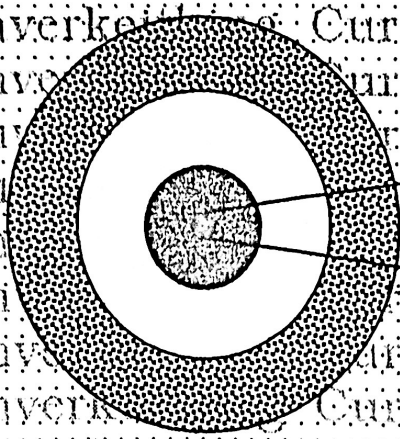


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THE HACK

Issue no. 3 December 1995

Inverkeithing Curling Club Inverkeithing Curling Club

Here is the third issue of our very own 'unofficial' club newsletter. We hope you enjoy the eight page issue. It contains all the recent results in the League and the official final League table. There are reports from other key events. We have a letter from the Hollywood Curling Club ! and a report from the Forest Hills Competition. We are proud to print a tribute to *John McClaren* penned by Jim Macdonald. John died on 13th October, the Club's longest serving member and a real friend and gentleman merits such a fine appreciation. We hope there is much more to whet your appetite in **THE HACK** and you will all continue to send in contributions and ideas for our next issue. We close our front page by wishing all our readers a Peaceful Christmas and a Splendid New Year. Best Wishes for 1996 and the remainder of this season.



**FESTIVE
GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR
READERS**

The Supper Dance

The evening was a great success - financially and also socially. Ninety nine people attended and enjoyed excellent food and a good band. We include a few individual comments and observations below. The raffle was good because the prizes had substance, and also because it made money for the Club. The Gladyer Inn certainly did a fine job and were excellent hosts.

The band played good tunes and were successful in keeping the dance floor full. It is always difficult to get a balance between styles of music. This band did well. A few guests did comment that they would have worn different outfits if they had known that most of the dancing was to be 'Scottish style'.

THE HACK did wonder why Syd, Tom & Tony spent most of the night sitting away from their wives. Syd wins an award for wearing a club tie. Mr. McLeod was heard to comment that the band were too loud (Santa should bring Iain a set of ear plugs for Christmas). Mrs. Chadwick had an unusual introduction to Scotland .. we are sure. Where was Jock? The Pride of Erin was fun but maybe not some dancers proudest moment. Syd - a regular in our columns was very dizzy after 'stripping the willow'. Liz Ward was heard to quote - "Syd who?"

Congratulations to the Dance committee.

(Un) Official message from the Club Treasurer.

The Club's finances are better than ever due to my intense attitude to collecting subscriptions. If you have not paid by I'll eat my (*lovely and very posh*) curling gloves 'cos I've got you all listed at least once each. The Dance was cleverly overpriced and I made sure Ritchie sold £5 of raffle tickets to everyone. (£10 to PB penance for going on holiday partway through the season!!) Don't get carried away though, I have the extra money set aside for new players .. at East End Park, as the Centenary Club is struggling. Make sure you pay your way soon and I'll be happy.

Peter Campbell

This issue is sponsored by John Wilson. Thanks John. He would like to remind everyone to support the Rotary Club as well. Sponsors can have a 'free' plug!

Sandy Moyes contributed a ream of A3 paper for **THE HACK**

Ernie Archibald will sponsor the fourth issue. If you are interested in sponsoring your magazine see Bob or Phil.

News

Great to hear that **JR Wilson** returned to work on 20th November after a serious injury to his hand.

The video of Hunter v Kennedy match on 2nd October is due to be promoted soon - by Beadle Enterprises !!

The Club has been represented well at local Club Dinners - Alistair L a m o n d a t Dunfermline.

Peter Ritchie has been at them all !!

Bob Smith, Hector Smith and Ian Macdonald ably supported Peter - at the end of the evening physical support as well.

Bob Tait has been heard to say that Tam Hunter needs to attend coaching sessions on a Sunday.

John McLaren: An Appreciation

With the passing of John McLaren on 13th October 1995 we lost our Honorary President, longest serving member, and a real friend and a gentleman.

John was admitted to membership on 13th April 1948, one of 14 initiates that evening. He served as Club Skip from 1958 - 1962, and was appointed Honorary President in 1974.

