

YOUR CURLER

Season well
underway!

Milan Cortina
on the horizon

Scottish Juniors
coming soon!



GRAND MATCH APPROACHES!

SEASON 2025/26

Scottish Curling

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WELCOME FROM THE RCCC PRESIDENT, KEITH PRENTICE



Hello everyone,

It's an honour and a privilege to write my first message to you as President of The Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Since taking on the role, it's been fantastic to get out and about, meeting so many of you across the country — from long-established clubs keeping traditions alive to new members discovering our sport for the first time.

The passion, commitment, and sense of community within Scottish curling never fails to inspire me.

Curling is built on people — on the volunteers who give up their evenings to coach juniors, the ice teams who keep our rinks running, and the players who turn up week after week to compete, socialise, and share in the spirit of the game.

That spirit is what makes Scottish curling so special, and it's something we must continue to cherish and nurture together.

As we look ahead, there's much to be excited about — from the continued growth of the sport at grassroots level to our athletes representing Scotland and Great Britain on the world stage.

My aim as President is to support that progress, strengthen our clubs, and ensure that curling remains at the heart of Scottish sporting life for generations to come. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me so warmly, and to all who give so much of their time and energy to the sport we love.

I look forward to seeing many more of you over the coming months — on the ice, at events, and in our communities — as we work together to keep Scottish curling thriving.

Keith Prentice
RCCC President

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO, VINCENT BRYSON



Hello everyone,

As the winter season settles in and rinks across the country come alive once more, it's wonderful to see our curling community back in full swing.

November always marks a turning point — leagues are well underway, new teams are forming, and our athletes are sharpening their focus for the busy months ahead.

This edition of Your Curler celebrates the energy, commitment, and connection that make Scottish Curling special. From club volunteers to international competitors, every stone delivered and every event organised reflects the shared passion that keeps our sport thriving.

You'll find updates on upcoming competitions, highlights from recent successes, and stories that showcase the people driving curling forward at every level.

We also look ahead — to innovation in digital engagement, to growing membership value, and to the excitement of hosting major championships that place Scotland once again on the world stage.

Whether you're sweeping at your local club, coaching juniors, or planning the next big event, thank you for being part of this remarkable community.

Together, we continue to shape the future of curling — proudly Scottish, proudly united, and proudly curling.

Vincent Bryson
CEO

NORTH VS SOUTH - THE 2025 INDOOR GRAND MATCH DRAW IS OUT!

We are delighted to release the draw for the 2025 Indoor Grand Match – [click here](#).

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club's legendary Indoor Grand Match is finally returning after a ten-year break, and the excitement is already building. More than 250 clubs have entered, bringing nearly 1,500 curlers together from across Scotland for what promises to be the biggest indoor curling spectacle in a decade.

The format is simple but fiercely competitive: Scotland is divided into North and South, with each match contributing to a running total of shots scored. In 2015, the last time the event was staged, the South swept to a convincing victory, finishing 2154 to 1928 ahead of the North.

This year's matches will be staged across 12 ice rinks nationwide, making it a true celebration of curling on a national scale. The rivalry between North and South is what makes the Indoor Grand Match so special, but it's about much more than that. Beyond the pride and competition, the event is a celebration of curling itself – the friendships made, the laughter shared, and the joy of playing the sport we all love.

On Saturday 15 November 2025, all eyes will be on the ice as the two sides meet again. Winter is coming, and the question is whether the North will be ready to reclaim glory, or if the South will once again prove too strong and retain the title.

One thing is certain: with thousands of stones to be thrown, countless ends to be played, and bragging rights on the line, the 2025 Indoor Grand Match will be the clash of the decade.

With coverage from the Scottish Curling Digital Team across the full day from all across the country, make sure you're a part of it!

We still have 12 spaces available: 3 in Aberdeen, 1 in Forfar, 1 in Dumfries, 1 in Greenacres, 5 in Inverness, and 1 in Live Active Dewars Centre, Perth. Let's fill all our sheets and make it a full house! [Click here](#) to see what's available and enter your team today.



