

Your Curler

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In this month's issue...

COMPETITIONS FEATURES

A full round up of the Team Mouat Win Bronze
action from Ostersund in Vegas

CLUBS & RINKS

Greenacres Young Curlers - Where Are You Now?



FEATURES

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

This has been a great season for Scottish Curling, with lots of new people coming to the sport through CurlFest, TryCurling and existing curlers introducing friends, to the sport we love. Our disability programmes are leading the way in getting new people active in sport and ice rinks around the country have been using innovative ways to attract new people to get involved in curling.

All of this will help to sustain participation at Scotland's curling facilities which need new players to come to the sport to replace those who retire from being active in curling.

Over the coming summer months we will be doing a number of consultations with members to help inform our thinking on key topics of competitions, membership and the priorities for our next strategic plan for 2019-2023. We hope that you will respond to the surveys that we will use and perhaps come to our AGM on Saturday 16th June in Kelso or open meetings, later in the summer.

BRUCE CRAWFORD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TEAM MOUAT WIN BRONZE AT THE WORLD MEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP, IN LAS VEGAS

Scotland had a stunning run at the recent World Men's Curling Championship in Las Vegas, coming away with a Bronze Medal for their sheer determination and huge talent.

Their journey to that game included wins against China and Norway, a tough semi-final defeat to Canada, and of course started with a victory in the playoffs in Perth against Olympians Team Smith.

From the very beginning on the Bronze medal match Korea put pressure on Scotland, forcing a single in the first end and scoring 2 on the second. But the Scottish team kept their cool, under pressure and scored a 3 with a run back to remove a Korean stone from the button. Scotland then capitalised on any Korean errors and applied pressure to steal 2 for a four point lead after four ends and followed that with a steal of 4 going into the fifth end break and an unassailable eight point lead.

Korea were unable to recover and elected to draw into an open house for 1 in the sixth. Then Scotland kept the house clear and made a draw for 1 in the seventh. A few trick shots in the eighth end entertained the crowd and the Koreans called it a day.

After the win Bruce Mouat said:

“It feels right. I think we had a really good week and we really stuck in after a tough loss yesterday, so it feels really good to come away with a medal.”

In the third end we just had to play the right weight and both of the boys had a great sweep – it was brilliant. This is really special for me, so to join the other Scottish medallists is class. I'm really proud of my team. Last night's loss was difficult to take but we knew we had a good chance for a medal. For my first world championship I'm happy with a bronze.”

Many congratulations to Bruce Mouat, Grant Hardie, Bobby Lammie, Hammy McMillan and Ross Paterson and coach Alan Hannah for a brilliant week at #WMCC2018 in Las Vegas. This young team performed to an exceptionally high standard all week, only losing two games and can be proud of their achievement, joining Canada and Sweden on the podium.



WORLD SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND-UP

Our Scottish senior teams narrowly miss out on medals at the World Senior Curling Championships.

The best senior curlers from across the World gathered in Oestersund, Sweden with Scotland being represented by Team Kesley (Women) and Team Muirhead (Men), who won the Ferguson Oliver Wealth Management Scottish Curling Senior Championships at Braehead back in February.

The teams got off to a fantastic start with wins all round including a 6-2 win for the women versus Finland and a convincing 9-1 win against the Netherlands for the men. The teams continued to deliver strong performances throughout the group stages securing playoff spots thanks to their winning records. Team Kesley qualified with a with a record of 4 wins and 2 losses while Team Muirhead recorded 5 wins and only a single loss.

In their quarter-final match up Team Muirhead overcome a strong Australia side 6-4. After this game, a delighted Muirhead said,



“After three quarter-finals, we’ve finally made it to the semis. It was good, we’ve had a really solid day. We’ve all played well all day.”

Meanwhile, the Scottish women’s qualification match-up with a Swedish team skipped by double Olympic champion Anette Norberg proved to be a game too far. The Scots suffered a 6-5 loss to Sweden ensuring a 5th place finish.

Afterwards, Kesley stated,

“We’ve had a wonderful time here and I’m going to fight like tooth and nail to get back! We know we could have gone further, it would have been nice to get a medal.”

