



THE HACK

Issue no. 11

March 1998

The last edition of the season. The matches are almost over - certainly the club matches are. Congratulations to all the winners. Hope you all enjoyed the season. We should have a few thoughts to reflect on the comments of the Double winning Skip - he has mixed feelings about his success. That should not detract from the essence of curling which is about teamwork and friendship. The Club has lost in person, but not in spirit, one of the finest of men - Jim Murray.

THE HACK appreciates the chance to print an appreciation by Jim Macdonald, which was printed in the March issue of Scottish Curler. Best wishes for the close season.

Welcome to our new members - who each demonstrated their potential at the dinner. We look forward to seeing them on the ice next season - we hope to have a few inside stories for our attention as well. (send them to the Ed)
Welcome to Colin Campbell, Alistair Low, Alan Craig and Jim Drummond.

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DOUBLE DOUBLE WINNER Surprise, Delight and Concern

Bob Tait who has achieved a rare double - two league victories in succession and the cup/League double this year. Bob took a few minutes in his busy schedule (curling) to contact THE HACK. He was surprised to win the League. His own form had dipped (not alone?) and he had an inexperienced rink. A first year third and a new member.

He was delighted for his rink - Tony Ayres and Davie Smith have made a significant contribution to the club and deserve success. Tony was the vital link in winning the knockout, playing in all four matches, skipping two of them. Davie Smith is an evergreen and a sportsman. Paul started well but missed a few games at the end of the season. Bob was particularly delighted to have been the first double League winner since Alvaro Gaglairdi in 1997/78. He was playing when Bob joined the Club and was admired by all. Such a loss to the Roaring Game.

Appreciation to his subs. Billy Brown was a key member of the knockout team - a non player who has played more than many full time players! And that is one of the concerns - what level of commitment do we have from some members? This season we have heard so many skips talking of making many calls to identify replacements. Some examples of players calling off at very short notice. What is the level of commitment of the members to playing? Do members sign up with a desire to play in every match?

Bob considered he played steadily, had a few good shots and a few rubs - but with respect to his rink he did not consider it championship winning standard. He worries about the general standard of curling. He repeated his cry to take more ice at the rinks that provided a better surface - Perth for example. That is certainly an issue that needs debate. The ice costs less and sessions are longer.

There are certainly a few issues to be considered - you cannot dismiss the most successful skip's views lightly. The closing comment however must be to repeat best wishes to Bob and his rink. Well done. The other members should try harder next season !!

Jim Murray: A Jolly Good Fellow

An appreciation by Jim Macdonald (also printed in the Scottish Curler)

It was the Inverkeithing Curling Club's Annual Dinner and Curler's Court, and Honorary President Jim Murray rose to propose a toast - not for the first time in his long association with the Club. Before he could say a word a boisterous group broke into song with a chorus (or two) of "For he's a jolly good fellow", and so it continued throughout the evening every time Jim got to his feet, or his name was mentioned. It was fun; it was sincere; it was exasperating for MLO; but Jim took it in good part. That was last year. This year there will be an empty chair at our gathering. James Murray died on 6th February 1998, only one day into his 73rd year.

For many years until his retirement in 1994, Jim ran a very successful newsagent's business with shops in Inverkeithing, Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline and North Queensferry, working long hours but still finding time to devote to his family, immediate and extended, and his many friends in Inverkeithing and elsewhere.

Jim served for many years as both Elder and Sunday School Superintendent at St. Peter's Parish Church, Inverkeithing; he was instrumental in reviving the local Highland Games in 1972, occupying the Chair for several years and still acting as Assistant Secretary at the time of his death. He was a Rotarian - his outstanding contribution to the community being acknowledged by the award of a Paul Harris Fellowship; a founder member and past Chairman of Inverkeithing Local History Society; a member of Dunfermline Golf Club: team leader/coordinator of the Curling 2000 Millennium Project in Dunfermline District; and above all - a curler - a keen curler.

Jim joined Inverkeithing Curling Club in 1958; was match Secretary for nine years from 1960; moving on to become Club President in 1971 and Honorary President in 1996. From 1974 - 80 he served as President of the West of Fife Curling province and represented Area 7 on the Council of the Royal Club from 1979 - 83. This term coincided with the European Championships held in Kirkcaldy held in 1982, with Jim, predictably, being a very active member of the organising committee.

While on the RCCC Council Jim turned out for the Royal Club in matches against England, Wales and the Royal Company of Archers among others. In addition he was proud to represent West of Fife Province against several tour teams, including Canada and Germany. Arguably the highlight of his playing career, however, was to represent the Scottish Rotarians on a three-week tour of Canada in 1980.

