

THE HOCK

March 2000

Issue no. 17

Lamond and his rinks sweep the board

Alastair has had a memorable season - winning the league with some room to spare.

He played a strong lead to the same rink to support Ernie Archibald winning the thirds final. Finally he won his the Millennium Bonspiel, aptly sponsored by his company. And his repertoire of roles increased at the dinner (more details inside).

Gavin Hughes has had a great season - but how can he improve on it?

FINAL LEAGUE PLACINGS 1999/2000

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	+/-	POINTS
Lamond	9	8	0	1	44	16
Campbell	9	7	0	2	17	14
Smith	9	6	1	2	12	13
Tait	9	5	1	3	5	11
Macdonald	9	4	0	5	-12	8
Clarke	9	3	1	5	-3	7
Aitken	9	3	1	5	-6	7
Maclachalan	9	3	0	6	-19	6
Paxton	9	2	0	7	-5	4
Robertson	9	2	0	7	-33	4

Ian Robertson is relegated - Ian Paxton is eligible to be proposed and seconded for election to be skip next season.

It is expected Thirds victor Ernie Archibald and Colin Blyth - runner up will be likely candidates for election as skips. Both would merit the chance after storming displays in the Thirds competition.

Thank you to all our contributors - keep up the good work.

There are plans to have a final issue this season.

If you have any ideas for **THE HOCK** please let us know.

Sponsors?

- see Bob Smith please.

Contents include:

Match reports
Results
Diary dates
Cartoons
Prize crossword
Quiz results
and much more ...

Millennium Bonspiel

A marvellous event - with three contributions inside. There seems to be a growing support for the event to be repeated - before the next millennium - of course.

RESULTS AND COMPETITION
WINNERS ON BACK PAGE

KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

the fun has started - our very own cartoonist suggests this will be the team selection for the FINAL

BIG KNOCKOUT FINAL!

SANDY ARMOUR
HECTOR SMITH
IAN M'LEOD
TOM MACINTYRE
EVAN CAMERON

STUART RITCHIE
HENRY MURRAY
IAN KNUST
TOM CLARKE
ED MARTIN



SORRY BOYS WE CAN ONLY PUT YOUR SURNAME'S ON THE TROPHY, WHOEVER WINS.

Quiz

The answers!

1. Who are the main sponsors of the World Championships to take place in Braehead in April 2000?
 1. Ford
2. Who are the members of the current male world championship winning rink?
 2. Hammy MacMillan, Warwick Smith, Ewan MacDonald, Peter Loudon.
3. What do the following clubs have in common? Burntisland, Essochem, Donibristle and Otterson Loch?
 3. Former clubs in the Province.
4. How many clubs are currently members of the West Of Fife Province? 12 14 15
 4. 14
5. Where will you find the logo "Curl up with a friend"?
 5. Ford World Cup/Braehead
6. What does the term kuting mean with reference to curling?
 6. Old term for curling - played with no handles on stones.
7. What are the min height of a curling stone and the max diameter?
 7. 11.4 cm & 29.12 cm
8. What is the name of the curling rink to be found at Howwood?
 8. Greenacres
9. Who is Lino Di Iorio?
 9. Canadian curling coach and inventor
10. What lived twenty years from 1938 - 1958?
 10. Dunfermline ice rink

The entries

Alan Hay

1. Ford
2. HMc, WS, EMcD, PL
3. KY3!
4. 15
5. Cadbury's Flake
6. To slide on ice or sweep from teutonic "klyuten'.
7. 4.5 inches and 11.46 inches
8. Greenacres
9. Hog Line
10. Jimmy Wilson's piles

3 and half

'Top gear - man of the year!'

1. Deanhead Dairy
2. Corsie & Duff
3. Pollution
4. 16
5. Hair by David
6. Use martial arts if necessary
7. Pass! (*too hard*)
8. "Ice"
9. My ice cream
10. Two ten year old greyhounds

Special effort award !!

Winner Alan Hay

How did you fair? Try answering the questions after you have read the answers!

THE HACK is not sure if the readers would like to have quizzes - the two occasions we have included prize competitions there have only been a small number of entries. Can the readership let us know what you would like please. Thanks for the two other competitions in this issue - get a cross word!