For John, curling was all about fun and fellowship, not the quest for medals and the trappings of success on the ice. Arguably the highlight of his curling career was taking part in the 1963 Grand match on the Lake of Menteith. In his autobiography, *It takes a lang spin* *, he tells us how proud he was to represent the Club on that January Day.. He confesses that "...even a quarter of a century later I am not sure as to which side was the winner, or even whether I was North or South!"

Undoubtedly, it was as a storyteller that John came into his own with few, if any of the 40 plus Club dinners he attended not being graced with his skills as a raconteur being welcomed by brother curlers. His favourite story - and ours related to a match between Inverkeithing and Broomhall on outdoor ice. When the ice gave way "...one of the Broomhall players almost drowned, when he was pulled to the side of the pond he had to be given artificial respiration." " In those days it was the 'Shaefer' method, where he victim is laid on his side and his arms pulled behind his back to pump water out of his lungs. The more they pumped his arms, the more the water pumped out of his mouth until, eventually an Inverkeithing Curler went over and said '..I'm an Hydraulic Engineer...if you take his a..e out of the water you will get on better" !!

In 1988 to mark his 40 year's membership of the Club, John was presented with a quaigh and in saying thank you he said"...in due time the quaigh will return to the Club, to be played for the McLaren Trophy and presented to the winning rink at the annual dinner. I will not be present in the flesh but I am sure that I will be there in SPIRIT!"

We know he will.

Jim Macdonald.

This article also appeared in *Scottish Curler*.

** - published in 1990 on his 80th birthday.

NB : a 'Quaigh' - a smaller, shallower version of a 'quaich'.

New dates - Check your Diary.

Eight pairs games at Kinross on Thursday 4th January have been brought forward from 9.45 to 7.45 instead.

Who would like to go to Greenacres for the weekend 20th - 21st January? Contact President Ritchie or Edl Smith. The competition is known as the Haggis tournament - at least you will win one! You can expect to play at least three games.

Grand Match Draw

Inverkeithing have three rinks in the Grand match Draw, representing the North. Rink one is drawn against Morton and rinks two and three against Hollywood. This fact has caused quite a lot of confusion as you will read later. Our Club contacted Hollywood Curling Club by mistake. To make matters worse (or better depending on your point of view) it is a Ladies only Club (Hollywood that is!)

Editorial

As we approach the end of the year members of the club should be thinking about new year resolutions. Perhaps all members should strive to improve the standing of the Club in playing terms. The Club has been represented well in wider circles. Bob Tait's comments about their experiences serve to remind us that good play and competition at higher levels is not achieved with luck.

It can be no coincidence that the two top rinks in the League were four man rinks. The teams were stronger because each member made a commitment to turn out. Perhaps the Committee should look again at the legitimacy of five man rinks. The more rinks the more chance that younger curlers will have new opportunities. There will be no circumstances where a fifth curler is left on the sidelines when in fact he is keen to play. This is a waste and serves no useful purpose.

There have been many examples where rinks in Challenge games and in Central and West Fife/Province matches have been changes at the last minute due to late call offs. Sometimes excuses seem weak. Testing skills against other opposition is important. We should be proud of our curling heritage - Scotland have retained the European Curling Championship this year. Another reason to strive for higher standards next year. We have a newly qualified and enthusiastic RCCC coach in the Club - Tam Hunter is keen to improve standards.

Is 1996 going to be a year when Inverkeithing Club begins to make a name on the ice and not just in the bar?

Editors - Bob & Phil

The next issue will be another eight page issue. Thanks for a number of articles which are in stock ready for the next issue.

The Quiz will be a feature and we will have our first two poems !!

We would like more reports about matches with news of memorable shots. We are also keen to have stories about members and events.

Hand in written copy to Bob Smith or Phil Barton.

Please find enclosed a letter from President Ritchie. We are sharing mailing systems.

There will be at least one vacancy for a teller at the Dinner - PC is now Treasurer. Tom Clarke has been a splendid teller - perhaps he would appreciate a year off. The editors know of two members who are willing to take on the important role.

Club Members Reach Province Championship at Forest Hills

Inverkeithing, victorious in last season's Province Knock-Out, represented West of Fife in this Championship, but only because Wales withdrew - the Province Secretary having been late in submitting our nomination! Hector Smith and Ernie Archibald were unavailable (*heavy fines looming!*) and were replaced by Bob Tait and Tom Hunter. They set off to Forest Hills with keen spirit with Bob Smith and Peter Ritchie.

