

News from
Inverkeithing Curling
Club

The Hack

No 26
January 2005



THE HACK wishes all our readers a very happy 2005, and hope you have had a peaceful Christmas. It is something of a blow to think that the season is almost past the mid point, so we also hope this edition will cheer you up.

The issue has been delayed a few days to ensure we could distribute in the first week after the mid season break - 20 rinks out in the first seven days from the 3rd!!

Best wishes to a number of Club members who have not been on very well.

Ian Mcleod, Mike Stibbards and Tony Ayres, who has recently been in hospital. Hope you can have some turkey and chocolates in the New Year

C&WF

Two matches to go - 4 point lead Anticipation is growing - the Club might pull off a Championship Victory. We have won 5 matches out of 6 (including the fantastic 15 - 1 win against Dunfermline. Ian Macdonald plays Aberdour on 2nd March and Phil Barton is up against Glenrothes on 7th March.

League positions as of 23rd Dec
1st Inverkeithing 10 points + 22sh
2nd Glenrothes 6 points
3rd Dunfermline 6 points
4th R&A 6 points
5th Forret 5 points
6th Aberdour 4 points
7th KIR 4 points
8th R&A Ladies 1 point
9th Falkland 0 points

Province

We are sitting second in the Province with 2 matches to play, including the top team - Bank of Scotland on 27th Jan (Ian Macdonald). Phil Barton leads the rink against the bottom club, R&A on 5th Jan.

This is a strong position to be in - certainly compared to some years. No doubt that this reflects the positive selection process adopted by the President and match secretariat.

Province League Table

BOS 10 points Inverkeithing 8 KIR 8
Dunfermline 7 Tulliallan 7 R&A ladies
6 Boreland 6 Dalgety Bay 4 Aberdour

League Tables for Season 2004/2005

Premier League

| Skip | P | W | D | L | f | a | +/- | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Barton | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 56 | 24 | 32 | 8 |
| Macdonald | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 48 | 21 | 27 | 8 |
| Paxton | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 32 | -8 | 8 |
| Campbell | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 44 | 29 | 15 | 6 |
| Smith | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 37 | 35 | 2 | 6 |
| Lamond | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 26 | 37 | -11 | 2 |
| Ayres | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 17 | 31 | -14 | 2 |
| Clarke | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 22 | 50 | -28 | 2 |
| Robertson | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 17 | 32 | -15 | 0 |

SHOTS MIGHT DECIDE THE LEAGUE

Over half way through the season - last 30 matches to play and the League title is still wide open - five rinks have a realistic chance of taking the title. Until the last three matches these five rinks all had 6 points each after 4 matches. Wins for Barton and Paxton pushed Smith and Campbell into 5th and 4th place. Ian Macdonald had a comfortable win against the absent Tony (get well soon). Our reporter at the match was impressed by Colin Campbell's performance, acting skip - otherwise the defeat would have been bigger - threatening PB's place at the top.

The 14 - 1 victory by Phil Barton v Paco could be a noteworthy result. Crucial matches remain for the top three with Ian Macdonald playing both Paco and Phil B. It is also all to play for at the bottom of the table. Ian Robertson could have a massive influence on the league - with three out of four matches against the top three. *He needs to pick up a few points to avoid another 'will the President get a reprieve at the AGM' situation!*

Alistair has two matches in January and could move into a safe position, affecting Paco's place - two times winner in 2002 and 2003 before taking a year out.

HISTORY OF THE HACK

It might be worth looking at some facts about the Clubs unofficial mag. It first appeared in Aug 1995 and has now produced Issue no 26. In season 1995/96 there were five issues.

1996/97 - two issues in mid season.

1997/98 - Four issues including a successful pre season issue in July.

1998/99 - Three issues before Christmas

1999/00 - Four issues, the first nearly a year after issue 14 which also saw the introduction of cartoons by Billy Brown.

2000/01 - Only two, once again in mid season.

2001/02 - Two before October, after going tabloid! (to A5) before a blank period

2002/03 - Zero issues

2003/04 - An issue at the end of the season - over two and half years gap.

