

*News from
Inverkeithing
Curling Club*

The Hack

No 23
March 2004



THE HACK is back after nearly two years. Thanks to the members who have been both encouraging and supportive during this period. Let's hope we can keep things going at regular intervals. It is crucial the readers realise that the HACK will survive if we have sufficient interest from club members and they make contributions.

HEADLINES

- **Ayres wins league in debut season.**
- **Message from the President**

- **Inverkeithing international links – Philadelphia and Preston!**
- **St Margaret's league**
- **Other results**
- **Report and photos from Club Dinner**
- **New members**
- **A look into the Future – President Bill Brown!**

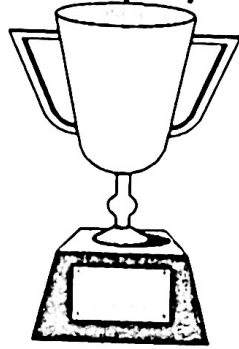
Programme

Congratulations to the Match secretaries and all involved for the production of a fine programme for the past season. There seems to have been a unanimous approval of the past seasons programme. Imbalance in the distribution of matches especially a 'front loaded' season in 2002/2003 were addressed. Few complaints have been heard that the main league has some priority over the time of matches. The HACK team also hope the committee will be encouraged to book more ice at Perth (see quality of Ice article).

Cheltenham or curling.

Ian (Robertson) recently had a mix up in his fixture list – and was unable to return to Kinross in time for a 7.45 – he was too busy watching the 3.15 at Cheltenham. Hope he had a good bet. It does seem surprising that he could not make the trip – especially as he nearly drives as far from Tarbet!

The Jim Temple Trophy



The opening bonspiel on 26th September 2003 and a great start to the season for Ian Robertson. He won a hard fought competition in a three-man rink (with Phil Barton and Dave McPherson) with a score of +5.

St Margaret's League - Phil Barton was the leading skip on this league. Backed up by Douglas Murray (third) and Dave Chadwick (second) and lead responsibilities shared by Colin Blyth and Alistair Lamond the rink were unbeaten.

Phil would like to thank Douglas for claiming the scalp of John Tibbert (in the form of Ian Innes) at the last match. Jim Miller and Robert Smith stepped in at 3 & 2 respectively.

Apart from this last match the rink were able to play in every

match, with minimal change (see lead roles). This must be one of the most critical factors in the recipe of success for a rink.

Club Colours -

Have you got yours? Have you ever noticed when a club appears on the rink in the club colours – the impact is strong. Let's remember this for next season. If you need new gear contact Douglas Murray.



Golf outing

THE HACK has been informed that this year the annual event will be played out over the greens and surrounded by the spectacular views of Aberdour Golf Club. Just in case you have missed the news one of our members is also the Aberdour Golf Club Captain – Alistair Low. (And he is doing a grand job)

More information at the AGM.

AYRES – DEBUT CHAMP

Smith - still in shock

The league ended in what must be one of the closest finishes in many a season. The title was decided on Tuesday 10th February at Kinross. Two matches were being played on adjacent sheets. At various points during the encounters four different teams were in pole position. Smith started the evening in front, and a straight win would have claimed the title. He missed the services of Peter Ritchie, but was well supported by his rink (Andy Johnson stepping up to third).

His opponent Tom Clarke had sights on the title, and a victory over Bob would have been sufficient, as long as Tony Ayres slipped up on the next rink. Tony had to win to claim the title in his debut season as a skip. Meanwhile his opponent Bob Tait had his own battle in mind – surprisingly Bob was fighting for survival in the main league. And the fourth contender – Ian McDonald was not present, but with the scores falling in a particular pattern he would have secured the title on points and shots difference. The HACK is reliably informed that at one point in proceedings Ian was at the top of the league –

