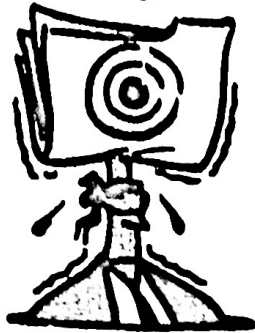


*News from
Inverkeithing Curling
Club*

The Hack

No 27
February 2005



**THE HACK - distributed at the
Lamond and Murray Bonspell.
Special article contributed by
Douglas Lamond -
50 years a curler.**

Pairs

The new format has received more positive feedback. The line up for the semi finals is as follows:

Hughes v Paxton
Tait v Barton

Both are played at Kinross on Friday 18th Feb at 9.45 and 10.45 respectively. Spectators will be welcomed. If you have enjoyed this format - why not write and let the committee know.

League

the final matches

Barton has four point lead with last matches to play. This years Championship will be decided between Phil, in his debut season and Bob Smith. This is familiar territory for Bob, who was in the running to the last match last year.

St. Margaret's League Winner

The St Margaret's League result will finally decided at the last match on Wednesday 9th February when Bill Galloway plays Gavin Hughes.

Gavin will need to win by a clear 7 shots to have a chance of taking the title on shots difference. Bill can lose the match by a small margin and still be the champion. Last weeks matches ruled out Douglas Murray - losing a close tussle with Alistair Low by 8 - 7.

Club Dinner - Friday 25th Feb

If you have not booked your ticket - you are probably too late. As usual we look forward to the array of special guests. John Brown, Chairman of the British Olympic Association, President of the ECA and member of London Curling Club and regular contributor to Scottish Curler is one of our guests.

Bill Rennie, Gordon Moir and Colin Blyth and Alistair McCabe are on the entertainers list

Premier League 2004/2005

Skip	P	W	D	L	f	a	+/-	Pts	Max pts
Barton	7	6	0	1	72	34	38	12	14
Macdonald	7	4	0	2	58	44	14	8	10
Smith	6	4	0	2	49	44	5	8	12
Paxton	7	4	0	3	36	53	-17	8	10
Campbell	6	3	0	3	53	41	12	6	10
Lamond	6	3	0	3	45	43	-2	6	10
Robertson	7	2	0	5	45	51	-6	4	6
Clarke	6	2	0	4	32	54	-22	4	8
Ayres	6	1	0	5	23	49	-26	2	6

SHOTS MIGHT DECIDE THE LEAGUE

The season is hotting up - and the League will not be decided before the final round of matches. The first two league matches of this session were comfortable wins for Tom Clarke and Alistair Lamond. The latter making it very difficult for Paco to retain a challenge for the title, noting the negative shots difference. Stats man confirmed that both matches increased his view that first end wins are crucial and that a lead after four ends leads to a high proportion of wins. The figures keep repeating - so is it worth betting on? Tony's ill health has affected his participation, and means that last years Champ is possibly going to move to the bottom spot.

And now it's between Phil Barton and Bob Smith - with a 35 shot advantage Phil Barton and rink are in a strong position. The fight for second place is also open. Whatever happens - the league will be completed before the Dinner - and the final places will be announced

St Margaret's League - Div One!

	P	W	D	L	f	a	+/-	Pts
Galloway	6	5	0	1	48	31	17	10
Murray	7	4	0	3	51	40	11	8
Hughes	6	4	0	2	44	41	3	8
Taddel	7	4	0	3	51	58	-7	8
Talt	6	3	0	3	45	36	9	6
Tibbert	6	2	0	4	54	46	8	4
Low	7	2	0	5	39	56	-17	4
Blyth	7	2	0	5	37	59	-22	4

National Press Coverage

Did you know that it is estimated that there are over 30,000 people in Scotland who enjoy the sport of curling. An article by a novice reporter on 16th January wrote with enthusiasm about our magnificent sport. He was linking the success to the achievements of our Olympic team. IT could certainly be more popular if the sport achieved more press coverage. The irony of the piece being written from the Forest Hills rink is clear now that reports indicate it will not re-open.

Haggis at Greenacres

The editor returned from the recent competition, with a few gifts.

- 1: a monster haggis – (winning the low road final)*
- 2. a stinking cold – a week off work – the bonus time to start Issue 27.*
- 3: the thrill of playing against Rhona Martin – our only defeat! (and before you ask it was with her brother and two pals – not the girls)*

Curling in Kent

The sport has a home in England, at Tunbridge Wells - and is showing signs of establishing a strong foothold. The editor has heard about two different styles of bonspiel - both designed to get people to know each other.