2004/05 - to date the third issue - so perhaps we are back on track.



ALASTAIR AND TOM RELAXING

BEFORE THE GRAND OPENING

{ PUT'S NEW MEANING TO THE PHRASE }
PLAYING WITH YOUR NUTS

Green League

The matches on 19th Jan and 16th March are in the programme as starting at 7.45 - in fact they start at 5.45. Please make a note of this.

Four matches remain against:
Dunfermline Ladies

Forret

Dollar

Kinross Ladies.

The Club have made a steady start in the league - the loss (for late arrival) was unfortunate leading to a 0 - 6 defeat. Our shots balance is currently 14 - 14. with 4 points out of 6.

SNIPPETS

Bill Galloway lost his curling shoes at Kinross - but found them the next time he was curling at the rink. He is almost tempted to start a trend in recycling curling equipment. He has noted that if you need a kipper - there is a large boxful at Murrayfield!

Debbie Knox - who we often see curling at Kinross has been included in the initial squad of 10 for selection for the next Olympic team. Hope she gets in the team to repeat her great success in Salt Lake.

RCCC

Bob Tait attended the egm at the end of November. The plan proposed by the Committee was not supported by a sufficient majority. It leaves Colin Grahamslow the new Chief Exec leading the committee into planning how to make the developments appeal to more members. The proposal seemed to limit the impact of ordinary members. Area 7 reps were very concerned about the plans. The Council will reduce in size from 26 to a board of 11. The AGM in July will be asked to consider a revised proposal.

* Dave MacNiven surprised the company at Kirkcaldy - he declined a drink rather than be subject to taking a pocket full of coins in change from a £20 note.



HE'S AWAY WITHOUT HIS BRUSH, SO I'LL JUST GIE THE SLAB'S A QUICK WASH

True Stories (!)

The barmaid at the Hat and Rat was washing the glasses for once, when blow me in walked Alistair Low, and he asked for a double whisky. Big Al enquired if the man in the corner was Jesus. The barmaid nodded - so Al said give him a double as well, 'I've had good year with the turkeys.'

The next curler (ho ho) to come into the bar was the famous JR Wilson. He shuffled over to the bar riddled with pain., and ordered a pint of Buckfast. Sorry said the barmaid - in Inverkeithing we only sell it in half pints. 'That'll do nicely' said JR. He continued 'My goodness that guy sitting near Al looks rather like Jesus. 'It's the very man' the Barmaid replied.

'Well give him a glass of magic wine as well mine host'.

The third dodgy customer to enter the bar was none other than Gary Miller (new curler) spluttering and choking (what with the fags and pigeon feathers). 'Awright boyz - gonna gie us a point o lager doll. Hey is that yur God's boy over there? The barmaid nodded. 'Better gie um wan tae' Gary retorted (as only he could).

After a while Jesus finished his drinks. The son of God rose up to go, but first he stepped over to Alistair and touched him, saying thanks you for his kindness and humanity to little creatures. 'You are healed'. Al jumped up and did cartwheels around the pub.

Next Jesus turned to JR and

touching him said, 'JR for your love and kindness to all my feathered friends - like Alistair you are healed'. With that JR felt the strength come back into his body and he felt great.

Next Jesus turned his attention to Gary. As he approached Gary cried out 'Don't ***** touch me Pal, I'm oan disability allowance!'

Courtesy of BB

Stats Man

Analysis of matches in the main league

Games played - 20

Highest shots scored - 15 - Campbell and Macdonald.