We would be very pleased if anyone could devise any competitions. The caption competition in Dec 1998 was a good one!

Bottle to be presented at the AGM

Sponsored by "Bend an ear"



Royal Caledonian
Curling Club
Millennium Grand Match
Saturday 8th January 2000



The grand match - a most unique event is integral to the folklore of the game. North playing South outdoors on one of a very few specially designated curling venues. The frequency of the Grand Matches has been less and less each decade. The first match in 1847 was at Pericuik. Between this event and the First World War there were 26 matches. Since then there have been only six! Who needs more evidence about global warming?

The attraction of the Grand Match was increased as the years passed by without matches. Some clubs were formed - if rumours are true - to ensure that a rink could be entered in the Grand Match. Our club recognises contributions to the Club with it's selection of the team to play in the event of keen keen ice. Selection to play in the Match is prestigious. Our committee came up with a different formula this year for the Millenium bonspeil and for that they should be congratulated. A bonus was we were invited to enter a third rink with relatively short notice and so the reserves were launched into the fray.

The scale of the event was staggering. The

Grand Match was played in 28 venues from Stranraer in the very south to Brora in the far north. 152 matches took place and after a wonderful event the final result was a win for the NORTH by 62 shots.

It is striking that the press failed to give the sort of coverage that should have been afforded to this special event. The RCCC should question if we have the 'spin doctors' in the right places. Ainsley Smith, President elect of the RCCC, was a guest speaker at the recent Dinner - he will certainly be doing his bit to raise the profile of curling. (we hope). He paid tribute to Jim Macdonald for the efforts in the Sports Council to gain support for creating posts for curling development officers.

For the record here are the teams and the scores of our club rinks.

Dumfries:

A. Lamond, T. Ayres, J. Tibbert, S. Ritchie.
Lost to Drystanes 5 - 10

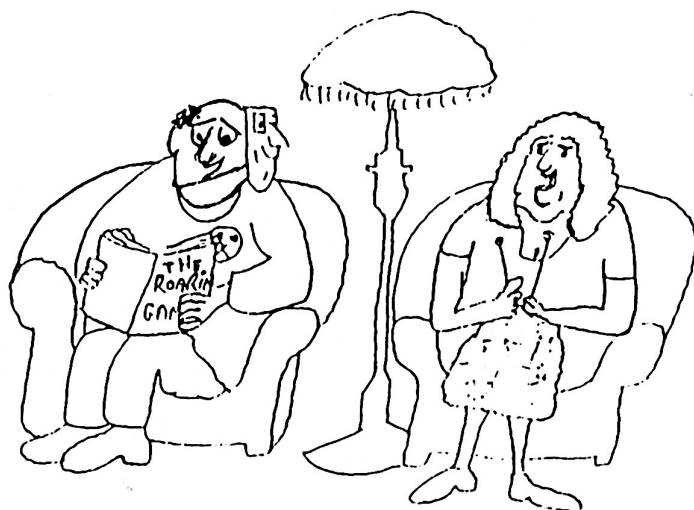
Kelso:

R. Tait, J. Aitken, I. Macdonald, G. Hughes.
Lost to Glendale 4 - 9

Irvine:

R. Smith, I. Paxton, P. Ritchie, I. McLoed
Won by 12 - 2 v Falkirk (1960) Ladies

Overall aggregate 21 - 21



THE HACK has received three stories about the event .. enjoy reading the tales.

A great day in the South by Alastair Lamond

It was one of the great curling days without matching the atmosphere of an outdoor Grand Match, or even outdoor curling in general. Nevertheless we, John Tibbert, Tony Ayres, Stuart Ritchie and myself had a terrific day in Dumfries. We had an early start, 7.00 am leaving to get to Dumfries for 9.00 am and bacon rolls. We received a warm welcome, commemorative brochure and met our opposition - Drystones Curling Club from Glasgow - and had our photograph taken with them -(still waiting for a copy). We were piped onto the ice to start the match at 10.00.