- A) Four sheets - eight rinks. Play ends on each sheet,*

moving from position to position, to allow a turn at all four. Each person has an individual scorecard - comprising the scores of the ends played, in whatever position.

- B) Target curling - all shots count after the final stone has been laid in on end. 5 for a centre stone, 4 for a full stone in the white. 3 in or touching the inside of the 12 ft circle, 2 touching the 12 ft circle and 1 beyond the hog line. Apparently it helps to play different teams as the strategy can vary a great deal.*

For more variety read the Canadian section in Scottish Curler this month.

Could you see us using one of these formats at one of our even?

SNIPPETS

A story has been circulating - that causes some alarm. New curlers have been trying to use contacts within the club to acquire business contacts and unspecified favours - It is an unwritten rule that you have to be a member for at least three years. So think on Gary! Love Billy B

I'Anson – apologies for missing Alistair Low from the list of participants in the curling weekend at Stranraer in late November. Club members are invited to enter teams for this great event. (See Phil Barton)

Eric the stonel

Eric had quite a fall at Perth. Billy was so eager he carried on sweeping – and nearly got Eric counting for third shot!

Eric the phonel

Have you ever known a man be in such close contact to his phone – it's a wonder it did not suffer in the above incident.

Speaking of falls – there seems to have been a few recently. John Tibbert fell at Lockerbie and at Perth. Phil Barton fell at Perth – something to do with Ian Robertson sending a stone against his feet – when he was not watching. Certainly a reminder if you have fallen that curling can hurt!

Advertisement

Paco recommends Perfect Pets having admired Douglas' latest cut. Call on 411664. Good prices.

TALKING POINT

How many members are bothered by the fact that some members

receive very cheap curling? The Editor has heard quite a few members express thoughts about using this as a potential to raise extra cash – for a variety of causes, or purposes (Club bus fund, drinks at the dinner, national charity, etc)

Affiliated members

The end of the first season – has it been a successful venture? Is it the way to encourage new members or not? Dave Drysdale is moving into full membership at the dinner. Like any club we need to keep building our numbers.

Challenge Match v Dalgety Bay

The Club was proudly represented by Ian Robertson and John Taddie on 27th Jan. Robbo's club rink excelled with a 13 – 2 win (will they sustain this into the last two league matches?) John T was supported by Paco at third (and sorry not other info) to take a 6 – 5 win. Always great to beat local opposition.

Overheard at Lockerbie – 'I'm not totally against women in Inverkeithing Curling Club – it would be one way to make up the numbers – Peter Ritchie

HAPPY CURLING !!

Pairs

Some controversy as the semi final line up was decided after two rinks were unable to appear in the final round of matches. This understandably leaves the rinks who might have qualified feeling a bit sore.

Also worth considering a suggestion that next season we play 2 matches on one night – so reducing the number of outings, and the 'pain' of a 10.45 match on a Friday evening.



FIFTY YEARS ON

Douglas Lamond has made a fine contribution to this issue - marking his fiftieth year as a curler - by recalling a few of the characters of the club, when he started his curling careers. It is a splendid collection of cameos.

Donald Clark - Quarrymaster in Inverkeithing and Stirling, Resident Struan Place. In my view the finest and most humorous speaker we have ever produced. His stories of life as a boy and youth in Ballachullish were gems. Was a powerful man. A great exponent of the take out shot. He didn't care whose shot he took out and often took them all out!

Willie Hay - Respected Plumber in Inverkeithing, never known to give an estimate! A gentle man - A shot from one of his team, off the brush and far too strong would always meet with praise "Well done Laddie". A keen curler and often to be seen curling with his wife and others at Otterston Loch.

Jimmy Morris - A builder in Inverkeithing and not quite so gentle as Willie Hay! A stickler for good sweeping from his team. Even the most vigorous sweeper would be told "Out the way laddie and I'll show you how to sweep". An enthusiastic and well liked curler - Father of young Jimmy Morris who was a keen member of Keith & Inverkeithing Curling Clubs.

Jock McLeod - A Dairyman in Inverkeithing. Proud father of you know who! Was delighted when Ian joined the club, and his love and enthusiasm for curling, has been passed on to his son. His unusual shape made it difficult for him to bend but he could still deliver the stone with gusto. A generous skip liked by all of us.

John Maclachlan - Tiler & Builder in Inverkeithing & Dunfermline. Undoubtedly the best Inverkeithing Curler of his time and possibly of all time. Winner, as a member of a mixed Inverkeithing & Dunfermline Rink, of the British Curling Championship. A loyal member and for many years secretary of our club. One would have to say his son Alan, known to all of us, followed in his father's footsteps as a loyal member and long-standing secretary of the club.