Jim loved curling. He loved the traditions and the customs. For him outdoor curling was a particular delight. He was always first to test the ice at Otterson Loch if there was a chance of playing outdoors. To take part in the Grand Match at Lake of Menteith in 1979 was an experience he savoured and spoke of at length. He enjoyed the fellowship of the Roaring Game and the Brotherhood of the rink; Jim was the stuff of curling.

Jim Murray was remarkable man and a wonderful friend - truly a Jolly Good Fellow". We will all miss him.

Congratulations to Tom Hunter and Pat McHale, winners of the Pairs. They won a very tight match, on ends, against Alan Hay and Jim Miller.

*For some the pairs competition is over so quickly - one hour and wait until next season. In the past **THE HACK** believes the competition was based on a round robin. Why did it stop? Could it be considered for a revival for the keen curlers?*

Congratulations to Pete Campbell - winner of the Thirds - a bold try in the final by Amand Rae.

Billy Brown wins the Caption Competition

The final number of entries did not match the interest shown in the cartoon printed in the last issue. The sentiment a number expressed was the sad and untimely death of our Hon. Pres cast a shadow. Even so Jim would be having a chuckle to himself.

Henry Murray and Billy Brown (super sub) created two clever scenes. Billy was adjudged to be the winner - as much as anything else because he coloured his picture! Very neatly too.

Unfortunately we cannot reproduce colour, and space (and time) prevents printing of either. They will be on display at the AGM (unofficially of course).

Thanks to Alastair for the idea. It was good one.

Apologies to anyone who sent in contributions for **THE HACK**. The editor had to restrict the edition to four pages. The original plan for eight did not materialise. Firstly there was a doubt that we had enough material, especially match reports. The main reason is that the Ed. ran out of time. He is jetting off to the States on Wed (two days after printing). Hope you enjoy the issue and keep on sending in articles.

The next issue will be in September and is being prepared now. We have recruited a couple of special guys to write for us - no names yet. In fact they will write under a pseudonym - apparently they think this reduces the chance of a libel action.

Club Bonspiel

The Club had a fine turnout of 40 curlers at the Bonspiel on 23rd January. The competition for the Lamond & Murray Trophy was well contested. Only two of the ten rinks won both legs of the match.

The Bonspiel was won with the Bonspiel expert Archie Terras (his second of the season), as lead in Lewis Kennedy's rink.

Congratulations to Lewis, who also acted as transport manager for the night. He was ably assisted by JR Wilson and Ian Paxton. A points advantage of +7 was sufficient to take the trophy.

Bob Tait had a storming second leg v half time favourite Alastair Lamond, to take a second place, from Pete Campbell who also managed to win both legs. His must have been close contest with a minimal advantage of -3.

Ian Robertson was a convincing last - so now we know why he made so much noise. We all hope his hooter gets put somewhere safe!

Read more about the post curling entertainment and other GoSSip below....

The Top Ten Noise makers at the Bonspiel !

1. Ian Robertson Horn and voice!
2. Peter Ritchie Down from the top slot. In fact much quieter, but previous performances keep him high up the chart.
3. Tom Hunter Deserves a higher place for hi singing in the bar.
4. Dave McPherson. Not bad for a second !
5. Ian Paxton A regular contender

Voted into the positions by a representative group of members. (including John T, Billy B, Colin B)

GoSSip

John Tibbert was outperforming many drinking lager and tonic.

- Andrew Johnson - using a mobile phone in the company of others when entertainment was in process.

New Age Curling Man ANON.

This award is not so keenly strived for .. it happens by default. The Club has been built on standards and a sense that men need to be men - real men ! No quiche eaters please !!

Former President Alastair Lamond would be an ideal first winner of this title. He missed a crucial League match to celebrate his wife's wedding anniversary - the rink lost a point. Last week he was unable to turn out in the Knockout, to go away for a romantic weekend to celebrate his wife's birthday.

Does anyone have a better claim on the title?

