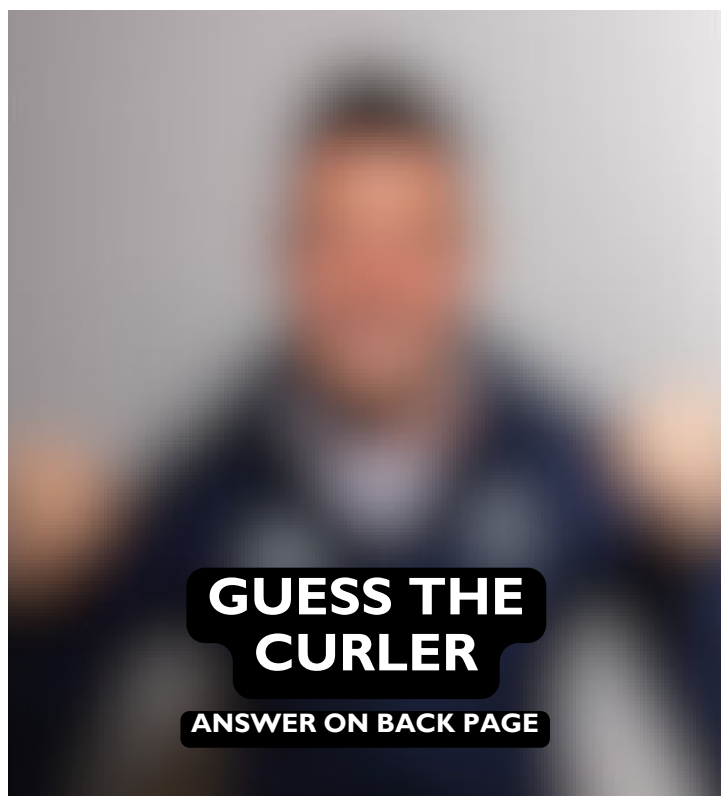


FROM SCOTLAND TO THE WORLD

MARCH 2025

Scottish Curling

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CURLER**

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WELCOME FROM THE RCCC PRESIDENT, ALI ASHER



Hello everyone,

As another thrilling curling season draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the remarkable achievements of our curling community and extend my heartfelt congratulations to all involved.

First and foremost, a huge well done to everyone who played a part in hosting the World Wheelchair Curling Championships at Auchenhavrie Ice Rink in North Ayrshire. Organising an event of this calibre is no small feat, and thanks to the dedication of volunteers, officials, and the wider curling family, Scotland once again proved itself a world-class host.

We also celebrate the outstanding performance of Scotland's Women's Team at the World Women's Curling Championships, which has secured their qualification for the Milan Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics. Their determination, skill, and teamwork have made the nation proud, and we look forward to cheering them on as they prepare for the Games.

Meanwhile, our Men's Team is set to begin their World Championship campaign in Moose Jaw, Canada, this weekend. We send them our best wishes as they take to the ice against the world's best, and we have every confidence they will represent Scotland with pride and passion.

Finally, to all our members across the country—congratulations on a fantastic season. Whether you competed, coached, volunteered, or supported from the stands, your enthusiasm and dedication keep our sport thriving.

Enjoy your well-earned summer break, and we look forward to another exciting season ahead!

Ali Asher
RCCC President

THE WORLD COMES TO SCOTLAND

Scotland put on a spectacular show at the World Wheelchair Curling Championships, hosting the event at Auchenharvie Leisure Centre in North Ayrshire. The tournament, which featured both the Mixed Teams event and the Mixed Doubles event, was a thrilling display of skill, strategy, and, of course, a touch of Scottish charm. With international teams battling it out on the ice and some rather high-profile visitors dropping in, it was an unforgettable event that cemented Scotland's place as a powerhouse in the sport.

A Grand Stage for Wheelchair Curling

Auchenharvie Leisure Centre, usually known for its community-focused sports activities, was transformed into a world-class curling venue, welcoming elite athletes from around the globe. The event wasn't just about fierce competition—it also played a crucial role in the road to the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games, with teams aiming to secure valuable qualification points.

The atmosphere was electric from the start, with fans gathering to cheer on their favourite teams. Scottish supporters, known for their passion (and on occasion their tam o'shanter – don't ask!), brought an energy that made the event feel as much like a festival as a championship.



A Royal Visitor Hits the Ice

The excitement level was turned up a notch when Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh, made a surprise appearance. Now, royalty and curling may go way back, but Prince Edward was aware it would be a challenge to be perfect in front of this massive crowd.