Highest difference - + 13 - Barton

Lowest shots scored - 1 - Paxton

No matches peeled

75% of games are won by the team scoring first end (15/20)

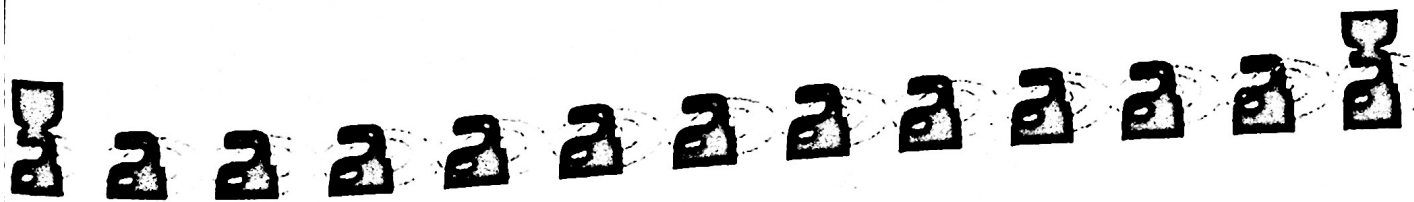
80% of games are won by teams leading after four ends (16/20)

The above stats make you realise that starting well is crucial - and the initial toss of the coin is significant.

Challenge Matches

Two memorable victories this season v Dunfermline and Broomhall. The former was our first in over 11 years - so worth savoring.

(Do we have any members who have comments or stories to tell about both matches?)



Back from Philadelphia -.. and what an experience!!!
(International curling for Inverkeithing?)

As foreshadowed in the last HACK, The Royal Burgh Curlers 1159 participated in the 27th Annual Harvest Bonspiel at Philadelphia in November. The playing travelers were Bob and Liz Smith, Jim and Maureen Aitken, John Leitch, David Chadwick and Bob Tait. Anne Chadwick was the non playing cheer leader. Tony and Anne Ayres were late withdrawals due to Tony's ill health. Jim Aitken produced a leaflet describing the history of Inverkeithing, the granting of the Royal Burgh Arms in 1159 and its famous sons. This was very well received. Copies are available from Jim.

Eighteen teams took part in the bonspiel. Some of the names roll so sweetly off the tongue - New York Caledonians, Potomac (Washington) III, Utica II, Sarnia, Nigradelphia and others. We had some members in three teams, creatively named Royals 1, 2 & 3. We nearly choked on our drinks as the opposition warmed up with stretching exercises in the bare area, and gracefully slid from the hack down the ice with and without stones. The standard was high and each of our teams did well to win 1 of our 3 or 4 matches.

Off the ice we made our mark. Our drinks bill was such that the new roof on the Clubhouse is to be named after us! We also presented Philadelphia with a Quaich and when we left it had pride of place in the trophy cabinet. Bob Smith did the honours and showed them how to use it. All of the winners had a drink from it, followed by the rest of the company.

How we envied the Philadelphia Curling Club for its facilities. They have their own clubhouse with two sheets of ice, a very comfortable lounge overlooking the ice and adjacent to a well stocked bar serving the most generous measures of whatever you fancy. The kitchen served up a constant flow of excellent food. All of this maintained and run by club members.

Our hosts could not have been friendlier. We immediately felt completely at home. We can never fully repay the hospitality we were so privileged to receive, but we will try. Hopefully we will get the ice at Kinross for a weekend early in 2006 and organise a return bonspiel. More news of this as arrangements fall into place. In the meantime we can but bask in the glow of a tremendous three days and look forward to the next time.

John Leitch ended up playing in his kilt in the Saturday - he was in such a rush in the morning he forgot his trousers! He has come to the opinion that wearing a kilt would be great for new curlers - as it improves your sliding technique. You dare not drop onto the ice with your trailing leg because that means a certain part of your anatomy shrinks into your stomach or else leave a deep furrow in the ice!! (John knows because he is a dentist)

Happily we can report that Richard and Julie (Chadwick) had a baby girl, Ellie Morgan, on November 22nd.

Hopefully we'll have more stories for the next edition.
PS Did the Philadelphia Club like the HACK?

Bob on the ice - what style!!



d!



Presidents Cup.

President Bob Smith has been invited to take a rink down to Lockerbie on 20th January to participate in Preston Curling Club's annual President Cup. This is another first for the Cub, and could lead to more events. Preston take ice at Lockerbie, it's nearest rink. The ice is usually very keen and true. The bacon rolls in the café are also magnificent.