The first crisis happened on arrival in the bar when President Ritchie discovered that the Bacardi bottle was empty and the hapless barmaid said there was no more. Refreshed by a few large brandies, the President led his team for photographs and then to the first game. It is rumoured that Hammy McMillan heard that Ritchie was playing and went to the Olympic playdowns at Kilmarnock. He sent as replacements 2 junior internationalists, another youngster and an old timer. A lucky triple take out by their third gave them a 4 at first end. We never recovered on dirty and unpredictable ice. The final score was a 10-2 defeat; the game soured because of doubts about whether the second and third of the opposing team were delivering over the hog line.

The evening was spent planning the game next morning against Colin Hamilton, Scottish champion and internationalist and his all-stars. The team retired to bed in playing order Smith, Hunter and Tait leaving Ritchie to argue with the Stranraer lads - were they lucky or good? Throwing off the effects of the previous evening's training, we started well against Hamilton taking a 4-2 lead but then we played our best end of the weekend working hard to take a 4. Hamilton's response was immediate and impressive taking a 5 that could have been a 7 at the next end. A further 6 shots were shared meaning a 12-9 defeat. The game was played in excellent spirit and the outcome was respectable given that Hamilton went on to win the weekend undefeated.

The final game was against Renfrew. We should have killed them off with a 4 at the first but lost a 1 and a further 1 at the next end. The game was strewn with mistakes with the opposing skip playing particularly poorly, but the Bacardi had been introduced and so our skip was also *very* poorly. We won 8-4 to give us third place in the group.

The weekend was interesting. It proved yet again that 4 people cannot turn up at a competition at this level and expect to play as a team. The Hamilton rink showed how a team play. It showed that consistency is vital; and that drink before and during a game is wholly incompatible with consistency. It also showed that the ability to draw is crucial; heavy stones alone are rarely enough. Bob Smith was the Inverkeithing star of the weekend playing exceptionally well as lead. The other 3 have gone back to the club coach!

Bob Tait

Just waiting for Colin Hamilton's call! - Ed!

Letter from America ?

Hollywood Curling Club write to Past President

Dear Al,

I hope you don't mind me calling you Al! Thank-you so much for your letter asking for some information about our club. Like you we are psyched up for this year's Grand Match - it sounds like a real neat event.

We are a ladies club - at least that's what they say - based on Sunset Boulevard. Most of the members work in the film industry and live in the Los Angeles area - though some fly in from New York for games. Our local ice-rink is in Meryl Streep's back yard. She had it built with the profits of the film "Out of Africa" some years ago. She's pretty busy over the next few months, but hopes to make herself available for the Grand Match.

Barbara Streisand had a plastic surgery op last month and doesn't sweep too good, so we've asked her to skip the number one team. Incidentally, if any of your skips could use plastic surgery, I can recommend a couple of good ones here in Hollywood. At three Joan Collins, provided her divorce goes through in time, at two me, Jodie Foster, with Michelle Pfeiffer bringing up the rear - some rear!

Meryl will hopefully skip team two. Jane Fonda, who has just developed an outdoor curling festival will play third. Glenn Close will play second and if she completes the fitness programme in time. Demi Moore will lead. Glenn Close is insisting on bringing her analyst with her, and if you're boys don't mind we'll invite Madonna as reserve, in case anyone pulls a muscle.

Incidentally, we're having some trouble arranging accommodation so we wondered if some of you guys could put us up for a night or two. I should warn you that I'm allergic to down feathers, Joan Collins smokes in bed and Demi Moore is vegan. (or is that a virgin- I'm never quite sure!)

Finally, if for some reason the Grand Match doesn't take place why not come to Colorado in February. Jane Fonda has a house there by a lake which is frozen all winter. Bring some of your brother curlers.

Yours in curling

Jodie Foster

P.S. What does kiggle kaggle really mean? Perhaps you could show me!!



...for the first time ever.. the Club prepares for the Grand Match.

As you can imagine, the club are delighted with the **Grand Match Draw** and are confident of achieving something. The fact we have drawn such an interesting Club has created much debate and excitement. You will have read the letter from the **Hollywood Club** Secretary. Here are a few examples of the impact on club members!!!!