Guided by none other than Scott Andrews, a Scottish curling legend and Olympic silver medallist, the Duke took to the ice with enthusiasm. Andrews gave him a quick tutorial on the finer points of the game, and, to the delight of the crowd, Prince Edward delivered a stone that landed right in the house. A royal shot, indeed!

There were plenty of cheers, some good-natured ribbing, and perhaps even a few thoughts that he might consider a future in curling. While we don't expect to see him in Team GB anytime soon, it was a fun moment that highlighted the accessibility and universal appeal of the sport.

Dame Katherine Grainger Joins the Fun

As if having royalty on the ice wasn't enough, another sporting icon graced the event—Dame Katherine Grainger. As the Chair of UK Sport and Britain's most decorated female Olympian, she knows a thing or two about elite competition.

Dame Katherine spent the day mingling with athletes, getting to know the Scottish Curling team, and immersing herself in the atmosphere of the championships. Her visit underscored the importance of supporting para-sports and ensuring that wheelchair curling continues to thrive in the UK.

Scotland's Silver Lining in the Mixed Doubles

Of course, the main event was always going to be the competition itself, and Scotland had plenty to cheer about. In the Mixed Doubles event, the dynamic duo of Charlotte McKenna and Hugh Nibloe delivered a standout performance, making their way to the final with skill, precision, and maybe just a wee bit of Scottish stubbornness.

Facing off against Japan in the gold medal match, McKenna and Nibloe were up against tough competition. The game didn't quite go Scotland's way, ending with an 11-2 result in Japan's favor, but there was no doubt that the silver medal was a huge achievement.

Nibloe summed it up perfectly, saying that while there was some initial disappointment at not taking gold, the bigger picture was a massive success. To reach the final in a field of world-class competitors was a testament to the strength of Scotland's curling program and the dedication of its athletes.



Looking to the Future

With Scotland having hosted such a successful event, there's no doubt that the nation remains at the forefront of the sport. The experience gained here will be invaluable as teams prepare for the 2026 Paralympics, where Team GB will undoubtedly be aiming for even greater success.

For now, though, there's plenty to celebrate. Whether it was the thrill of watching elite-level curling, the excitement of a royal visitor landing a perfect shot, or the pride of seeing Scotland take home a silver medal, this championship had it all.

And who knows? Maybe the next time we see Prince Edward at a curling rink, he'll be lining up for Team GB (okay, maybe not—but we can dream!).

SCOTLAND WOMEN DO THE NATION PROUD

Team Morrison performed admirably at the World Women's Curling Championships, falling only to eventual champions Canada in the knockout stage,

With some fantastic wins, most notably an opening day success against Canada, the team achieved their ultimate goal - qualification for Milan Cortina 2026.

Thousands of you tuned in from across the globe and shared your messages of support - from all at Scottish Curling, we thank you for the backing.



The men's team are up next, Starting on Saturday in Moose Jaw, Canada.

You can follow every stone with Scottish Curling via our live text, with as well as watching via the Curling Channel and select matches on the BBC. iPlayer.

Come on Scotland!!!

SCOTLAND SCHEDULE



Austria, 2am, Sunday 30th March
Japan, 4pm, Sunday 30th March
Korea, 2am, Monday 31st March
Canada, 9pm, Monday 31st March
Czechia, 2am, Tuesday 1st April
Italy, 9pm, Tuesday 1st April
Switzerland, 4pm, Wednesday 2nd April
Norway, 9pm, Wednesday 2nd April
Sweden, 4pm, Thursday 3rd April
USA, 9pm, Thursday 3rd April
Germany, 4pm, Friday 4th April
China, 2am, Saturday 5th April

EDINBURGH HOSTS ANNUAL CHARITY BONSPIEL

Many thanks to Ian Keron for providing this article.

On Friday 14 February, Edinburgh Curling Club held its annual charity Bonspiel, in support of British Heart Foundation.

Thanks to the kind generosity of clubs and members who sponsored the ice costs, the players who donated in return for participating, and the funds raised from a raffle, ECC raised a total of £1,000 for BHF.

With a novel set of rules for the curling, all the teams had great fun playing and trying to work out who was winning. Once all the games were completed, and scorecards were double checked, Merchiston Curling Club emerged victorious.



8-ENDER AT THE U14 ASHAM SLAM!

A brilliant moment as we had an 8-ender in the U14 Asham Slam! The Team is Norbert van den Brock, Rowan Burgess, Stewart Hamilton and Douglas Brown (s)



TEAM KAY COMPETE IN 2025 ZUGER JUNIORENTURNIER

Many thanks to Kevin Kay for providing this article.