SCOTLAND TEAMS SELECTED FOR 2025 EUROPEAN CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Team Mouat and Team Morrison will represent Scotland at the European Curling Championships in Lohja, Finland from the 22nd to 29th November 2025.

As noted in the Scottish Curling International Selection Policy, 'The selected Olympic Teams will attend the 2025 European Championships.'.

Scotland is the selected World Curling Member Nation which accrues Olympic qualification points on behalf of Great Britain in both Olympic and Paralympic disciplines.

You can read the full selection policy [here](#).

For more information on the Championships, [click here](#).



REMEMBERING SHEILA WATSON, FORMER RCCC LADIES BRANCH PRESIDENT

We were saddened to learn of the death of Sheila Watson on Sunday 6 September 2025.

Sheila was President of the RCCC Ladies Branch from 1993 to 1994.

Our thoughts are with Sheila's family, friends and brother and sister curlers.



THE STAGE IS SET

Qualification is complete and the line up is confirmed for the Scottish Curling Junior Championships 2025 at Curl Aberdeen!

Boys' Draw: Thomson, Rankin, Halliday, Skea, Carson, Rutherford, Brewster, Mann

Girls' Draw: Laurie, Archibald, Seftor, Ward, Soutar, Trotter, Huntly, Skea

Congratulations to all the teams who will now fight it out for the national title, taking place from the 18th - 22nd November.



**Listen
wherever you
get your
Podcasts!**



VETERANS TRY CURLING

Calling all veterans! Are you looking to try something new?

With Curling being one of the most inclusive sports available, now is your chance to come and try for yourself. Thanks to funding from the Scottish Curling Trust, we are able to provide these sessions free of charge.

Booking is essential as spaces for these sessions are limited.

Edinburgh

Thursday 6th November @ Curl Edinburgh

Session time: 11:45 - 2:15pm

Inclusive Curling (open to all disabilities / wheelchair users)



Stirling

Tuesday 18th November @ The Peak, Stirling

Session time: 6-8pm

Inclusive Curling (open to all disabilities / wheelchair users)



Glasgow

Thursday 20th November @ Greenacres

Session time: 12:30 - 2:30pm

Inclusive Curling (open to all disabilities / wheelchair users)



BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW

PLEASE NOTE - BOOKINGS CLOSE 2 DAYS BEFORE EVENT



Contact: Rhiannon Butterfield
rhiannon@scottishcurling.org
07756 555028

TRYCURLING.COM

REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND, DAVID OWEN

Everyone at Scottish Curling was heartbroken by the passing of David Owen.

David was not only a dedicated and passionate curler, he was a brilliant friend, trusted colleague and a true ambassador for the sport.

At the heart of the broadcast team at Curling Stadium Europe, we owe the coverage of so many of the sport's greatest moments to David and the team.

Everyone who had the opportunity to work alongside him; be it at the Scottish Championships or the World Wheelchair Championships, the Scottish Juniors or the European Championships; remembers David as a font of knowledge, a great support in stressful environments and the perfect companion for a laugh and a cup of tea.



David was always interested in the person behind the role and prioritised a personal relationship before any business chat. He took the time to know those he worked with and genuinely cared about his teammates. David made the curling community a better place and his drive and desire to lift others made him one of the true greats of our sport.

Scottish Curling CEO, Vincent Bryson, said of David: "David and I first met online in January 2023 and it was regarding streaming of Scottish Championships which was done brilliantly. It was mine and Charlene Grahams first championship and it's beyond my comprehension to think of one without David calmly leading the CSE team.'

Before Curling Stadium Europe became the familiar name we all know it, David had shown to me personally how he was one of the true innovators of the sport.'

"Known for his technical knowledge, passion for curling and overall desire for it to become a powerful force in Scottish media, he was also valuable counsel for me to rely upon from virtually that first meeting in 2023.'