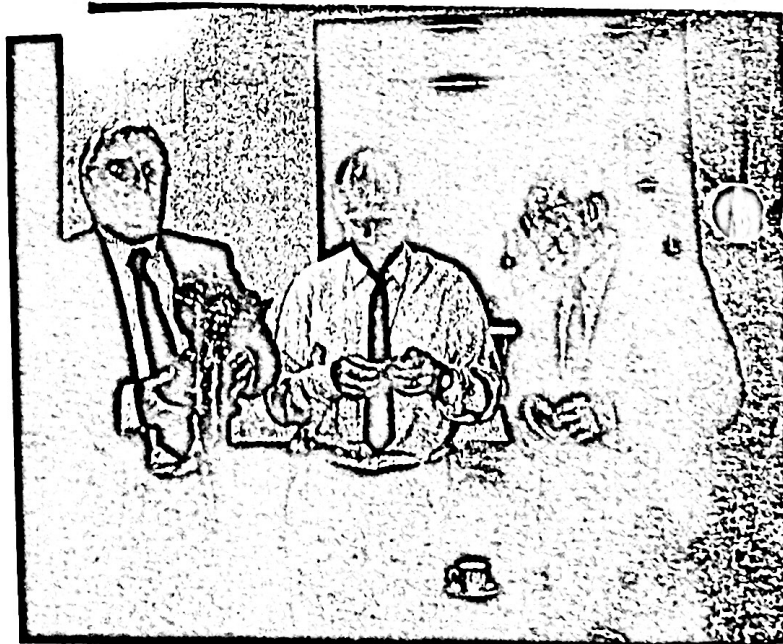
probably meagre consolation for the MacDonald rink.

Tony's rink held firm and continued their match-winning run of 6 matches. The league position masks two heavy defeats v Lamond and Macdonald (1 – 13 and 6 – 16).

On reflection the crucial match was v Clarke. In fact the ninth end commenced with Tom having a three shot lead – and resulted in an 11 – 8 victory.

A funny old sport curling – because until the last three matches Bob had established what appeared an unassailable lead in the league.

There is little doubt about the enthusiasm for Tony's victory seen collecting the trophy at the Dinner with Phil and Jim.



Club Dinner

This was a very good dinner – hosted by President Bob for the first time. We were very pleased to welcome a number of guests including the West Fife Province President – Mr. Bill Rennie. He proudly celebrated the fact that Boreland won the Waldie Griffiths Trophy. The trophy is huge – and quite splendid. It looked like it would take half a barrel to fill it – but Bill is a good guy and he brought a bottle to start the task.

Ernie – missed from the ice – led a rendition of Hail Caledonia. It was reassuring to see Ian (McLeod) at the dinner after a tough time of poor health. In similar fashion it was also good to see Peter (Ritchie). Peter had a scare on the ice at Letham Grange at the end of January. It would be great to know that both will be back on the ice next season.

We were well entertained by David Arkley from Abercorn CC – a pal of our President – (shared rooms?) On the RCCC tour. They looked very nice in their blazers. In fact David entertained twice. Thanks also to Dougals Scott from Dunfermline CC. Our Vice was brief – we almost missed it. A special thanks to Evan Cameron for his rhyme written for the new laid stanes printed later in the HACK.

There was the usual array of guests from other clubs. The new proprietors of the Gladyer did us proud as well.

*Pictured below – the top table
Bob Tait, Iain Robertson, David Arkely, Bob Smith, Douglas Scott, Peter Campbell, Jim Aitken.*



For New Laid Stanes

A naebody I hae been tellt
Canna be heard but can be smellt
But now this fower are rearranged
And intae somebodies are changed
So Curlers all the speaker proposes
You open your ears and close your
noses.

Now for these chieles I've some advice
When competing on the ice
Against thae dreadfae foreign rinks
Tak A'their points and A'their drinks.

But rinks that shelter near the pars
Be kind tae them in ice rink bars
Pair souls they hae been skinnt for
ages
Thirty percent is aff their wages.

The men fae Boreland and Broomhall
Forgive them lord, They're peasants
all,
But please excuse from this abuse
The Earl of Elgin and Lord Bruce.

Beware the strong policing links
Between the Tullieallan rinks,
Stones exceeding thirty miles an hour
Are horned and flashed and then
pulled ower.

However those from Abercorn
Just treat their draws and wicks wi
scorn

And last the Bay and Aberdour
Whit a mirksome, awfu' shower,
Aye at dark deeds, aye at sinnin'
For they are clubs that curl wi'
wimmin.
Mysel' I pray before I sleep
That they're kept frae Arkley's sheep.

Evan Cameron

AGM

The annual general meeting is due to be held on **Monday 26th April** at the Gladyer Inn. Please make sure you attend. There are always a few surprises at the meeting. (Please note there is a possibility the date may change – this will be made clear in the information circulated in advance of the agm)

The Editor does not have sight of the agenda but there are a few ideas of topics to be discussed. One item worthy of being on the agenda and is of particular interest.