While the Scottish Schools Championships were in full swing in Perth on the weekend of 22-23 February, the juniors from Team Kay headed to Zug, in Switzerland, to compete in the 2025 Zuger Juniorenturnier.

Held every year in this Swiss town, 30 minutes south of Zurich, the Bonsel always starts with a couple of 'Swiss Surprises', much to the girls' amusement. All the lights were turned off for the first end, with a subsequent end requiring a left-handed slide and release.

Thankfully, after this rather unconventional start to the competition, all games returned to normal. The team, consisting of Isla Kay (Edinburgh), Isla Fleming and Erin Auld (Stirling) and Eilish Anderson (Dumfries), settled well into the first game, before conceding 3 points to the boys from Team Zug 1 to finish the game 4-7.

A rather challenging match against Team Zug 3 saw the girls come back from a 3-7 deficit to a gutsy 9-7 win. Next team would be Team Flims, with both teams exhibiting a high standard of play, which ultimately saw Team Kay clinch the game 7-3.

The friendly final game on Sunday morning was with Team Zug Mixed, which finished 5-6 in favour of the hosts, owing to a lucky tap-up with the opponents' last stone of the last end, leading to a measure.

All in all, a great first international experience for these young 13-year old girls from Scotland. A foggy Zug may have kept them from seeing the snow-covered Alpine ranges surrounding Zugsee lake, but they left with great memories and they had lots of fun on and off the ice. Well done all!



MHAIRI MCAUGHTRIE TROPHY

Many thanks to Derek Young for providing this article.

On Sunday 23rd February, Stirling Young Curlers hosted their annual Mhairi McAughtrie Trophy competition in the National Curling Academy at the Peak in Stirling for under 12's. The tournament was started many years ago in memory of Mhairi McAughtrie, a former SYC Coach, who coached this age group. Eight teams from Lockerbie(2), Dundee, Hamilton, Kinross, Perth, Forfar and Stirling all entered teams.

Maggie Mauchline, SYC Head Coach, welcomed the competitors, and family and friends, to the NCA and explained the competition would be a one end round robin, with the winners decided on ends won and shots up (if need be), followed by a team and individual draw shot competition. She wished them good curling and hoped they enjoyed the experience of curling on the same ice as their heroes in British Curling trained on every day.

Dundee and Stirling both remained undefeated over the next couple of ends. When Dundee came up against Forfar in the 6th end they were again lying shot after a couple of lovely shots through a port, but with his last stone, the Forfar skip played a hit on his own stone and rolled just enough to lie shot and hidden. The Dundee skip just failed to get through with her last stone for shot, and Dundee dropped their first end. In contrast, Stirling skip Anika Fleming, played a lovely hit and roll behind a guard when facing 2 against and won the end. So going into the last end, Dundee and Stirling were tied on 5 ends each, with Dundee narrowly ahead by 1 on shots up.

In the last end the teams were on adjoining sheets. Stirling were lying 3 and Dundee lying 2. Stirling skip, with her first stone just clipped a guard, but still managed to roll into the house to lie 4. The Lockerbie 2 skip removed a Stirling stone with his first shot, to leave Stirling only lying 3 again. Meanwhile the Lockerbie 1 skip played a lovely draw, and just failed to get shot by a couple of inches, but was lying against the side of the counting Dundee stone. The Dundee skip decided it was too risky to play the hit on the Lockerbie 2 stone, and decided to guard her shot stone, and settle for a one. Her shot slightly over curled, and left Lockerbie 2 a shot to promote. Stirling Skip, with her final stone, drew a shot to the back of the house against her own stone, to lie 4, but left the Lockerbie 2 skip a draw for 1, to win the end. On the adjacent sheet, Lockerbie 1 skip played a nice stone, looking to tap her own up, but only at the last minute did the sweepers realise it was light and swept it, and just managed to keep it going enough to tap their stone a couple of inches, and pip Dundee by about half an inch. Lockerbie 2 skip with his last stone clipped a guard and left Stirling lying 4 and sealed the win for Stirling.

The Stirling team of Skip Anika Fleming, 3rd Olivia Fraser, 2nd Kristoff Mikola and lead Evie Duggie received the Mhairi McAughtrie Trophy from Jim McAughtrie, husband of the late Mhairi McAughtrie, and Andrew his son, presented the medals to the winners.

A great afternoon's curling was had by all. Thanks to Stirling's ice techs for great ice, and to parents and families for coming to support them. Thanks to Jim and Andrew McAughtrie for coming along again, to present the prizes. It was great to see so many Young Curlers on the ice. Stirling are proud to host this event, and also their under 12's Quadrangle event.

