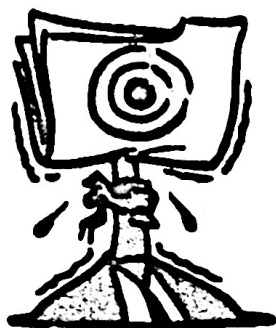


*News from
Inverkeithing Curling
Club*

The Hack

No 28
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END OF SEASON ISSUE



Central and West Fife Club win league for first time

Congratulations to all players who were involved in the matches this season. Ian MacDonald was in imperious form in the last match v Glenrothes, and was always in command. Phil Barton missed the chance to claim the title for the Club in the penultimate match v Aberdour. All was going well until a careless 4 against the run of play.
(Final table inside)

Two club members win international event.

You will have heard about the counterfeit curlers - the club that pinched our jersey! Well the so called Royal Burgh Curlers were victorious at the Inaugural International Curlers Gathering. Report inside.

Club Dinner 25th Feb

Another great event if you were there you know that - if you were not - you'll have to find out from someone else. No pictures in the HACK this year!

AGM

25th April - be there. We have important business to consider. This includes the usual business of elections etc - we welcome a new president. It also includes discussion about the plans to restructure the RCCC. Do not think that it does not matter - cos it does.

We have an unofficial appreciation for our retiring (never!) President. The official club views will be expressed at the AGM.

Green League

The lads did well - finished second. Not sure if this means a promotion is due.

News from Royal Burgh Curlers 1159

Bob and Liz Smith and Bob and Maria Tait, playing together for the first time, won the main competition at the inaugural Murrayfield International Curlers Gathering. The event, run over 3 days, was organised by Penicuik Curling Club and attracted teams from Andorra, Latvia, Spain, Slovakia, Canada, England and all over Scotland. At first there were 2 sections each of 14 teams. The results of the first 3 games determined in which of 7 four team sections teams played the next 3 games. There was a prize for each section.

The STs were top of their 14 team section with 3 wins; one against Bratislava who recently completed 8 weeks intensive training in Calgary. The STs were ranked fourth in section 1 behind 3 teams from the other 14 team section. Their next game was against the Latvian National Squad. A tight game until the last end when the Latvian skip was slightly heavy leaving a 5 and a flattering 9-3 win for the STs. Sunday morning and it was Corstorphine Ladies on sheet 1. The STs performed poorly, but still a close game on difficult ice. It ended 6-3 against. This meant that all 4 teams had 1 win 1 loss, with ends determining the ranking. The STs Final game was against a strong Penicuik rink. Past results pointed to a close game. But the STs kept their best performance to the last to win 11-1 and crucially take 5 of the 7 ends

played. That was enough to win the Murrayfield Cup on ends.

The event was superbly organised and well supported by sponsors. The buffet and ceilidh at the Braids Hotel on the Saturday evening was a memorable occasion. The food was excellent, the dancing non stop and each foreign party played a very full part.

PROVINCE

Final table positions – mid point – another chance beckons next season.

Scottish Seniors

Bob and his rink led by Dave Young had a torrid time at the start of the Seniors – but had a great experience.

(Phi Barton made the 'final' of the English playdowns – the match being decided on the last shot of the extra end)

We are pleased to hear that Douglas has eventually made a good recovery from his surgery. Alistair told a tale at the L&M bonspiel. He noted that above the beds in the hospital were slates with the names of patients. In the next bed to Douglas was Ian Robertson. That was quite a shock – someone quipped that it might do him good to get a bit of brain surgery. (Sorry Mr Vice)

Did you know that John Wilson and Alistair Lamond have reached 29 years in the Club – so next year is the Pearl anniversary!!



IF THE CRY OF BEND! BEND! BEND!
BEND! IS HEARD ON THE ICE,
THIS IS NORMALLY ADDRESSED TO THE STONE



IF THE CRY OF SWEEP!
SWEEP! SWEEP!
IS HEARD: THIS HAS
NOTHING TO DO WITH CURLING!

Message from a new curler!
Dear Inverkeithing Curling Club

Imagine my surprise when arriving at Hamilton Ice Rink to play in the Grand Match in January 2005 the opposition turned out to be none other than my old friend Ian Robertson. Needless to say drink was taken and the old friendship was rekindled. However we battled hard on the ice, and despite the regular visits of The Clyde Steamer, we managed a narrow victory over a superb Inverkeithing side. During the various drinks after the match and the ensuing meal I mentioned that although I had been curling for twenty odd years I had never become a made curler!!