Reports in the next edition of THE HACK

POINTS

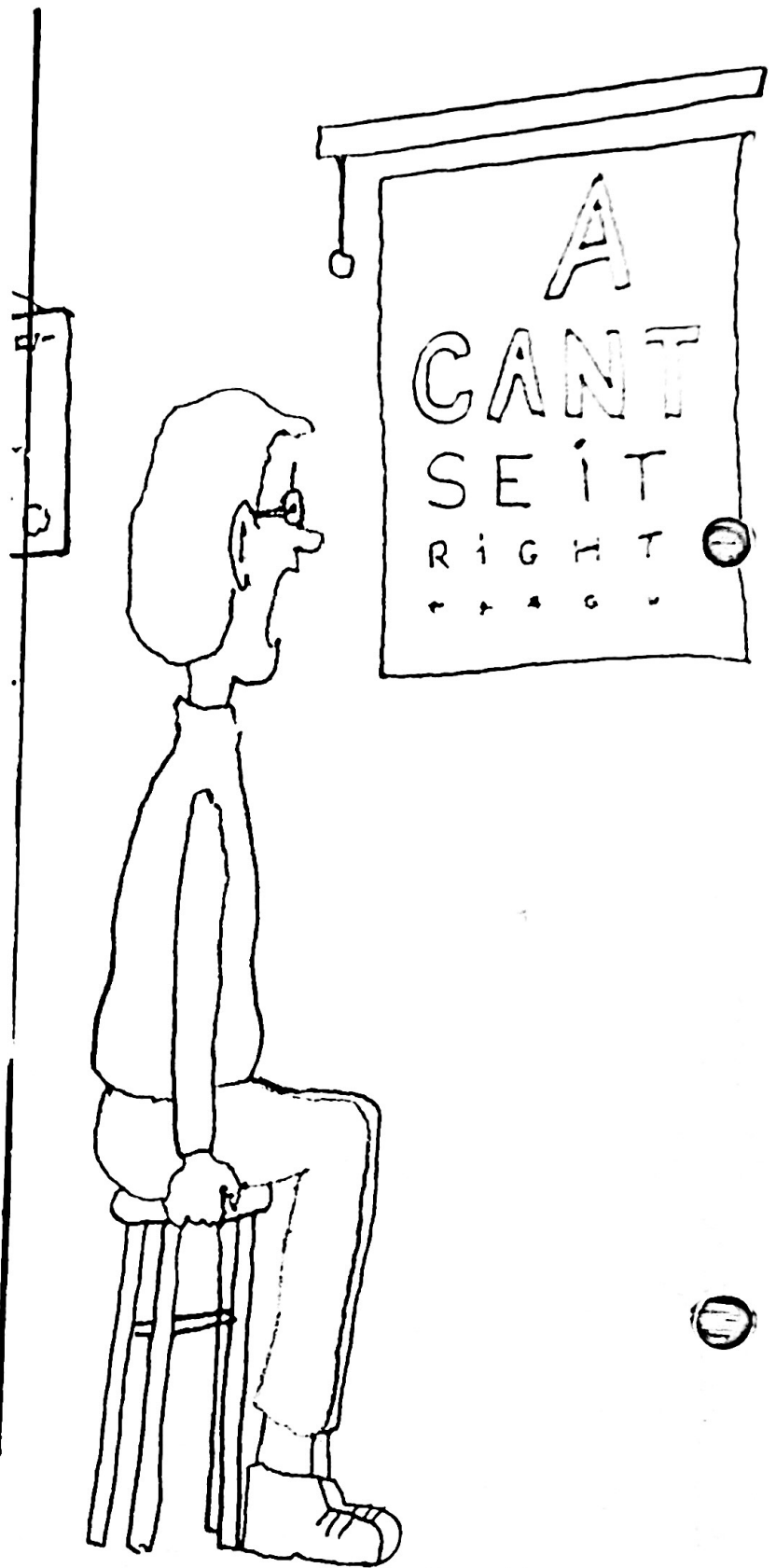
The annual event was poorly attended this year - which is a real disappointment to the committee. Only nine members started the event - two left early - and one arrive late.