The Scottish men faced Canada in their semi-final and gave themselves a mountain to climb when they left Canada’s skip Wade White with a draw for four shots in the first end. A 9-3 loss to the Canadians set up a Bronze medal match with the United States which wasn’t to be for Team Muirhead who had to settle for a 4th place finish after a 7-2 defeat. Reflecting on the campaign, Muirhead added,

“All in all, it’s been great, we’ve put a lot of good games together.”

A great week for the Scottish teams, well done to Team Muirhead and Team Kelsey. Team Kelsey: Morna Aitken, Vicky Gumley, Fran Stretton, Susan Kesley (Skip) and Coach: David Aitken. Team Muirhead: Hugh Aitken, David Hay, Norman Brown, Gordon Muirhead (Skip)



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WORLD MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND-UP

After a strong performance at the Scottish Curling Mixed Doubles Championship in Aberdeen the team of Fraser Kingan and Jayne Stirling represented Scotland at the World Mixed Doubles Championships in Östersund, Sweden.

Scotland's first game at 2018 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship was very one-sided against Israel, ranked 36 in the world, 26 places behind Scotland. Fraser and Jayne scored a maximum of 6 in the third end, the first in the championship. This gave them the confidence in their ability and domination of the game which was over in six ends.

The pair continued their domination throughout the round robin, finishing the group stage with a winning record of 5 wins and a single lose to a strong Swedish team.

Fraser and Jayne then faced Japan in their qualification match-up. The Japanese team played amazingly and Scotland just couldn't pull back some early mistakes. This left team competing for a place in the 9-16 bracket.

Scotland rebounded with an 8-4 win over the Finnish team who competed in the Olympic Games in the B-side Quarter-Finals.

After the game Fraser stated

“It's nice to bounce back after such a disappointing and hard to take loss against Japan. We'll do our best to finish as high up the ranking as we can.”

On Saturday morning Scotland faced Norway as the games for final ranking positions were being decided.

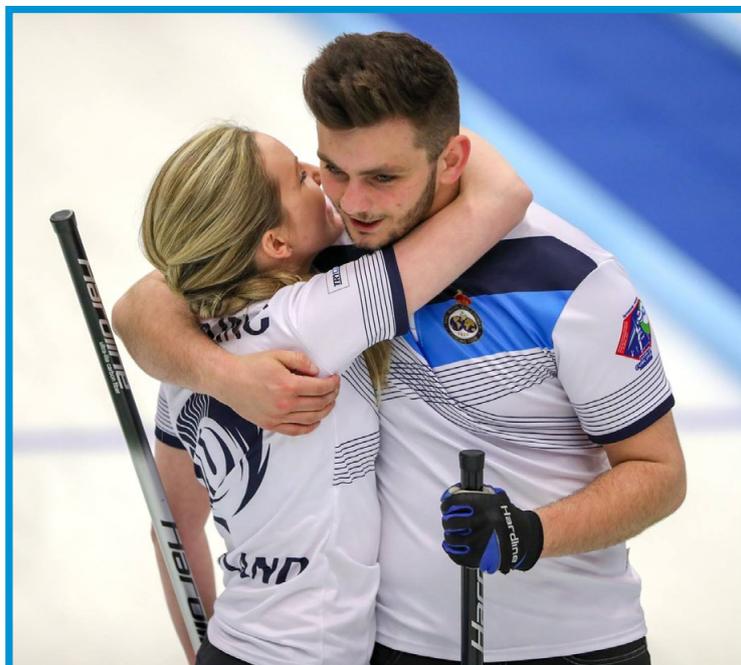
Jayne Stirling and Fraser Kingan played a strong and technical performance, putting pressure on the Norwegians when it counted. The Scots were able to secure the win after an extra end before defeating the Czech team to end the campaign on a winning streak, claiming a 9th place finish.

Fraser reflected

“We played to our strengths in this game & just enjoyed it. Great to win the B final and finish 9th in the ranking.”

Jayne added

“We've finished with a record of 9-2 and unfortunately one of those losses was the last 16 game knock-out. To finish on a win seals a great week for us in which we've got lots to take away.”



ACADEMY APPLICATIONS OPEN

We are pleased to announce that the Performance Academy is now considering applications from those competing in Junior, Mixed Doubles, Men's and Women's events.

The Academy is a Development Programme supported by Scottish Curling with the aim of supporting athletes/teams with medal potential.