FORTH VALLEY AREA CHAMPIONS CUP

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

On Wednesday 12th March, in the main arena at the Peak Stirling, Kilsyth won the Area's Champions Cup, defeating Dunblane 7 – 3. The Kilsyth team was skipped by Micael Goodfellow, coach to Bruce Mouat, but playing 3rd's stones, and coming out of semi-retirement to make a rare appearance for his mother club. Playing skip stones was Lisa Davie, a member of Fay Henderson Scottish Championship team, and also making a rare appearance for her mother club. Craig Kyle and Liam Armstrong made up the team.

Dunblane won the toss and took their 2 at the first end. Kilsyth replied with a 3 in the second after a Dunblane miss. Dunblane were forced to a single in the 3rd, and the game was tied up. Kilsyth then put the pressure on securing their deuce in the 4th, and capitalising on a mistake by Dunblane in the 5th, stole a 2 for a 7 – 3 lead. Kilsyth then played a hitting game, and Dunblane choose to blank the 6th to keep hammer, rather than take their single. With time ticking it was obvious the 7th would be the final end. Kilsyth continued to hit and ran Dunblane out of stones, and they conceded the game before skips stones. The Dunblane team of Alan Lee, Mike Gellatly, Vic Knox and Lorna Brown had put up a brave fight and were holding their own for 3 ends, but the experience of the Kilsyth top end proved too much for them.





THE WARMEST WELCOME AT SEA

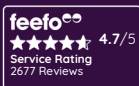
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TEAM COWIE FROM STIRLING WIN ASHAM UNDER 14 SLAM

Many thanks to Emma Lamb for providing this article.

It was very close at the top with Team Skea from Aberdeen tying on points but Team Cowie's two Slam wins to Team Skea's one saw Team Cowie take the victory. In November's Dumfries Slam, Team Cowie started well, winning 2 of their section games, only to be beaten by Team Fleming, also from Stirling, putting Team Cowie into the Low Road playoffs where they comfortably beat Team Brown from Kinross in the Low Road final. In the High Road final Castle Curlers from Edinburgh beat Team Skea. January saw the Slam Series move to Aberdeen, where Team Cowie once again faced Team Fleming in the section games, this time taking the win, as well as winning the 2 other section games to progress to the High Road.

In the semi-final Team Kay from Edinburgh took Team Cowie to an extra end, where Team Cowie prevailed, progressing to the final. In the High Road final Team Cowie faced Hamilton Young Curlers and comfortably won their first Slam of the 2024-25 Series. In February Forfar hosted the next Slam in the Series. Team Cowie won their section with 2 of the games seeing no points from their opponents. In the High Road semi Team Cowie once again faced Team Fleming, winning that game to progress to the final against Skea. Team Cowie controlled the game well taking another Slam win. By this point Team Cowie's lead was unassailable and their Series win was in the bag. Kinross hosted the final Slam of the Series in March.

Team Cowie's section was a tough one, including 3 of the top 4 teams. Team Cowie faced Team Kay in the first game, holding them to a draw. Team Cowie once again faced Team Fleming, losing to the only team to have beaten them in this series. A win in their 3rd game wasn't enough for Team Cowie and they didn't progress to either the High or Low Road. Team Skea went on to win the High Road, pulling level on points with Team Cowie, but their 1 slam win to Team Cowie's 2, saw Team Skea come 2nd in the Series.



ANNUAL CAPITAL SKINS NIGHT AT CURL EDINBURGH

Many thanks to Ian Keron for providing this article.

On Saturday 22 March, the annual Capital League Skins night was held at Curl Edinburgh.

12 teams took to the ice, to play six one-end games, with prizes available for each skin won.

After a couple of hours, it came down to the last shot of the last game, and team Stretton emerged victorious with most skins won.

After the curling we all enjoyed a chicken curry followed by presentation of the prizes.

Niall and Graham Gunn had decided to repurpose the Gunn Goblet as the trophy for this event, and Niall presented the trophy to the winning team.



The evening continued long into the night with lots of fun and chat.

A great way to finish the season, in the true spirit of curling.

Thanks go to Aaron Forsythe for organising the event, sorting out the scores and prizes whilst everyone else was having fun.

Before the event started we had a special presentation for Lurna Nicolson, who has been running the club room bar for 20 years and has her Birthday on 24 March.

Bruce Mouat presented Lurna with flowers, a card and a gift from the ECC and MCL boards.

We wish Bruce and his team all the very best at the Men's World Curling Championships, in Canada (30 March to 6 April).



**GUESS THE
CURLER**

**IT'S
HAMMY MCMILLAN
JR.!**