Charles Lamond - Founder of Lamond & Murray Engineers and an enthusiastic skip. Like all previously mentioned, was proud to be a member of Inverkeithing Curling Club, encouraged me to join and would have been delighted to know that his grandson Alastair has become a skip and a President of the Club.

Jimmy Muir - Cobbler of repute. Shoes to be mended were kept in a great heap in the back shop but he was always able to produce your shoes from somewhere in the pile. To my knowledge was never a skip but always enthusiastic and much liked. The day before I was married I went to him for a new pair of shoes. "I've got them here" Jimmy said, "I've been expecting you". His son Harry became a member, and of course, his son in law Tommy Hutchinson, secretary of the club for many years is our esteemed Honorary Vice President.

John Maclaren - Honorary President, an Inverkeithing curler over 50 years ago, but known to many of us. As a skip he didn't like his team to try too hard to him in case it upset the opposition. After an absence of a few years due to back trouble he became a much sought after lead. A great speaker and raconteur no dinner was complete without a contribution from John.

Advertisement

(Brown/HACK publications)

Have you ever thought we should have a club calendar – so you cannot miss displaying the crucial dates in your life – including the matches with your pals!

Two versions are proposed – we would like your responses to gauge if either would be a 'commercial' viability.

The first would be to select twelve of Billy's cartoons – and head up each month. (Alternatively we could put them together in a book for curlers)

The second version is less serious but could be just as much fun.

In keeping with the current tradition of nude calendars we mused over the potential in the club.

A few examples could be:

January: John Leitch – a great start – as things can only improve!

April – Gary M – he's no fool

May – Henry Murray – it's his quiet spell – he would not want to miss any matches.

August: Typically the month of holidays – so Ian Knust is the man.

November: Allstair Low. Last chance to see him before the turkeys.

December: Peter McLoed. Sorely missed – and it's the month for Santa.

WOULD YOU BUY ONE?

Scottish Seniors

Best wishes to Bob Smith who plays in the Scottish Seniors Play downs from 11th February - so that means they miss the Bonspiel. Bob plays second in Dave Young's rink, qualifying for Greenacres from Elgin.

The winners will represent Scotland at the World Seniors in Canada next year.

Paco had a chance to play - but was not able to take the time off work. Hope you get a chance next year Ian.

(This year the World Seniors are also held at Greenacres in March)

Another observation from Lockerbie.

Two stones have been sponsored by Liz Smith (is it our Presidents better half?)

Dear Match Secretary

JohnT left his car in the Park n Ride at Inverkeithing last week – when curling at Kirkcaldy. It is reported he got locked in afterwards! He had a bad day because he turned up on the ice wearing his outdoor shoes. The third problem of the night was ordering a Chinese meal – without realizing there was no sit down tables – so it was a mad dash back to Billy B's to get some cutlery.

Time keeping on the ice

How often do you get frustrated at playing only seven ends – bet you are thinking it is the other team, or the skip? A useful article in Scottish Curler (January 2005) highlighted this point, and in the interest of improving the amount of playing time the ideas are shared here.

1. Be ready to start play at the time allotted – how many times are players still in the bar!
2. When an end is complete let the lead be ready to play his stone – teammates can order the other stones.
3. If you use a slider – have it ready when you need it!
4. Skips be ready to play – take as much time as required to select a shot – but don't let the team fall asleep.
5. Committees are time consuming

Province

It is all over - a fine effort by the Club. Phil Barton peeled the match v R&A ladies. In fact he missed an open stone with last shot to claim a 2 for 6 -4. and Ian Macdonald 8 - 10 v the Bank of Scotland. So not quite this year - but must give confidence for next year.

Well done to all members who participated and supported the club.

Ten quotes heard on the ice by Billy (waznae me' Brown

1. He's so indecisive – he has a four year old son he hasn't named yet.
2. He has no respect for age – unless it's bottled
3. He must love antiques, going by the dates on his trophies.
4. He loves nature, despite what it's done for him.
5. Times a great healer, but he would be better going for plastic surgery.
6. He must be worth a small fortune. Gold in his teeth, silver in his hair, but look's like he could lose a few pounds.
7. He's about 39 years old, I've counted the rings under his eyes.
8. He must be an archeologist. I don't know where he digs up his game plan from, but it always ends up in ruins.
9. We used to like him, but we've got over that.
10. His mind is always wandering before a game, but not as much as his feet during a game!

Presidents Cup.