Don't forget the Golf Outing on Thursday 27th August. Derek Pearson will have more details at the AGM

Apres Curling !! *Robertson and Wilson on the Horn again! Quote Ian McLeod*

Honorary president was able to point out a few significant themes.. if only Jimmy Wilson had been able to attend. If so the proceedings would have been graced by triumvirate of 70yrs + curling aces. It was certainly great to see Hon. Pres. and Douglas Lamond on the ice. Jim referred to the strength in the club of father /son combinations. A sense of tradition and longevity in the club. Son, Henry was chastised (lightly) for his garb. He has none of his father's aplomb - nb the snazzy tammy! (and we all have that picture fixed in our minds)

Tom Hunter had another birthday. Ernie led the proceedings with his usual firm and enthusiastic leadership. Bonspiel winner Lewis Kennedy could not summon up a song, however his *star* lead stepped in and started proceedings. Tom McIntyre, Ian McDonald, Ian McLeod, and Dave Chadwick all took to the stage. It was noted that Dave's rendition of the Lambton Worm, a popular N.E England folk story, confused the members with it's range and depth of local dialect.

Alastair Lamond reminded all that it was the season of the Bard.. with a Burns song. And Finally Ernie led the group in the "Club Song - Hail Caledonia. A fine night for all present.

Alan Maclachlan led a vote of thanks for Ernie. The rink staff were also thanked. They turned down an invitation to sing a song, and dance on the tables.

We have not included a comprehensive list of match results in this issue. We will try to improve next year. We can report that the Club had a splendid match v old rivals Aberdour at Kinross last week. Bob Smith lost to John Taddei's rink and Alan Maclachlan peeled (after losing an advantage) to Dave (aagh - memory lapse). The match was played in fine spirit, and with some excellent curling. The after match socialising made a difference.

Tait takes the Top Spot and Double: Lamond slips up and Smith goes down. Victory in the Cup at Kirkcaldy on Friday 20/3/98

Bob Tait wins the league for a second year running - quite a feat, last achieved twenty years ago by A. Gagliardi. Some members would say that Alastair Lamond and rink actually lost the title - with two unexpected defeats in the last two games. Bob also won the Knockout, more than ably assisted by Tony Ayres, who skipped two of the matches through to the Final.

Tait won the final v Bob Smith 10 - 4. Billy Brown and Ian Macdonald were vital members of the winning rink, along with the essential Tony Ayres. . Paul Brown and Dave Smith assisted en route. Other players drafted into the rink as they progressed to the final included Ian McLeod. Ian was in the losing team in the final.

The League has been the closest competition for several seasons. The final match Ward v Maclachlan was played on 19/3/98. The League has been so close that a win for Alan left him in third place .. a defeat would have left him in second bottom spot - and relegation to third. Lucky escape MLO! Tam Hunter missed out on the second spot by losing his last match.

Bob Smith faces a spell as third - Sid has chance to stay as skip, if convention remains in force.

Inverkeithing Curling Club League Championship 1997/98

	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	Shots	Ag'st	PTS	+/-
Tait	8	5	1	2	61	53	12	8
Lamond	8	4	2	2	48	45	10	3
Maclachlan	8	4	3	1	54*	48	9	*
Clarke	8	4	3	1	52	47	9	5
Hunter	8	4	4	0	66	53	8	13
Kennedy	8	4	4	0	55	56	8	-1
Robertson	8	4	4	0	50	58	8	-8
Ward	8	3	5	0	41*	49	6	*
Smith	8	1	7	0	47	68	2	-21

Table at 22/3/98

* win for AMaCL - but no score included

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THE HACK is
printed by
Bendameer
**Publishing c 1998

Past Winners of the League 1951 - 1998

1951	W. Lambert	1972	A. Gagliardi	1993	A. Lamond
1952	A.G Smith	1973	A. Gagliardi	1994	R.W. Smith
1953	J.F. Maclachlan	1974	Jas. Wilson	1995	A.G. Macachlan
1954	D.F. Clark	1975	J. Temple	1996	P. Ritchie
1955		1976	A. Lambert	1997	R. Tait
1956	J.F. Maclachlan	1977	A. Gagliardi	1998	R. Tait
1957	G. Hardie	1978	A. Gagliardi	1999	?
1958	W. Martin	1979	J. Wood		
1959	W. Martin	1980	J.P Pollock		
1960	G. Hardie	1981	A. Gagliardi		
1961	J. Paterson	1982	J. Temple		
1962	H. Hunter	1983	Jas Wilson		
1963	H. Hunter	1984	A. Gagliardi		
1964	H. Hunter	1985	Jas. Wilson		
1965	W.P Martin	1986	E. Archibald		
1966	A. Gagliardi	1987	John Wilson		
1967	J. Temple	1988	P. Ritchie		
1968		1989	A. Rae		
1969	J. Temple	1990	E. Archibald		
1970	W. Martin	1991	A. Hay		
1971	J. Temple	1992	J. Macdonald		

What are the bets
for next year?
Hope you found this
article of interest.
I'm sure there are
some wonderful
stories to tell from
yester year!