"I'll always remember David for being so reliable when things were tough, particularly in the nascent curling streaming world where expectations could be high. He always handled it well and it was always my privilege to share a wry smile with him when he inevitably told me of a problem encountered by the CSE team, but then quickly of the workaround he had developed to fix it.' "As an entrepreneur, leader and dad David always put others first.'

"He will always be in our thoughts."

David was a brilliant dad and partner, and all of our thoughts are with Maggie, his children and wider family at this time.

We will all miss our friend greatly

WELCOME MEKALA MCGOWAN, NEW CENTRAL SCOTLAND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Scottish Curling is delighted to welcome Mekala McGowan as the new Development Manager for Central Scotland.

Our Head of Sport & Communities, Eilidh McCall-Lawrie, said: “We’re delighted to welcome Mekala to the Scottish Curling team. She brings a wealth of experience in sports development from her previous roles at Scottish Hockey and East Lothian Council, and she’ll be a fantastic addition to the team. With Mekala leading the development of off-ice curling, we’re excited to see the impact she’ll make and the opportunities that lie ahead.”

Mekala will be visiting rinks across the central belt in the weeks ahead, so make sure to say hello!



MAZURY CURLING FESTIVAL A HIT!

Scottish coaches Kay Gibb, Simon Grant, Luke Samuels and Victoria Torrance traveled to Gizyzko in the Mazury region of north east Poland recently to take part in the Mazury Curling Festival organised by the PKFC.

The festival comprises of 5 days of coaching from coaches drawn from across the world.

Participants enjoyed two on ice sessions per day covering everything from ‘set up’ to ‘shotmaking’ and everything in between.

Off ice activities included evening lectures covering The Scottish Curling Trust with plenty of other sporting activities such as volleyball, table tennis, football, competitive frisbee and much more available for all to enjoy.

The camp is followed by a three day competition featuring 36 teams run on a shenkle system. Our team of Scots coaches finished a very respectable 8th place.



A NEW AGE OF CURLER IN STRANRAER...

By Jim Ryder

Junior Curlers in the advanced group in Stranraer met Lexi, their new coach for the evening!

Lexi is from Mark Greenop Associates and is an AI Cobot working on the possibilities of coaching on ice, after several minutes getting 'her' paws 'LEXI' was at home on the ice and showing her skills to the juniors. Thanks to Zoe, Coz and Tari for bringing 'LEXI' on to the ice and telling our juniors all about LEXI and the possibilities she has not only for curling but for other sports.



STRANRAER CELEBRATES ITS CHAMPIONS

By Louise Kerr

Curlers from Stranraer Ice Rink who medalled at national and international level last season were honoured at gala evening at the rink recently.

Fellow curlers, family members and friends all gathered at the rink to celebrate a phenomena year for Stranraer players, topped with the men's world championship win for Team Mouat.

Team Mouat, which includes Stranraer's Bobby Lammie and Hammy McMillan, are now preparing to represent Team GB at the Winter Olympics in Italy next February.

The players have dedicated this Olympic journey to the late footballer Charlie Watson and a fundraiser on night saw £1088 go the cancer charity he set up before his death aged 20 in June. All the players were given mementos from both Stranraer Ice Rink Curling Club and Dumfries and Galloway Council



TOM KIRK, 1950-2025

By Ken Laing

An unforgettable curler, organiser and friend to many.

It is with great sadness that we heard the news of the passing of William Thomas “Tommy” Kirk, who died on 22 July 2025 following a short stay in hospital. Tommy was a much-loved and hugely respected figure within the curling world; a player, organiser, mentor, and friend whose loss will be deeply felt across the Dundee and wider Scottish curling communities.

Tommy was born on 26 February 1950 and grew up in Monifieth, where his parents ran the Monifieth Hotel. His early years, spent exploring the outdoors and teaching himself to swim in the chilly waters off Broughty Ferry and Monifieth, instilled in him a lifelong sense of adventure – something that would stay with him both on and off the ice.