The first five ends were very tight - at the break we were set at 4 - 4. The ice was fairly straight with any kind of weight, but stones with dead draw weight or back ring weight drew considerably over the last few yards. Unfortunately, and in quite un - Inverkeithing like fashion, the half time dram did not do us any good. We lost a 4 at the sixth end. We had as stone lying shot, but failed to guard it and then couldn't remove an opposition stone, which was partly hidden and then well guarded. We picked up a 1 at the seventh - should have been 2 - and then we lost 2 at the eighth after failing with an attempted double take out. Final Score 5 - 10 - a bit disappointing, but were outplayed in the last three ends.

Then we retired to the bar - where else - for drinks. Tony won £13.33 at the bingo!. The food was first class - real curlers fare: Lentil soup, Mine and tatties and coffee. We watched a video how it was done at the European Championships - marvelling at Hammy McMillan's unbelievable winning shot.

Most importantly we enjoyed the company of our opponents. Drystones is an all male club formed in the 60's. Unusually the founders were 'Curling Widowers' - whose wives already played the *game* (we think they meant curling!). They were not made curlers and were interested in how our club is organised in this respect. Like us they are facing a decline in playing members - and are trying to identify ways to recruit keen, and younger curlers.

The opposing skip - Norman Cathcart has a

considerable interest in the forthcoming World Championships, and he encouraged us to buy tickets. Unlike the poor coverage of the European Championships - the BBC will cover the Worlds, and so increasing the games' exposure.

As we prepared to head home we talked about an annual match between our clubs. We all agreed it had been a an excellent, unique experience and so well organised. Why not have an indoor Grand Match each year?

and another version of events !!!

No open top bus for heroes return! by John Tibbert

Inverkeithing was in darkness when we set off but we were assured by Stuart Ritchie sunrise would be at exactly 8.10 am. With Bob Smith's neatly folded instructions we were on our way to Dumfries to play Drystones ... who you might ask!

We took the second turn off for Dumfries because I thought it would b quicker (truth is I missed the first one) We arrived in time for bacon rolls and coffee (dedicated sportsmen - our bodies are shrines etc etc)

After registration we met our opponents. We looked each other up and down to identify signs of weakness. They offered us a drink - damm - it didn't take them long to find ours!

We were piped onto the ice and battle commenced. The game was really entertaining (for us - who mentioned the hundreds of spectators.) After 5 ends we were peeled at 4 - 4 with Alastair drawing in against three stones to take shot. A very enjoyable first half.

A dram and a piece of shortbread later we returned to the ice to play the sixth end. The toll of too many drams for Tony and too much shortbread for the writer showed. We lost a 4. The difference was just too much to make up "*we could not penetrate their defences*" and so we were beaten by a good team from Glasgow (there is another one Ernie).

It was a brilliant day and one that we should all hope will be repeated. Inverkeithing was in darkness when we returned - what no heroes welcome and open top bus .. perhaps next time.

A magnum day out

by Bob Smith

RW was to be collected by Peter Ritchie at 9.45. But of course PR was late and RW was left to listen to the radio announcement of the start of the Grand match by the arranged cannon.

Despite being given lots of information on the day, Ian McLoed managed to talk all the way through Paco's directions to the Magnum Centre, Irvine.

We arrived at 12.00 , noon in good time for the 2.30 start.

Arrangements for registration were *relaxed* but the area rep was helpful in bar directions (Has ICC notoriety gone this far?)

We watched Dunfermline win the morning session at 9 shots up. The free lunch time drink was preferable to a chinky carrier oot - with the company of our opponents, being four marvellous curlers from Falkirk. The meal was enjoyable.

The required photo call was arranged - Ian McLoed has personal copies for sale!

It was great to be piped onto the ice.

The details of the game have disappeared into a marvellous haze.

Opposing Ski: How does your second stand up?

RW: That sun is spoiling my view.

Paco:Ritche has had enough drink ... I must finish it all for him.

ALL : OOOOOOOOOOOOOOH!!!!

The game finished without a break to stack the brooms and we won by 10 shots. Alcohol and male chauvinism - Falkirk (1960) Ladies are the best.

Subsequent activities in the bar were not enjoyed by other curlers although we were thrilled that Dunfermline stayed on to watch all our game. We were not thrilled to note we won by more shots than our old rivals and got nothing.

We were last to leave and have promised to have an annual game with the Falkirk Ladies (PACO might not be allowed).

The queue for players waiting to play in another indoor grand match starts with the four millennium magnum curlers.