President Bob Smith was invited to take a rink down to Lockerbie on 20th January to participate in Preston Curling Club's annual President Cup.

By the time the day arrived it had changed to become a Challenge match Preston v Inverkeithing. The lads from Fife won convincingly, over four excellent matches. Another new development for our club this year - a second international event!

True stories (by broken spell checker)

As you know all know many of our curlers have been playing far and wide in the grand match. This season, one of our younger curlers, Robert Smith, the younger one (not to be confused with the older one - 'cos they both eat rusks for different reasons)

Anyway our Robert, whilst hanging about after the game, bumped into the famous Lulu. *'Oh my goodness'* exclaimed Robert. *'I'm your number one fan. I've had a total crush on you for as long as I can remember.'*

He was totally enchanted when

she pulled him forwards and planted a kiss on his cheek.

'Could I buy you a drink?'

Robert asked. *'Yes, why not?'*

Lulu replied.

As they walked through to the bar, Robert noticed her sweet scented hair was as soft and shiny as had dreamed, and her eyes shone like diamonds. (oops getting carried away)

She was about the same height as Robert and as she turned to face him at the bar, he fell in love with her instantly.

A drink he ventured. *'Port or sherry?'*

'Oh sherry by all means' the wee angel replied. *'Sherry to me is the nectar of gods. Just looking at it gives me the anticipation of a heavenly thrill and when I experience the smell, I am lifted on the wings of joy, but when I taste it, my entire body glows and I am carried away to another world. Anyway she continued .. Port makes me fart!!'*