Should we insist on members attending our dinner before being able to become members?

It is now uncommon for this to be the case. Traditionalists will argue it a case to help make our Club special, retaining links with the past. There is also a clear view that we need more curlers to keep our club active. Many clubs have lost membership by failing to keep abreast of changes in society. Let the traditionalists talk about the sport – and others participate!

What do you think? *Make sure you are there to make your point.*

Letter from the President

The LACK of a HACK to us CRACK curlers is now over – it's BACK! The (Englandshire) editor in chief tells me that the first issues always had a Presidential message to members to support and encourage the club. This is not different. My message is to tell you that you must read the rules as made up and play strictly to them. PAY you money PROMPTLY to Herr Treasurer as soon as demanded (if not before). REPORT to Hon Secretary any ungentlemanly conduct (such as shouting, swearing, falling down, cheering a good shot (unless it's mine) and generally letting your hair down in public. TURN up on time as directed by Herr Match Secretary (or replacement) at the right ice rink whether TC says so or not. This club is only as good as the members imagine it ought to be and you have to follow the example of your skips to bring suitable respect from our (more successful) neighbours.

It has been a long eleven months in office with a lack of foreign travel for me but not for others like Chadders and the retired OAP's (the quiet majority). It is good to hear that Ian Mcleod is back home after a spell in hospital. Also home is Growler Ritchie despite the protestations of the paramedics and his wife. Welcome to our 4 new boys. Congratulations to all who took part in the Dinner, especially the prize winners, Special sympathy to Tony's rink who must have had to tolerate boring speeches all season. Seriously enjoy the HACK and don't have too much to say at

the AGM. Have a good golfing summer and don't forget to keep your pogo stick up.
Yours in curling

Bob



Thanks Bob – you've had great year as Mr. President.

Apologies for the typing errors etc in this edition – perhaps they add to the quirkiness. We hope we can get better reproduction of photos next time – some computer problems!

PRE PAID ICE MUST STAY!

New Members

We have four new members from the dinner (hopefully it will be more for the new season).

David Arkley was a fine speaker - and is an international RCCC curler.

Eric is already showing he is a keen curler. Billy Brown speaks well of Eric - and not surprisingly Eric thinks Billy is a good guy as well.

Eric is a 'sparky' by trade - useful to know.

Greg Miller also knows Billy!

Eddie Forsyth is a relative of Bob and Robert. That will probably not be a significant advantage - but worth knowing. He is involved in the airline freight business, traveling to Glasgow daily (by car). Might be worth asking him about cheap flights to the states (in a container!) (STOPPRESS - he might be retired by the time you ask him!)

Off to Philadelphia in the morning?

Alistair Cook may have written his last "Letter from America" but interesting e-mails still arrive - in this case from former member of the Inverkeithing Curling Club Richard Chadwick, now a member of the Philadelphia Club.

We are invited to enter teams in the Philadelphia Curling Club's Harvest Bonspeil on November 18th - 21st. There are usually about 20 out of town teams taking part as well as teams from the host club. The entry fee last year was \$280 per team of 4 - i.e \$70 per person. This includes meals.

Each year there is a theme for the bonspeil and there is talk this year of something Scottish! This will be important for the Saturday night

dinner and disco - fancy dress?

Members of the Philadelphia club have offered accommodation - for 8 of us so far but it is confidently forecast that further offers will be forthcoming if need be. If all else fails there is hotel accommodation at \$70-\$90 per room per night with two sharing.

NOW FOR THE INTERESTING BIT!! The club bonspeil is strictly a mixed competition with 2 men and 2 women in each team. Our teams must have one of us skipping but whatever position the other plays is immaterial. I have it on very good authority that "there is no problem finding women members of the Philadelphia club who would like to play with some men from Scotland."

Want to know more about the Philadelphia Club? It was founded in 1957 and since 1966 has had its own ice (two sheets) in its own building together with bar, kitchen, rest rooms and a lounging area on the outskirts of Philadelphia. The club website is at <http://www.philadelphiacurling.club.org/> where there is all the info regarding last year's Bonspeil.

There are Bonspeils all over North America every weekend and other neighbouring clubs that could be very interested in hosting a visiting team for a match or two during the week.