Thanks guys ! What about the other matches? We all want a shot as well after hearing your stories.

CONSTRUCTION
CURLING ASSOCIATION



Lamond and Murray Millennium Bonspiel 4th February

A brilliant night - the new format allowed a full twelve ends for the assembled rinks.

Alastair Lamond won the event, probably one of the closest results in any Bonspiel. Phil Barton was third, Jim Millar as second and Derek Pearson was lead. To even up the sponsors contribution Tom Clarke won the 'booby' prize.

(Jim spent some of the time on the ice playing at soldiers - holding his broom as if it was a rifle as he stood on sentry duty!)

The only disappointment was that we failed to have a full turnout of 40 members. There had been as many as sixty indicate that they would like to attend. We should certainly consider repeating the format - it certainly has been a year of innovations with the indoor Grand Match and all ...

Millennium Pairs

Tibbert and Brown v Boreland. A fine victory for our two talented brother curlers. After losing a five at the first end the lads hit back by winning the next three ends to win 6 - 5. Sadly Billy was left without a leg to stand on when they lost in the quarter final to Dalgety Bay on the following night.

Billy has had a great year in the pairs - winning the club's competition with Peter Ritchie.

Dinner

The members and guests had a fine evening at our annual dinner. President Jim kept good order and everyone entertained with his humour. There were great highlights and we hope these notes will be useful for the readers who were not present ... and for members who were and cannot remember!

The Gladyer Inn provided excellent food and service. Regrets aside about the fact the Dinner is not in Inverkeithing - the Gladyer makes a good venue. Perhaps we were a bit squashed at the tables.

It was great to see John Ogg - we've missed him on the ice this year. We welcomed a number of guests and friends from neighbouring clubs.

There were a few surprising absences from the dinner. Sadly Syd Ward was taken ill just before the dinner (at least he saved himself facing fines for his driving antics - we also missed his "Old Shep".) The mystery was where was skip Ian Paxton? Rumours abound - three are :

- a) he avoided the dinner to save spending money on fines.
- b) working late
- c) under a woman's spell

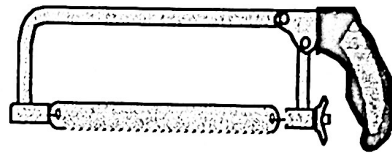
The speakers were of a good standard - but with respect to all participants, our President excepted the contributions of our very own Colin Blyth and Douglas Murray were first class. Their timing and delivery suggest it will not be the last time they speak - place your bets for early invitations

to speak at other club dinners.

Another great performance was by Alastair Lamond - taking the MLO role from Alan Maclachlan who has bad shoulder! Another debutante was John Tibbert - the goat (& goat master) looked in good fettle. John is planning to work hard on his diet for next year. His diet because he needs to put on a paunch to fill the goat master's sweater.

The Court was led (unofficially) by Billy Brown. There was a new approach to the presentation - the response of the assembled group (naebodies not included) was encouraging. President Jim was very impressed with the views he got!

DIY TIP of the MONTH



Fed up with your lounge floor bouncing up and down as your guests party the night away? Wondering how on earth you are going to get rid of that old kitchen table.

The solution to these annoying little problems may be simpler than you think. *Kill two birds with one stone!* It is a recognised construction method within the building trade to remove the legs from the table and use them to prop up the floor joists. Should you feel that you are not competent to carry out such work why don't you ask one of the joiners in our club to help you. There is one member who is a renowned expert in this type of cutting edge construction. We would advise that you do not mention this to your electrician because they do not really understand the advanced technology involved in this modern process.

NB **THE HACK** accepts no liability for the advertisements in this issue!

Slightly Cryptic Crossword

Down

1. Standing on this can sometimes get you down
2. It has three wheels within and may be called for on the ice
3. Golfers and curlers need at least one to get there
4. Hog a stone and you always get caught.
5. This curler is as solid as a rock
6. The smith that hogs the tee
7. Both his stones used to take a dive
10. Initially 'going on home' the opposite way
13. They used to stick them in the house with this brush
14. This number could end it all
15. Let's put pen to paper for this
16. These two curlers sound a bit fruity
18. What all the lucky young curlers will end up one day
21. Driven round it or let the stone do it
22. It may sound like light music
23. Initially the guy that wrote the first cross word in **THE HACK**

PRIZE!
CROSSWORD!