The ice was typical Kirkcaldy ice (nuff said). The new broom was won by Phil Barton, closely followed by Bill Galloway and then Bob Tait.

Ian Macdonald, Colin Campbell and Bob Smith had quick changes so they could attend the Aberdour dinner.

It has to be said that the bonus of lower numbers meant that we completed nine disciplines. Bob Tait and Ian Macdonald were best at drawing the port (no.9) and Phil Barton was chipping more winners (no.8).

The earlier start times was cited by a number of members as a reason for not being able to attend. Alistair, Tom and Douglas had an appointment with the Chancellor (Congratulations on the official



I DON'T NEED NEW
GLASSES, I JUST LIKE
MEASURING THE STONES
EVERY END.



WARNING!

THESE ARE THE KIND OF
SCENES WE COULD SEE IN
THE CHANGING ROOMS.
IF WE LET WOMEN INTO
"THE CLUB!!"



I'LL IAN ROBERTSON YEA!!

I'Anson (bigger than the FA Cup)*

Six club members enjoyed a great event in Stranraer at the end of November. The annual event organized by Preston Curling Club, and the First English Province is held at the North West Castle Hotel, part of the McMillan family chain. John Tibbert led one rink with Billy Brown, and Phil Barton curled with Gavin Hughes and Colin Campbell.

Both rinks made it to the last morning, but were out side the prizes. All have stated that they hope to attend next year - making it an annual event. Preston Curling Club would welcome applications for the competition form other clubs and rinks. See Phil B for more details, or simply ask one of the others for opinions.

* The trophy not the event!

RESULTS TO DATE (most of them)

| Comp | Venue | Rink A | Rink B | Score |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| SML | Kinross | Taddei | Tibbert | 4 - 12 |
| SML | Kirkcaldy | Hughes | Murray | 5 - 7 |
| Province | Kirkcaldy | Barton | Aberdour | 10 - 5 |
| SML | Murrayfield | Galloway | Low | 6 - 2 |
| SML | Murrayfield | Blyth | Tait | 3 - 11 |
| SML | Kinross | Hughes | Tibbert | 15 - 9 |
| Province | Kirkcaldy | Smith | Dalgety Bay | 6 - 9 |
| F&K bons | Perth | Barton | Perth | 9 - 3 |
| SML | Kinross | Taddei | Low | 12 - 8 |
| SML | Kirkcaldy | Galloway | Tait | 9 - 8 |
| SML | Kinross | Blyth | Murray | 11 - 9 |
| C&WF | Kirkcaldy | Macdonald | Falkland | 9 - 8 |
| SML | Kinross | Galloway | Murray | 3 - 6 |
| Green | Kinross | | Foss' ladies | LOSS |
| League | Kirkcaldy | Clarke | Robertson | 6 - 4 |
| League | Kinross | Campbell | Barton | 10 - 5 |
| League | Kinross | Paxton | Macdonald | 7 - 5 |
| League | Kinross | Smith | Clarke | 7 - 5 |
| SML | Kinross | Blyth | Low | 3 - 10 |
| Province | Kirkcaldy | Ayres | K.I.R | 10 - 4 |
| SML | Murrayfield | Hughes | Low | 8 - 5 |
| SML | Murrayfield | Galloway | Tibbert | 10 - 8 |
| SML | Kinross | Tait | Taddei | 7 - 8 |
| Challenge | Kinross | | Broomhall | VICTORY |
| League | Murrayfield | Barton | Paxton | 14 - 1 |
| League | Murrayfield | Lamond | Campbell | 4 - 11 |
| SML | Kinross | Hughes | Tait | 7 - 4 |
| Province | Kirkcaldy | Smith | Boreland | 9 - 6 |
| SML | Kirkcaldy | Taddei | Murray | 3 - 12 |
| Green | Kinross | Barton | Glenfarg | 9 - 5 |
| League | Kirkcaldy | Smith | Barton | 7 - 14 |
| League | Kirkcaldy | Campbell | Paxton | 5 - 6 |
| League | Kinross | Ayres | Macdonald | 2 - 9 |
| Green | Kinross | Barton | Glenfarg | 9 - 5 |