Scottish Curling intends to build a strong pathway which delivers and aligns with the World Class Programme and which identifies and develops athletes. We are supported in this aim by our partner the performance sportswear provider Foxglide. The Scottish Curling Academy has increased the number of individual athletes for this season and will continue to support development of curling more widely by inviting all teams that have an Academy athlete within it to attend specific Scottish Curling Academy Team Training.

On top of this support will be offered wherever possible to player: on the fringes of selection, their teams, with ad-hoc coached session: at NCA or local ice rink by arrangement with David Ramsay PDC.

Applications are invited from individual players who will be asked to include expected team line ups, and preferred practice evening: throughout August and September to assist with selection and planning.

Unfortunately, not everyone who applies can be successful and we would like to encourage those who are unsuccessful to continue to work hard and reapply in the future.

For all the criteria information and to apply please visit the performance academy section of the Scottish Curling website.



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- Stranraer Ice Rink -

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CURLING WEEKENDS

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Tennent Caledonian	19 - 21 October 2018
Berkmann Wines	2 - 4 November 2018
Courvoisier	9 - 11 November 2018
Black Bottle	11 - 13 January 2019
Grants Whisky	25 - 27 January 2019
Glenfiddich	1 - 3 February 2019
Beefeater Gin	8 - 10 February 2019
Tennent Caledonian	22- 24 February 2019
Teachers	1 - 3 March 2019

OPEN COMPETITIONS AVAILABLE, PLEASE CONTACT US FOR DETAILS.

To book your curling weekend, please contact:
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Rate based on 2 people sharing a classic room.



Tweets of the Month...



Fraser Kingan @fraserkingan · 5h
Thank you @MatsuriFes for making this amazing cartoon drawing of myself & @jaynestg 🇬🇧 @scottishcurling @worldcurling

For more like this, follow @scottishcurling

CLUBS & RINKS

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Greenacres Young Curlers - 1979 - 2019

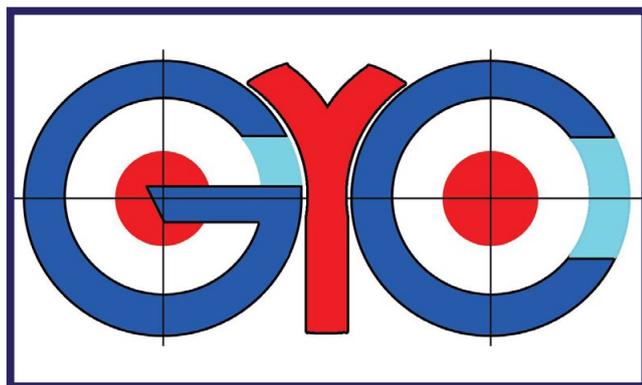
The GYC will be celebrating their 40th anniversary with a curling and social event at Greenacres Curling Club on 27th, 28th and 29th September 2019. A committee has been formed to organise this event, which includes members from the 1970s to a member of the current club. The invitation also extends to former and present members of the Greenacres Inter Schools Curling League and the present GUID (Greenacres Ultimate Ice Diamonds) CC.

The committee members are:

Robin Gray, Karen (Addison) Kennedy, Martin Herd, Kenny Irvine, Derek Brown, Cat (Guthrie) Henderson, Rachael Halliday and Robyn Mitchell.

If you are or were acquainted with any of the above, please get in contact with them for further information on the event, or email Gordon McIntyre at gordongormac@gmail.com.

We hope to have a website up and running over the next couple of weeks, watch this space!



ARTICLE AND PIC: GORDON MCINTYRE

WIGTOWNSHIRE SPORTS COUNCIL SPORTS AWARDS 2017

Stranraer curlers were honoured at the Wigtownshire Sports Council Sports Awards for 2017. The annual awards ceremony was held at the end of March within the County Buildings, Wigtown, and celebrated the region's sports personalities throughout 2017.

The achievements of five curlers from Stranraer Ice Rink were recognised on the night which was attended by Sir John Ross, Lord Lieutenant who presented the awards along with local councillors and representatives from the Sports Council.

The first to be honoured was Euan Kyle and Frazer Shaw who were runners up for the Senior Team category for their achievement in winning the Scottish U21 Junior Championships at Aberdeen in January 2017.

Winning the class for Disabled Sportsperson of the year was John McClelland. John not only curls for Stranraer Wheelchair Club but also competes in sailing and clay pigeon shooting.