Tommy's professional career began in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Dundee, later transitioning into industrial chemistry where he worked for Briggs Refinery and then Nynas until his retirement.



It was during his early working years that he met his beloved wife Val at Kingsway Technical College. The couple recently celebrated their Golden Wedding, surrounded by their two daughters, sons-in-law, and four cherished grandchildren; a family he adored and spoke of often.

He was also a proud member of the Territorial Army, where he rose through the ranks from Captain to Major, all while balancing work, family life, curling, golf, and community service. That he managed all this with grace, humour, and tireless dedication is testament to the man he was.

While golf was his summer passion, it was curling that became one of the defining passions of Tommy's life.

Tommy began curling with the University of Dundee Curling Club in 1976 and was just approaching his 50th season with the club. Over that time, he became a pillar of the local curling scene. Known for his full backswings, and booming take-outs that often sent stones crashing in all directions, Tommy was both a fearsome skip and a fantastic character to share a rink with. His nickname “Captain Kirk” was well-earned, and it was only natural that when he was promoted to Major in the Territorial Army, the name “Major Tom” soon followed. From Star Trek to David Bowie, Tom took it all in good humour and all with his signature cheeky grin.

He was a meticulous organiser and natural leader. As Province Secretary and Scottish Curling Area Representative for many years, Tommy brought order, energy and a remarkable attention to detail to everything he touched. If Tommy was involved, you could be certain that the event would run smoothly – the draw would be fair, the teams legal (woe betide you if they weren't) and the post-game banter in full flow. He was a true stickler for the rules but always in the spirit of fairness and fun.

Tommy's commitment to curling wasn't limited to the indoor season. He took part in numerous outdoor curling events, including the legendary Grand Match at the Lake of Menteith in 1979, and Province Bonspiels at Thripley Loch in 1986 and again in 2010. He was rarely happier than when standing on natural ice in the crisp winter air, broom in hand.

Tommy was always willing to help others. He made new players feel welcome, mentored countless younger curlers, and never lost sight of the joy and camaraderie that makes our sport so special. His kindness extended far beyond the rink. If someone he knew was incapacitated, he was always willing to help with shopping or tackling a spot of gardening, although not his favourite task!

Tommy Kirk was, quite simply, the kind of curler every club hopes for – loyal, hardworking, principled, passionate, full of fun and kindness. Nobody ever wore the RCCC blue blazer with more pride, except perhaps on one occasion when he and his team were unceremoniously escorted from Gleneagles for not wearing "tailored jackets"; an oversight he likely never repeated!

He leaves behind not just a legacy of service and sporting achievement, but a huge Tommy Kirk shaped void in the curling world that will be impossible to fill. He will be missed enormously for his dedication, his wisdom, his humour and above all, his friendship.

Rest easy Tommy; you leave very large curling shoes to fill.

STEP ONTO THE ICE IN A NEW WAY – BECOME A GAME UMPIRE!

Love curling? Take your passion to the next level. Train as a Game Umpire and be part of the action!

There has never been a better time to get involved at the heart of curling. And all the training will be free due to funding from the Scottish Curling Trust. Click [here](#) for more details and email fiona@scottishcurling.org noting your interest

GAIL MUNRO MBE!

By Louise Kerr

Ice Rink manager Gail Munro received her MBE for service to curling from His Royal Highness King Charles III at Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh, last month, watched by her husband John, mother Janet and daughter Robyn.

After the dust had settled on the most memorable of days, Gail said: “Receiving the MBE for services to curling has been an incredible honour, and having it presented by King Charles — who is Patron of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club — made the day even more special. I was deeply proud to have my husband John, my daughter Robyn, and my mum Janet McMillan, by my side.

“It was especially meaningful to me as my late father also held an MBE for services to hospitality and tourism, and I felt his presence with us on the day. I’m truly grateful for the encouragement and support I’ve received from my family, friends, and the wider curling community — it’s been humbling and heartwarming to be recognised in this way.