Interested? The airfare to Philly should be around £240 per person.

**MORE DISCUSSION AT
THE AGM**

2's

The Pairs Bonspiel was held on Tuesday 9th March at Kinross. The team sheets on the night did not match the original draw in the programmed. It is not clear if this reflects a declining interest in this format of the sport – or it clashed with other curling events.

The final result of the competition was a win for Ian Macdonald and Ian Innes v Douglas Murray and Jimmy Wilson.

Knockout Result.

No match report available from the final – Macdonald rounded of a very successful week, in fact a grand season, with a win against Bob Tait. The score of 9 -2 could have been quite different – at one end Bob had a chance of a 5 with his last stone – but converted into a 3 for Ian. That perhaps sums up Bob's season.

The Speech that wasn't allowed (at the Club Dinner) by T. Ayres, winner of Points Competition 2004. (edited!)

Thank you very much, it's well worth winning this trophy as, not only is it an individual achievement, the trophy comes effectively in four parts.

Part 1: The trophy itself is a beautifully manufactured trophy stone which was presented to the club by William Black. Now there is a bit of history about the stone and our club, this knowledge is only made known to the 'respective winners' – for what reason I am not sure. So I thought as many of you who have not been fortunate to win the trophy – can find out the secrets this way. According to the inscriptions on the stone, William Black claims to be one of the three musketeers, the other two, also club members, being a John Lambert and John

Miller. So Inverkeithing has a French connection – which will be a great surprise. The stone could well have been manufactured in France, under license of course, as they would not know what it was for. In fact, as it was commissioned by a Musketeer, they probably thought it was a special cannonball with a handle for easy lifting!

The stone has 17 small stainless steel shields attached, each engraved with many of the original past masters of the club. The first being J. Temple in 1966. Jas Wilson in 1974 and 1975, Gaghardi and Alan MacLachlan both for four times! The shields are missing for years 1969 and 1980. Is this worth an official investigation to find out why?

Part 2: Then there is the rather large wooden mount for the stone. I was informed that it was constructed by Billy Brown, however I was advised by John Tibbert that, this was 'feekin' rubbish, it was too intricate for Billy, as his skills didn't stretch that far!

Part 3: There's a metal plate inscribed with all the names of winners from 1985 onwards. The plate should stay attached to the plinth but seems for some reason to attend the 'Competition Night' on it's own, and then passed around various club members before thankfully always arriving back home on the 'mount' in time for the presentation. In fact this year it landed up in MacDonald's household for Christmas and according to Ian, his wife had it up on the mantle piece thinking it was card from the Club. I noticed I won the trophy back in 1998. You had many club stalwarts out then – missed by all. Are today's competitions more competitive?

Part 4: The brush – Thank you very much. Also thanks to the good curlers for staying away on the night.

Distances – you should know
The distance between the hog
lines is 72 foot.

From the hog line to the tee line
is a further 21-foot. The distance
from the hack to the tee line
(nearest) is 12 foot.

The width of the sheet of ice is
15ft 7ins.

Or in metric:

21.95m

6.40m

3.66m

Results – International

*Four nations at Lockerbie
November 2003.*

Scotland beat England (men)
43 – 35

Scotland beat England (ladies)
22 – 11

And so you know – England
(men) beat both Wales and
Ireland. Whereas Ireland beat
Scotland for the first time

(ever?)

The HACK editor enjoyed
taking part and being in two
winning rinks versus
opposition from North of the
Border. At least he did not get
fined for that at the Dinner!

This issue is
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Douglas Murray
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Thanks to Douglas – the
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mailing of THE HACK.

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Special Notice

It is understood that the
committee of the Club are
planning to launch a
calendar – here is an early
preview of Mr. April!



Future Presidents – President Bill?

Billy Brown for President – perhaps much to your surprise but this stalwart of the Club might be a contender for this esteemed position in the relatively near future. There has been some locker room debate about who his 'running mate' might be – people in the know have heard that John Tibbert is the favourite. Punters have also considered the roles of this intrepid pair might be reversed. But as we all know politics is a funny game. HACK no 4. reported the start dates of members from 1949 – 1996. The longest serving club members to have curled this season is Douglas (Lamond) – 1949. Ian McLeod follows in 1959 with our Hon sec in 1962. Octogenarian Jimmy W started his Inverkeithing career in 1969. And relating to the above report here are a few more start dates.