Ian was insistent that I become a made curler at the Inverkeithing Dinner to which I was duly invited. After the usual wind up of phone calls I felt the ominous calling of the curling court. Now obviously I cannot divulge any of the proceedings, but I came through the ordeal a better man and a made curler.

Having won the league, beaten Ian in the Grand Match imagine my surprise when the Monday after becoming a made curler, we got humped 15-3 in the Cup Competition.

Many thanks to all for a most memorable evening!!

kindest Regards
Bill Black
Beechnuts Curling Club

KNOCKOUT FINAL
FOUR IN A ROW?

The HACK has been informed that Ian McDonald has now been involved in four straight victories in the KO competition. Last week Bob Tait led the rink to victory v Phil Barton. A three at the second end gave Bob the cushion, to keep Phil at bay!

Bob's rink of Jim Millar, Alana Craig and Ian Innes were in good form and were in charge v Phil Barton, Bill Galloway, Billy Brown and Eric Dey.

It was unfortunate that the competition was extended a few days – but great that John could organize ice at Kinross to replace sheets lost at Perth.

Bob Smith

A great two years for our Club. The best supporter of the HACK – and crucial to getting it established. The international curler – with the ability to compete on and off the ice! Best dressed in a blue blazer – but not in his hats! Hope you enjoy being PAST president. Best wishes from the HACK

Boreland Dinner
It probably felt like a rerun of our dinner with so many club members at the Boreland Dinner. It was superb event – in spite of Billy Brown wrecking the furniture and spilling the drinks!

2004/2005 Trophy Winners

Jim Temple Bonspiel

Phil Barton
Ernie Archibald
Billy Brown
Alan Craig

Lamond & Murray Bonspiel

Alistair Lamond
Colin Campbell
Eric Dey
Naebody Steve

Knockout

Ian Macdonald – non playing
skip!
Bob Tait
Jim Millar
Alan Craig
Ian Innes

Runners up:

Phil Barton
Bill Galloway
Billy Brown
Eric Dey

St Margarets' League

Bill Galloway
Jim Miller
Gary Miller
Alistair Lamond

Pairs

Ian Paxton (non playing)
Ian Innes
Ian Macdonald

Runners up

Phil Barton
Eric Dey

League winners

Phil Barton
Bill Galloway
Billy Brown
Eric Dey

League runners up

Bob Smith
Peter Ritchie
Ian Innes
Dave McPherson

Points

Phil Barton

Second

Bill Galloway

The results of the season reveal that several players had multiple successes. The luck of the draw at the start of the season produced a great combination for Phil Barton and his rink. Someone from the rink was involved in every final or success.

In addition we had a marvelous season against other clubs. Colin Blyth was eloquent (is that the word?) in describing the successes. The C&WF title must be the best result for a lot of years.

Well done to all who competed this season.

C & WF Final positions *2004/2005*

Skip	P	W	D	L	f	a	+/-	Pts
Inverkelthing	8	6	0	2	72	47	26	12
R&A	8	5	0	3	64	44	20	10
Dunfermline	8	5	0	3	61	58	3	10
Glenrothes	8	4	0	4	54	50	4	8
KIR	8	4	0	4	45	48	-3	8
Forret	8	3	1	4	55	54	1	7
Aberdour	8	3	1	4	46	62	-16	7
Falkland	8	3	0	4	44	48	-4	6
R & A ladies	8	0	2	6	34	65	-31	2

Final League Positions

Skip	P	W	D	L	f	a	+/-	Pts
Barton	8	6	0	2	74	46	28	12
Smith	8	6	0	2	69	50	19	12
Paxton	8	5	0	3	43	58	-15	10
Lamond	8	4	0	4	63	52	11	8
Macdonald	8	4	0	4	60	50	10	8
Campbell	8	4	0	4	61	56	5	8
Robertson	8	3	0	5	55	53	2	6
Clarke	8	3	0	5	44	67	-23	6
Ayres	8	1	0	7	32	69	-37	2

St Margaret's League – Div One!