Across

8. Bright player who likes to come out at night
 9. Was he made while the sun shines?
 11. A section of mirror
 12. A place where they practice skullduddery
 13. Canadians usually get these in after a game of curling
 17. Part of a canopy
 19. Curlers can play on it but golfers play off it
 20. If you can't do this - just lie
 22. Does this mean you have come to a slippery end (3-3)
 - 23 A fellow curler oh!
 24. When they're rolling it sounds like music
- 25 Dear Mr. McLeod appologies fur ma bad spellin 'n' gramur.

SLIGHTLY CRIPTIC DUDES !!!														
1			2		3		4		5		6		7	
		8					9							10
11			12											
		13		14		15		16		17		18		
19						20								21
										22				
23														
								24						

Match Secretary reports

New dates and extra games.

Who wants to play? Contact Bob Smith.
Dalgety Bay - closing Bonspiel Sat 11th Mar
Kinross 6.00
Closing Bonspiel at Kinross 1st April at 6.00
Change of Province game:
Maclachlan v R & A wa cancelled on 4th jan -
now on 13th March time to be confirmed.

RESULTS of Challenge Matches

Dunfermline Lost 25 - 27
Tullianllan Campbell won
Boreland (10th anniv Bonspiel) M'donald L 5 - 7
Larbert cancelled
Broomhall Peeled 24 - 24 Won 16 - 13 on ends
Dunf Ladies - opposition too scared to turn up?

Points Results

Tom Clarke 24 pts Phil Barton 20 pts and 3rd =
Tibbert & Ayres 19 pts (booby prize to last
year's winner PACO - 3 pts)

Province and C & WF - a very average season -
mid table in each.

Trophy Winners

League Winners 1999/2000 (Dulloch Rosebowl)

A. Lamond E. Archibald A. Johnston

Thirds 1999/2000 (Girobank Trophy)

E. Archibald A. Johnston G. Hughes A. Lamond

League runners up 1999/2000 (Donald F Clark)

P. Campbell C. Blyth W. Brown A. Low

Knockout 1998/1999 (Rosenbloom Salver)

L. Kennedy P. Barton A. Johnston E. Martin A Low

Pairs 1999/2000 (John F Machlachlan)

P. Ritchie W. Brown

Pairs Runner Up 1999/2000 (David Wilosn Cup)

P. Campbell Jas. Wilson

Jim Temple Bonspiel (Opening)

I. Robertson P. Barton I McLoed D Chadwick

Lamond & Murray Bonspiel (Closing)

A. Lamond P. Barton J. Millar D Pearson

Points (Willie Black Snr)

Tom Clarke

JF Maclaren Quaich 2000

Well deserved accolade to **Bob Smith**



GET YOUR DIRTY FEET
OFF MY BEST CHAIR

Monday 24th April

AGM

keep the date !!!



"We will start with apologies"

Contributions for THE HACK should be sent to
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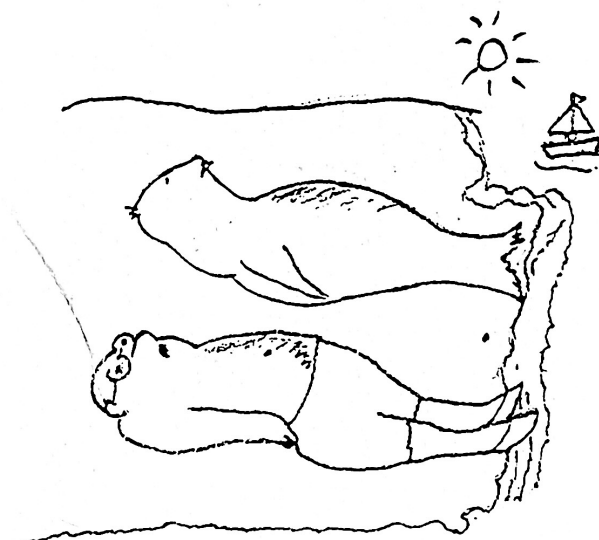
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Bob Smith will also receive articles and pass
them on to the Editor.

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JOHN TIBBERT HAVING A WHALE
OF A TIME ON HOLIDAY