(Names include regular curlers – apologies for any omissions)

1980: Jim Aitken, Peter Campbell.
1981: Bob Tait, JR Wilson.
1982: Bob Smith
1983: Tom McIntyre
1984: Alan Hay, Tom Hunter
1985: Henry Murray
1986: John Blyth, Peter McLeod, Ian Robertson.
1987: G. Divito
1988 W. Brown, John Tibbert
1989: Mike Stibbards
1990 Ian Macdonald, Derek

Pearson, Sid Ward.

1991: Tony Ayres, Colin Blyth

1992: Dave Chadwick

1993: Phil Barton, Mike Trainor, Richard Chadwick (now Philadelphia)

1994: Douglas Murray, Ed Martin, Ian Paxton.

1995: Steve Hunter

Quality ICE

Perth has received many rave reports this year – and from a number of members who have not had the chance to play in such a fine arena. It does raise the thorny question of why we take so much ice at Kirkcaldy. There must be a correlation between playing on good ice regularly and achieving good results. (look at Dunfermline – although this might not be the only factor)

Have you any views - that can be printed in the HACK? The answer is simple – send them to the Editor.

It has been reported that Douglas Murray is the most successful skip in the club – he has a 100% record! He led the rink for the first time in the last St Margaret's League match (for Phil Barton) and made a great recovery from a 4 – 0 deficit.

It can't be long before Douglas gets his own chance to leads a rink.

League Tables for Season 2003/2004

Premier League

Skip	P	W	D	L	f	a	+/-	Pts
Ayres	8	6	0	2	59	56	3	12
Smith	8	5	0	3	69	53	16	10
Macdonald	8	5	0	3	66	52	14	10
Clarke	8	5	0	3	63	59	4	10
Robertson	8	4	0	4	49	49	0	8
Lamond	8	3	0	5	49	49	0	6
Campbell	8	3	0	5	57	58	-1	6
Blyth	8	3	0	5	43	63	-20	6
Tait	8	2	0	6	51	67	-16	4

St Margaret's League – Div One!

Skip	P	W	D	L	f	a	+/-	Pts
Barton	6	6	0	0	55	26	29	12
Taddei	6	5	0	1	44	30	14	10
Hughes	6	3	1	2	47	41	6	7
Blyth	6	3	0	3	44	41	3	6
Galloway	6	1	1	4	42	54	-12	3
Tibbert	6	1	0	5	34	53	-19	2
Maclachlan	6	1	0	5	36	57	-21	2

Congratulations to Tony and Phil and their respective rinks. Both Leagues were decided at the last match – as you will have read the main league had four contenders up to the last moment. The shots differential sorted out second – fourth places in the main league, and the bottom of the St. Margaret's League. It should be noted that Alistair Low also deserves great credit for acting as skip for Alan (due to injury) and also to Colin (work commitments). This was a great performance – not to be diminished by the final league placings.

Conundrum:

Aberdour Rink loses out to
Aberdour Rink in Challenge
Match v Inverkeithing!

How can this be? Well four members of Inverkeithing who reside in Aberdour had a good victory in the Challenge Match on 8th March v an Aberdour rink (with only 1 Aberdour resident). Phil Barton- skip, Alistair Low – third, Gavin Hughes – second and Colin Campbell – lead won 8 – 3. The other rink lead by Ian Macdonald lost 6 – 8. So the Club holds onto the challenge (but no trophy). Ian's score hides a story – they only won one end, taking a six at the seventh. Another small note – Mrs. Smith was in the match playing against Mr. President.

And on the subject of opposition Alan Hay was in the rink v Phil Barton – playing with a pogo stick.

Congratulations

John Tibbert has led a rink (of club members) to promotion from Division Three in the Kinross Sunday Super league.

Alan Hempseed led the league with 7 straight victories. John's rink was second on shots with ten points. A point of note – the Scottish Wheelchair curling Champion was skip of one of the rinks in the Division. John reports he did not have the chance to

beat a world champion – as the opposition failed to turn up for the match. John had the great support of Bob Smith/Bob Tait at skip, Douglas Murray and Robert Smith.

Happy Birthday x 80

All members at the Dinner shared a moment celebrating Jimmy Wilson reaching his eightieth birthday.



CONTRIBUTIONS

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 info@starleyhallschool.co.uk.