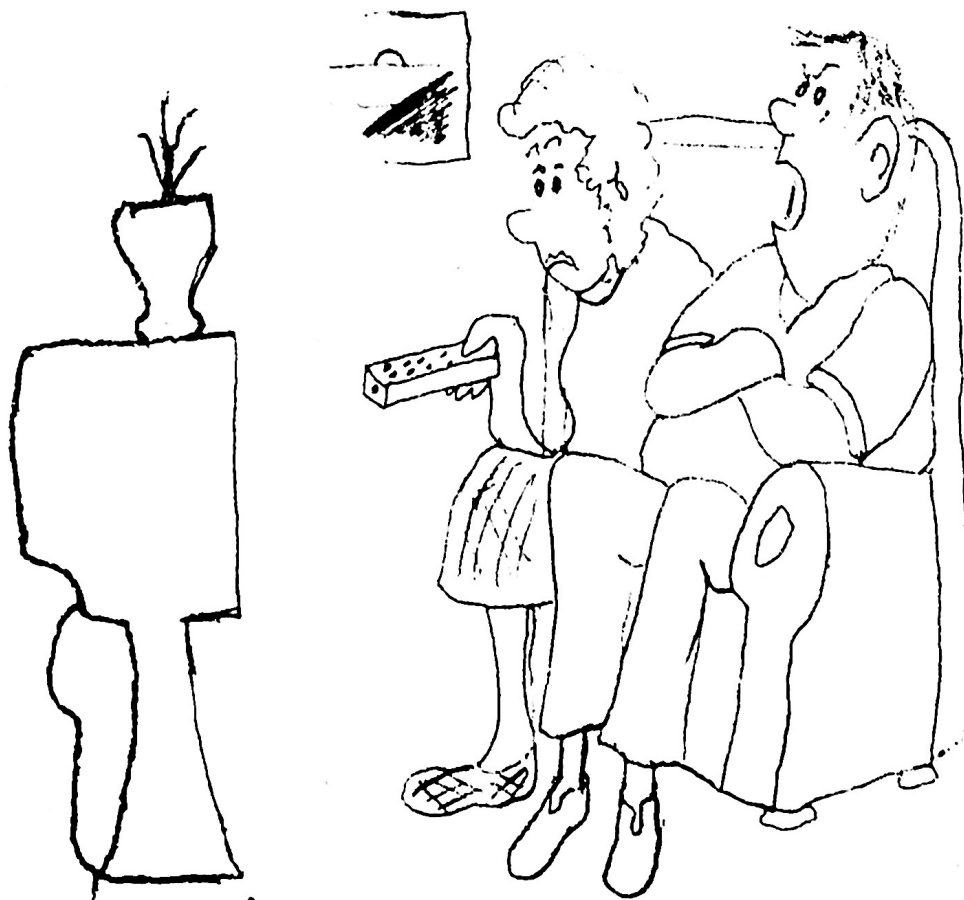
Pairs results etc in next edition. The new format appears to have been well received by the players – certainly very different when you only have four ends. A new balance of careful and forceful styles.

St Margaret's League - Div One!

| | P | W | D | L | f | a | +/- | Pts |
|----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|
| Murray | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 34 | 22 | 12 | 6 |
| Hughes | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 35 | 25 | 10 | 6 |
| Galloway | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 24 | 4 | 6 |
| Taddel | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 27 | 39 | -12 | 4 |
| Tait | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 30 | 27 | 3 | 2 |
| Tibbert | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 29 | 29 | 0 | 2 |
| Low | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 25 | 29 | -4 | 2 |
| Blyth | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 30 | -13 | 2 |

A tighter competition than first looks might suggest. 3 rinks can finish on 12 points, however a further 3 can also take 10 points (depending on results to follow). The HACK pundit has been quite successful in tips to date, with no 1 & 3. The next 5 matches to 10th January will create more movement, between the top and bottom halves. The top three have matches against other rinks.