MOUAT MAKE IT ELEVEN!

Team Mouat sealed their eleventh Grand Slam title with a win at the CO-OP Tour Challenge in Nisku, Canada.

Unplayable all week, they dominated the field and never looked in doubt for the title. The final was streamed live on BBC Iplayer, with more curling from the Grand Slam of Curling coming to televisions in the Olympic year.



KENNEDY SENIOR MIXED CHAMPS (AGAIN!)

After a brilliant weekend of competition at Curl Edinburgh, Team Kennedy took the national Senior Mixed title.

They defeated Team Wilson in the final, in what was a somewhat one sided affair, winning 9-2 after only six ends.

Competition was firece with ten teams battling for the trophy, but the spirit of curling reigned supreme with all participants enjoying themselves greatly in the capital.

Congratulations to them, and brilliant curling from everyone across the weekend!



LOCKERBIE ASHAM U-21 SLAM

By Rae Graham

The Asham U21 Slam 2 took place from October 17-19th, 2025, at Lockerbie Ice Rink, drawing top young curlers from across Scotland. In a closely contested gent's event, Team Thomson took the top spot, securing their first win in this year's U21 series. In the final, Team Thomson defeated Team Brewster 6-5 after an extra end. Brewster led in the early stages however, a score of 3 shots on the 7th end allowed Thomson back into the game. Throughout the competition, they delivered consistent performances. In the semi-finals, they faced Team Rutherford winning 7-3. Meanwhile, Team Brewster defeated Team Mann in their semi-final clash, ending with a 6-4 victory. Earlier in the round-robin phase, Team Thomson was the only gents team to go through undefeated. In the 3rd/4th play off game Team Mann defeated Team Rutherford by 6-2.

The women's draw was equally competitive, with Team Laurie emerging as the winner replicating their win earlier in the season at Greenacres. In the final, they faced Team Archibald coming out on top with a 11-3 scoreline. The game quickly got away from Archibald, as Laurie scored 4 shots over the first two ends and they never looked back. Earlier, Team Laurie had advanced to the final by defeating Team Hamilton by 9-3. Team Archibald, progressed to the final with a 5-4 victory over Team Seftor. In the qualifying games both teams Laurie & Seftor remained undefeated.

The event at Lockerbie was made possible thanks to key sponsors, CM Kirkpatrick, Dryfe Vets Ltd, Henderson & Mackay and McJerrrow & Stevenson providing essential support to allow the event to thrive. Both teams now look forward to continuing their success in the next leg of the series.

After two slam's Team Thomson leads the gents standings with 26 points followed by Team Brewster on 24 points. The ladies series is led by Team Laurie with 32 points followed by team Seftor with 22 points. The next round is at Stranraer on 7-9th November.

Marion Murdoch on behalf of the ice rink management committee and Jim Stewart Scottish curling representative oversaw the presentation of the prizes. Thanks were accorded to the ice, bar and catering staff who all contributed to making the weekend a success. Also the umpires Senga Hair, Lisa Peters & Simon Blyth who assisted chief umpire Jim Stewart throughout the weekend.



ASHAM U-17 OPENS IN PERTH

Thanks to Perth Curling for the report

A full day of competitive curling at Dewars Centre saw the conclusion of the first Asham U17 Slam of the season

In the finals, the High Road and the Danny Fitzsimons shield went to Team Drummie (Hamilton) after a keenly fought contest with team Tiler (Dumfries). Team Asham (Kinross) won the 3/4 playoff.

The Low Road Final was won by Team Bauer (Stirling) who beat Team Ward (Hamilton). Team Kay (Edinburgh) won the 3/4 playoff.

Keep up with all the Asham slams on our social media channels!



U-21S GOT THE SEASON UNDERWAY AT GREENACRES

Congratulations to Team Carson and Team Laurie who took the first U-21 slam of the year at Greenacres Curling!