The response to the request for accommodation has been overwhelming. Indeed, one would not have imagined that there were that many free beds in Inverkeithing. **Jim Murray** has started removing the feathers from his wife's eiderdown, **Tom Clarke** smokes a Havana cigar in bed each night and **Alan Maclachlan** has said that if Demi Moore is a vegan then he'll start using recycled toilet paper as well. By and large, however, most members said they would be happy to accommodate any, or all, of the visitors and the **President** has remarked that this was the kind of unselfish behaviour he expected of the club. He did, however, say that only the fittest members would be picked and that he himself had purchased a pair of lycra shorts and an exercise bike. He also recommended a high fibre diet and refraining from all alcohol - except, of course, Bacardi and Diet Coke. He urged us all to go to church as often as possible and pray for frost. The results of this are already being seen. Several members have come off the non-playing list following near miraculous cures to their bad backs. Another, who had better remain anonymous, has cancelled an urgent prostate gland operation. Thirty - five members attended Sunday morning coaching at Kirkcaldy, but had to leave 5 minutes early to get back to church.

When will we let them know that a dreadful case of mistaken identity has taken place?

The Editors appreciate the articles about the Grand Match produced by Alistair Lamond. The story about the Hollywood Club was featured in his after dinner speech at the Dunfermline Club Dinner this year.

THE HACK also apologises to the real Hollywood Club - no offence is intended.

We also look forward to a cold winter and the Grand Match. The president was correct keep fit and in training, pray for outdoor ice.

THE HACK sends belated get well soon wishes to Alan Maclachlan. He always manages to remember brother curlers who are not well. We missed you on the ice Alan. So did your rink!

Get well soon to any other brother curlers who are not well. We are pleased to hear that two of our veterans, Douglas Lamond and Iain McLeod have recovered from recent operations. We look forward to seeing them back on the ice (except Iain?)

Ritchie holds onto lead to win title after tense series of games Final League Results

		Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points	+/-
1st	Ritchie	8	6	0	2	59	46	12	13
2nd	R. Smith	8	6	0	2	62	53	12	9
3rd	Tait	8	5	1	2	70	47	11	23
4th	Lamond	8	5	1	2	59	39	11	20
5th	Macdonald	8	4	0	4	54	61	8	-7
6th	Hunter	8	2	1	5	52	58	5	-6
7th	Maclachlan	8	2	1	5	50	66	5	-16
8th	H. Smith	8	2	0	6	40	54	4	-14
9th	Kennedy	8	2	0	6	36	58	4	-22

The final matches in the League were critical in the outcome of the League. The top four rinks will all be able to look back on the season and reflect on missed opportunities and shots that made the difference. The fact the result of the League went to the penultimate game marked the quality of competition this year.

Congratulations to Peter Ritchie, Tom Clarke, Syd Ward and Ian Paxton. Commiserations to Bob Smith, Ernie Archibald, Phil Barton and Sandy Moyes who lost on points difference. They take some credit from noting RCCC guidelines which decide tournaments on ends won/lost rather than points - in which case they would have won!!

Best wishes to all the rinks in the remaining matches - in thirds, pairs and knockout matches, there are also many matches v other clubs. Check your programme.

Results in League

R. Smith	10	Macdonald	9
Lamond	8	Kennedy	0
Hunter	6	H. Smith	2
R. Smith	9	Ritchie	11
Lamond	9	Hunter	3
Ritchie	6	Maclachlan	4
Kennedy	3	Macdonald	8
Tait	5	H. Smith	7
R. Smith	10	Maclachlan	9
Lamond	6	H. Smith	5
Tait	6	Hunter	13
Kennedy	10	Maclachlan	4
Hunter	6	Macdonald	12
Lamond	6	Ritchie	5
R. Smith	6	H. Smith	3
Tait	13	Macdonald	5

Other Results

C&WF Bob Smith	V Falkland	L 3 - 8
C&WF Alistair Lamond	V R&A	W 12 - 2
C&WF Bob Smith	V R&	W 7 - 6

Challenge match v Dunfermline 20/11
Ritchie drew 7 - 7
Kennedy lost 4 - 14
Clarke lost 3 - 8
Lamond won 9 - 5
Match total lost 23 - 34

District medal v Leven 25/10
Lamond lost 5 - 11
Ritchie lost 3 - 13

No progress !!

C 1995
BP
Publishing

The articles in the newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Club Committee

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Articles
and ideas
for **THE**
HACK are
most
welcome.
The next
issue will
be in
February.

**
New
Number
Bob now
stays in
D'line

*Thank you
to all our
sponsors
and
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Have a
great
Christmas
and New
Year*