In the Junior Team category the winners were Niall Ryder and Robyn Munro, they were nominated for winning the U17 Mixed Pairs Competition held at in Edinburgh in February 2017, who at the time were aged 14 and 13 respectfully.



PIC: ROBYN AND NIALL WITH THEIR TROPHY.

COMPETITIONS & EVENTS



Simply click on the dates for more information.

25th - 27th May 2018

SCOTTISH CURLING MIXED CHAMPIONSHIP

The NCA

MIDLOTHIAN PROVINCE BONSPIEL SPONSORED BY BREWIN DOLPHIN

Midlothian Province Bonspiels have been held since 1881 but this season's event had two firsts; the first year of sponsorship by the Edinburgh office of Brewin Dolphin, one of the UK's leading wealth managers, and the first ever win by Gogar Park Young Curlers, the only junior club in the competition.

As usual, this annual event booked out Murrayfield Curling Rink for the day. 80 rinks from 38 clubs played from 10am until 10pm, maintaining a continuous buzz in the clubrooms and keeping the scorers busy. Curling abilities ranged from social curlers to our local Scottish Champions, Jennifer Dodds and Bruce Mouat!

In the first session, a Carrington CC rink consisting of Lindsay Scotland, Stuart Dodds, Alison Dick and Shona Wilson set the standard with a 20 shot margin of victory. This gave Carrington an excellent start to their campaign for the Bonspiel win and, in the event that they didn't manage that, practically guaranteed them the Colin Black Trophy for the individual rink, outside of the overall winning club, with the biggest winning margin. The latter turned out to be the case.

Gogar Park Young Curlers entered rinks into sessions four and five. With wins by 15 and 13 shots, their average margin of +14 shots set the target 'in the clubhouse'. At this point, Carrington's running average was +14.5 shots but with a session six match against Gogar Park CC (the adults!), it was unlikely that they would be able to keep that up. So it proved and a one shot victory brought their average margin down to +10 shots – still good enough for second place overall.

Congratulations to Gogar Park Young Curlers - David Baird, Adam Keron, Andrew Keron, Emma Barr, Gavin Barr, Rowena Steven, Chris Morris and Holly Davis. Six of them had competed in the Scottish Junior Championships and the future looks promising for curling in Midlothian Province.



PHOTOGRAPH (COURTESY OF DAVID CUNNINGHAM):

JOHNNY MCGLYNN (OF SPONSORS BREWIN DOLPHIN), HOLLY DAVIS, ROWENA STEVENS, CHRIS MORRIS, GAVIN BARR, DAVID BAIRD, ADAM KERON AND TREVOR DODDS (MIDLOTHIAN PROVINCE PRESIDENT). ANDREW KERON AND EMMA BARR WERE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE PHOTO.

STRANRAER YOUNG CURLERS NFU MUTUAL JUNIOR LEAGUE

Every season local clubs enter rinks in the NFU Mutual Junior League, this season seven rinks competed in a series of round robin games with the finals being played in March.

The finals of this year's NFU Junior League were played at Stranraer Ice Rink, a good number of family and friends were there to support all four rinks which competed in two very close games.

The High Road final this year saw the Loch Connell rink skipped by Matthew McCrone, Adam Cairnie 3rd, Logan Hare 2nd and playing lead Findlay Hare against the Leswalt rink skipped by Katie McMillan, Frazer Taylor 3rd, Finlay Aldred 2nd with Gordon Johnstone lead.

As the game started it looked as if it was all over for the Loch Connell rink going down 5 shots in the first end, however the boys dug deep and stole 2 shots in the second, a further 2 shots in the third, single shots in the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh ends going down the eighth end Loch Connell were 8 shots to 5 up with Leswalt requiring 3shots to force an extra end with two Leswalt stones in the house and counting and Loch Connell failing to remove at least one of them it was all down to Leswalt's skip Katie playing her last stone to draw for a three and force an extra end, Katie delivered her second and last stone it looked good for line but a bit heavy and was swept through to give Loch Connell the win 8 shots to 7.

The Low Road final being played at the same time saw Castle Kennedy 1 play Portpatrick, Karlyn Lyon was skip for Castle Kennedy with Robbie Lyon 2nd, Megan McCurdy 2nd and Rebecca O Sullivan lead against the Portpatrick rink skipped by Kaleb Johnston, Rory Dodds playing 3rd, Euan Wilson 2nd and Lewis Rennie lead.