CARTOONS IN THE HACK - CREATED BY BILLY BROWN



NO! ITS NOT CURLING ON THE
TELLY AGAIN, ITS MA GRAND
MATCH VIDEO, "IAM STUDYING FORM"

See back page!

Millennium Match

Saturday 8th January '05

The great event is repeated in 2005. The South defeated the North last time - 2500 curlers took part. The Club will enter three rinks.

Members who did not take part last time had priority over others. Players have been drawn by lot, reflecting club positions i.e. 3 skips, 3 thirds etc.

Stranraer v Loch Connell

Pete Campbell Alistair Low

Jim Millar Ian Meldrum

Hamilton v Beechnuts

Iain Robertson Douglas Murray Andy

Johnson Dave Chadwick

Braehead v Belmont Ladies

Tom Clarke Bill Galloway Billy

Brown Robert Smith

We have heard that Bob Smith and members of the committee have also been invited to attend the event at Murrayfield - the national centre for the event.

Have a great time guys - memories from the last event are still strong. Safe journey. Pass on the HACK's best wishes to your opponents.

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR
2005**

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.

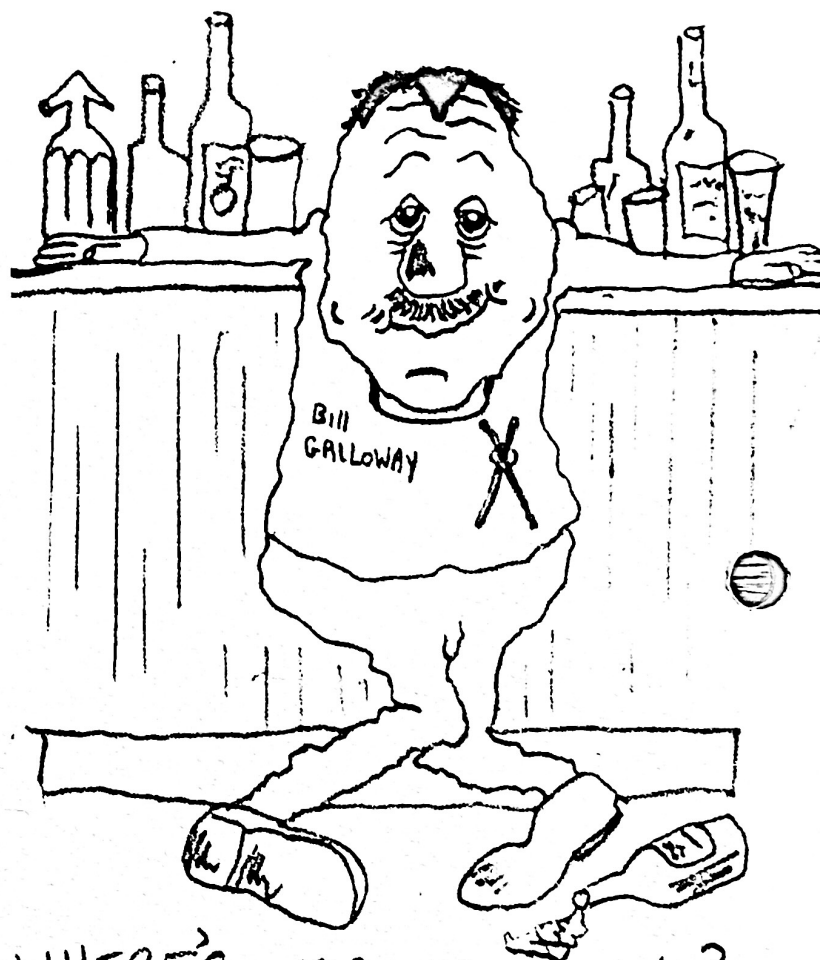
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Please send in your contributions as soon as you can - do not delay - seize the moment!



WHERE'S MA BRUSH?
IM READY NOW!!