	P	W	D	L	f	a	+/-	Pts
Galloway	7	5	0	2	52	41	11	10
Hughes	7	5	0	2	54	45	9	10
Murray	7	4	0	3	57	41	16	8
Taddel	7	4	0	3	52	41	11	8
Tait	7	4	0	3	51	58	-7	8
Tibbert	7	2	0	5	57	58	-1	4
Low	7	2	0	5	40	57	-17	4
Blyth	7	2	0	5	37	59	-22	4

Lamond and Murray Bonspiel

This was the 21st L & M bonspiel, first introduced on the 150th anniversary of the Club. Great to see two of our members who have not been so well in attendance. Ian McLeod was in great form, and contributed with a couple of rhymes of verse and a German drinking song! Tony (slim version!) also attended, and after his year was so good to see him. They offered the expected level of advice and objective criticism from behind the barriers.

For a variety of reasons the numbers were lower than expected. We were unable to field ten rinks and so eight teams had a good contest.

In the best tradition of good endings – Alistair Lamond's raised the trophy with a fine victory with his rink of Colin Campbell, Eric Dey and Steve (guest). Peter Campbell and Bill Galloway were four shots back in second and then Bob Tait took the final podium place.

The ice was keen and reliable by Kirkcaldy standards.

We welcomed three guests: Steve (winning rink) Don, Eric (junior) and three lads from KIR

Entertainment was of the usual high standard. Ernie Archibald started with Dougie McLean's version of Caledonia and after closed with the Club song – Hail Caledonia.

Old Shep was let off the leash by Sid. He had to stand to make sure his diaphragm worked properly!

Peter Campbell and Jim Aitken told

stories. Jim's increased in lewdness as they were unfurled. (But very funny)

Advert

Wanted someone who is kind to animals – four legged creatures with horns. To replace current holder of post – who is retiring.

One night a year.

Pay is negotiable – but best considered in terms of being able to drink the golden nectar (whisky)

Dress sense – not necessary.

Sharp wit – not essential but helpful to ward off unhelpful remarks from non animal lovers.

If interested see the Committee.

Inverkeithing birthdate reinstated at RCCC

The Club has won its long battle to have the date of its membership with the RCCC ratified – sorry Ed has lost notes for details. I'm sure it will be confirmed at the AGM. (Maybe someone will write an article for the next issue)

At the Dinner it was revealed that Eddie Forsyth is not a blood relation of Bob Smith – He's a hippy Bob claimed (or was it a hibby?)

Wonderful stories from Alistair McCabe and Bill Rennie at the dinner (and if you were not there you missed them!)

St Margaret's League Exciting Climax

You might have heard the story by now – depending on who you speak to the essence is the same – Bill Galloway won the League by less than a centimetre! He drew the final shot to reduce his margin of defeat from 10 – 3 to 9 – 4. A seven shot margin would have created a 14 shot swing and Gavin would have staged one of the momentous end of season runs.

Credit to Bill – because everyone notes his shot had all the qualities of a skip – playing the crucial shot under maximum pressure. In fact he admits to feeling anxious during the match – not his usual style.

Certainly this league was a fine example of keen competition – because the result was in doubt until the end, and even up to the last couple of games three or four rinks were in contention.

Trophies

They all looked splendid at the Dinner. However the L&M trophy did not look so good at the bonspiel. The rumour was that it had been in Douglas M's shop. It looked more like the colour of smoked haddock rather than silver.

Province KO

Our two rinks played against two rinks from Kirkcaldy Ice Rink on Friday 11th Feb before the Bonspiel. John T stepped in to take Ian MacDonald's rink and lost a close match to Peter Ritchie by one shot. Phil Barton took out his League rink

and won 9 – 5.

Phil then lost a close tight match v Robble Stevenson of Dunfermline. Losing a four at the first was a tough start and then another 2 to go six down – but four straight ones got the rink back into the match. (Another revenge for the Challenge Match!)
(See Inside for note re Province League)

Pairs

The new format has had a mixed reception. There were certainly big problems keeping the same rinks. Ian Innes recruited Ian MacDonald to win a very close final v Phil Barton and Eric Dey. The result decided on the skips drawing to the house – Ian did – Phil did not!

Congratulations to Ian Innes who is becoming a bit of a finals expert (nb KO result)

CONTRIBUTIONS

Next Issue

Will be next season.

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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017786525123 (mob) or email at
pb@starleyhallschool.co.uk

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

Any ideas for next season - let us know at the agm - or write to us.