This game started with a blank first end, Castle Kennedy were first to score in the second end with a 2, Kaleb came back with a single shot, Karlyn stretched her lead in the fourth end with a 3, Kaleb and his rink stole single shots in the fifth, sixth and seventh ends and going down he eighth end and without the hammer 5 shots to 4 down, however Karlyn and her rink with the hammer managed to get a 2 winning the game 7 shots to 4. Ian McPherson from the sponsors NFU Mutual presented the trophies and congratulated all rinks on the high standard of both games.



IMAGE HIGH/LOW WINNERS L/R

LOW ROAD WINNERS, REBECCA O SULLIVAN, MEGAM MCCURDY, ROBBIE LYON SPONSOR IAN MCPHERSON NFU MUTUAL,

WINNERS HIGH ROAD MATTHEW MCCRONE, ADAM CAIRNIE, LOGAN HARE AND FINDLAY HARE.

INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR CURLING CLUB BONSPIEL-PINEROLO ITALY

3 junior curling clubs including 5 academy athletes flew out to Pinerolo, Italy to compete in the International Curling Club Bonspiel. The team from Kinross, Ayr and one team from Gogar Park Young Curlers competed in the B league with the other team from Gogar Park Young Curlers competing in the A league.

Kinross got off to a good start in their first game winning 10-3 against Oberstdorf B from Germany. Gogar Park A and Ayr also followed Kinross's success. Gogar Park A beat Luzern from Switzerland 10-3 and Ayr beat Pinerolo 2B 8-5. Gogar Park B had a close game against Pinerolo 1B but unfortunately lost 6-3. Kinross continued their strong performances beating Fussen B 9-6, Ayr 10-3 and Pinerolo 1B 8-4 and ultimately finding themselves facing Pinerolo 1B in the B finals to claim the title. Both Ayr and Gogar Park B had a mix of results the rest of the weekend with Ayr winning two games and Gogar Park B winning 1 despite 3 close games. Gogar Park A also continued their strong performances beating Luzern 10-3, peeling with Fussen A and unfortunately losing 5-4 to Oberstdorf A. Gogar Park A found themselves against Oberstdorf A again in the A League final.

The B final was a close affair between Kinross and the hosting club, Pinerolo 1B. After taking a 5 in the third end and stealing a 2 in the fourth, it looked as if Pinerolo were set to claim the title. However, Kinross bounced straight back with a 3. The last end saw Kinross steal a 2 and despite the game finishing 8-8, Kinross had enough ends to claim the overall B League title.

Beth Farmer, skip of the Kinross team explained how it felt to retain the B league title for the second year

“ It felt good being able to retain the title, even with it being abroad. It gives us the chance to move into the A league in seasons to come and I look forward to competing in it again. ”

In the A League final, Gogar Park A utilised the hammer in the first end taking a 3 and then stealing a one in the second end. Oberstdorf attempted to get back into game but were forced to score a 1 in the third end and a 2 in the fifth end. Gogar Park were forced to a one in the 6th

end but also forced the opposition to score a one in the 7th leaving themselves with the hammer in the 8th end. A text book end from Gogar Park A saw them take a two and win the game 9-4. However, due to Oberstdorf having more points, it meant that Gogar Park A had to settle for 2nd place.

Adam Keron, skip of Gogar Park A expressed his disappointment on not being able to retain the A League title from last season

“ GPYC had a great weekend in Italy where we were unfortunate not to retain our title, but we were still happy to finish 2nd. It was a great weekend spending time with friends and meeting lots of new people who no doubt we will meet again throughout our curling careers. ”

KINROSS JUNIORS, WINNERS OF LEAGUE B; BETH FARMER (SKIP), KIRSTIN BOUSIE, CRAIG BARR, LEWIS LESLIE AND SCOTT BARR.

GOGAR PARK YOUNG CURLERS A, LEAGUE A RUNNERS-UP; ADAM KERON (SKIP), KIRSTY BARR, HOLLY DAVIS AND EMMA BARR.

AYR JUNIORS; RACHEL IRELAND (SKIP), RYAN KENNEDY, BETH ROWLEY AND AMY COLLINS.