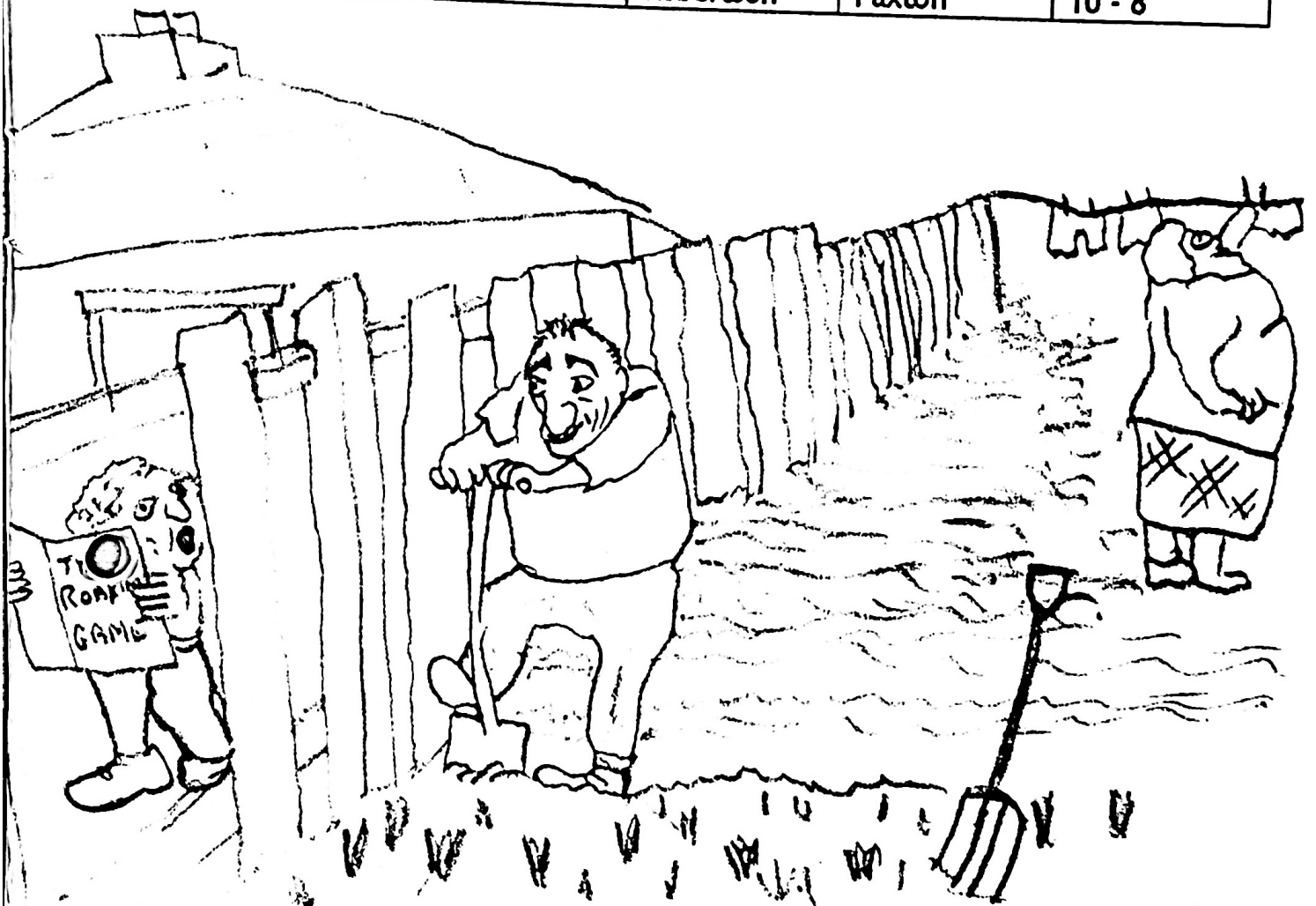
Courtesy of BB

Green League

Three matches to play - so far won three out of four. Matches v Forret, Dollar and Kinross Ladies.

RESULTS TO DATE (some of them)

Comp	Venue	Rink A	Rink B	Score
League	Perth	Lamond	Paxton	11 - 4
League	Perth	Ayres	Clarke	4 - 10
Province	Kirkcaldy	Barton	R & A	5 - 5
League	Murrayfield	Lamond	Ayres	8 - 2
Green	Kinross	Clarke	Dunf ladies	13 - 2
League	Perth	Robertson	Barton	5 - 6
League	Perth	Smith	Campbell	12 - 9
Challenge	Kinross	Taddei	Dalgety Bay	6 - 5
Challenge	Kinross	Robertson	Dalgety Bay	13 - 2
Province	Kirkcaldy	Macdonald	BoS	8 - 10
League	Murrayfield	Macdonald	Robertson	3 - 13
W Griffiths	Kirkcaldy		Perth District	See report
SML	Kirkcaldy	Murray	Low	6 - 7
SML	Kinross	Blyth	Tibbert	8 - 6
League	Perth	Macdonald	Barton	5 - 10
League	Perth	Robertson	Paxton	10 - 8



PSSTT!

JUST TELL HER YE'R
CURLIN' AT 5.45!

Millennium Match

Saturday 8th January '05

The overall result was a victory for the South 2639 against the North's 2476

@Stranraer v Loch Connell
Pete Campbell Alistair Low
Jim Millar Ian Meldrum - not enough time to fight back from a six against at the first end. LOST 4 - 13

@Hamilton v Beechnuts
Iain Robertson Douglas Murray
Andy Johnson Dave Chadwick - still no victory to report. LOST 8 - 10

@Braehead v Belmont Ladies
Tom Clarke Bill Galloway Billy Brown Robert Smith - the lads got a click! A nice email from the ladies wishing a safe journey home (and they think Bill G has great gyrations!) - hoping to play against you again in five years. Reply to patpaul@beeb.net. Oh and a victory to boot - WON 10 - 7

@ Murrayfield v Penicuik
Bob Smith, Ian Macdonald, Bob Tait and John Tibbert were also invited to attend the event at Murrayfield - the national centre for the event. They did not win - but attracted lots of attention. LOST 6 - 7
We hear that if it was not for Bill G, Ian MacD would still be taking 2 steps forward and three steps back up Hill Road.

Waldie Griffiths

Perth and Kinross won the match v Fife on 3/2/5 at Kirkcaldy. The final score was 42 - 41. Bill Galloway was in a generous mood and claimed a one at the last end - when all admit it was two - guess the difference this made!! FINE HIM!!

C&WF

Still two matches to go - 4 point lead will be taken into the two matches in March. Ian Macdonald v Aberdour on the 2nd and Phil Barton v Glenrothes on the 7th. Our Match sec reports that Glenrothes are probably the only rink that can catch us - so no pressure then!!!

CONTRIBUTIONS

Next Issue

Will be in February -

hopefully before the Dinner.

Members who wish to contribute to THE HACK can contact the Editor (see below) or hand in items to Bob Smith at his office.

Tel the Editor on 01383 860125

(h) or 01383 860314 (wk)

017786525123 (mob) or email at

pb@starleyhallschool.co.uk

Please send in your contributions as soon as you can - do not delay - seize the moment!

Congratulations to Lamond and Murray

The photos reveal that the grand opening of their new extension was very successful. Our Chancellor - Gordon Brown looked relaxed and his tie was quite tidy. Apparently he had no time for a game of snap with Tom and Alastair (see last issue) - because the numbers were too complicated.

Sponsorship

Postage etc by Eddie Forsyth -
thanks Eddie - hope we can see you
more on the ice next season.