Fantastic curling too from teams Brewster and Seftor who fell just short in the final. You can read the full report from the latest u-21 slam earlier in this edition of Your Curler.



MASTERS CHAMPIONS DOMINATE GREENACRES

Congratulations to the 2025 Scottish Curling Masters Winners, Team Adams and Team Wilson!

Following the postponement of the event earlier in the year, the tournament was fought out by the same teams once again at the start of October.

The undeniable highlight of the weekend was an incredible 8-ender from Team Adams in their final against Team McFarlane, which had the entire watching crowd in sheer disbelief.

Team Adams (Stranraer) - Kate Adams, Catherine Dodds, Jill Florence, Elspeth Johnston

Team Wilson (Stranraer) - Peter Wilson, Brian Fleming, Billy Johnston, Alex Torrance, Doug Wilson

Congratulations to both teams!



STICK AND STONES AND BROOMS

By Ian Keron

The development group at Curl Edinburgh has been busy over the summer planning for season 25-26.

Two of the three new projects that were developed have already started.

Sticks and Stones

We have established a new league for stick curlers, using the rules of Sturling (www.sturling.net). This is a short version of curling, involving four players, six stones per team, playing six ends in an hour. After a couple of trials, we have established an initial league with 16 players in a four game league to complete before Christmas. The plan is to then establish two separate leagues to grow this version of curling.

Our version has removed the need for any sweeping, and we hope it will encourage people to keep playing, that might otherwise have decided to give up curling.



Smart Broom

We purchased a Smart Broom over the summer and have now developed some session plans for delivering sweeping assessment and coaching to the Sunday Junior club and to groups of adult club curlers.

The data gathered by the brush are push force, pull force and frequency. Data is easy to gather, the fun is then assessing the data and comparing different sweeping techniques, then providing coaching to curlers to improve the effectiveness and impact of their sweeping. We have already had lots of interest from curlers who have seen the broom in action and want to know more about their sweeping abilities.





The Cousin Trophy, Mixed Bonspiel

Dates: 21 & 22 February 2026

Venue: Curl Edinburgh

All teams are guaranteed four games over two days.

The Bonspiel will be run using a modified Schenkel format.

Games will be scheduled to ensure teams can watch all the Olympic Medal games over the weekend.

Entry fee is £400 per team, which includes dinner (for four) on the Saturday evening.

Teams must comprise of two males and two females.

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

Prizes will be awarded to High Road and Low Road winners and runners-up.

To enter your team into the Bonspiel, please contact the organisers at:

admin@edinburghcurlingclub.com

A deposit of £100 is required to secure your place in the event.



macron



WOMEN'S TOUR TO CANADA!

By Christine Hall

In the last year a 24-strong squad of women curlers from all over Scotland have been preparing for a trip of a lifetime. They have been selected to represent Scotland on a tour to Canada. This week the women will set off on their three week tour of British Columbia. They will compete against Canadian opposition across 18 Ice Rinks for the Muriel Fage Trophy.

The history of this friendship tour dates back to 1955 when a group of women from North America first visited Scotland. The competition has taken place every 5 years since then and, 70 years on, these women are honoured to be selected to represent Scotland.

Tour Captain, Maureen Parker said 'What an honour it is to be chosen to embark on this opportunity of a lifetime. Over the last year we have enjoyed getting to know each other and making many important decisions together about our trip. All our planning is now coming to fruition. We are ready for what I think will be an unforgettable experience.'

During the summer when ice rinks are closed the women set themselves a challenge to keep active and raise money for Breast Cancer Now. Their aim was to virtually walk the distance from Glasgow to Vancouver, and back again - a total of 8,730 miles. Earlier this month they completed the miles and so far, have raised over £7,000 for the charity.

To donate, visit [To donate, visit](#)

You can follow our progress via our Facebook page titled (unimaginatively) Scottish Women's Tour to Canada 2025



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