GOGAR PARK YOUNG CURLERS B; RACHEL DAKERS (SKIP), CHRISTOPHER MORRIS, SCOTT BARR AND KATE HALL.



COACHES CORNER

9

It has been a busy year for coaches, tutors, officials and volunteers. Twenty-five courses have been delivered from Inverness to Stranraer with over 314 attendees. It has been a packed year!

As well as Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses, Level 1 and Level 2, officiating, disability training and Safeguarding and Protecting Children courses there was the launch of Ready, Steady, Curl, a course designed for helpers on ice. There were Umpire and Tutor Refresher days, upskilling the workforce in many areas. The Coaching and Development Conference attracted over sixty coaches and members last year with off and on ice elements to the day.

Here are some quotes taken from feedback given at courses:

“The match analysis was excellent and I would've happily spent the day dissecting games and getting an insight into top level match analysis. Speaking for myself it whetted my appetite so more please if that's possible.”
Game analysis CPD.

“Discussions & experiences very good, course gets full marks.”
Skill Awards Assessor Workshop.

“Well balanced and well delivered. Deliberate difficult topics discussed with careful due consideration.”
Safeguarding and Protecting Children.

“Everything was brilliant, I don't know what else to say.”
UKCC Level 1.

“Both (tutors) were excellent in terms of explaining course content and sharing their experience with the training group.”
UKCC Level 2.

“Really enjoyed the entire session a real eye opener to the challenges faced by those in a wheelchair, Thanks tutors!”
Introduction to Wheelchair Coaching.

Volunteers played a crucial part this season in the World Junior Curling Championships in Aberdeen. In active roles ranging from accreditation to timing the 100 strong workforce ensured the smooth running of the championships.

The coach revalidation programme was revised to reflect the needs of over 900 Scottish Curling coaches and an audit of the coaches' database was also undertaken to provide a more accurate reflection of our active coaches.

Looking forward now to next season, planning is already underway to increase the number of CPD opportunities around Scotland. New training books and cards are being designed, more course dates set and volunteer recruitment and training will take place for the World Wheelchair Curling Championship in 2019.

It's going to be another packed season!

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JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2018

The second Scottish Curling Junior Mixed Doubles Championships took place in Dumfries from the 6th-8th April. Following Mixed Double's Olympic introduction, it has proved popular with the junior curlers excited by the pace, physicality and tactical differences.

After the group stage of 5 games, 2 teams emerged and did battle in the quarter finals. These saw the teams of McKenzie/McFadzean advance to the semi finals against Keron/Davis with the other semi being competed by Brown/Kyle and Craik/Davie.

Both semi-finals went all the way to an extra end. McFadzean and McKenzie scored 3 points with hammer in the 8th end and stole the point required over to book their place in the final. The 9th end of the other semi-final was also stolen as Kyle and Brown made their second final in as many years.

The final saw scores of one in the first half. McFadzean and McKenzie edged ahead in the penultimate end with a score of one and stole the final end to take the title. Keron/Davis reversed their semi-final result with a 3 in the 8th end to secure third place.

Full replays of all games can be found on the Dumfries Curling YouTube channel. Commentary was provided throughout the weekend by Scottish Curling staff and volunteers from Dumfries Ice Bowl Curling Association.



JUNIOR FUNSPIEL

Dumfries hosted the final junior event of the season with the U13 & U15 Funspiel. All the teams enjoyed the event with some great games and fantastic shot making on display with good keen curling ice.

All the players showed a great attitude towards the event having fun and meeting new curlers. The Dumfries Teams used the home advantage well and put in some strong performance on route to winning both age groups. The semi-final in the U15 category was a close affair against Ugie Curling Club and Dumfries. After a close measure, Ugie Curling Club held onto the victory and made it through to the final.

Both finals were played well and in good spirits with Dumfries coming out on top.

- U13 Winners – Dumfries YC: Erin Stewart, Jennifer Jahn, Eve Marchbank, Rebecca Dalglish
- Runners Up – Dumfries YC: Luca Fermus, Stewart Kyle, Nathan Crombie, Jack Halliday
- U15 Winners – Dumfries YC: Struan Carson, Cameron Wishart, Jay Maxwell, Stuart Robson
- Runners Up – Ugie Curling Club



HOT SHOTS PRESENTED BY JIM MORRISON - U15
WINNER – GOGAR PARK
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF GRAHAM SLOAN



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